



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 21 December 2017 - 27
February 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.

Polar Plunge at Irvine Beach, 1 January

This was certainly one way to kick off the New Year. Lots of people took a dip in the sea at Irvine Beach to raise money for a host of different charities. I was raising money for Cash for Kids and I braved the elements on what was an excellent and very well-attended event. Thanks go to Coastwatch and the many volunteers working behind the scenes. It is hoped that this becomes an annual event.

Burgh Welfare Committee Christmas Dinner, 4 January

I was delighted to attend the Kilwinning Burgh Welfare Committee Christmas Dinner held in Dalgarven House Hotel. Events like these highlight what vibrant communities we have here in North Ayrshire and also the positive contribution of our older people.

Stagecoach Service 11 new fleet launch, 5 January

I attended the launch of a new fleet of 27 brand new buses which will operate on the Ardrossan to Kilmarnock (via Irvine) route. The new vehicles represent an investment of approximately £5.4m by Stagecoach.

4th Ward Committee Annual Christmas Dinner, 6 January

The 4th Ward Committee Annual Christmas Dinner took place in The Hallmark Hotel, Irvine. This was an excellent event which brought many of the older people in our community together.

Visit to Winton Primary School, 10 January

I attended a planning meeting, on 10 January, with staff and pupils from Winton Primary School for their forthcoming Chinese Culture Day. We were joined by representatives from the Chinese Consulate in Edinburgh.

Eglinton Burns Club Annual Dinner, 12 January

I was delighted to attend the Eglinton Burns Club annual dinner which was held in the Hallmark Hotel in Irvine. I congratulated the organising committee, who are all volunteers, on what was an excellent evening of entertainment celebrating our National Bard, Robert Burns.

Launch of Irvine Royal Academy Nail Salon, 18 January

Irvine Royal Academy, in conjunction with Developing Young Workforce and the Princes Trust, have been working together to establish a nail salon within the school. This has been a highly successful project with a professionally furnished and fully stocked salon, which the students have called "Polished". I was invited to officially launch this fantastic project and had great pride in doing so.

Visit to Ardagh Glass, 22 January

On 22 January I was given a guided tour of the Ardagh Glass factory in Irvine and got an insight into their glass recycling operation.

Mrs Jean Calvert, 100th Birthday, 23 January

It was a privilege to visit Mrs Jean Calvert on the occasion of her 100th Birthday. Mrs Calvert who resides in Buckreddan Care Centre in Kilwinning, was joined by her family and friends.

Celebration of Chinese Culture, 24 January

On 24 January I spent the day with the pupils and staff from Winton Primary School at their Celebration of Chinese Culture event. The event was supported by the Chinese Consul in Edinburgh and Mr Pan the Consul General also visited the school. This fun and informative event was enjoyed by both staff and pupils alike and gave a great insight into Chinese culture and traditions.

Irvine War Memorial Re-dedication, 26 January

Along with a number of local organisations I attended a re-dedication of Irvine's War Memorial which has been relocated to the front of Irvine Town House. At the same time pupils from Irvine Royal Academy planted two trees alongside the War Memorial in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Irvine Burns Club Annual Celebration, 26 January

I was delighted to attend the Irvine Burns Club's one hundred and ninety second annual celebration of the birth of Robert Burns. The event took place in the Volunteer Rooms, Irvine. Irvine Burns Club play an important role in the local community, their volunteers are involved in many events throughout the year celebrating our cultural heritage.

Kirkin' of Irvine Burns Club – President Elect, 28 January

On 28 January the Kirkin' of Irvine Burns Club President Elect, Annie Small, took place in Irvine's Old Parish Church. Later that afternoon at the Burns Statue on Irvine Moor many gathered for a wreath laying ceremony.

The day ended with Annie Small being installed as the first female president of Irvine Burns Club in their one hundred and ninety two year history.

Royal Horticultural Society Taster Day, 29 January

I visited Dumfries House on 29 January where pupils from Auchenhavie Academy and Garnock Campus took part in a Royal Horticultural Society taster day. Arranged by the Prince's Trust, the taster day featured tours, interactive demonstrations and presentations from course tutors. The young people were given details of the employability programme relating to Estate and Woodland Management.

