



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 31 May – 29 August
2021

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 taken part in several events, including:

Royal British Legion Centenary Service, Saltcoats, 19 June

I was delighted to take part in a nationwide event to mark 100 years of the Royal British Legion. On 19 June, to mark the occasion, I attended a wreath laying ceremony and service arranged by the local branch of the British Legion in Saltcoats. It was also an opportunity to highlight the important role of the British Legion and all their volunteers in supporting our Armed Forces Community.

Armed Forces Day, Irvine, 27 June

On 28 June, I took part in the Armed Forces Day celebration in Irvine. Organised by the Irvine branch of the British Legion the event allowed us to demonstrate our support and appreciation for all those men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

Opening of Ayrshire Hospice Store, Largs, 24 July

I was delighted to officially open the new look Ayrshire Hospice Store in Largs on 25 July, after it had both an external and internal refit.

The store now features a cookery nook and home emporium, with a range of everything for the budding chef and home cook, as well as fashion, books and media.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, particularly the volunteers who give up their free time and work tirelessly behind the scenes, making a huge difference to their community and to the lives of others.

Irvine Lasses Burns Club, Harbourside Heritage Walk Launch, Irvine, 29 July

On 29 July, I met with members of Irvine Lasses Burns Club to launch their forthcoming Heritage Walks around Irvine Harbourside. This is another example of the excellent work carried out by volunteers in our local area.



Virtual Marymass Festival, Irvine, 12 – 23 August

Marymass Festival took place on a virtual basis again this year. There was plenty of online material from years gone by, historical facts, interviews with members of the Carters' Society and live footage of the alternative opening ceremony, which I was only too pleased to take part in. I attended the annual Marymass Derby, where Irvine Meadow hosted Irvine Victoria, I also met up with Captain Danny Kerr when he arrived at Irvine Seagate, on horse and cart, on Marymass Saturday to mark the reputed visit of Mary Queen of Scots to Irvine in 1563. I was delighted to provide a video message to mark both the opening and closing ceremonies. Although this year's Festival was for the large part online, it is encouraging to see the traditions of the town being upheld and I am sure it was enjoyed by many people from near and far.

2021 Cadet Adult Recognition Awards on YouTube, 13 August

On 13 August, the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for the Lowlands hosted their annual Cadet Annual Recognition Awards. The Awards gave the Cadets the opportunity to publicly thank the adult volunteers for all they do to make their Cadet experience so special. These inspiring adults have a positive impact on these young people's lives.

Harbourside Heritage Walk, Irvine, 18 August

On 18 August, I went on one of the organised Harbourside Heritage Walks. The walks were arranged by Irvine Lassies' Burns Club and gave an insight into the history of the Harbourside and the people who lived and worked there.

Irvine Burns Club Zoom Event, 18 August

I took part in another successful Irvine Burns Club Zoom event on the evening of 18 August. The programme included presentations from, Professor Gerry Carruthers of Glasgow University and Irvine-born Henry Cairney, current President of the Robert Burns Association of North America and the President and President-Elect of Robert Burns World Federation.

Ed Miller, the Texan-based Scottish folk singer and folklorist, spoke about some of his experiences in promoting Scotland and Scottish music across the USA for the past four decades at Burns-related events and festivals.



Screening of Roberts Burns Documentary, “Fakers and Forgers: counterfeiting Robert Burns”, 26 August

Part of the grant award for the 'Editing Robert Burns for the 21st Century' (ERB21C) project, by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, included funding to produce a series of documentaries on different aspects of the work of the project, and I was delighted to attend the launch of the first of those documentaries on 26 August.

Entitled 'Fakers and Forgers: counterfeiting Robert Burns', the 55-minute production explored some of the fascinating stories around the ways in which Robert Burns has been faked or falsely attributed authorship, as well as some of the modern techniques being employed to authenticate manuscripts, which may have an unclear provenance.



Ian Clarkson

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council