

Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

Week 9A — Community Councils

Scottish community councils were created under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the same Act which created the two-tier Regional and District Council system, although the Community Councils have now outlived the latter by 25 years or so. They bridge the gap between local authorities and communities. There are around 1,200 active community councils in Scotland and many of them have recorded arms. Where the Community Council's area is coterminous with that of an historic area, the Lord Lyon usually allows it to matriculate the old arms with a Community Council coronet but, as ever, this is the result of a proper legal process and not merely a matter of cutting-and-pasting the coronet onto the old arms.

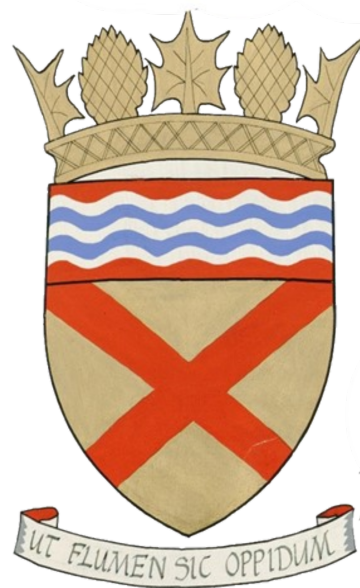
The coronet for a Community Council is described as: *a circlet richly-chased from which are issuant four thistle leaves (one and two halves visible) and four pine cones (two visible).*



Today we will look at some Community Councils which successfully petitioned to have their old burgh arms re-matriculated with the new coronet.



Alyth: *Vert on a cross quadrate Argent a lion rampant guardant Gules crowned with an open crown Or.* The cross quadrate refers to the mercat cross as shown on the old burgh seal with the lion of the Ogilvies.



Annan: *Or, a saltire and chief Gules the latter charged with five barrulets wavy conjoined Argent and Azure.* The familiar Bruce arms are differenced by having the River Annan flow through the chief.



Brechin Community Council:

Or three piles conjoined in base Gules.

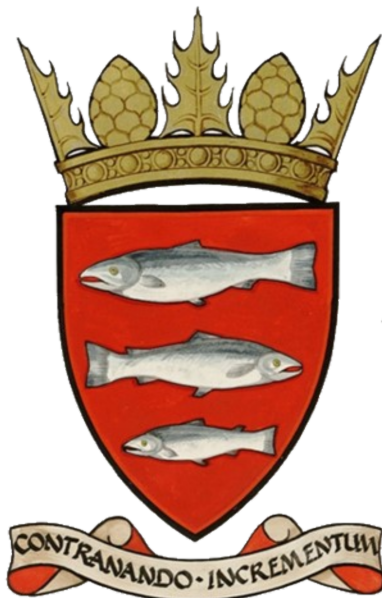
These ancient arms appear on a seal for the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and reappear with the Gules changed to Purpure in the arms of the Scottish Episcopal Diocese of Brechin. They are also quoted in differenced form in the personal arms of Lyon Morrow.



The Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council:

Argent, Sanctus Aegidius habited in his robes and mitted, holding in his dexter hand a pastoral staff and in his left hand a clasped book all Proper.

In this case we see not only that Lyon has allowed the arms of the old Royal Burgh to be used by the Community Council but that he has allowed the historic title to be perpetuated.



Two more: left **The Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles:** re-uses *Gules three salmon counternaient in pale Proper*. The arms use the Tweed's famous salmon as a parable, emphasised by the motto, that for every salmon swimming against the stream, two will return. A justification for being just a little awkward, perhaps...

Right is **The Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk:** has *Or, on a mount before a grove of oak trees, the Blessed Virgin seated on a bench with the Holy Child in her arms, all Proper, against her feet an escutcheon of the Royal Arms of Scotland-Or, within a double tressure flory counterflory a lion rampant Gules, armed and langued Azure*. The Marian shrine refers to Selkirk's name *forest church* and the Royal Burgh has used the Royal Arms since at least 1426.

Jumbo Heraldic Crossword

Week 8 of Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