Civic Pride Awards - Shortleet, 29 January

On the afternoon of 29 January I was joined by the Depute Provost, and the chairs of the locality planning partnerships to shortleet this year's Civic Pride Award nominations. This was not an easy task as each person or group who was nominated were excellent candidates. However after much deliberation we selected three from each category who will go forward to the public vote. On reading the nominations we got a great insight into the excellent work carried out by volunteers throughout North Ayrshire. The public vote closes on Thursday 8 March at 12noon. The winners will be announced at the Civic Pride Awards on Friday 16 March.

Centenary of the passing of the Catholic Education Act Celebration Mass, 30 January

On 30th January I attended a special celebration mass in St Margaret's Cathedral in Ayr which marked 100years since the passing of the Catholic Education Act. The celebration was attended by many dignitaries as well as pupils from schools throughout Ayrshire.

Launch of Kilwinning Employability Hub, 1 February

I was delighted to attend the official opening of the Kilwinning Employability Hub which is located in the Kilwinning Campus of Ayr College. A range of services are on offer at the Hub by our partners at Ayrshire College, Ayrshire Chamber, Skills Development Scotland, Department of Work and Pensions and third sector providers with the aim of supporting unemployed residents into work.

Young Musician and Singer of the Year, 6 February

On 6 February I attended the Young Musician and Singer of the Year competition which took place in the Garnock Campus I was delighted to be able to witness first-hand the sheer musical talent we have here in North Ayrshire. All of the performances were amazing and each participant was a credit to their schools

Official Opening of TACT Premises, 7 February

On 7 February I had the great pleasure in officially opening The Ayrshire Community Trust's new premises in Vernon Street, Saltcoats. I was given the official tour of the new premises and informed of the wide-ranging services that are on offer to support community groups, organisations and individuals.

Young Traditional Musician of the Year, 7 February

On the evening of 7 February I attended the Traditional Musician of the Year, again in the Garnock Campus. I never fail to be impressed by our Music Service students who are exceptional and instill a sense of civic pride in us all. Many of these young people perform throughout the year at many different events and have a fantastic and growing reputation, which is very well deserved.

Celebrating our Civic Pride Award Finalists, 15 February

I am overwhelmed with the finalists we have selected for this year's Provost's Civic Pride Awards who I met at a special event held in Saltcoats Town Hall on 15 February. They are all deserving winners and we are lucky to have so many people in North Ayrshire who are willing to make a positive difference on their community and the lives of others. It's now up to the people of North Ayrshire to decide who should win and I would therefore encourage as many people as possible to cast their vote

Mrs Agnes Strain, 100th Birthday, 16 February

Along with the Depute Lieutenant I dropped in on Mrs Strain's 100th Birthday celebration in the Gailes Hotel, Irvine on 16 February. Mrs Strain from Kilwinning was joined by family and friends to mark the occasion.

Cordiner's Burns Supper, 16 February

The Cordiner's Trade held their Burns Celebration in the Heckling Shed in Irvine on the evening of 16 February which I was delighted to attend. This is another example of the excellent work carried out by volunteers in our local communities.

Mr and Mrs Reid, Diamond Wedding Anniversary, 18 February

Mr and Mrs Reid from Beith celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary in the Fenwick Hotel, Kilmarnock on 18 February. I was pleased to be able to visit them to offer congratulations.

Chinese New Year Celebration, 19 February

It was a great pleasure to attend the Chinese New Year celebration in Glasgow hosted by Kut O Benevolent Society. The Society was established in 1982 and is one of the biggest Chinese associations in Europe.

Meet Civic Pride Award Finalists, 21 February

On 21 February I visited the Isle of Arran to meet the Active Schools Young Leaders from Arran High School who are finalists in this year's Civic Pride Awards. I also got an opportunity to meet with the Head Teacher and have a tour of the School.

Beith Primary School, 22 February

On the 21 February, I went along to Beith Primary School to congratulate them on receiving the UNICEF – Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award, which is an excellent achievement. UNICEF works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected and their talents nurtured.

Chinese New Year Celebration, 22 February

As a guest of the Chinese Consul General in Edinburgh I attended a reception and concert in the Usher Hall to celebrate the Chinese New Year. This was an excellent event with some outstanding performers and musicians.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Clarkson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ian" and the last name "Clarkson" clearly distinguishable.

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council