

Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

Week 9B — Community Councils II

We continue our look at those Community Councils which have recorded ancient burgh arms for modern use.



Coldstream Community Council:

Per pale Azure and Vert: a salmon haurient Proper, issuing from its mouth a cross fitchée Or, between two mullets in chief Argent, the sun in its splendour of the Third and a rose Gules barbed and seeded also of the Third, in the flanks and in base two crescents of the Fourth.

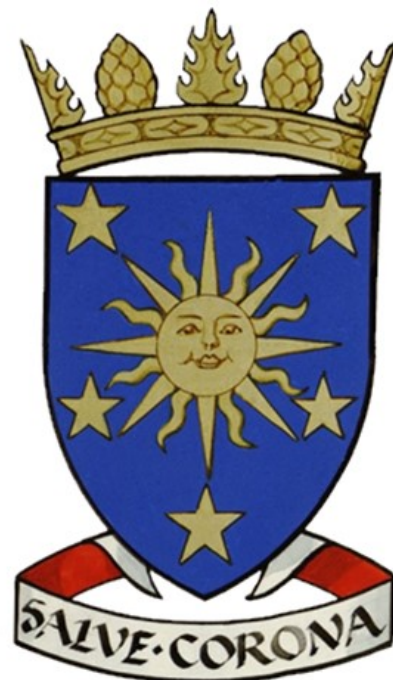
Essentially the ancient seal of Coldstream Abbey, with its Marian blue, salmon with cross, crescents and stars, with the addition of a section of Vert as a nod to the superiors of the burgh, the Earls of Home. The rose, difficult to see at a distance as it places a colour on a colour, probably refers to the Dunbars while the sun is rather a mystery.

Dingwall Community Council:

Azure the sun in its splendour between five mullets Or.

These arms have been used on (Royal) Burgh seals for Dingwall for seven hundred years so it is good to see them keep alive by the Community Council.

Here is the 1897 grant to the Royal Burgh.



Stewarton Community Council:

Per pale Or and Azure: a fess chequy per pale, dexter of the Second and Argent, sinister of the Third and Gules surmounted of a shake-fork Sable over all, all between a bonnet of the Second, with a round tassel of the Fourth, and an annulet of the First, stoned of the Fourth, in chief and another similar bonnet and a mullet of the Third in base.

The fess combines Stewart and Boyd, with the Montgomery ring of the Earl of Eglinton, the star of Douglas and over all the shake-fork of Cunningham. The Corporation of Bonnetmakers is still very active in the town and remembered in the two bonnets in the arms.





Dunblane Community Council:

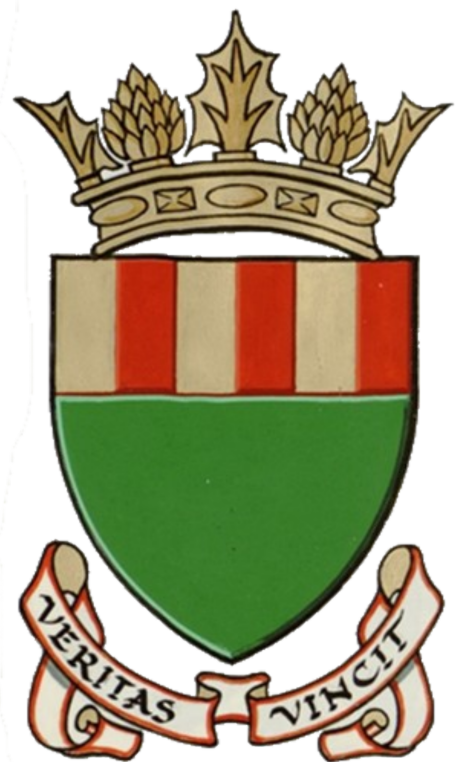
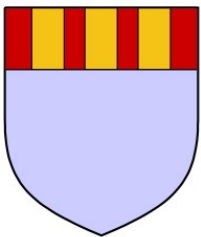
Parted per pale: dexter, Vert, on a chevron between a celestial crown in chief Or, and a dexter hand couped in base Argent, the fingers enflamed Proper, two chevronels round-embattled on their upper edges Gules; sinister, Gules, semee of lowes of flame Or, on a fess Argent, two barrulets Azure.

