



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 4 November 2019 – 8  
December 2019

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of  
meetings and events attended by the Provost of North Ayrshire  
Council, Councillor Ian Clarkson.

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Since the last meeting of the Council I have attended various events throughout North Ayrshire.

## ***DrEAM – Intergenerational Event, Arran View Care Home, Saltcoats, 4 November***

On 4 November, I attended a Drop Everything and Move (DrEAM) event in Arran View Care Home in Saltcoats. Local primary school children visited the residents for an intergenerational event which was a great success. DrEAM encourages people to have fun, while living healthier and more active lives.

## ***Ayrshire College (Kilwinning Campus) Graduation and Awards Ceremony, Abbey Church, Kilwinning, 7 and 8 November***

On 7 and 9 November, I attended the Ayrshire College (Kilwinning Campus) Graduation and Awards Ceremony in Kilwinning Abbey Church. I was delighted to celebrate the success of all those who graduated. The graduates were joined by family members, friends and lecturers.

## ***Remembrance Sunday, Irvine, 10 November***

I attended the Armistice Day Parade and Service in Irvine on 11 November. It was heartening to see so many people out showing their respects and the different generations remembering those brave men and women who lost their lives in conflicts. It is so important that we continue to recognise their efforts and never lose sight of what an impact they have had on the lives we live today.

## ***21-Gun Royal Salute, Stirling Castle, Stirling, 14 November***

I was delighted to attend the Royal Gun Salute, hosted by 154 (Scottish) Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps at Stirling Castle on 14 November. The Salute celebrated the anniversary of HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay's birthday which was carried out by 105 Regiment Royal Artillery and supported by the Band of HM Royal Marines Scotland.

### **Welcome Reception for Chinese Consul General, Glasgow, 18 November**

On 18 November, the Association of Chinese Entrepreneurs in Scotland hosted a welcome reception in Glasgow for the incoming Consul General of China in Edinburgh. I was delighted to be one of the invited guests at this event, which provides excellent networking opportunities and gives a platform to promote North Ayrshire to a wider audience.

### ***North Ayrshire Achieves, Saltcoats Town Hall, 21 November***

I was delighted to attend this year's North Ayrshire Achieves which took place on 21 November in Saltcoats Town Hall. North Ayrshire Achieves recognises the excellent work that our employees do. They work together, strive for excellence and push the boundaries to achieve great results. It was a privilege to celebrate with the winners in each category and acknowledge everyone who was nominated. Congratulations to all involved.

### ***Editing Robert Burns for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Wellwood Burns Centre, Irvine, 22 November***

On 22 November, Irvine Burns Club hosted an event in conjunction with the University of Glasgow on "Editing Robert Burns for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". This is a multi-million pound project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), producing the new Oxford University Press edition of "The Works of Robert Burns". So far, three volumes have been published. An afternoon of talks and discussion took place exploring aspects of Burns' early life and correspondence, and the work of the editorial team as they prepare this material for the new edition.

### **Launch of White Ribbon Campaign, Portal, Irvine, 25 November**

On 25 November, the Council's Violence Against Women team were joined by White Ribbon Scotland, local football teams and a host of partners at the Portal to launch a series of events over 16 days. The campaign included the annual 'Reclaim the Night' walk on 3 December. The walk started off from the Trinity Church steps at Bridgegate, Irvine, and the finale took place at the Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine.

I was again proud to support this worthwhile campaign. Women and girls face many forms of abuse and we all have a responsibility to end this type of behaviour. The main aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the suffering faced by many women and how we all have a part to play in preventing it from happening again. It is particularly important for me to stand alongside girls and women to send out the strong message that violence against women will not be tolerated.

***Armed Forces Champions Network, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, Kilmarnock, 27 November***

The Armed Forces Champions Network met on 27 November in East Ayrshire Council HQ, Kilmarnock. The event was hosted by Provost Jim Todd and we explored areas where we can further assist our Armed Forces community including veterans and looked at the current support network that is in place.

***5th Annual St. Andrew's Day Conga, Hampden Park, Glasgow, 28 November***

The Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society and Church of Scotland Minister the Rev Neil Galbraith, founder of aid charity Glasgow the Caring City hosted their annual conga at Hampden Park, Glasgow. The Conga was attended by children from local schools, the emergency services, charities, the Scottish Government and other civic bodies. The core ethos of the event was to demonstrate the need for social responsibility and working towards improving child welfare and tackling child poverty. The event was a great success and I was delighted to be able to attend and show our support.

***Reception to mark Consul General of China Assumption of Office, Consulate, Edinburgh, 28 November***

On 28 November, I attended a reception in the Chinese Consulate in Edinburgh to mark the Assumption of Office of Consul General Ma Qiang. The Consulate have been supportive of many events and activities in North Ayrshire and this was great opportunity to promote our Authority and further develop the links we have already established

***Irvine Town Twinning Business Breakfast, Cunninghame House, Irvine, 30 November***

On 30 November, I hosted a business breakfast meeting in Cunninghame House with a delegate from Voisins and representatives from Irvine's Town Twinning Association. This was a productive meeting where we heard about the plans of the Voisins Jumelages and about the recruitment drive to attract new members on to the Irvine Town Twinning Association.

***Irvine Seagate Rotary, Caring Trees at the Portal, Portal, Irvine, 1 December***

On 1 December, I launched the Caring Trees at the Portal project, Irvine. The aim of the project was to brighten up Christmas in Irvine by having various businesses sponsor a Christmas tree and have it on display in the Portal. Over twenty trees were on display and all proceeds from the project were donated to local charities. Following on from this event, I attended the Christmas lights switch-on, which was a great success and attended by many. My thanks to all those volunteers who work so hard behind the scenes and make events like these possible.

***Sensory Impairment Open Day at Poppyscotland, Kilmarnock, 4 December***

On 4 December, I attended a sensory impairment open day hosted by Poppyscotland at the MacRobert Centre, Kilmarnock. The aim of the event was to increase awareness of sensory impairment support available to the Armed Forces community in Ayrshire.

***Irvine Lasses Burns Club, St Andrew's Night Concert, Wellwood, Irvine, 5 December***

I was delighted to attend the Irvine Lasses Burns Club St. Andrew's Night Concert held in Wellwood Burns Centre on 5 December. This event which is firmly fixed in Irvine's calendar of events explores and celebrates Irvine's rich cultural heritage and its association with Robert Burns.

***Cash for Kids Christmas Lunch, Racecourse, Ayr, 6 December***

I, along with representatives from South and East Ayrshire Council, attended the annual Cash for Kids lunch held in Ayr Racecourse. For over 30 years Cash for Kids has been changing the lives of thousands who face unimaginable difficulties in their lives. Each year Cash for Kids support thousands of children up to 16 years old who are living in poverty or who simply need extra care and guidance.

***Take the Lead Celebration Day, Greenwood Academy, Dreghorn, 7 December***

On Saturday 7 December, I attended Take the Lead Celebration Day in Greenwood Academy. "Take the Lead" is a three-year project supported by CashBack for Communities through Creative Scotland's CashBack for Creativity Programme. The project works with young people in North Ayrshire and HMYOI Polmont and aims to increase ambition and aspiration by using dance to build young people's confidence and capacity, as well as their health and well-being.

***Celebration of Christmas, St Peter's Church, Ardrossan, 8 December***

It was a pleasure to attend the annual festive concert in St. Peter's Church in Ardrossan on 8 December. The concert featured excellent performances by North Ayrshire Schools' Junior Choir and the North Ayrshire Senior String Ensemble.



*Ian Clarkson*

Councillor Ian Clarkson  
**Provost North Ayrshire Council**