

## A Flag for Bothwell : Competition & Vote

Flags are an ancient art form that developed especially to clearly display allegiance and identity. They have subsequently become the premier medium for expressing social pride, indeed it is difficult to imagine events as diverse as sports matches, military parades or musical festivals without a wide range of flags being flown.

A flag for Bothwell will be a free, public symbol for all to use that will:

- Raise recognition and awareness of the area nation-wide
- Express the pride in our local community
- Celebrate the heritage and culture of our corner of the country

### The Competition

Individuals, schools, community groups and the whole community are invited to create proposals in-line with the competition terms and conditions (below) and bearing in mind the Flag Institute design guidelines. The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 23:59**.

An assessment panel - including representatives from the community councils, Lord Lieutenancy, local schools and community care as well as the Flag Institute and the Lyon Court - will then choose a final set of designs to be put to a public vote. The designs will all be drawn to the same standard.

The public vote will be held through a combination of physical votes and online votes, at the Bothwell Community Hub and Bothwell Parish Church Centre. The winner will be announced at an event to be held in Bothwell later in the year and only once registered in the Lyon Court's Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland and the Flag Institute's UK Flag Registry.

### Contact

Further information, downloadable competition packs can be found via:

- Website: [www.bothwellfutures.org](http://www.bothwellfutures.org)
- Email: [flag@bothwellfutures.org](mailto:flag@bothwellfutures.org)
- Social Media: @BothwellFutures, @BothwellScarecrowFestival, @BothwellChurch

### Useful Links

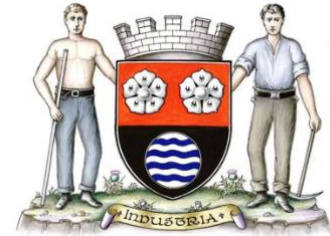
In addition to the information provided in this pack these links will be helpful:

- Court of the Lord Lyon: [www.courtofthelordlyon.scot](http://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot)
- Lyon Court Honorary Vexillologist: [www.vexillologist.scot/](http://www.vexillologist.scot/)
- Flag Institute: [www.flaginstitute.org](http://www.flaginstitute.org)
- History of Bothwell: [www.bothwellhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.bothwellhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

## Brief Background of Bothwell

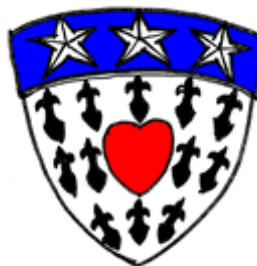
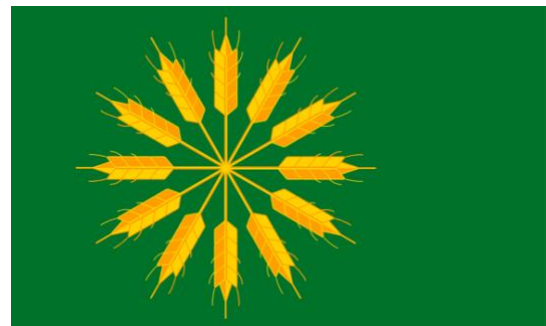
Bothwell is a town with well over a millennia of history, which means there are plenty of events, people and symbols that you can draw on when creating a design.

The first is the name of Bothwell. Flags and arms often look to visually play on the name of a place, or the meaning of it. Bothwell derives its name from a small shelter near a source of water; 'Bothy Well'. Wells are often depicted in heraldry as a circle of wavy lines, as on the former civic arms for Motherwell and Wishaw.



A church has been in the village since the Sixth Century. The patron saint of the original church is understood to have been Saint Mary, who is symbolised with fleur-de-lys and the colour blue. Over time the church became dedicated to St Bride. Also known as St Brigid, this saint has a distinctive cross that has appeared on flags such as that for the US city of Portland.

Over the centuries Bothwell has been influenced by two families in particular, the Murrays and the Black Douglas'. Their arms can be found as carvings in the church; Murrays (originally the de Moravia family) using stars and the Douglas' featuring the heart of Robert the Bruce. Both the Murrays and Douglas' have been Lords of Bothwell and resided at Bothwell Castle.



In later history Bothwell Bridge became the site of the battle in 1679 between Government Troops and Presbyterian Covenanters. Weaving and lace making became cottage industries in the town and mining started in the Victorian era. All being industries that can easily be represented by heraldic symbols.

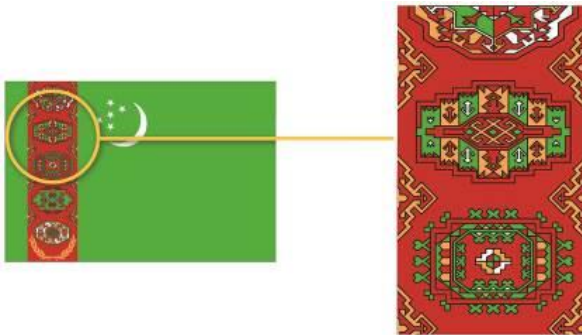
In the present-day Bothwell has many institutions such as societies, schools and sports teams which make use of symbols and colours which can be used for inspiration; such as the blue and gold colours of the primary schools.