The arms are those of the old burgh, themselves derived from an ancient seal in which two saints— Blane of the Celtic Church and Lawrence of the Roman are commemorated. St Blane's fiery hand has the chevronels of the Earl of Strathearn above it while the grid-iron of St Lawrence's martyrdom is represented by the barrulets on the red robe of a martyr as well as the flames by which he met his death. Equally, the barrulets may suggest the Allan Water and indeed the River Forth of which it is a tributary.

Peterhead Community Council:

Vert a chief paly of six Or and Gules.

These arms are a differenced version of those of Keith, Earl Marischal, founder of this burgh as well as of Stonehaven, the field being changed from *Argent* to *Vert*. and the chief from *Gules three pallets Or* to *Paly of six Or and Gules*.



Stonehaven Community Council:

Per fess: in chief paly of six Or and Gules, in base Azure.

The *paly of six* is again paying homage to the chief of the arms of Keith, Earl Marischal, now extended the fill the whole of the top half of the shield; the simple *Azure* base may simply signify that Stonehaven is on the sea. Of course, it was important when the burgh arms were recorded, along with Peterhead's, in 1929, to distinguished the two burghs from each other as well as from the arms of the Earl Marischal so it is probably fanciful to find other explanations for the *Azure* and *Vert* tinctures.





Renfrew Community Council

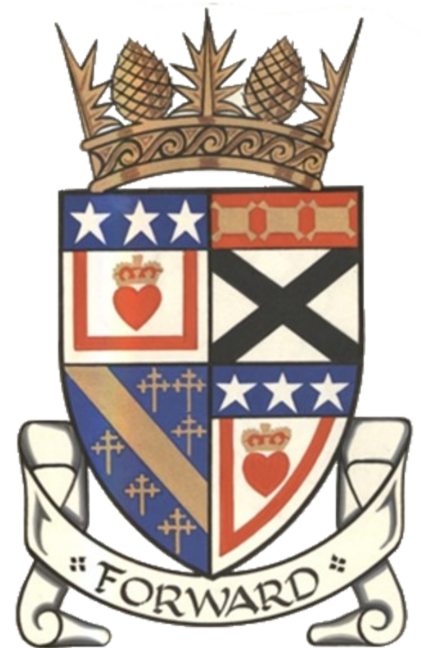
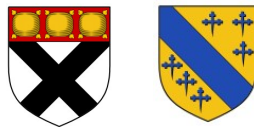
Gules, in the sea Proper, a ship with her sails trussed up and mast and tackling, the prow ensigned with the sun and the stern with the moon crescent all Argent, betwixt two escutcheons in the honour point Or, that on the dexter charged with a lion rampant with a double tressure [flowered and] counterflowered Gules, being the Royal coat, that on the sinister with a fess chequy Azure and Argent as the coat of Stewart, and betwixt also as many cross-crosslets fitchée of the Second.

Renfrew celebrates both its shipbuilding history and, as announced on signs as you enter the area, its role as the “cradle of the Scottish Kings” hence the display of both the arms of the King of Scots and of the Stewart dynasty. The theory has been advanced that the Stewarts came out of the darkness into the light as explanation for the moon on the Stewart side and the sun on the royal side but suns and moons are common enough emblems on the old burgh seals.

Lockerbie Community Council:

Quarterly: 1st and 4th, Argent, within an orle a man's heart Gules, imperially crowned Proper; on a chief Azure, three mullets of the field; 2nd, Argent, a saltire Sable, on a chief Gules three cushions Or; 3rd, Azure, a bend between six cross-crosslets fitchee Or.

A Victorian seal was the basis for the arms of the former burgh. Quarters 1 and 4 are an adaptation of the arms of Douglas, Marquesses of Queensberry, quarter 2 is Johnstone and quarter 3 is Mar.



Monifieth Community Council:

Barry dancetty of six Argent and Vert, a stag trippant Or, attired Gules.

These are ancient canting arms as Monifieth means “deer hill.”

The politician and journalist, Lord Thomson of Monifieth chose as his crest a *stag's head erased Or attired Gules charged on the neck of a collar dancetty Vert.*

Here is his crest as formerly displayed above his stall in the Thistle Chapel.

