



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 9 December 2019 – 2
February 2020

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.

Foster Carers' Annual Coffee Morning, Fullarton Connexions, Irvine, 12 December

On 12 December, I attended the annual Foster Carers' Coffee Morning in Fullarton Connexions. The event was hosted by NAHSCP Family Placement Team to thank all North Ayrshire Carers for the excellent work they carry out. I was delighted to be given the opportunity to attend and show my appreciation as well as highlighting the work that is carried out every day by our carers.

Poppyscotland Veterans Drop in Christmas Lunch, Kilmarnock, 13 December

On 13 December, I attended the Poppyscotland Veterans Christmas Lunch in Kilmarnock. Support centres like these are vital in supporting our Armed Forces and Veterans community. As Veteran's Champion it is always good to hear first hand from the service users about the issues that they are encountering and how we can assist.

Three Town Growers Yuletide Event, Elm Park, Ardrossan, 14 December

The Three Town Growers event took place at Elm Park Allotments, Ardrossan on 14 December. I, along with many others from the local community, attended this festive event which highlighted the excellent work that is carried out throughout North Ayrshire by a huge number of volunteers.

Montgomerie View Opening Ceremony, Seamill, 16 December

I, along with the local elected members and portfolio holder, attended the Montgomerie View Opening event in Seamill. The 31 new homes, developed in partnership with Hope Homes and the Wee House Company Ltd, are just the latest in the Council's house building programme.

Christmas Carousel, Dalry Primary School, 16 December

I was delighted to attend this year's Christmas Carousel event, which took place on 16 December in Dalry Primary. The concert featured the North Ayrshire Schools' Senior & Training Concert Bands, the North Ayrshire Schools' Senior and Junior Orchestras and Garnock Valley Pipes & Drums. There was also a special performance by Nicola Benedetti. The event showcased the exceptional talent of our young people.

Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band Christmas Concert, Greenwood Academy, 19 December

Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band held their Christmas Concert in Greenwood Academy on 19 December. The concert was very entertaining and warmly received. The award-winning band has been operating for over 40 years and play at many community events in North Ayrshire.

Veterans First Point Christmas Lunch, Irvine, 20 December

On 20 December, I attended the Veterans First Point Christmas Lunch held in their base in Bridgegate, Irvine. I was happy to attend and show my support to the service users and staff. Veterans First Point provides a wide range of support services to veterans and their families.

Polar Plunge, Irvine Beach, 1 January

Raising funds for Cash for Kids, I took the plunge on New Year's Day and joined hundreds of others for a dip in the sea at Irvine Beach. This event gets busier each year and is a fun and refreshing way to start the New Year.

Eglinton Burns Club Annual Dinner, Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine, 10 January

I attended the annual dinner hosted by Irvine Eglinton Burns Club, in the Riverside Lodge Hotel on 10 January. This event is run entirely by volunteers who do an excellent job in upholding and celebrating Irvine's historical and cultural traditions.

Westsound 15th Annual Burns Supper, Double Tree by Hilton, Glasgow, 18 January

On 18 January, I was a guest at the Westsound Annual Burns Supper in Glasgow. This successful event, which celebrated the birth of Robert Burns, our National Bard, provided excellent networking opportunities.

Kilwinning Heritage Book Launch, Nethermains Community Centre, Kilwinning, 20 January

On 20 January, I was delighted to attend launch of the fourth book in the Kilwinning Heritage Series, by Heather Ufielod. The well-researched book tells the story of James Blair (1781-1850), the maker of the clock in the Kilwinning Abbey Tower and of fine long-case clocks. The other two town clocks and associated bells are included in this comprehensive guide to clocks and clockmakers in Kilwinning over 300 years.

Chinese New Year Celebration, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 21 January

On 21 January, I attended a New Year celebration hosted by the Chinese Consul General in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh. The event was attended by Provosts and special guests from throughout Scotland. It was a pleasure to attend the event and show our support to the Chinese community in Scotland.

Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, South Beach Surgery, Ardrossan, 24 January

I attended a photocall with colleagues on 24 January, during Cervical Cancer Prevention Week. It was an excellent opportunity to highlight how important it is that all women are aware of what can be done to reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

Auchenharvie Skills Academy Launch, Auchenharvie Academy, Stevenston, 24 January

On 24 January, I attended the Skills Academy launch at Auchenharvie Academy, Stevenston. The Skills Academy is an amalgamation of innovative school projects and other similar or associated activities at Auchenharvie Academy. The Skills Academy aims to develop vocational, employability and life skills in the young people in structured projects and prepare them for the world of work either in the short term straight from school or in the medium-to-long term after further education. Key partners are DYW Ayrshire, Ayrshire College and Prince's Trust.

Irvine Burns Club Annual Celebration, Volunteer Rooms, Irvine, 24 January

On the evening of 24 January, I attended Irvine Burns Club 194th annual celebration which was held in the Volunteer Rooms, Irvine. This is a popular community celebration and always well attended. This year I was delighted to have received an Honorary Membership from the Club.

Kirkin' of the President of Irvine Burns Club and wreath laying ceremony, Old Parish Church/Irvine Moor, Irvine, 24 January

On 24 January, I attended the traditional Kirkin' of the President of Irvine Burns Club, which took place in Old Parish Church, Irvine. Many local organisations attended the event. Later that afternoon, I laid a wreath at the Burns Monument on Irvine Moor on behalf of the Council. Afterwards, David Burns was installed as President of Irvine Burns Club and Margaret Greenlees as Vice-President.

71st Republic Day of India - Reception hosted by Consul General, City Chambers, Edinburgh, 24 January

On the evening of the 24 January, the Consul General of India hosted a reception to celebrate the 71st Republic Day of India. The event took place in Edinburgh City Chambers. I was delighted to attend and show our support to the Indian community in Scotland.

Irvine Civic Group Meeting, Townhouse, Irvine, 28 January

On the 28 January, I chaired a meeting in Irvine Townhouse. For some time, it has been my intention to create a platform where organisations involved in promoting and celebrating Irvine's history and culture come together to discuss common interests. The meeting was very well-attend and I anticipate hosting these meetings twice a year.

Burns Brunch, James McFarlane School, Ardrossan, 30 January

I was delighted to join pupils and staff from James McFarlane School for their annual Burns Brunch event on 30 January. I thoroughly enjoyed the event which included country dancing in the gym, entertainment by the pupils followed with traditional refreshments.

Celebration of Chinese New Year, City Chambers, Glasgow, 2 February

On 2 February, in Glasgow City Chambers, I and Provosts throughout Scotland attended a Chinese New Year celebration. This cultural celebration was arranged by Chinese Cultural and Welfare Society and Glasgow City Council.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Clarkson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council