



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 8 February – 21 March  
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:

## ***Chinese New Year Online Reception, 9 February***

On 9 February, I attended an online reception to celebrate the 2021 Chinese New Year, the Year of the Ox. Hosted by the Chinese Consul General in Edinburgh, the reception brought together Civic Heads and representatives from various organisations in Scotland. These events provide an excellent platform for developing existing relationships and for promoting North Ayrshire to a wider audience.

## ***Irvine Burns Club Zoom Gathering, 10 February***

Irvine Burns Club continue to host monthly events online, which are becoming increasingly popular and far-reaching. On 10 February, I took part in their latest event where among other items, there was a presentation by Past President Ian Dickson on Captain Charles Gray, RM who was Irvine Burns Club President in 1834 and again in 1836.

## ***2021 Edinburgh Official Chinese New Year Celebration and Concert, 13 February***

On 13 February, I attended an online reception and concert hosted by the Asian Association of Culture and Education in Europe. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh was in attendance as well as many other dignitaries who enjoyed an evening of cultural entertainment marking the Chinese New Year.

## ***Chinese New Year 2021 Online Celebration with United Nations House Scotland and British Born Young Talent Association, 19 February***

On 19 February, I took part in another Chinese New Year celebration. This time, the event was hosted by United Nations House Scotland and the British Born Young Talent Association. I was delighted to show my support to the Chinese community in Scotland and be part of the cultural celebrations.



### ***Consulate General of Japan - Emperor's Birthday Online Celebration, 23 February***

On 23 February, I was invited by the Consul General of Japan to view a special online film in celebration of the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Normally the occasion would be marked by coming together at a reception. As this is not possible this year, the exclusively created film captured the essence of the occasion.

It involved a message from Rt. Hon. Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament and a joint message from Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, and Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, Europe and External Affairs. Updates on the wonderful friendship between Japan, Scotland and the north of England were also provided by several organisations and footage included the beautiful Japanese garden at Cowden Castle.

### ***Celebration of St Patrick's Day, Online Event, 17 March***

On 17 March, I took part in an online celebration to celebrate St Patrick's Day, hosted by the Consul General of Ireland.

Along with messages from Taoiseach Micheál Martin and H.E. Adrian O'Neill, Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom, we also heard some of the best classical and contemporary Irish music. I was delighted to be invited to these celebrations and show my support to the Irish community in Scotland.

### ***Irvine Burns Club Zoom Gathering, 17 March***

On 17 March, I attended the Irvine Burns Club online gathering. These monthly meetings are proving to be very popular and are well-attended. On this occasion, the guest speaker was Dr Pauline Mackay, Lecturer in Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow. Pauline spoke on and read extracts from her book entitled "Burns for Every Day of the Year". Pauline also discussed the potential uses of virtual reality as a teaching resource for Burns poetry.

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*Ian Clarkson*

Councillor Ian Clarkson  
**Provost North Ayrshire Council**