

2009-2010 Mayor of Wigan



The Worshipful, the Mayor of Wigan, Councillor Mark Aldred and the Mayoress Councillor Karen Aldred.

www.wigan.gov.uk

2009-2010 Mayor of Wigan

2009-2010 Mayor of Wigan

CLLR Mark Aldred is the youngest ever Mayor of Wigan at just 40. He was originally elected to represent the former Hindsford Ward in 2001 until 2004 when the ward boundaries changed.

Born in the mining village of Howe Bridge in 1968, CLlr Aldred's family moved to Atherton shortly after. CLlr Aldred has lived in the town ever since apart from a brief spell in nearby Tyldesley when he was first married to Karen. CLlr Aldred is a former pupil of St Philip's Junior and Infants School and then Hesketh Fletcher High School. He left high school in 1984 with 'O' Level and CSE qualifications.

He was taken on as an apprentice with Atherton firm O'Donnell and Blinkhorn, where he served his time as a joiner. He stayed with the company for four years, passing his City and Guilds qualification during this time as well as passing a teaching qualification. In the early 90's he decided to go it alone, starting his own mobile locksmith business. Today he has seen the business grow into a thriving shop and locksmith service based in Atherton town centre. As part of the business, CLlr Aldred has helped thousands of people in his local area to secure their homes over the years. He also teaches locksmiths from all over the UK to do the same.

He married wife Karen in 1991 and the couple have two children, Martin aged 15 and Chloe aged 10. Wife Karen, who is also a local ward

councillor for Atherton, will be the Mayoress during Mark's year of office. CLlr Aldred is a football fan and follows the family tradition of cheering for Leeds Utd. In his spare time he enjoys the odd game of badminton with family and friends at Howe Bridge Sports Centre.

He first became interested in local politics through his work as a locksmith and the desire to help people developed into a passion that saw him put himself forward as a candidate for local ward councillor. He has sat on the Community Safety Panel, Regulation and on the Regeneration Panel. He has chaired the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is a member of the Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority.

Mark says: "I have always believed in getting involved and helping people in practical ways. I am proud to say that people have put their trust in me over the years both as a tradesman and as their elected representative. I have tried to repay this trust by doing my very best for the ward and the people I represent. "My aim has always been to bring the entire community together to support one another." Mark is a familiar figure around the borough at Christmas time. Each year he and wife Karen run the Door-to-door Santa charity appeal which sees the big-hearted councillor visiting children all





This booklet is designed to give an introduction to the role of the Mayor of Wigan, introduce the current Mayor and provide advice for those wishing to invite the Mayor to a function.

The role of the Mayor of Wigan goes back to 1246AD when Henry III granted the town its first charter. The Mayor of Wigan is the first citizen and chosen representative of the borough, acting as focal point for the community as well as promoting the borough and forging national and international links.

The role of the Mayor includes:

- representing the borough at civic functions and engagements;
- promoting the borough nationally and internationally;
- visiting events organised by local charities and community groups;
- attending religious events of all denominations;
- meeting delegates from Angers (Wigan's twin town);
- chairing Council meetings;
- conferring the status of Honorary Freeman or Honorary Alderman.

The Mayor of Wigan is always a serving Councillor, elected by the full Council at its annual general meeting held each May. The position is for one year.

To invite the Mayor to a function please write to the **Mayor's Office at Wigan Town Hall, Library Street, Wigan WN1 1YN** or use the on-line diary facility which can be found at Wigan Council's website: www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/CouncilDemocracy/Mayoralty/MayorsDiary

The Mayor will consider all requests and if he/she is able to attend then confirmation will be sent to the organiser. An engagement form must be completed and returned to the Mayor's Office prior to the event.

For more information on any of the details contained in this leaflet please contact the Mayor's Office on 01942 827156, or email mayorssecretary@wigan.gov.uk

2009-2010 Mayor of Wigan

over Wigan to give them a special festive message. To date the charity appeal has helped raise more than well over £10,000 for various worthy causes.

Mayor's Charity Appeal 2009/10 'Together we care'

Registered charity no. 1114354

During their Mayoral year Mark and Karen intend to support services that help local people with dementia. He says: "We know first hand about the pressures that dementia can cause for both carers and family and, with the help of the people of the

borough, we would like to do as much as possible to help expand the range of services available for those with dementia as well as recognising the work of the unsung heroes who tirelessly care for their loved ones."

At the same time Mark and Karen want to improve people's knowledge and understanding of meningitis by providing information to everyone about the condition. He says: "Meningitis is a condition that can affect anyone, regardless of age, and has the potential to devastate lives. Yet if you know what to look for and act quickly it can be successfully treated. Our dream would be to provide every household with information about what to look out for, what the symptoms are and what to do."



The Worshipful the Mayor and Mayoress Councillor Mark Aldred and Councillor Karen Aldred

2009-2010 Mayor of Wigan