



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 2 November 2020 – 6
December 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 several events, including:

Remembrance Sunday, 8 November

On 8th November, we remembered all those brave men and women of our Armed Forces. The Covid-19 pandemic halted remembrance services and parades as we know it and individuals remembered in their own way. I placed a wreath on behalf of the Council early on Remembrance Sunday and like many others took part in a two-minute silence from my doorstep.

Christmas Gift Appeal, 19 November – 15 December

On 19 November, I was pleased to be able to help launch our Christmas Gift Appeal. The Christmas Gift Appeal runs until 15 December and aims to give gifts to families who, for a variety of reasons, may not be able to celebrate a traditional Christmas as we know it. North Ayrshire's Health and Social Care Partnership has identified those who are in greatest need of support and have listed items which are currently being sought. All items can be dropped off at local libraries on specified dates.

We know that many families across our communities are struggling financially, now more than ever due to the Covid-19 pandemic. And with Christmas just around the corner, this can turn what should be a joyous occasion into a stressful one for those parents and carers trying to make ends meet. Each contribution will go a long way in making a real difference to someone's Christmas who otherwise may receive very little. My thanks to all who have contributed to date.

Irvine Burns Club, St Andrew's Evening, 25 November

On 25 November, I was delighted to be able to participate in Irvine Burns Club's monthly social event which was probably their most ambitious to date. The evening celebrated St Andrew and Scotland in music, poetry and song. The guests and performers included:

- Professor Sir Geoff Palmer, one of the Club's Honorary Members;
- Irvine-born Henry Cairney, now Senior Vice President of Robert Burns World Federation and a talented musician;

- International flautist Aimee Taylor;
- Liam Kearney, winner of The Young Burnsian of the Year when the Finals were held in Irvine;
- and popular international folk musicians and singers, Stephen & Pernille Quigg.

My thanks to Bill Nolan and Margaret Greenlees for creating and managing these popular social events in which the emphasis has been firmly on the fun and friendship enjoyed by people with a shared interest in Robert Burns, his poems and songs.

Ayrshire Hospice Light up a Life Concert, 29 November

On 29 November, Ayrshire Hospice held their annual Light up a Life concert. An excellent programme of entertainment was streamed live on social media - many performances had been pre-recorded at the Gaiety Theatre and showcased some of Ayrshire's very talented singers and musicians. The concert is testament to the excellent work carried out by the Ayrshire Hospice. As many events have been curtailed this year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, I have been unable to support the Hospice's fundraising efforts in the way I would normally do. So, it is important that we think about our local charities who are struggling during these challenging times.

Irvine Lasses Burns Club, St. Andrew's Night, 3 December

On 3 December, I was delighted to have been invited to give the toast to the lasses at Irvine Lasses Burns Club's, St Andrew's Night event. This was an online event which featured live entertainment, presentations, song and poetry. The event was a great success and my thanks go to the organisers who proceeded with an online version of this established event in Irvine's calendar. Apart from the excellent programme, the event brought many people together and raising spirits and morale and promoting a real sense of community.

Christmas Afternoon Tea Party, Online Event, 4 December

On 4 December, it was a pleasure to join Irvine's Christmas Afternoon Tea Party, arranged by Connected Communities in association with Bourtreehill and Broomlands Age Concern and Irvine Seniors Forum. There was entertainment, bingo, a quiz and some good chat. A party pack was delivered to everyone before the event so they could get into the festive spirit from the comfort of their own home. I am always impressed by the fantastic community spirit of the people of North Ayrshire and this event highlighted that – despite facing a different type of Christmas to which we are used to.

Ayrshire Cancer Support, Virtual Santa Dash

I am happy to support and promote the activities of charities that have an impact on the residents of North Ayrshire. Ayrshire Cancer Support provides practical help and support to people in Ayrshire affected by cancer. The annual Santa Dash, one of the charity's popular fundraising events, had to be revised due to Covid-19 and a virtual dash is now taking place instead. Anyone can take part through the month of December and I would like to encourage people to take part if they are able. Details are available on Ayrshire Cancer Support's website.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Clarkson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Ian" and "Clarkson" being capitalized and prominent.

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council