



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 5 February 2019 – 18
March 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.

North Ayrshire Young Musician and Young Singer of the Year, Garnock Campus, 5 February

On 5 February I attended the North Ayrshire Young Musician and Young Singer of the Year event in Garnock Campus. This event was an overwhelming success providing our music students with a platform to showcase their exceptional musical talents.

Elderbanks Burns Supper, Elderbanks Primary School, Irvine, 6 February

I was delighted to join the pupils of Elderbanks Primary School at their Burns Supper on 6 February. This was a thoroughly enjoyable event with pupils celebrating and learning about our National Bard.

Chinese New Year - Reception and Concert, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 9 February

On 9 February, I attended a reception and concert hosted by the Chinese Consul General in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Civic heads and special guests from throughout Scotland were invited to join the Chinese community at this special celebration.

Glasgow Chinese New Year Civic Reception, Glasgow City Chambers, 10 February

The Lord Provost of Glasgow City Council hosted a reception in the City Chambers on 10 February to celebrate Chinese New Year. The Glasgow Chinese New Year Celebration Committee arranged a showcase performance of Chinese culture in George Square on the day. The event, as well as celebrating the Chinese New Year, celebrated cultural diversity here in Scotland.

North Ayrshire Traditional Musician of the Year, Garnock Campus, 13 February

On 13 February, I visited Garnock Campus for the North Ayrshire Traditional Musician of the Year event, it was outstanding. I never fail to be impressed by our talented musicians and those who work so hard behind the scenes to make events like these happen.

Provost's Awards Finalist Event, Saltcoats Town Hall, 19 February

I had the pleasure of attending Provost's Awards Finalist Event in Saltcoats Town Hall on 19 February. This gave me the opportunity to meet all the finalists in each of the five categories prior to the Civic Pride Awards. All were deserving winners and it was an honour to meet those who are willing to make a positive contribution to the community and to the lives of others.

Launch of Arran High Cycle Maintenance Project, Arran High School, 22 February

On 22 February I visited Arran High School for the launch of their innovative Cycle Maintenance Project. The Project is supported by Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire and the Princes Trust Scotland.

Express Yourself: An art exhibition by care-experienced young people in North Ayrshire, Irvine Town House, 28 February

On 28 February I visited the Express Yourself exhibition in Irvine Town House. The project was arranged by Impact Arts and North Ayrshire Throughcare and offered free tuition in creative techniques to young people in North Ayrshire with experience of the care system. The Exhibition showcased their amazing artwork.

Launch of Kilwinning Academy Credit Union Project, Kilwinning Academy, 1 March

I visited Kilwinning Academy on 1 March for the launch of their innovative Credit Union project. Students will work alongside 1st Alliance to develop their skills and knowledge in finance, communication and customer service. The project is supported by Developing Young Workforce Ayrshire and Prince's Trust Scotland and encourages pupils to get involved to develop their employability skills.

Opening of New Beginnings Cafe, Irvine, 6 March

On 6 March I was delighted to officially open the New Beginnings Café in Irvine. The initial idea of opening the Café was first suggested by the young adults who are supported through Cornerstone's Shared Lives Service. They wanted to reach those that are most at risk of isolation within the local community and provide a comfortable, welcoming space for them to come in and enjoy fresh food. The group were part of the whole setting up process from picking a name to designing the menu and have all been trained in health and hygiene, customer service and are taking turns in learning new skills within the café environment. The café has been a success since it first opened and well worth a visit.

Young Rock and Pop Musician of the Year, Civic Centre, Ardrossan, 7 March

I enjoyed an excellent evening of contemporary music at Ardrossan Civic Centre on 7 March where the Young Rock and Pop Musician of the Year event took place. The event, supported by the Ardrossan Music Experience, showcased our talented rock and pop musicians at their very best.

Launch of Largs Picture House Project, Largs Campus, 8 March

On 8 March I was delighted to launch the Largs Picture House Project at Largs Campus. The idea from the project came from pupils and with the support from Developing Young Workforce Ayrshire and Prince's Trust Scotland has become a reality. The project will see the screening of retro films every second Friday which will be open to all the community. The young people have also secured additional funding for the project.

Visit by Elderbank Primary School Pupils, Cunninghame House, 8 March

It was a pleasure to host a visit in Cunninghame House on 8 March from pupils of Elderbank Primary School. I had earlier tasked the pupils to come up with a specific drawing or painting and the winners would get a tour of Cunninghame House and hold a question and answer session with myself.

Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Dinner, Trump Turnberry Hotel, Turnberry, 8 March

I attended this year's Ayrshire Chamber Annual Dinner which was held in Trump Turnberry on 8 March. This was an excellent networking event with many North Ayrshire businesses represented.

St Patrick's Day Reception, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, 14 March

On 14 March, Mark Hanniffy, Consul General of Ireland in Scotland together with Enterprise Ireland and Ireland Tourism held a reception in the Assembly Rooms Edinburgh to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. I was delighted to attend this celebration, meet up with my fellow civic heads, make new contacts and be able to promote North Ayrshire to a wider audience.

Provost's Civic Pride Awards, Portal, Irvine, 15 March

The Civic Pride Awards took place on 15 March in the Portal, Irvine. The public again voted in their droves, with over 16,700 votes cast this year, and I had the honour of revealing the winners of each of the five categories before announcing the winner of my own Provost's Award to the guests.

It was a fantastic night yet again, and a fitting celebration of the work being done in our communities by each and every one of our inspirational finalists. We are so fortunate to have these individuals and groups giving their own time so freely to help others, making North Ayrshire an even better place for us all to live and work. The night gave us the opportunity to show our appreciation for all that they do, and we hope that they had a night to remember. We also raised over £9000 which will be split between Cash for Kids and Ayrshire Hospice.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ian Clarkson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ian" and the last name "Clarkson" clearly legible.

Councillor Ian Clarkson

Provost North Ayrshire Council