



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 1 March – 8 May 2018

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.

***Reception - Celebrating the Year of Young People 2018, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, 7 March***

On 7 March I attended a reception hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage in the Scottish Parliament to celebrate 2018 being the Year of Young People.

***International Women's Day Lunchtime Gathering, Irvine and Kilwinning Committee Room, 8 March***

I was delighted to attend the lunchtime gathering in Cunninghame House marking International Women's Day. This was a great opportunity for my colleagues and I to celebrate the achievements of women throughout the World.

***Ayrshire Chamber Annual Dinner 2018, Trump Turnberry Hotel, 9 March***

I attended the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry Annual Dinner on 9 March. The event celebrated Ayrshire Business and the excellent work of the Chamber.

***Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth, 12 March***

The Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth initiative is now in its fourth year. As a collective public expression of commitment to the Commonwealth flags were raised on 12 March at 10am throughout the World. This enabled participants to show appreciation for the values the Commonwealth upholds, and the opportunities offered for friendship and co-operation around the World.

### **Convention of the Highlands and Islands, 12 March**

On 12 March, I was delighted to welcome the Convention of the Highlands and Islands' delegates to North Ayrshire at a reception and dinner held in the Cathedral of the Isles in Millport. Events like these give us the great opportunity to showcase the area in which we live.

### ***St Patrick's Day Reception, 15 March***

I was a guest of the Consul General of Ireland in Scotland at a reception to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the National Day of Ireland. The event took place in the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh. These events provide excellent networking opportunities.

### ***Provost's Civic Pride Awards, 16 March***

The annual event – held for the first time ever in the Portal, Irvine – was a celebration of the outstanding talent and generous community spirit which exists throughout North Ayrshire.

And once again, charities benefitted as this year's awards dinner raised more than £17,000, meaning the Provost's Civic Pride Awards fundraising total has now shot through the £150,000 barrier.

After weeks of public voting – with 10,000 votes being cast - I had the honour of revealing the winners of each category before ending the night by announcing the winner of my own special Provost's Award to the guests.

I would like to thank my Councillor colleagues for supporting the event.

### ***Citizenship Ceremony, 21 March***

I welcomed new UK citizens to North Ayrshire at a special Citizenship ceremony held in Saltcoats Town Hall on 21 March. It is always a great pleasure to attend these events and help celebrate the end of what can be a long and difficult journey.

### ***Formal Opening of Poppyscotland Ayrshire, 21 March***

Along with Provost Todd from East Ayrshire Council and Provost Moonie from South Ayrshire Council, I attended the formal opening of Poppyscotland in King Street, Kilmarnock. Poppyscotland provides support to our Armed Forces Community and their families.

### ***Corsehill Primary School, 22 March***

On 22 March I attended Corsehill Primary School's production of Oliver. The performances by the pupils were excellent and highlight what talented young people we have here in North Ayrshire.

### ***Princes Trust/Developing Young Workforce - Opening of the Horticultural Skills Schools Project, 23 March***

I was delighted to officially launch the "Grow, Eat, Repeat" project at James Reid School, Saltcoats. This innovative project involved pupils from James Reid School and Auchenhavie Academy and was supported by the Princes Trust and Developing Young Workforce. The pupils taking part gained some great skills in horticulture.

### ***HMS Dasher Remembrance Events, 24 – 27 March***

This year marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of HMS Dasher. On 24 March I attended a special service along with members of the Dasher Association, local veterans and guests on the CalMac Ferry at the spot where HMS Dasher was lost a further service was conducted in Brodick. On 25 March a very well-attended public service of remembrance took place at the Dasher Memorial Gardens in Ardrossan. Finally on the 27 March, the date of when HMS was lost, a further service took place where wreaths were put in the sea off the coast of Ardrossan. These were fitting tributes to the 379 lives that were lost in this tragedy.

***Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire Conference, 27 March***

On 27 March I attended the Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire Conference at the Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine. I was delighted to hear from the speakers about the excellent progress being made to ensure that our young people are equipped for future employment.

***HMS Ships Tracker and Raider Dinner, 29 March***

On 29 March Councillor Miller and I attended the Faslane Patrol Boat Squadron Dinner. 2018 is the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of HM Ships Tracker and Raider. The event itself presented the opportunity for current crews and guests to celebrate the achievements of these units. North Ayrshire Council are affiliates of the Squadron.

***RYA National Youth Sailing Event, 1 April***

On Easter Sunday it gave me great pleasure to welcome the RYA Youth National Championship back to Largs. The Youth National event shows a strong commitment to sailing and to the development of young people.

