



PBFSCO Exchange

Spring 2012

From the President - Karen Burton-Lind

2011 ended with the highly anticipated arrival of Fiona, the life-sized milking cow from Scotland and a personal trip for Steve and I to New York. Fiona arrived just in the nick of time to be featured in the Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Parade and we had a grand time in New York with no snow!

In January, we held our annual celebration of Robert Burns birthday. Thank you to everyone who attended. Big thank you to the Burns Supper Committee and our chairperson Bonnie Stoker for all the tireless work, culminating in an enjoyable evening. Thank you to Carol Taylor for her imaginative centerpiece design and to Susan Spiegel and Jean Purves who skillfully crafted the lovely tartan decorated plates for all in attendance. I hope everyone is enjoying their plates as much as I am.

Now that PBFSCO members and friends have enjoyed the Burns Supper, we look forward to our next activity, the train ride. Our annual Flying Scotsman Train Ride, Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Picnic

is Sunday, May 6th. This is a wonderful activity for the whole family. The ride through Sunol canyon is always delightful, especially when accompanied by bagpiping. At the end of the ride we will gather to enjoy our picnic lunches in the adjacent park and conduct a short AGM. See the article below and flyer on the last page for all the details and reservation form.

Check out the articles from our Blairgowrie and Fergus correspondents to read about the latest happenings in our sister cities.

I encourage everyone to remember to wear tartan on National Tartan Day, May 6th. I will raise a wee dram of Scotch ...

slàinte,

Karen



Looking Ahead:
mark your calendar

St. Andrews Society of Oakland Pub Quiz

Redcoats Pub, Pleasanton
April 1, 2012

Caledonian Club of SF Tartan Ball

San Ramon Marriott
April 14, 2012

Tartan Day Scottish Faire

East Bay Scottish Association
Ardenwood Historic Farm
April 14, 2012

PBFSCO Flying Scotsman Train Ride & AGM

Niles Canyon Railway, Sunol
May 6, 2012

2013 Burns Supper

January 26, 2013
Pleasanton Marriott

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 - Jessie McLean



Greetings Pleasanton and Fergus.

Blairgowrie - No winter for us this year (or at least not yet)!

I am able to report that in Blairgowrie this year we have had one of the mildest winters in decades - only two days of snow

over the whole winter which is a complete contrast to the previous two years.

Local hardware stores stocked up on snow shovels, snow grips, de-icer and any other relevant merchandise to prepare for the big chill which never came. This was not good news for our Ski Centre at Glenshee but for us in the VisitScotland Information Centre the skiers have been replaced by walkers and golfers taking advantage of the favourable conditions.

Sledges and Snowboards delivered by Santa are still in new condition! I am sure "the man in red" was blamed for getting it wrong in quite a few Christmas stockings this year - just glad I didn't knit that big chunky jumper with the snowman on it for my other half!!

In 2011, many Burns Suppers were cancelled due to the bad weather and unfavourable road conditions but this year the "Bard" was celebrated far and wide. Burns Suppers are held in all different styles from the traditional to the more informal relaxed affair but all have in common haggis, whisky, some stirring pipe music and the songs and poems of Rabbie.

I once attended a Burn Supper where an actor played out the part of Robert Burns. It was difficult to tell when he was in and out of character as after quite a few "toasts" he was getting rather amorous with the "lassies" - a trait the poet himself was quite famous for. Another actor played the part of "Holy Willie" but that's another story better left unreported! A good time was had by all.

Every year Blairgowrie & Rattray Community Council present a Citizen of the Year Award to someone they feel has made a special impact in the community. This year the award went to one of the towns most famous exports Sheila Stewart MBE, folklorist, singer and champion of the travelling community. Sheila has met Popes, Queens, U.S. Presidents and been awarded the MBE. But for the

singer, she says this honour "tops it all". Well done Sheila. To find out more about Sheila and her life as a traveller "Google" Sheila Stewart MBE .

Organisations in the town are getting together and have re-formed a "Festival Committee" to plan and develop events - they are "hatching" ideas for Easter, digging for "diamond" ideas for the Queens Royal Jubilee celebrations in June and in general looking for any inspiration for events and attractions to help visitors and locals enjoy Blairgowrie. Any suggestions from over the water greatly received!!

One event which had it's first successful trial last year was The Alliance Trust CATERAN YOMP - this 24 hour, 54 mile hike starting and finishing in Blairgowrie is held by Wildfox events and is an opportunity to raise essential funding for ABF The Soldiers Charity and Prince's Scottish Youth Business. You can check out some images from last year on www.wildfoxevents.com - click on events and then CATERAN YOMP.

