

Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

Week 8B— Local Heraldry Strathclyde 2

For the final week of Heraldry for the Isolator, we are returning to the heraldry of the erstwhile District Councils of 1973-1995. Today's menu from the non-armigerous Strathclyde Region, consists of Cumnock and Doon Valley, Cunninghame, Dumbarton, East Kilbride, Eastwood, and Hamilton District Councils.



Cumnock and Doon Valley

Per fess wavy a barrulet wavy Azure in chief per pale Gules and argent a demi-lion rampant issuant counterchanged Argent and Azure; in base Or on a mound Vert a pine tree fructed Proper between, dexter a lozenge Sable and sinister a garb Gules banded Argent; all within a bordure per pale Argent and Gules charged with eight roses counterchanged, bared and seeded Vert.

Two of the great local families are commemorated in the arms: the bordure with roses for the Dunbars and the lion for Crichton. The three symbols represent mining, forestry and farming.

Cunninghame

Argent, a shakefork Sable cantoned between in chief a leopard's head affrontée holding in its mouth a weaver's shuttle Proper, in the dexter flank on an imperial crown Or a lion sejant affrontée azure imperially crowned gold holding in his dexter paw a sword and in his sinister a sceptre both Proper and in the sinister flank a lymphad Gules, mast, rigging and sails furled proper flagged Or.

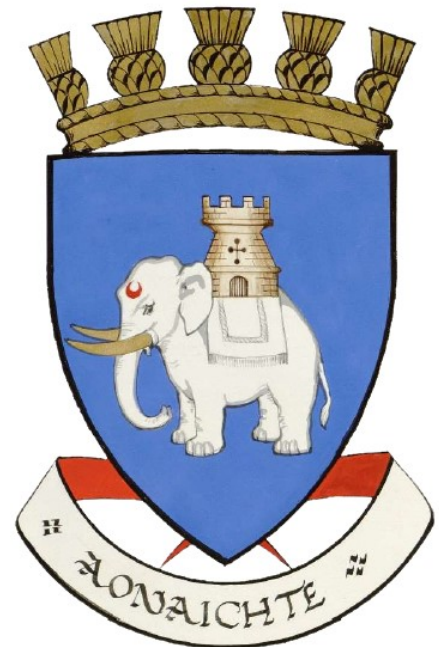
The shakefork comes from the arms of the prominent Cunninghams. King Robert I is reputed to have granted the Royal Crest to the Royal Burgh of Irvine (but in the livery colours of the Lords of Annandale). The galley is inherited from the arms of the Burgh of Saltcoats while the leopard's head with the shuttle is a common symbol of the weaving industry.



Dumbarton

Azure an elephant statant tusked Or, charged on the ehad with a crescent Gules, bearing on his back a tower proper.

The arms for Dumbarton District Council simply repeat the old arms of the Royal Burgh, itself drawn from a 14th century seal. The meaning is unclear, although one unconvincing theory is that the elephant and castle simply refer to Dumbarton Rock with its castle. The first elephant recorded on these islands since Roman times was a present from Louis IX of France to Henry III of England. The castle may have started life as a howdah—perhaps some exotic shipping trade brought the image over.



East Kilbride

Per fess in chief Gules and in base per pale Or and Vert, a cross flory of the Second between two mullets Argent in chief and an oystercatcher bird Proper in base, a chief chequy per pale, dexter Argent and Azure sinister Argent and Sable, all within a bordure Gules.

