



# PROVOST'S REPORT

28 June for the period covering: 20 June – 10  
September 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.

## ***Twin Town Visit, Irvine Burns Club, Irvine, 28 June***

On 28 June a delegation from Largs Twin Town, Andernos-les-Bains, visited Irvine Burns Club where they were given a tour of the Burns Centre and Museum and enjoyed an entertaining presentation. I was happy to host a welcome reception at Irvine Burns Club for the visitors which gave the Club the opportunity to promote themselves and Robert Burns to a wider audience.

## ***Ayrshire Divisional Recognition Awards Ceremony, Ayr Town Hall, 28 June***

On the evening of 28 June I attended the Ayrshire Divisional Recognition Awards Ceremony in Ayr Town Hall. The event recognised and celebrated the hard work, bravery and commitment of our police officers and staff.

## ***Armed Forces Day Parade, Irvine, 1 July***

On 1 July I was delighted and proud to take part in the Armed Forces Day Parade in Irvine. The event was arranged by the Irvine Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland and gave our local communities the opportunity to thank and show our appreciation to all those serving in our Armed Forces.

## ***The Kut O Benevolent Society Dinner, Glasgow, 2 July***

On 2 July I attended the annual Kut O Benevolent Society Dinner in Glasgow. The Kut O Benevolent Society is the Asian Association of Culture, Commerce and Education in Europe. Events like these provide excellent networking opportunities and give an insight into the positive contribution our Asian community make in our communities here in North Ayrshire.



***US Ambassador's Reception - 242nd Anniversary of the Independence of the USA, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 3 July***

On 3 July I, along with other civic heads throughout Scotland, attended a reception celebrating the 242<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the independence of the United States of America. The event was hosted by Robert Wood, the Ambassador of the United States of America to the United Kingdom. The event took place in the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh.

***CHA Annual Tenants Conference, Seamill Hydro, West Kilbride, 4 July***

On 4 July I was delighted to attend Cunninghame Housing Association's Annual Tenants Conference in Seamill Hydro. Events like these provide an ideal platform for engaging with the local community and it was a pleasure to meet so many people there.

***North Ayrshire Open Art Exhibition, Racquet Hall Eglinton Country Park, 6 July***

On 6 July I formally opened the North Ayrshire Open Art Exhibition which took place in Eglinton Park. I am always impressed and inspired by the work of the talented artists we have in North Ayrshire, many of whom exhibited at the event. The exhibition is arranged by a team of volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver the exhibition which, after 22 years, is firmly established and highly acclaimed within the art world.

***Visit to Broomhall House, Residence of Lord Bruce, Broomhall House, Charlestown, Dunfermline, 12 July***

On 12 July I visited Broomhall House, in Dunfermline which is the residence of Lord Bruce. Provosts in Scotland were invited as a guest of Lord Bruce and the Asian Association of Culture, Commerce and Education. We were given a reception and a viewing of the historic home of the family of Bruce.

***Feis Arainn 2018 Concert, Arran High School, Isle of Arran, 27 July***

On the afternoon of 27 July I attended the closing concert of Feis Arainn which took place in Arran High School. The Feis Arainn has been running since 1999 and offers young people the opportunity to participate in traditional music, song, drama and art. Workshops took place in the week running up to the concert which was an excellent showcase of talent.



***Marymass Exhibition - The Reigning Years, Irvine Town House, 27 July***

On the evening of 27 July I attended the launch of the Marymass Festival Exhibition – The Reigning Years in Irvine Town House. The Exhibition marked the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marymass Queens and Marys who were first introduced to the Festival in 1928.

***"Art of the Future" Exhibition, Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine, 2 August***

On 2 August I was delighted to attend a preview of "Art of the Future" exhibition which was held in the Harbour Arts Centre. This was a National Galleries of Scotland Exhibition in partnership with North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. Young people from the Rosemount Project's Activity Agreement, which is delivered by North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, worked alongside other young Scots to present their imaginative artworks. Their artworks are the outcome of a project that encouraged a variety of youth groups to make art from a mailed-out box full of random materials.