There is a whisper that there may be plans for a Bandstand to be erected in the Wellmeadow - just outside our VisitScotland Information Centre window - music while we work how good would that be! The Wellmeadow is a lovely place to sit in the summer months just watching the world go by and it has been known for our staff to retreat to the bench seats to enjoy their packed lunch.



Wellmeadow

I hope you enjoy these little snippets from Blairgowrie and that we may be welcoming some visitors from Pleasanton and Fergus this year. Until next time here are a few phrases for you to practice from Wit & Wisdom of the Scots Language.

Dinnae fash yersel' - Don't worry

It's a sair fecht - It's a hard life

He was fairly gaun his dinger - He lost his temper

Haud yer wheesht - Be quiet!

Yours aye,

Jessie

PLAID TIDINGS FROM FERGUS ONTARIO CANADA! - Deb Dalziel

Spring is definitely in the air in Fergus Ontario, we are thrilled with the signs of warmer weather --- not that we can complain with the mild winter we have been blessed with in the Great White North.

The annual Burns supper was a renowned success. The annual Address to the Haggis by the infamous John K Campbell, pipes, fiddles, Scottish country dancing and a wonderful tribute to Burns was written and directed by Don Dewar. As well, Burns trivia was presented to the audience for the very first time, making it a delightfully competitive and lively audience participation activity for all to enjoy. A local girl's youth group made lovely purple heather Boutonniere's with Scottish National tartan bows for all successful trivia winners - widely received and proudly worn for the remainder of the night.

As with signs of spring, our Town is preparing for annual Tartan Day, held for the 4th time in our heritage downtown. Tartan Day is a celebration of Scotland - its people, its heritage, its history and its culture. From the declaration of Arbroath on April 6, 1320, which triggered the birth of democracy to the people of Scotland, to the immense contributions made by Scots and descendants of the Scottish people, it is reason to celebrate all things Scottish. Tartan Day was first celebrated in Canada in 2004 and is a new celebration in North America but is getting more popular each year.

Tartan Day in Scotland is a weeklong celebration with events taking place all over the country starting on April 6th of each year. Here in North America, Scots and Scottish descendants celebrate by proudly wearing their tartan, sharing in fellowship, Scottish fare, songs and stories and music from the homeland. Tartan Day activities are taking place for the 4th annual year in Fergus this coming April 14 and 15th.



"John K Campbell presenting Address to the Haggis, long standing festival Volunteer, Past President, Chair of the Clans, Best Haggis Toaster this side of the Continental divide"

Our event will start with a ceilidh Concert featuring the renowned Canadian Celtic Band named Rant Maggie Rant; we have featured the band at our Festival in the past. The Fergus Pipe Band is celebrating 85th anniversary in 2012, so they have been invited to be the opening act and featured Guests for the evening. This event is hosted in part with the Fergus Grand Theatre and the Fergus Scottish Festival. A wonderful way to showcase our restored Theatre in Downtown Fergus.



Fergus Grand Theatre
Fergus Scottish Festival.

With growing enthusiasm from year to year, every restaurant and pub features live Celtic music with guest appearances from our 3 resident pipe bands throughout the afternoon. The Pipe bands perform a "kilted krawl" throughout the downtown core from pub to pub encouraging Patrons to move along to the next lively venue to serve them. Along with the Pub activities, a Scottish costumed historical walking tour free to the public is available as well as a kilted km race as a fund raiser for our local food bank.

The Fergus Scottish Festival has found Tartan Day an excellent venture to launch new musical acts featured at the upcoming 2012 games and a reminder of the upcoming summer Games and highlights for the coming year. Festival Ticket giveaways, merchandise and special draws are all part of the celebration of all things Scottish in recognition of our culture and heritage in a Canadian Context.

Remember to "tilt your kilt" on April 6th wherever you may be.

Plaid Tidings,

Deb Dalziel



Fergus Tartan Day Festivities

PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

PBFSCO BURNS SUPPER

The 18th Annual PBFSCO Burns Supper held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at the Pleasanton Marriott featured Glasgow born Joann Gilmartin. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was PBFSCO Past President Alan Purves.

President Karen Burton-Lind gave the [Address of Welcome](#) to kick off the program. David Scott, Past Chief of The Caledonian Club of San Francisco followed with the [Selkirk Grace](#). With the Piedmont Highlander's piping in of the haggis, John Houston gave an exuberant [Address To The Haggis](#) much to the delight of everyone.

