

attending these special ceremonies and paying their respects to our brave servicemen and women both past and present.

I have especially enjoyed my charity work this year and I would like to thank all those people who have kindly supported my Mayoral Charity Appeal Fund.

Special thanks to those Members who attended the Charity Pairs Bowls Competition at the James North Memorial Bowling Club in Hyde. It was a great day and also a very successful competition for a certain Mr Joe Kitchen and his partner.

The Mayor's Charity this year is dedicated to helping a small number of good causes very close to my heart including SSAFA Tameside, When You Wish Upon A Star and Tameside 4 Good.

These organisations are based right in the heart of our communities, making a huge and positive difference to the lives of local people and helping those most in need of extra support. As Civic Mayor, I want to do everything I can to recognise this wonderful commitment and help them continue their valued work.

Forthcoming charity events include the annual Valentine's Ball on 14 February at Dukinfield Town Hall and a Charity Golf Day at Denton Golf Club in the spring. I hope I can rely on your continued support.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Shirley, my Mayoress and to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Joyce Bowerman and her Consort, Fred for their hard work and loyal support over the last few months.

Together, as your Mayoral Team, we have tried to be good ambassadors for the Council and for the Borough of Tameside.

As we move into the New Year, there is still a lot of work to be done, many more events to attend and many more wonderful people to meet. Please be assured that we will continue to work hard and we hope you will be proud of all we achieve.

Finally, I would like to thank Members for your encouragement and support this year. I wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to working with you in 2014.

Thank you once again. With every good wish.



**Councillor Joe Kitchen**  
Civic Mayor of Tameside

# Annual Report

## By The Civic Mayor of Tameside Councillor Joe Kitchen



**As we reach the half-way point in the Municipal year, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of my Mayoral highlights and experiences of the last few months and to briefly outline my work programme for the remainder of my term of office.**

Since our Inauguration in May, Shirley and I have been extremely busy with our civic duties. In fact, we have completed almost 200 engagements.

It has been a wonderful experience for us both and we have been honoured to be your Civic Mayor and Mayoress.

I am sure Members will recall how we were put to work straight away. Our very first engagement took place the morning after our Inauguration when we led the Homecoming celebrations for the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

These brave servicemen and women had just returned from a difficult tour of duty in Afghanistan and Shirley and I were delighted to be able to join the hundreds of people who flocked to Ashton Town Centre to welcome them home and give thanks for their safe return.

It was truly a magnificent spectacle as the Regiment, which was of course granted the Freedom of the Borough in 2007, exercised its right to march through the streets of Tameside with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying.

Just a few weeks later, we were proud to welcome the Mercian Regiment to Tameside.

The Council had awarded the Regiment the Freedom of the Borough earlier in the year but at that time the soldiers were serving in Afghanistan and therefore celebrations were put on hold until their return.

Almost 200 servicemen and women attended parades in both Stalybridge and Dukinfield.

It was a glorious day and the people of Tameside once again came out in force to support our brave soldiers and to welcome them home from duties overseas.

In June, Shirley and I were pleased to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and more recently, I was honoured to attend a very special luncheon at Gorton Monastery in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

One of my proudest moments to date was when I attended a Summer Celebration Day at All Saints Catholic College in Dukinfield. As a former pupil of the school, it was wonderful to be able to return as Civic Mayor and to relive some of my happy schoolboy memories.

Shirley and I have enjoyed hosting receptions in the Mayor's Parlour. We have welcomed school groups and representatives of Tameside's community and voluntary organisations.

Tameside is fortunate to have many wonderful people working within the local community and it has been lovely to be able to welcome volunteers to the Town Hall to say thank you and to acknowledge their commitment and dedicated service.

I recently attended my very first Junior Mayor Assembly.

Following in the footsteps of Councillor Margaret Sidebottom who started the assemblies during her Mayor year, I was delighted to visit Denton West End Primary School to pronounce 7 year old, Cindy Parkes McNally, Junior Mayor for the Day.

Dressed in full Mayoral robes and chain of office, Cindy accompanied me into assembly, preceded by the Borough Mace. We then sat together whilst I spoke to the children about my role as Civic Mayor and conducted a question and answer session. It was a fantastic event and I am sure it will be a day that Cindy and her school friends will remember for a long time to come. I hope to attend more Junior Mayor assemblies in the New Year.

As you know, I have made service charities one of my priorities for my Mayoral year. Over the last few months I have worked very closely with many of these organisations and it has been a pleasure to work alongside them.

In October, I was especially pleased to attend a classic car and military vehicle exhibition at Hyde Football Club. The event had been organised by SSAFA Tameside and was a huge success. The day included a magnificent display of vehicles and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy, including performances by the SSAFA Choir "Sapphire Blue". To make the occasion even more special, officials wore World War II uniforms and 1940s style costumes and some of the children dressed as evacuees. It was an outstanding event in aid of a very worthy cause.

In November, I was honoured to take part in the Borough's Remembrance Services and Parades. Given the present day demands on our armed forces, Remembrance events remain as important as ever and it was overwhelming to see the number of people

