

v.

*Fankle* has retained much of its Scottish identity and, despite a few cameo appearances abroad thanks to the media, it is frequently translated when it appears in non-Scottish contexts. In an article in the *American Quilter's Newsletter Magazine* in 2003, the word was explained for its U.S. audience as a snarly nest or mess. Fankling being inevitable within textile crafts, the Scots word aptly appears in the name of Fankle Quilting and Knitting (formerly Fankle Wools and Needlecraft), a company based in Troon, South Ayrshire.

As Robin Jenkins wrote, with some profundity, in *The Thistle and the Grail* (1954), human affairs aye get into a fankle. But for me, the true textbook example will forever remain the scene from John Byrne's *Your Cheatin' Heart* in which reporter Tamara MacAskill gets her microphone cord inexplicably and inextricably fankled in the belt of Frank McClusky's Burberry coat expertly illustrated by John Gordon-Sinclair and Helen Atkinson-Wood in the BBC Scotland adaptation.

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(c) *The Bottle Imp*