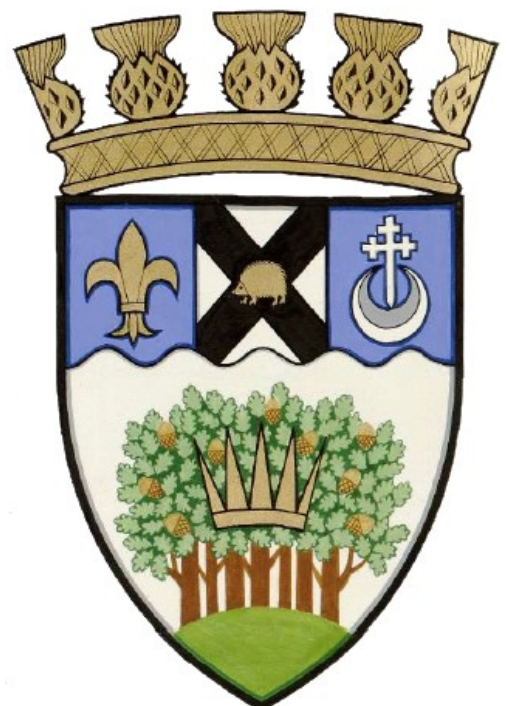
The dexter chequy recalls Stewart of Torrance, the sinister Maxwell of Calderwood. The cross refers to the mediaeval church of St Bride, the stars come from the Lindsays who lived at Mains Castle. The oystercatcher is the traditional companion of St Bride. The red bordure distinguishes the District Council's arms from those of the former Burgh.

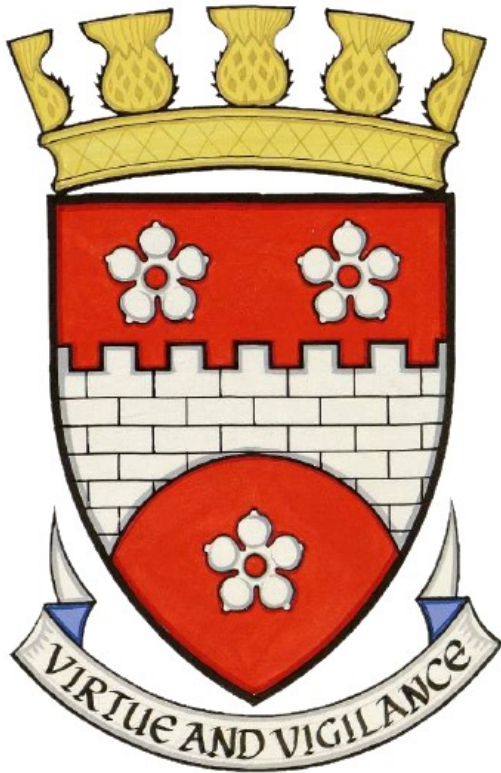


Eastwood

Argent, issuant from a mount in base a wood of oak trees fructed Proper, charged with an eastern crown Or, on a chief wavy Azure, on a pale of the first a saltire Sable charged in the centre with a hedgehog of the Second in dexter chief a fleur-de-lys of the Last and in sinister chief a cross-crosslet fitchée issuant from a crescent of the First.

The wood with the eastern crown is of course a canting reference to the name of the area. The three symbols in chief recall respectively the powerful noblemen Montgomery, Maxwell and Cathcart, the chief wavy refers to the local river, the White Cart.





Hamilton District Council 1973-1996

Gules a fess embattled and enarched Argent, masoned Sable, between three cinquefoils pierced of the Second.

The cinquefoils argent derive from the ermine oens of the Hamilton family while the masoned, embattled and enarched fess represents the historic Bothwell Bridge.

Inverclyde District Council 1973-1996

Or on a base wavy Azure and Argent, a three-masted ship in full sail Proper, having for figure-head a lion rampant Gules, flying from the foremast and mizzenmast a streamer Gules, and from the mainmast and jackstaff the Banner of Scotland, viz. Azure a saltire Argent, in chief between two mullets of six points Sable pierced of the field a hurt charged with a covered cup of the First.

The 17th century ship is an old symbol of this famous sea-faring and ship-building area centred on Greenock and used also in the old burgh arms of Port Glasgow. The covered cup is from the arms of Shaw of Greenock, the pierced mullets from Burns of Wemyss.

