



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 19 March 2019 – 6 May  
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.

## ***Citizenship Ceremony, Saltcoats Town Hall, 20 March and 24 April***

On 20 March and again on 24 April, I was delighted to welcome new UK citizens to North Ayrshire at special citizenship ceremonies arranged in Saltcoats Town Hall. It is with a great deal of pride that I get the chance to let our new citizens know about our rich cultural heritage and beautiful landscapes that we all enjoy.

## ***North Ayrshire Schools Flagship Concert, Dalry Primary School, Dalry, 21 March***

On 21 March, I attended the North Ayrshire Schools' Flagship Concert in Dalry Primary School. This was another excellent event by our Music Service highlighting the exceptional musical talents of our young people in schools throughout North Ayrshire.

## ***Robert Burns World Federation Schools Finals, Irvine Royal Academy, 23 March***

It was a great honour that the Robert Burns World Federation chose to host their National Schools competition this year in Irvine Royal Academy on 23 March. I was delighted to officially welcome the competitors who travelled from all over Scotland and to present the top award of senior Young Burnsian of the Year. This was an excellent and well-attended event with the junior version of the competition due to take place in May.

***Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Presentation Evening, St Matthew's Academy, Saltcoats, 28 March***

It was a great pleasure to present the Gold Awards at the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards presentation evening in St Matthew's Academy on 28 March. The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards programme is delivered in every secondary school in North Ayrshire and offers a variety of educational and challenging activities for participants. The event acknowledged all those who have completed their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards and celebrated these excellent achievements.

***Princes Trust/Developing Young Workforce Ayrshire Barista Project Launch, Irvine Royal Academy, Irvine, 29 March***

On 29 March, the Royal Aroma Barista was launched in Irvine Royal Academy. Supported by the Princes Trust and Developing Young Workforce, the project provides pupils with additional skills and experience preparing them for employment.

***Scottish Youth Parliament Election - Announcement Evening, Greenwood Centre, Irvine 29 March***

I had the pleasure of attending the Scottish Youth Parliament election – Announcement Evening on 29 March in the Greenwood Centre, Irvine. The Scottish Youth Parliament is the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people and I was delighted to get the opportunity to congratulate our newly elected representatives.

***Legacy Tree and Time Capsule Planting, Eglinton Park, Kilwinning, 30 March***

2018 was the designated Year of Young People. To acknowledge all the fantastic work that took place last year, I joined staff from our Connected Communities and the Young People's Ambassadors in planting the legacy tree and time capsule to mark this special year and the achievements of our young people.

***HMS Dasher Remembrance Service, Remembrance Gardens, Ardrossan, 31 March***

On 31 March, I attended the HMS Dasher Memorial Service in Ardrossan. The event was very well attended and included members of the HMS Dasher Memorial Committee and the local branch of the British Legion. The service was a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives on HMS Dasher in 1943.

### **Mr and Mrs McCormick, Diamond Wedding, Kilbirnie, 2 April**

I was delighted to go along and congratulate Mr and Mrs McCormick, from Kilbirnie, on their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 2 April. Mr and Mrs McCormick were married in the Walker Hall, Kilbirnie, by Rev Joseph Houston of the then Glengarnock Parish Church.

### ***Reception re. 1918 Poppy Pledge, Poppyscotland Ayrshire, Kilmarnock, 10 April***

On 10 April, I attended a reception at the PoppyScotland Welfare Centre in Kilmarnock to mark the success of the 1918 Poppy Pledge. The pledge saw hundreds of supporters across the country raise vital funds and awareness to mark the centenary of the Great War and help veterans living in Scotland today.

### ***North Ayrshire Schools' Senior Concert Band, Kilwinning Academy, Ardrossan, 12 April***

Prior to the North Ayrshire Schools' Senior Concert Band leaving for the National Concert Band Festival final in Manchester, a cheese and wine evening was held in Kilwinning Academy. The Band had a final run through of their competition pieces before they set off the next day to Manchester. This was a great opportunity to wish them every success.

### ***Mrs Mary McInnes 100th Birthday, Dalry, 14 April***

On 14 April, I was delighted to officially congratulate Mrs Mary McInnes on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mrs McInnes was joined by family and friends at Regal Court Dalry to celebrate this special occasion.

### ***Schools Cabaret Concert, Ardrossan Civic Centre, 26 April***

A new musical project by our Music Service saw over 80 pupils from across North Ayrshire going along to weekly rehearsals in Saltcoats Town Hall. The project was a great success and culminated in a spectacular 'Cabaret' concert on Friday 26 April in Ardrossan Civic Centre. The event was an all singing/dancing musical celebration with songs from a number of popular musicals.

### ***Kyleshill Court Opening Ceremony, Saltcoats, 29 April***

On 29 April, I was proud to officially open our latest housing development, Kyleshill Court in Saltcoats. The homes are of a great quality and I'm sure our residents will be extremely settled and happy there. The 36-unit development is a replacement for the former Canal Court sheltered housing complex.

### ***Children's Art Therapy Launch, Impact Arts, Irvine, 1 May***

On 1 May I attended the official launch of Art Therapy at Impact Arts, Irvine. This is a new free service for children and young people in North Ayrshire. The Project, which is funded for three years, will seek referrals of children and young people aged between five and fifteen who could benefit from this work. Sessions are being offered to those experiencing challenging circumstances at home or at school.

### ***John Galt Day Event, Irvine, 2 May***

I was delighted to welcome Leeanne Caron Piper, a member of Guelph City Council and visitors to Irvine on 2 May, which is now recognised as John Galt Day.

In recent years, renewed interest has been shown in one of Scotland's "forgotten" literary figures, John Galt who was born in Irvine on 2 May 1779 and died in Greenock on 11 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. He also travelled widely in other parts including Malta, Turkey and Gibraltar, and accompanied Lord Byron on part of his European Tour.

The John Galt Society now exists not only to perpetuate the memory of Galt but also to encourage further interest in his life. Irvine Burns Club, of which Galt became its first Honorary Member in 1828, are members of the John Galt Society. A wreath laying event took place, followed by a tour of Irvine Burns Museum and a performance by pupils at Irvine Royal Academy marking John Galt's birth in Irvine.

***Reception and Briefing by The Army Engagement Team, Ayr Racecourse, Ayr, 2 May***

On the evening of 2 May I attended the “Your Army” presentation which was held at Ayr Racecourse. The event consisted of a multi-media presentation followed by a reception. The aim of the event was to promote a greater awareness and understanding of the British Army



*Ian Clarkson*

Councillor Ian Clarkson  
**Provost North Ayrshire Council**