



PBFSCO Exchange

January 2013

From the President - Karen Burton-Lind

As our New Year rang in, the Burns Supper preparation swung into full production. The Board and Burns Committee have been working to prepare an evening of tradition (our 19th annual), dancing, music, great food and seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

New this year we will have two pipe bands playing during the evening's program. Returning is perennial favorite and long time supporters of PBFSCO, Piedmont Highlanders Drums and Pipes under the direction of Pipe Major Ellison Dunlap.

We will also have the newly-formed Foothill Pipe Band, consisting of students at Pleasanton Foothill High School. The Band will perform and Pipe Major Connor Reid will pipe in the haggis. They played for the first time at our Pub Night in August last year. We are excited to hear how far they have progressed. The Board is happy to be able to support the Foothill Pipe Band program with PBFSCO funds.

In December, I was interviewed by Nicole Stahl for an article she was preparing on PBFSCO for the Hacienda NETWORK monthly publication of Hacienda Business Park. I shared PBFSCO involvement with the Foothill Pipe Band and our bringing Fiona to Pleasanton. Nicole's article on PBFSCO is available online at http://www.hacienda.org/ho/nw1212_PBFSCO.html

Looking forward to the Burns Supper and seeing everyone. We are delighted that Deb Dalziel from Fergus will be attending!

Hope to see you at our activities for 2013

Happy Hogmanay!

Karen



Looking Ahead:
mark your calendar

2013 Burns Supper

featuring Men of Worth

January 26, 2013

Pleasanton Marriott

St. Andrews Society of Oakland Burns Supper

February 2013

Caledonian Club of SF Tartan Ball

April 13, 2013

PBFSCO Flying Scotsman Train Ride & AGM

Niles Canyon Railway, Sunol

May 5, 2013

The purpose of PBFSCO is to promote understanding and friendship between the citizens of Pleasanton, Blairgowrie, and Fergus and their respective regions, and to encourage and facilitate the exchange of people and culture between the communities.

A WINDOW ON BLAIRGOWRIE - Laurence Blair Oliphant



Apart from the formal arrangements that have been made in the linking of Pleasanton and Fergus with Blairgowrie, there is another link that has evolved with Blairgowrie over the past 20 years or so, which has been with the town of Bryne in southern Norway. This all started when a band from that town called 'The Go-Go Boys', a name which sounds as though they might be akin to the Chippendales but in fact is that of an extremely competent rock and dance band outfit, performed in Blairgowrie as well as in other Scottish towns.

In the process the organiser of the band, Erling Dagsland, discovered the golf around Blairgowrie along with the whisky, history, scenery and other delights! This has resulted in reciprocal visits every year between the towns which includes an annual 'Burns Supper' held over two or three nights at the Bryne Kro Hotel. This is not a true Burns Supper with all the traditional speeches, toasts, replies, etc. but more of a ceilidh based on the poets works and including a Blairgowrie ceilidh band, a piper, and of course the haggis which we bring over with us! I say 'we' because I have been part of this visitation for the past 9 years addressing the haggis, reciting Burns, doing plaid demonstrations and so forth.

By chance there lives in the Bryne area an artist, renowned throughout Norway, called Ivan Storm Juliussen. His work specialises on scenes of sinking ships and they are extremely well painted and atmospheric. There are splendid examples in Bryne Kro Hotel. Storm has visited Blairgowrie on several occasions and recently he presented the town with one of his paintings, not of a sinking ship, but of a scene that he had come across as an illustration in an old book. It was only after completing the painting that he found it's title which was "The Burn, Blairgowrie". Struck by the coincidence, he decided to present the painting to the town. At present the Tourist Office is appealing for anyone who can identify the exact location!

A representation of this painting appeared in last weeks' 'Blairie' which perhaps you are able to view on line, as you may also be able to view some of Storm's work on the net.

I will be in Norway as you celebrate Robert Burns so please know that there will be a glass (or two) raised to you in that country!

And we remain.... Friends Forever,

Laurence Blair Oliphant

Blairgowrie Wellmeadow
courtesy of
Blairgowrie & Rattray
Facebook page:
[www.facebook.com/
blairgowrieandrattray](http://www.facebook.com/blairgowrieandrattray)



PLAID TIDINGS FROM FERGUS ONTARIO CANADA! - Deb Dalziel

Happy Hogmanay Everyone, to all corners of the world!

Fergus, Ontario is a proverbial winter wonderland these days. We are enjoying a true traditional Canadian Winter- fresh white powdery



snow, crisp cold weather, the kind that makes your footsteps crackle when you walk! The past few years we have been a little short of the "white stuff" so this is a seasonably welcome sight!

I love these weather conditions to kick off the New Year! The promise of great events to come, folks to meet, and visitors to welcome and of course reasons to celebrate! This coming January 26th we will host the annual Robbie Burns celebrations as with the rest of the world! Scotland's famous Baird and Playboy will be "revered" in downtown Fergus at the Fergus Scottish Festival's annual Burns Supper fundraiser at the Fergus Legion.

The evening will include Burns readings, the traditional Address to the Haggis as well as Scottish music, dancing, scotch tastings and our popular Burns trivia which has been added the past 2 years. This event allows our audience to test their knowledge on Burns, his history and a sprinkling of Scottish lore as well. It has become a wonderful new element to our event; wish a small Scottish token for the lucky winners! Fergus's annual Burns Supper will be in alignment with our kin in Pleasanton. Here is wishing you all down south a truly successful event as we hope to achieve back home here in Fergus.