The program resumed after dinner with music and dancing by the Piedmont Highlanders Pipe Band and Dancers. [The Immortal Memory](#) of Robert Burns was delivered by Kenny Lawrence, Past President of Saint Andrews Society of Oakland. Joann Gilmartin sang the song "There was a Lad". PBFSCO's traditional [Loyal Toasts](#) began next, interspersed with songs of Robert Burns sung A cappella by Joann and a second performance by the Piedmont Highlanders Pipe Band and Dancers. Kay Deehan, President of Saint Andrews Society of Oakland gave the toast to [The President of the United States](#), followed by PBFSCO Past President Malcolm Carden's toast to [Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#), noting that 2012 is Elizabeth's 60th year as Queen.

Husband and wife Scott Carlisle and Faye Cater presented the toast [To The Lassies](#) and the [Response to 'The Lassies'](#). The toast to [Kindred Clubs](#) from PBFSCO Past President Steve Lind included greetings sent by Laird Laurence Blair Oliphant for Blairgowrie

and by Deb Dalziel for the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games.

PBFSCO Treasurer Susan Spiegel's toast to [Absent Friends](#) made special mention of the recent death of long time PBFSCO member Larry Bakken, Alex Beaton's health issues and PBFSCO Past President Dan Dawson's hospitalization. (Both Alex and Dan are glad to be back home - see additional article on Alex and a link to his website.)

The evening's final toast [To The 'Sodjers'](#) was presented by U.S. Army Captain Paul Tilton. The program ended with the raffle drawing and a final set of Burns songs from Joann, including Auld Lang Syne. Proceeds from the raffle drawing will be used to make a donation to Fisher House Foundation whose program supports America's military in their time of need (see article for more information about Fisher House).

Each person in attendance took home a tartan decoupage plate courtesy of the Burn Committee. Photos from the evening were taken by PBFSCO board member and membership chairperson Linda Morrison. Linda's photos can be accessed on the Photo Bucket website (www.photobucket.com) **enter user name: PBFSCO / password: RabbieBurns** and the album named **Burns Night 2012**.

PBFSCO Exchange extends congratulations to PBFSCO board member and Burns Chairperson Bonnie Stoker and her committee of Karen Burton-Lind, Kathy Tollworthy, Susan Spiegel, Julianna Silverman, Linda Morrison, Carol Taylor, Jean Purves, Alan Purves, Gloria Grieve and Peggy Gibson.

VIEWS OF PBFSCO BURNS SUPPER



FLYING SCOTSMAN TRAIN RIDE

Please join PBFSCO for our annual Niles Canyon Train Ride, Annual General Meeting and Picnic on Sunday, May 6, 2012.

The train takes us from the Sunol Station to Niles and back. The train leaves promptly at 10:15am. The ride is about 1.5 hours but you may stop in Niles for a walkabout if desired. There is free parking at Sunol Station.

After the train ride, we meet in the adjacent park for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and picnic with family and friends. All are welcome. Lunch is not included in the ticket price so don't forget to bring your own. Use the form on the last page to make your reservations now.

ALEX BEATON

Alex Beaton, well known and popular North American Scottish folksinger, has performed on numerous occasions in Pleasanton, including PBFSCO Burns Suppers. You may or may not be aware that Alex suffered a severe spinal cord injury early last summer. He spent seven and half months in hospitals before finally returning home to Franklin, Tennessee in February. Please visit his website www.alexbeaton.com to see a personal message from Alex. Wishing Alex continued recovery and back to health.

FISHER HOUSE

For the second consecutive year, PBFSCO is donating proceeds from the Burns Supper raffle drawing to Fisher House Foundation.

"The Fisher House program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. The program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that normally provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Because members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times - during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury."

For more information, please visit the Fisher House website www.fisherhouse.org

BURNS SUPPER 2013

The date for next year's Burns Supper is set for Saturday, January 26, 2013 at the Pleasanton Marriott. PBFSCO will proudly present our 19th annual tribute to the Bard of Scotland featuring Men of Worth: "In 1986, Scotsman Donnie Macdonald and Irishman James Keigher came together to perform Irish and Scottish folk music, combining traditional and contemporary styles. The name "**Men of Worth**" was chosen from the title of a folk song written by the Scottish singer/songwriter Archie Fisher." Learn more at www.menofworth.com.

