



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 10 December 2018 – 4
February 2019

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.

The St John and Red Cross Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS) 75th Anniversary Reception, Scottish Parliament, 12 December

On 12 December I attended a reception in the Scottish Parliament to mark the 75th Anniversary of the St John and Red Cross Defence Medical Welfare Service. Since 1943 the (DMWS) has been providing a professional medical welfare service to those who serve our nation.

“Bah Humbug” Christmas Show, Hayocks Primary School, Stevenston, 14 December

I was delighted to attend the Christmas Show at Hayocks Primary School, Stevenston which took place on the morning of 14 December. The show was a great success and highlighted the wonderful effort from the pupils and the excellent support from staff.

Carers' Christmas Lunch, Brisbane Hotel, Largs, 14 December

In the afternoon I was in Largs for the North Ayrshire Carers' Christmas lunch. I was happy to support this event and show my appreciation of all those carers in North Ayrshire who carry out amazing work on a daily basis and provide a better quality of life for those in their care.

Back to Bethlehem Nativity, James McFarlane School, Ardrossan, 20 December

On the morning of 20 December I attended James McFarlane School nativity. Another excellent Christmas show which was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.



PoppyScotland Veterans Drop In Group Christmas Lunch, Kilmarnock, 20 December

On the afternoon of 20 December I attended PoppyScotland Veterans Drop in Group Christmas Lunch. This was an opportunity to show our appreciation to all those veterans who attend the weekly drop in group. This time of year can be a difficult for veterans and in particular those who suffer from social isolation. Events such as these can help veterans to feel supported and also part of the community.

Passing out Parade of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers in North Ayrshire, Irvine Royal Academy, 20 December

I had the pleasure of attending the Passing out Parade of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers in North Ayrshire in Irvine Royal Academy on Thursday 20 December.

The Police Scotland Youth Volunteer Programme aims to deepen Police engagement with young people, breaking down barriers and promoting positive role models through regular training and participation in community safety initiatives and public events. They are given opportunities to discover their talents, develop skills for life and shown the benefits of making a positive contribution to their communities.

Cumbrae Primary Christmas Show, Cumbrae Primary School, Millport, 21 December

On 21 December I was delighted to attend Cumbrae Primary School's Christmas Show. The performance was excellent and enjoyed by all concerned. This was my final engagement of 2018.

Polar Plunge, Irvine Beach, 1 January

I started the year off with a splash and took to the sea at Irvine Beach to raise funds for Cash for Kids. Hundreds of people took part in this event which was a great way to bring in the New Year.



Irvine Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner, Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine, 5 January

It was a pleasure to join Irvine's Senior Citizens for Christmas dinner on 5 January at the Riverside Lodge Hotel in Irvine. The event was very well attended and gives the older people in our community the chance to come together in a social setting. I also got the opportunity to speak with many of those in attendance reinforcing the valuable role our older people play in our communities.

Eglinton Burns Club Annual Dinner, Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine, 11 January

On 11 January I attended the Eglinton Burns Club annual dinner which was held in the Riverside Lodge Hotel in Irvine. Events like these celebrate our cultural heritage and are arranged by volunteers. The event was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

Closing of North Ayrshire Reflects Exhibition, Heritage Centre, Saltcoats, 17 January

On 17 January I, along with some colleagues, attended the closing of the North Ayrshire Reflects Exhibition in the Heritage Centre, Saltcoats. This exhibition focused on North Ayrshire 100 years ago as the Great War was coming to an end and showed what life was like in our area at that time.

Provost's Civic Pride Awards Shortleet Panel, Cunninghame House, Irvine 21 January

On 21 January I was joined by my colleagues, Councillor McPhater, Councillor Marshall, Councillor Barr, Councillor Reid, Councillor McClung and Councillor Billings to go over the nominations received for this year's Civic Pride Awards and to shortleet three in each category who will go forward to the public vote. The high standard of the nominations show the talents of groups and individuals as well as the immense work that people put in to their local communities throughout North Ayrshire. I thank my colleagues for their support in the difficult task of choosing the finalists.



Nobel Times Exhibition, Heritage Centre, Saltcoats, 25 January

On 25 January I attended a preview of the new exhibition at the Heritage Centre, Saltcoats. The Nobel Times exhibition included interesting objects, interviews, photographs and historic publications associated with the explosives factory at Ardeer.

Irvine Burns Club Annual Celebration, Volunteer Rooms, Irvine, 25 January

On 25 January Irvine Burns Club held their annual celebration in the Volunteer Rooms, Irvine. The event was very well attended and provided a fitting celebration to mark the birth of Robert Burns, our National Bard.

Kirkin' of the President Elect of Irvine Burns Club, Irvine Old Parish Church, 27 January

On 27 January I attended the Kirkin' of the President Elect of Irvine Burns Club. This was followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Burns Statue on Irvine Moor.

Reception 70th Republic Day of India, Edinburgh City Chambers, 26 January

I attended a reception in Edinburgh City Chambers hosted by the Indian Consul General, to mark the 70th Republic Day of India. I took the opportunity to meet with many members of the Indian community at what was an excellent networking event.

Visit by Scottish Veterans Minister, Saltcoats, Kilmarnock and Irvine, 28 January

On the 28 January I accompanied the Scottish Veterans Minister on visits to the Veterans Breakfast Cub in Saltcoats, the Poppy Scotland Welfare Centre in Kilmarnock and Veterans 1st Point in Irvine. It was good to see these support services in operation and the excellent work they carry out supporting veterans and their families throughout Ayrshire.



Dickson Court Opening Ceremony, Beith, 29 January

It was a privilege to officially re-open Dickson Court, Beith after a £2.2m refurbishment on 29 January. The refurbishment features 22 high-quality and accessible sheltered homes designed to meet the needs of older residents.

Prince's Trust/ Developing Young Workforce Largs Rural Skills Project, Largs Campus, 30 January

I went along to Largs Campus on 30 January to formally launch the Rural Skills Project. This project provides students with a range of employability skills in horticulture and is supported by Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire and the Prince's Trust Scotland.

Prince's Trust/ Developing Young Workforce Digital Defenders Launch, Auchenharvie Academy, Stevenston, 1 February

On 1 February I officially launched the Digital Defenders Project in Auchenharvie Academy Stevenston. This project provides students with a range of employability skills in IT Security and is supported by Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire and the Prince's Trust Scotland.



Ian Clarkson

Councillor Ian Clarkson

Provost North Ayrshire Council