

Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

Week 9D— Community Councils IV

So far we have looked at Community Councils which had been allowed to re-use the arms of burgh councils because the new local area was exactly the same as its predecessor. However, this is sometimes not the case, either because:

- A. The Community Council area is SMALLER than the old council area so may not continue to include all of the historic material included in the old arms, part of which may well belong now to another Community Council area.
- B. The Community Council area may be LARGER than the old burgh and so the arms may need to include reference to the new locality.

Here is a recent case in point. The arms of the **Burgh of Oldmeldrum** were recorded in 1952. They include the Meldrum *crowned otter*; the *embattled fess* combines with the de Fedans *pallets* to portray an old bridge while the Seton *crests* and Urquhart *boars' heads* complete the scheme.



When the Community Council for the area was formed, it was called **Meldrum, Bourtie & Daviot Community Council** so the arms had to be developed a little to provide visual representation for Bourtie and Daviot. Symbolic references were hence made to the famous stone circles of Bourtie and Daviot and to the local family of Duff. The basic scheme therefore stayed the same with some moving around of symbols to accommodate *a standing stone* and a *buck's head cabossed*.



Many other Community Councils have to start from scratch when creating a design for arms to propose in a petition to the Lord Lyon. While the final design is always Lyon's decision, in practice every effort is made to accommodate the wishes of the Council as long as what is proposed is within the Law of Arms in Scotland. Sometimes, as in the past, the arms of local historical families might be mined for possible charges, or perhaps local landmarks or industries might be illustrated. As the geographical area covered by a Community Council is fairly small, there is a high degree of local interest in many of the arms as each locality tries to capture something of its essence as an agent of social cohesion and local pride.

Aberchirder Community Council

Tierced in pairle reversed 1st Or two croziers in saltire Azure, 2nd Azure a boar's head coupé Or, and 3rd, Argent a cross pattée Azure.

Although founded in 1746, Aberchirder did not have arms, although it did use a cross pattée on its seal. As the town is on land historically belonging to Arbroath Abbey, this may account for the croziers while the boar's head on an Azure ground is a quotation from the arms of the founder, Gordon of Auchintoul.





Abernethy and District Community Council

Parted per chevron and in chief per pale 1st Azure, a salmon ontournée and embowed Argent, 2nd Argent a raspberry fruit Gules with bract Vert, in base Vert a representation of Abernethy Tower Argent masoned and windowed Sable, port of the Last; overall a chevron wavy per pale Argent and Azure charged with two barrulets counterchanged.

The ancient burgh of Abernethy had never used arms so the Council took a local 10th century monument, as used on the burgh seal, and placed it under a mountain shape, along with other local features, salmon and raspberry, to make a very attractive composition.

Turriff and District Community Council

Argent a representation of the mercat cross of Turriff between a garb in dexter chief and a cow's head cabossed in sinister chief Gules.

The mercat cross appears on the old burgh seal of Turriff which gave the Council a good principal charge. The garb may come from the arms of the Earl of Buchan, holders until the Battle of Bannockburn of the local Delgatie Castle. The cow's head is probably a reference to the Turra Coo— a glorious protest in the town just before the Great War when some locals protested against Lloyd George's new National Insurance regulations.

The bill was paid by a cow, painted with "Lendrum to Leeks", being put up for auction. Lendrum being a Turriff farm and leeks being a reference to Lloyd George's being Welsh.



Stromness Community Council

Azure, a dragon ship under sail, oars in action and flagged, and in base a pair of balances all Or.

Once again, a council had to go back to its historic burgh seal for inspiration, in this case the result is very effective: the dragon ship is a nod to the Norse heritage of Orkney while the scales of justice in base refer to the landmark legal case, won by Stromness in an appeal to the House of Lords in 1817, achieving legal rights for all small towns and villages of Scotland.