***Picnic in the Park, McGavin Park, Kilwinning, 9 August***

It was a great pleasure for me to officially open Picnic in the Park which was held on 9 August in McGavin Park in Kilwinning. The event was a great success and attended my many. There were many local voluntary organisations taking part which contributed to the overall success of the event and highlighted what vibrant communities we have here in North Ayrshire. The event itself was arranged by a team of volunteers who are to be congratulated on the work they carry out.

***"Belt and Road" Chinese Culture and Art Festival - Reception and Performance, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, 10 August***

On the afternoon of 10 August I attended the opening of the Chinese Culture and Art Festival in Edinburgh International Conference Centre. This consisted of an excellent performance piece, art exhibition and reception. This was a great opportunity to further develop the links we have with the Chinese community in North Ayrshire and in Scotland.



***Official Reception Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 10 August***

On the evening of 10 August I was a guest of the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh at a reception to mark the centenary of Poland regaining its independence. The event took place in the Usher Hall in Edinburgh. The event started with a formal reception and was followed by a concert. I was delighted to represent North Ayrshire Council at this event and to be given the opportunity to promote all we have to offer to a wider audience.

***West Kilbride Scarecrow Festival, West Kilbride Public Hall, 11 August***

It was an honour to be asked to present prizes at this year's West Kilbride Scarecrow Festival in the Village Hall. This was a great opportunity to thank all those who participated and to congratulate the volunteers who organised this year's event.

***Marymass Festival, Irvine, 16 – 27 August***

This year's Marymass Festival in Irvine by all accounts was a great success. The Festival took place over twelve days with a wide ranging event programme providing something for everyone. I was fortunate enough to take part in many events and witness first hand all the excellent work that goes into the Festival by a huge band of volunteers. The Festival attracts many thousands each year to Irvine where communities come together and celebrate the town's history and heritage. I hosted a civic reception on Irvine Moor after the Marymass Festival parade and welcomed guests from home and abroad and was given the opportunity of showing Irvine at its very best.

***Opening of Marymass Folk Festival, Vineburgh Centre, Irvine, 23 August***

On 23 August I was delighted to officially open the 51<sup>st</sup> Marymass Folk Festival in the Vineburgh Centre, Irvine. The Festival was a great success and attracted many visitors and artistes to Irvine. The volunteers behind the Festival work tirelessly throughout the year to bring the best available performers to the Festival.

***Reception for Visitors from Voisins, Cunninghame House, Irvine, 24 August***

On 24 August I welcomed guests from Irvine's Twin Town, Voisins to Irvine. The delegation from the French Town Twinning Committee were in Irvine for the Marymass celebrations.



***Largs Viking Festival, Largs, 1 September***

On 1 September I attended my first ever Largs Viking Festival. I was very impressed by the event which attracted thousands of visitors to the Town and delighted to officially welcome everyone to Largs. The Festival gives us a fantastic opportunity to showcase Largs and indeed North Ayrshire at its very best to the thousands of visitors who attend the many events taking place. Events like these continue to have a significant and positive impact on our communities from both a social and economic perspective. They also highlight the inspirational work that goes on in every community by voluntary organisations and individuals.

***Merchant Navy Day, Cunninghame House, Irvine, 3 September***

On 3 September, I raised the Red Ensign at Cunninghame House to honour the brave service men and women who have served or are serving in the Merchant Navy.

***Robert Burns World Federation Conference, Irvine, 6 - 9 September***

I was delighted that the Robert Burns World Federation had again chosen Irvine to host their annual conference. I welcomed delegates to Irvine at a reception in the Town House on 6 September. Over 200 delegates attended from all parts of the World. On Saturday 8 September I attended the RBWF Installation and Ball which was held in the Portal, Irvine. Bill Nolan from Irvine who carries out a huge amount of voluntary work in our local community and is a past president of Irvine Burns Club was installed as the President of the Federation which is a huge and well deserved achievement. On Sunday 9 September I took part, with many other local organisations, in a parade and special church service at Irvine Old Parish Church and afterwards a wreath laying ceremony at the Burns Monument on Irvine Moor.

***Ayrshire Apprentice of the Year, Portal, Irvine, 7 September***

On 7 September I attended the Ayrshire Apprentice of the Year event held in the Portal, Irvine. The event was organised by Irvine incorporated Trades and attended by South and East Ayrshire Councils.

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*Ian Clarkson*

Councillor Ian Clarkson  
**Provost North Ayrshire Council**