***Sailing Youth National Championship, 5 April***

On the 5 April HRH the Princess Royal, President of the Royal Yachting Association, visited Largs sailing Club to watch the 2018 RYA Youth National Championships. 227 sailors from throughout the UK took part.

***Prince's Trust & Cornerstone - Get into Care Awards Ceremony, 6 April***

On 6 April I was at Fullarton Connexions for Prince's Trust & Cornerstone - Get into Care Awards Ceremony. Young people, aged between 18 & 24, presented their journey from unemployment status, and what it meant to them when the Prince's Trust & Cornerstone invested in their future following completion of a 5-week Social Care training programme.

### ***100 years RAF Service, 8 April***

On 8<sup>th</sup> April I attended a service, arranged by the Irvine Branch of the British Legion, to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Air Force.

### ***Woodlands Debating Group, 10 April***

I welcomed the members of the Woodlands Debating Group to Cunninghame House on 10 April. They had a tour of the Council Chambers followed by a Question and Answer session.

### ***The 2018 Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), 11 April***

I attended the 2018 Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) event, hosted by the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council. The event was held in Giffnock Synagogue Hall where the Jewish Community paid tribute to those lost, as well as survivors and refugees of the Holocaust.

### ***Ayrshire Samaritans Visit, 12 April***

I visited Ayrshire Samaritans in Kilmarnock on 12 April and received a tour of their premises and spoke with the volunteers on the excellent work they carry out.

### ***5th Pan European Duck Symposium, 17 April***

On 17 April I had the great pleasure in welcoming the delegates to the 5th Pan European Duck Symposium to North Ayrshire and indeed Scotland. The week-long event was held in the Field Studies Centre on Isle of Cumbrae. Over seventy delegates attended from more than twenty different countries. The four previous events have been held in Denmark, France, Czech Republic and Finland and this event was the first in the UK.

### ***Lady Margaret Hospital Visit, 17 April***

While on the Isle of Cumbrae I visited the Lady Margaret Hospital where I received a tour of the facility and met with the staff.

### ***Cumbrae Primary School Visit, 17 April***

I was delighted to visit Cumbrae Primary School during my day on the Island. I met with staff and pupils, had a question and answer session and was made very welcome.

### ***Boys' Brigade National Badminton Finals, 21 April***

On 21<sup>st</sup> April I attended the Boys' Brigade National Badminton Finals at SportScotland National Centre in Largs. Boys' Brigade Companies from Scotland, England and All Ireland took part. The annual competition sees two teams from each part of the British Isles compete for the honour of being crowned The Boys' Brigade UK Badminton Champions.

### ***Concert with Young People who took part in Ayrshire Music Festival, 25 April***

On 25 April a special concert was held in St. Peter's Church, Ardrossan by our music students who took part in this year's Ayrshire Music Festival. This year North Ayrshire had an outstanding success with thirty-five winning categories in the competition, the North Ayrshire Schools' Senior Orchestra also won the Walker Cup for the first time. These are excellent achievements and we are very proud of these talented young people. 2018 is Year of the Young People – and the performances at the concert and the successes at the Ayrshire Music Festival highlight the fantastic contribution they make in our local communities and society as a whole.

***Young Enterprise Scotland Awards, 25 April***

The Ayrshire Team of Young Enterprise Scotland held their Company Programme Awards in the Gailes Hotel, Irvine on 25 April. I was delighted to attend and celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of our young people here in Ayrshire.

***Ayrshire Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club, 30 April***

I went along to the Melbourne Café, Saltcoats on Monday 30 April to join the members of the Ayrshire Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club. As Veteran's champion it was great to get an insight into this support initiative and hear the views and opinions of our veterans.

***Diamond Wedding Anniversary, 30 April***

On 30 April I visited Mr and Mrs Pioli of Girdle Toll on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

***Irvine Takeda Karate Club, 30 April***

I went along to Woodlands Primary School on 30 April to visit the Irvine Takeda Karate Club. The Club has a thriving membership and trains two nights per week.

***John Galt Day, 2 May***

On the morning of 2 May I joined members of Irvine Burns Club and the John Galt Society at a special wreath laying ceremony marking the birth of John Galt who was born in Irvine on 2nd May 1779 and died in Greenock on 11th April 1839. Writing in Scots and in English, Galt is credited with being the first socio-political author to comment on society in the post Agrarian and Industrial Revolution era but was much more than a literary figure.



For John Galt was also an entrepreneur who opened up parts of Western Ontario and funded the city of Guelph in what was known as Upper Canada.

In the afternoon I took part on a video link with pupils from Irvine Royal Academy, members from Irvine Burns Club and the Civic Head from the City of Guelph to discuss our common interest who is John Galt.



*Ian Clarkson*

Councillor Ian Clarkson  
**Provost North Ayrshire Council**