



Heading the procession after the ceremony is Piper Alistair Maclean, with halberdiers Angus Mackay and William Sutherland, and standard-bearer Alistair Matheson with the banner of the Dingwall Pursuivant, who is preceded by the Lord Lieutenant, Col Allan Gilmour.

Bannerman John Muir proudly carries the newly unveiled Coat of Arms of Dornoch Community Council from the Cathedral, followed by Mr Donald Goskirk, wearing his new badge of office, Provost Harry Clunie, Dennis Lovell, James Ross, Andrew Sorley, Euan Currie and Ron Cameron.

Royal Dornoch's Big Day

There could be few who were not impressed by the simple, dignified and colourful ceremony of the Grant of Arms to Dornoch Community Council in the town's Cathedral last Sunday morning.

Many of the large congregation were also greatly taken by the direct, succinct and faultless description of the historic passage of the old Royal Burgh through the centuries to the present day by former Provost Harry Clunie, who celebrated his 80th birthday last week.

The rolling cadences of archaic language in the Charter from the Lord Lyon's Court, read and proclaimed in the nave of the Cathedral by the Dingwall Pursuivant in his emblazoned costume, came in sharp contrast to Provost Clunie's account of the transition of the old Town Council into representation by two members of the new local authority, Sutherland District Council.

There was still a place for the community voice — and that was vested in the Community Council, presently chaired by Mr Donald Goskirk, who accepted both the Grant of Arms, the banner of the Coat of Arms, and a special Chairman's Badge, the gift of Mr and Mrs Derek Holt of Skibo Castle.

Equally appropriate was the sermon preached by the Rev James Simpson, minister of the Cathedral, just before the ceremony when he talked of our individual and collective heritage, and the fact that no man is an island — we are all the sum of our ancestors.

Major Alistair Shaw of Creich marshalled the parade outside the courthouse on Sunday morning half an hour before the 11 am Cathedral service. On parade, led by Pipe Major William Fraser and Piper Alistair Maclean of Dornoch Pipe Band were two lines representing the old Dornoch Town Council and the new Dornoch Community Council. Marching in front bearing ceremonial halberds were Pipers Willie Sutherland and Angus Mackay while behind, carrying the banner of the Dingwall Pursuivant and the new banner of the Community Council were



Alistair Matheson and John Muir also in full Highland costume.

Behind Donald Goskirk marched Donald Ward, Graham Ross, Graham McCarthy, Andrew Sorley, Ron Cameron and Mrs Audrey MacLaren for the community council, along with former members Sandy Frier, Dennis Lovell, Mrs Annabelle Murray, Mrs Rena Oman and Mrs Laurie Speak.

Alongside them, for the old Town Council, walked Provost Harry Clunie, Junior Bailie Euan Currie, Dean of Guild Alastair Davidson, Captain Stewart-Fitzroy (RN retired), Messrs Walter Wickham, Jimmy Seatter, David Purvis, Jimmy Ross and the Rev William Edgar. Taking up the rear was the Dingwall Pursuivant, Mr Charles Burnett, and the Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland, representing the Queen, Col Allan Gilmour of Invernauld.

The distinguished guest-list was headed by Mr Sandy Russell, convener of Highland Regional Council, his chief executive Mr Ron Stevenson, and Mrs Leila Mackenzie, chairman of Sutherland District Council. Representing the Countess of Sutherland were Lord and Lady Strathnaver. Mr Robert MacLennan MP, who had earlier indicated he hoped to attend, was unable to do so because of a private engagement.

Law and administration, of which for long Dornoch has been

the county seat, were represented by Sheriffs Ewen Stewart and Donald Booker-Milburn, former Sheriff-Clerk and Honorary Sheriff Donald Macdonald, along with solicitors William Wright, a former town clerk, his son Norman Wright, Adam Harris and Alan Ewan. The Chief Constable of the Northern Constabulary was represented by his deputy, Mr Finlay MacLennan from Inverness, Superintendent John Morrison from Dingwall and Chief Inspector James Wilson of Dornoch.

The Military was represented by Captain G S Anderson of Headquarters Company, the Queen's Own Highlanders at Fort George, and there were representatives from civilian organisations ranging from the SWRI and the WRVS to the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

Also present were the organisers

of the big day, which coincided with the start of Dornoch Festival Week, Mr and Mrs Carey Randall of Bishopcote, Grange Road; the silversmith who was responsible for the badge of office and other decorations, Mr Ian Grant of Edinburgh; and the woman who produced the Coat of Arms banner, Miss Elizabeth McLure of Birnam, Perthshire.

As a mark of appreciation for the inspiration and organisation of the event, Mrs Randall was presented with an inscribed pewter plate on behalf of Dornoch Community Council by Mrs Audrey MacLaren.

After the ceremony, when the procession left the Cathedral and dispersed at the court house, Mr and Mrs Randall were hosts to many of those who had participated in the morning's event.