

PE1541/F

Anne Mackay Letter of 17 January 2015

To whom it may concern!

I do not know who to write to concerning my dismay when I saw, on the Scottish news programme, that there is a proposal to make "Flower of Scotland" our official national anthem.

When it was used at the Commonwealth Games in the company of the other 3 home nations' wonderful tunes, I found it bad enough. But to think of it being enshrined forever as our anthem fills me with sadness.

The tune is one of the dreariest I have ever heard (in a nation which has produced wonderful, memorable ones); and the words refer back 700 years to a battle and enmity with our nearest neighbour which should surely be consigned to history where it belongs? Surely it would be possible to have a national competition for someone to produce inspiring, forward-looking words.

If asked about a tune I would suggest "Highland Cathedral", which is tuneful and singable, or perhaps "Scots Wha' Hae" (with new words again).

I do hope that enough thought will be given to this, before it is decided. I am not alone in this opinion, which I've heard quite often before.

I write as a patriotic Scot!

Yours,

Anne Mackay