### Flag Design Guidelines

Below are some basic principles of flag design. Further information can be found in the Flag Institute Guiding Principles of Flag Design, available as a free download at: <http://www.flaginstitute.org/wp/product/guiding-principles-flag-design/>

#### Keep it Simple

The flag should be simple enough that a child can draw it from memory; else it will be too hard for people remember and reproduce.



#### Use Meaningful Symbolism

The flag's elements, colours, or patterns should relate to what it will represent. The flag should symbolise Bothwell as a whole rather than any other entities which are better served by having their own flags such as schools or community groups.

#### Try to Use Two to Three Basic Colours

Limit the number of colours on the flag to three, which contrast well and come from the standard colour set: **red, orange, yellow, green, light blue, dark blue, purple, black and white**. Dark and light colours will contrast well against each other, in particular **yellow or white** will work well on any of the other colours and vice versa.

#### No Lettering or Seals

**Avoid** the use of writing of **any** kind or an organisation's badge, seal or coat of arms. Writing and other intricate detail is difficult to see at a distance and will likely be unrecognisable when the flag is flying in the wind. It is better to use elements from an appropriate coat of arms as symbols on the flag.



## Be Distinctive

Avoid duplicating other flags, if designs look too similar then the flags could be misidentified.

## How Will it Fly in the Wind?

Remember, the design must be distinctive when flying on a high pole in a strong wind, and when hanging in windless conditions too. Think of the tower on Bothwell Parish Church. Also remember that it will almost always have ripples caused by the wind.

## Helpful Tips for Flag Design

Flag design expert, Philip Tibbetts, has much experience and working with local schools and communities. Here are his tips to help inspire budding designers.

## Getting Started

When looking to design a flag for a town or area begin by looking at a number of sources for inspiration to find something that is important and unique. Such elements include:

- Meaning of the areas name
- Legends and folklore
- Traditional emblems and colours
- Local people, achievements and industries

There are many traditional flag symbols that could be adapted to represent aspects of Sutherland such as the stars or wildcats.

## Examples of Best Practice

New symbols or adaptations of old symbols can be very powerful. For example:



### Tiree

The island's sobriquet as the 'Land of Barley' is referenced by the ears of barley, which also serve to recall the barley sheaf emblem used in the council's arms. Here they are arranged into a circular pattern to symbolise the rays of the sun as Tiree is famed for the highest amount of sunshine in Britain.

### Sutherland

The Sutherland uses colours from the former council coat of arms. The Nordic Cross and Saltire shapes represent that the county was the historic mainland border between Scotland and the Vikings. The golden sun represents the rising and setting sun of Sutherland's two coasts as well as the origins of its name as 'South Land' as the sun is highest in the south.



This pack is free to be duplicated for the purposes of the Bothwell flag competition but for uses elsewhere, permission should be sought from the Flag Institute

## **Terms & Conditions**

### **Eligibility**

- This is a community competition. It is open to individuals and groups
- For all entrants under the age of 16 will be required to have an adult approve the submission of their entry and agree to these Terms and Conditions. The adult may be the entrant's parent, guardian or teacher. The adult must provide their own contact details (not the child's).

### **Requirements**

- Entries may be constructed in any medium and submitted in A4 size
- All entries must be the original work of the entrant(s) and must not infringe the rights of any other party.
- By entering the competition, you release your design into the public domain in order for it to become a freely useable symbol for all.
- You agree to allow your design to undergo professional manipulation to make it suitable for production.
- The competition organisers accept no responsibility if entrants ignore these Terms and Conditions and entrants agree to indemnify the organisers from any breach of these Terms and Conditions.

### **Submission**

- Entries can be sent electronically to the competition email address, or via post. Addresses are detailed on the entry form page.
- Please package postal entry carefully to avoid damage in transit.
- Entries must be accompanied by a fully completed and signed entry form.
- Further copies of the entry form are available to be downloaded via XXXXX or picked up from Bothwell Parish Church Centre and the Community Hub.
- Please ensure your name and contact details are clearly included.
- Entries cannot be returned and may be archived or destroyed. Please remember to retain a copy of your designs.
- The personal data provided will only be used for the purposes of administering the competition and will be destroyed after its conclusion.
- Unsuccessful entrants will not be contacted in respect of their entry and no feedback on any entry will be provided.
- The decision of the assessment panel and the result of the public vote are final.

### **Disclaimer**

- The organisers reserve the right to disqualify any entry which breaches any of the Terms and Conditions.

## Entry Form

<b>Instructions:</b> Please complete this form and either submit with your design electronically to <a href="mailto:flag@bothwellfuture.org">flag@bothwellfuture.org</a> or by post to addresses: Bothwell Flag competition Bothwell Parish Church Bothwell G71 8EX	
<b>Name:</b> (please print)	
<b>Organisation</b> (if applicable):	
<b>Address:</b> (please provide contact details of a guardian or teacher if under 16)	
<b>Telephone:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Rationale for your design:</b>	
<b>Declaration:</b> I hereby confirm [a] that I have read and agreed to the terms and conditions of the competition [b] that I am the originator and owner of the design/images submitted and that, to my knowledge, I am not infringing any copyright [c] that release these designs/images into the public domain, as set out in the terms and conditions.	
<b>Signature:</b>	
Name _____ Date _____.	