



PROVOST'S REPORT

19 December for the period covering: 30 October
– 10 December 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.

North Ayrshire Achieves, Saltcoats Town Hall, 1 November

I attended North Ayrshire Achieves on 1 November in Saltcoats Town Hall. North Ayrshire Achieves recognises the fantastic work that our employees do. They work together, strive for excellence and push the boundaries to achieve great results. Through this they regularly demonstrate that they can make great things happen. It was a privilege to celebrate with the winners in each category and acknowledge everyone who was nominated.

DrEAM North Ayrshire, 2 November

DrEAM Day (Drop Everything and Move) North Ayrshire took place on 2 November. This initiative encourages people to have fun, while living healthier and more active lives. I was delighted to be able to take part in the walking football class at the Portal and the intergenerational dance event with the residents of Arran View Care home and children from Pennyburn Nursery.

Three Towns Growers WW1 Garden of Remembrance Opening, Ardrossan, 3 November

On 3 November I was invited to plant a tree to mark the opening of the Three Towns Growers WW1 Garden of Remembrance in Ardrossan. This was an excellent project which marked the end of WW1 and highlighted the excellent work carried out in our communities by volunteers.

Ayrshire Golf League, 50th Anniversary Prize giving Dinner, Grange Campus, Kilmarnock, 5 November

Along with the Provosts of South and East Ayrshire Councils I attended the Ayrshire Golf League 50th Anniversary Dinner in the Grange Campus, Kilmarnock. The event was very well attended and a range of prizes were awarded to golfers throughout Ayrshire.



Poppy Cascade, Portal, Irvine, 6 November

On 6 November I was delighted to visit the Portal to view the excellent poppy cascade which was produced by knitters from Dreghorn library. The poppies were individually hand-crafted and produced to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.

WW1 Commemoration Exhibition, Trinity Church, Irvine, 8 November

I visited the WW1 Commemorative Exhibition in the Trinity Church, Irvine on 8 November. This public event was supported by North Ayrshire's WW1 Legacy Fund and featured virtual reality experiences, games, films and memorabilia.

Ayrshire College Graduation and Awards Ceremony, Kilwinning Campus, 8 & 9 November

On 8 & 9 November I attended the Ayrshire College (Kilwinning Campus) Graduation and Award Ceremony in Kilwinning Abbey. I was delighted to celebrate the success of all those who graduated. The graduates were joined by family members, friends and lecturers.

Remembrance Sunday, Irvine, 11 November

I attended the Armistice Day Parade and Service in Irvine on 11 November. It was lovely to see so many people out showing their respects and the different generations remembering those brave men and women who lost their lives in conflicts. It is so important that we continue to recognise their efforts and never lose sight of what an impact they have had on the lives we live today.

Mrs. Sarah McNally, 100th Birthday, Beith, 15 November

It was an honour to visit Mrs. McNally from Beith on the 15 November on the occasion of her 100th birthday. It is always a pleasure to mark such milestones and meet some of North Ayrshire's oldest citizens.



Veterans First Point Scotland and a Sense of Belonging Arts Programme - "Remembering Those", Great Hall, Edinburgh Castle, 15 November

On the 15 November I attended a special arts event held in Edinburgh Castle focusing on WW1, commemorating lives lost and recognising and saluting the courage and bravery of those at war and those on the home front. The event was organised by Veterans First Point Centres across Scotland and featured an evening of music and drama focusing on veterans' lives and experiences.

Unveiling of Bobby Lennox Statue, Saltcoats 18 November

On 18 November I, along with many other guests, attended the unveiling ceremony of a statue in recognitions of the achievements of Bobby Lennox MBE, one of Scotland's footballing greats, who resides in Saltcoats. The event was very well attended and the statue is a great tribute to Bobby and his footballing career

Town Twinning Visit, Voisins-les- Brettoneaux, 23 – 26 November

I attended a number of events in Voisins-les- Brettoneaux, France which is Irvine's Twin Town. The Mayor and the Voisins Jumelages hosted a series of meetings and civic events over the weekend period. The visit gave me the opportunity to strengthen the relationship we have with Voisins and to explore different initiatives which will help develop the relationship further. I am always heartened and inspired by the fondness the citizens of Voisins have for Irvine and North Ayrshire.

Official launch of the Developing Young Workforce/Prince's Trust Supported Projects, Irvine Royal Academy, 30 November

On 30 November I officially launched the Developing Young Workforce/Prince's Trust supported projects. These projects included barista, rural skills and bike repair. It is excellent to see our young people learning new skills which will assist them greatly in preparation for employment. Developing Young Workforce and Prince's Trust are working throughout North Ayrshire engaging and supporting our young people.



Stevenston Christmas Lights Switch On, Stevenston, 30 November

On the evening of 30 November I attended the Stevenston Christmas Lights Switch On. I am always keen to support community events of this type as I appreciate the amount of hard work that goes on behind the scene by volunteers who give up their free time and work tirelessly for their local community.

Irvine Christmas Lights Switch On, Irvine, 2 December

Irvine Christmas Lights Switch On took place on 2 December which I was delighted to go along to. A number of events and activities took place in the run up to and after the switch on of the lights and was attended by many. The volunteers who staged this year's event are to be congratulated for all their hard work and effort.

Foster Carers' Coffee Morning, Fullarton Connexions, Irvine, 3 December

On the morning of 3 December I attended the Foster Carers' Coffee Morning in Fullarton Connexions, Irvine. The event was held to recognise the positive impact our foster carers have on the lives of children and young people in North Ayrshire.

Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner, Riverside Lodge Hotel, 3 December

I attended the Ward 1 Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner held in the Riverside Lodge Hotel on 3 December. These events provide a great opportunity for the older people in our communities to come together.

Citizenship Ceremony, Saltcoats Town Hall, 5 December

I welcomed a new UK citizen to North Ayrshire at a special citizenship ceremony held in Saltcoats Town Hall on 5 December. These events signify the end of a long and sometimes arduous journey for the applicant and it is excellent to see them completing the final phase.

Reclaim the Night, Irvine, 6 December

I took part in the Reclaim the Night walk from the Trinity Church in Irvine to the Harbour Arts Centre on 6 December. I was delighted to be able to assist in raising awareness about the dangers to women and girls from sexual violence and promote a safer environment for women and girls to walk without fear after dark.



Irvine Lasses St. Andrew's Night Concert, Wellwood Burns Centre, Irvine 6 December

I attended the Irvine Lasses Burns Club St, Andrew's Night Concert held in Wellwood Burns Centre on 6 December. This event which is firmly fixed in Irvine's calendar of events explores and celebrates Irvine's rich cultural heritage and its association with Robert Burns.

Cash for Kids Lunch, Ayr Racecourse, 7 December

I, along with representatives from South and East Ayrshire Council, attended the annual Cash for Kids lunch held in Ayr Racecourse. For over 30 years Cash for Kids has been changing the lives of thousands who face unimaginable difficulties in their lives. Each year Cash for Kids support thousands of children up to 16 years old who are living in poverty or who simply need extra care and guidance. North Ayrshire Council were awarded £38,975 which will go to assist some of our young people this Christmas.

Take the Lead Celebration Day, Greenwood Academy, 8 December

On Saturday 8 December I attended Take the Lead Celebration Day in Greenwood Academy. "Take the Lead" is a three-year project supported by CashBack for Communities through Creative Scotland's CashBack for Creativity Programme. The project works with young people in North Ayrshire and HMYOI Polmont and aims to increase ambition and aspiration by using dance to build young people's confidence and capacity, as well as their health and well-being.



Ian Clarkson

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council