



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 7 December 2020 – 7
February 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:

Consular Corps in Scotland, Online Reception, 11 December

On 11 December, I attended an online reception followed by a concert hosted by the Consular Corps in Scotland. The Corps represents over sixty international organisations including 55 countries. Membership is made up of career diplomats, honorary consuls and directors of international and cultural institutions. Events like these provide excellent networking opportunities and allow me to promote North Ayrshire to a wider audience.

Schools Christmas Concert, 22 December

On 22 December, the annual Christmas concert by our school pupils was available to view online. The concert had been pre-recorded and a lot of work went on in the background to make this happen, particularly as the pupils were unable to rehearse in person. As usual the concert was fantastic, and I was happy to be able to record my congratulations to all the pupils who took part and of course to the staff for their invaluable support.

Launch of 2021 PoppyScotland Manifesto, 18 January

PoppyScotland launched their manifesto on 18 January, I was delighted to take part in this event which was aired online. The use of evidence and hearing the voices of their beneficiaries and staff had been at the heart of Poppyscotland's manifesto development process, as they continue to support our Armed Forces community.

City of Guelph, Burns Celebration, 25 January

In early December, the Civic Museum team from Guelph, Canada invited Irvine Burns Club to become involved in its on-line celebration of Burns' Birthday. The outcome of that invitation was for the Irvine Club, despite being closed since March 2020, to create a 28-minute video which opened in Guelph's City Museum. Produced by a team from Irvine Burns Club, the video entitled "In the Footsteps of Burns and Galt" is introduced by Club President David Burns and included a special message from myself.

The composite video includes footage of Irvine Burns Club's Wellwood Museum, a guided tour of historical links between Irvine and Canada, an "Address to a Haggis" video and a collage of photographs of local landmarks and fascinating facts.



This is just an example of some the excellent work that is being carried out in our communities as we battle the Covid 19 pandemic.

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming Farewell, Online Reception, 25 January

On 25 January, I attended an online reception hosted by the Chinese Consul in Edinburgh, to mark the retirement of Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of China to the United Kingdom. In recent years I have fostered links with the various consulates in Edinburgh and in turn have been able to promote North Ayrshire and share with them our proud cultural heritage.

Town Twinning Mayors Meeting, Online Event, 5 February

On 5 February, I took part in an online meeting with the Mayor Rosetti from Voisins, France which included the Mayor of Schenefeld in Germany. It was an excellent opportunity to touch base with our friends in Voisins and reaffirm the friendship agreement Voisins has had with Irvine since 2005.



Ian Clarkson

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council