



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 14 September 2020 – 1  
November 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 taken part in a number of events, including:

## ***Irvine Burns Club, “Burns and Slavery”, 23 September***

On 23 September, I joined members of Irvine Burns Club for an online talk by Professor Gerry Carruthers on “Burns and Slavery”. Professor Carruthers is Chair of Scottish Literature at the University of Glasgow and the principal investigator for the “Editing Burns for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century project. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and Professor Carruthers’ excellent presentation. It is also heartening to see organisations, such as Irvine Burns Club diversifying during these difficult times by meeting online.

## ***71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the People’s Republic of China, Online Celebration, 28 September***

On 28 October, I attended an online celebration on the 71st Anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. The event which featured musical performances and presentations was hosted by the Chinese Ambassador and attended by many.

## ***Meeting with Chief Superintendent Hussain, 1 October***

On 1 October, the Leader of the Council and I met online with Chief Superintendent Hussain from PoliceScotland. This was an introductory meeting where Chief Superintendent Hussain explained his desire to work with Local Authorities to improve Ayrshire. He has also issued a survey to Councils asking what else Police could be doing to help tackle issues prevalent in their areas. We were also updated on some of PoliceScotland’s current work and operations in and around Ayrshire and we look forward to continuing working in partnership.

## ***Ayrshire Hospice, Go Purple Day, 9 October***

Go Purple for Ayrshire Hospice took place on 9 October. We were unable to take part to the level we have done before, but I was delighted to see many of our schools taking part and raising funds for this worthwhile cause. It is becoming increasingly difficult for charities during the pandemic to raise funds and I am only too happy to help wherever I can to support these organisations during these challenging times.



### ***Baby Loss Awareness Week, 9 -15 October***

I was happy to support Ayrshire SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity), by lighting up Saltcoats Town Hall and the Portal pink and blue during Baby Loss Awareness Week which took place from 9-15October.

Led by SANDS, the Baby Loss Awareness Alliance is a collaboration of more than 90 charities working together to break the taboo and to drive tangible improvements in policy, bereavement care and support for anyone affected by the death of a baby.

### ***2020 Scottish Poppy Appeal, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, 28 October***

On 28 October, I was delighted to attend the 2020 Scottish Poppy Appeal reception hosted by the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, The Rt Hon. Ken Macintosh MSP.

The 2020 Scottish Poppy Appeal will be amongst the most challenging and most important in its 99-year history. At the virtual reception we heard more about how PoppyScotland are adapting their vital services, the Poppy Appeal and other year-round activities which ensure our Armed Forces community receive the support they urgently need.

### ***Irvine Burn's Club, Online Event, Irvine, 28 October***

On 28 October, I joined Irvine Burns Club once again for another online event. This time around the speaker was Dr Rhona Brown and her topic was "The Two Roberts - Burns and Fergusson".

Rhona was born in New Cumnock and studied at Strathclyde and Glasgow Universities. Rhona is currently Senior Lecturer in 18th century Scottish Literature at Glasgow University. She is President of the John Galt Society and is an expert on Robert Fergusson. Rhona's publications include "Robert Fergusson and the Scottish Periodical Press".

This was a very enjoyable evening and well-attended.

### ***Remembrance Sunday***

As Provost and North Ayrshire's Veterans Champion, I called on North Ayrshire residents to remember by joining a nationwide two-minute silence from the safety of their own home. While it's disappointing that there will be no official public ceremonies this year on Remembrance Sunday, it is for a very good reason. However, just because we can't join in one place, doesn't mean we can't pay tribute to the fallen in our own way. Although we may be apart from each other physically, we can still participate in a joint show of respect and support.

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*Ian Clarkson*

Councillor Ian Clarkson  
**Provost North Ayrshire Council**