This past fall, the Fergus/Elora Rotary Club were thrilled to host Curlers from their fellow Rotary club from Blairgowrie, Scotland. Every 2-3 years the Fergus/Elora and Blairgowrie Rotarians visit each other and celebrate their love of the "rocks" in hosting Curling clubs and bonspiels. It is a delightful way to strengthen rotary ties, share the game and enjoy each other's homes and fellowship. Curling is a long standing tradition in Fergus and our community boasts one of the oldest curling clubs in Canada.

Formed in 1834, the Fergus Curling Club has been in continuous operation longer than any other curling club in Ontario. The sport was played outdoors until 1879 when a covered rink was built which soon became the social centre of the town during the cold winter months. This is yet another true example of a Scottish tradition that has "skipped" its way across the waters to settle here in Canada.

PLAID TIDINGS FROM FERGUS ONTARIO CANADA! - Deb Dalziel

Our Fergus Pipe Band has made it custom to open bonspiels and tournaments at the home club in Fergus. The Fergus Curling Club is the summer practise home and a strong supporter of the FPB. The Pipes and Drums are a welcome sight to those visiting the Fergus Curling Club. A team welcome the notion of being piped onto the 4 sheeted rink by our local Fergus Pipe Band and adds to the thrill of the sporting event. Visitors comment `we always know when we are competing in Fergus, Ontario!



photos: Bill Longshaw

Kirkin o' the Tartan 2012

PBFSCO joined members of St. Clare's Episcopal Church to celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland at the annual Kirkin o' the Tartan on Sunday November 15, 2012. We met at the front entrance to the sanctuary to be led inside by Piper Donna Willy for the 10:15 am service. All in attendance wearing tartan introduced themselves and their tartan to the congregation.



Donna piping during the service



Presenting tartans to the congregation



PBFSCO members in attendance:

(l-r) Karen Burton-Lind, Dan Dawson, Julianna Silverman, Donna Willy, Carol Taylor, Kathy Tollworthy, Steve Lind and Pat Smith

photos: Julianna Silverman

Fiona celebrates first year in Pleasanton!

Fiona, the Life Size Milking Cow that PBFSCO helped bring to Pleasanton in December 2011, celebrated her one year anniversary in our fair city by riding once again in the annual Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Parade on December 1, 2012. Fiona posted on her Facebook page:

"This time last year I was arriving in my new home and meeting my new family! What a wonderful first year in America! To the wonderful Pleasantonians out there... Thank Moooooo!!!!"

Visit Fiona at Alviso Adobe Community Park on Saturdays 10-11:00 am and try your hand at milking.

PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS
SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

PBFSCO Members in Fergus

Members John & Charlie Houston and their children Joanne and Euan made a brief stop in Fergus last August.

Charlie reports: "It felt like Scotland that day due to the weather. We were a little disappointed that we couldn't find anything with Pleasanton mentioned but took the kids photo with the (Pleasanton) Weekly outside of the Breadalbane Hotel were I had haggis for lunch!"

A long-standing Pleasanton tradition was continued when the Houston's "took along" the Pleasanton Weekly. Thanks John & Charile for sharing!



2012/13 Board of Directors

President	Karen Burton-Lind
Vice-President	Kathy Tollworthy
Treasurer	Susan Spiegel
Secretary	Juliana Silverman
Membership	Linda Morrison
Burns Supper	Bonnie Stoker
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	Lori Kauth
	Shelby Snelgrove
	Carol Taylor
	Gloria Grieve
Newsletter Editor	Steve Lind
Correspondents	
	Jessie McLean/Philip Nappi - Blairgowrie
	Deb Dalziel - Fergus

BLAIRGOWRIE

The Blairgowrie & Rattray website:
www.heartofscotland.com

facebook page:
www.facebook.com/blairgowrieandrattray

FERGUS

Fergus & Elora website:
<http://elorafergus.ca/>

facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/EloraFergusTourism>

On PBFSCO Membership

What do you want from your membership in PBFSCO? What can we, as a board, do to increase your interest in PBFSCO and attract more members?

What excites you about Scottish culture?

Are you interested in learning more about Blairgowrie, Scotland? Or learning more about Fergus, Canada?

Are you interested in learning more about Scotland or Canada in general?

Would you be interested in more events to meet other members and attract new members?

Help us help you! Please send your suggestions to Linda Morrison at pousette@sbcglobal.net or to PBFSCO, PO Box 10162, Pleasanton, CA 94588.



Fiona Pleasanton

living & milking happily at
Alviso Adobe Milking Barn



Visit my **facebook** page
www.facebook.com/fionapleasanton

Renew your 2012/13 Membership Dues

PBFSCO Membership Renewal - www.pbfSCO.org

Name(s) _____

Street _____
City/St/Zip _____
E-mail _____
Phone _____

Level of Membership:

Corporate (\$50) ___ Family (\$20) ___ Individual (\$15) ___

Send form with check payable to PBFSCO

PBFSCO Membership
PO Box 10162
Pleasanton, CA 94588



EmbroidMe in Livermore is our source for PBFSCO Logo items such as Polo Shirts and hats. You can purchase directly from EmbroidMe or bring in your own item(s) to have an embroidered PBFSCO logo added.

EmbroidMe

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