PBFSCO Burns Suppers have a rich heritage of Scottish & Celtic entertainers who have graced our stage. Most recently, we have featured:

- Joann Gilmartin www.glasgowgirl.com
- Caliban www.tempestmusic.com/html/caliban.html
- Golden Bough www.goldenboughmusic.com
- Isla St. Clair www.islastclair.com
- Peter Daldry www.peterdaldry.com
- Alex Beaton www.alexbeaton.com

LARGEST ROBERT BURNS COLLECTION IN AMERICA

PBFSCO Exchange learned that the Rare Books Library at the University of South Carolina houses the largest collection of Robert Burns' books and memorabilia outside of Scotland, the G. Ross Roy Collection of Robert Burns, Burnsiana, and Scottish poetry (library.sc.edu/spcoll/britlit/roycol.html). Particularly noteworthy was a ceremony on January 25, 2008 (Burns 249th birthday anniversary) when Dr. Roy turned over more than 20 documents in Robert Burns' hand to the rare books library.

In an article about the ceremony posted by Frank R. Shaw FSA Scot on electricscotland.com, he writes that in his opinion "Dr. Roy is the most preeminent Burns scholar in the world today". He goes on the say, "Interestingly, Dr. Roy's love of Robert Burns and Scotland, as well as all things Scottish, including haggis, started when Dr. Roy was taken to Scotland as an eight-year-old lad in 1932 by his grandfather, W. Ormiston Roy, a Burns enthusiast himself, who instilled the love of Burns in his grandson." The full text of Frank Shaw's posting can be found at www.electricscotland.com/familytree/frank/burns_south_carolina.htm.

Additional information on the Roy collection can be found at: library.sc.edu/digital/collections/cbook0.html

PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS
SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

TARTAN DAY APRIL 6TH

Tartan Day marks the signing of the "Declaration of Arbroath" in 1320 at Arbroath Abbey declaring Scotland's independence. In the form of a letter from Scottish nobles to the Pope, the Declaration of Arbroath is provided ideas about independence, kinship and rights of people expressed in the American Declaration of Independence - many signers were Scottish or had Scottish ancestry.

April 6th was officially recognized as **National Tartan Day** in 1998 with the U.S. Senate passage of Senate Resolution 155. This was followed by companion bill House Resolution 41 passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on March 9, 2005.

Scotland Tartan Day is a week-long celebration at the beginning of April (www.tartandayscotland.com) with events from Tartan Day International Golf Challenge to haggis hurling, ceilidhs and fashion shows. This year bars, cafes and restaurants are creating Tartan Day menus to celebrate the day. For example, the Tartan Day menu at Cafe Amor in Arbroath is offering:

Big Scottish Breakfast Declaration of Independence Menu

- * Lentil soup made with ham shank (vegetarian version available)
- * Mince, neeps and tatties (also quorn mince vegetarian version)
- * Clotie dumpling
- * Shortbread, lemon curd & cream dessert with excellent espresso coffee
- * Haggis and onion paninis
- * Unlimited soup for the most frugal of Scots

Two kindred clubs have Tartan Day celebrations on April 14th:

East Bay Scottish Association presents the Tartan Day Scottish Faire at the Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont, CA. Park hours are 10 am to 4 pm, free parking onsite. Tickets can be purchased at the gate. Visit East Bay Scots Tartan Day website tartanday.eastbayscots.org and East Bay Regional Parks Ardenwood website www.ebpc.org/parks/ardenwood for more information.

The **Caledonian Club of San Francisco** presents the Tartan Ball at San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Road, San Ramon, CA. The evening begins with no host cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and dinner served at 7:30 p.m. The evening includes Scottish Highland Dancers and Dancing to a live band. Visit the Caledonian Club of San Francisco website www.caledonian.org for more information.

AN EVENING WITH TEDDY ROOSEVELT IN PLEASANTON

The Museum on Main in Pleasanton presented "An Evening with President Teddy Roosevelt" at the Firehouse Arts Center. Teddy Roosevelt, 26th president of the United States, was portrayed by Fred Rutledge, PBFSCO Past President.

Teddy - naturalist, explorer, author and soldier, as well as a politician - made the Pleasanton stop on his way up the coast from Southern California to the Northwest. His address was a stirring account of a recently concluded three days with John Muir in Yosemite. On one of the days, Teddy and John managed to elude the entourage of secret service and reporters, spending the night on the ground under the stars. It was during this time alone the two, who had previously been at odds, found they had much in common. At the conclusion of the evening, Teddy fielded questions from members of audience.

2011/12 Board of Directors

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

PACIFIC TATTOO

Western Canada's Musical Extravaganza

More Dancers, Kilts, Bagpipes,
Drums, Bands & Pageantry
Than We Can Reel Off

Coming to Victoria, BC
July 14 & 15 2012
Bear Mountain Arena

information & advance tickets
www.pacifictattoo.ca

Fiona Pleasanton

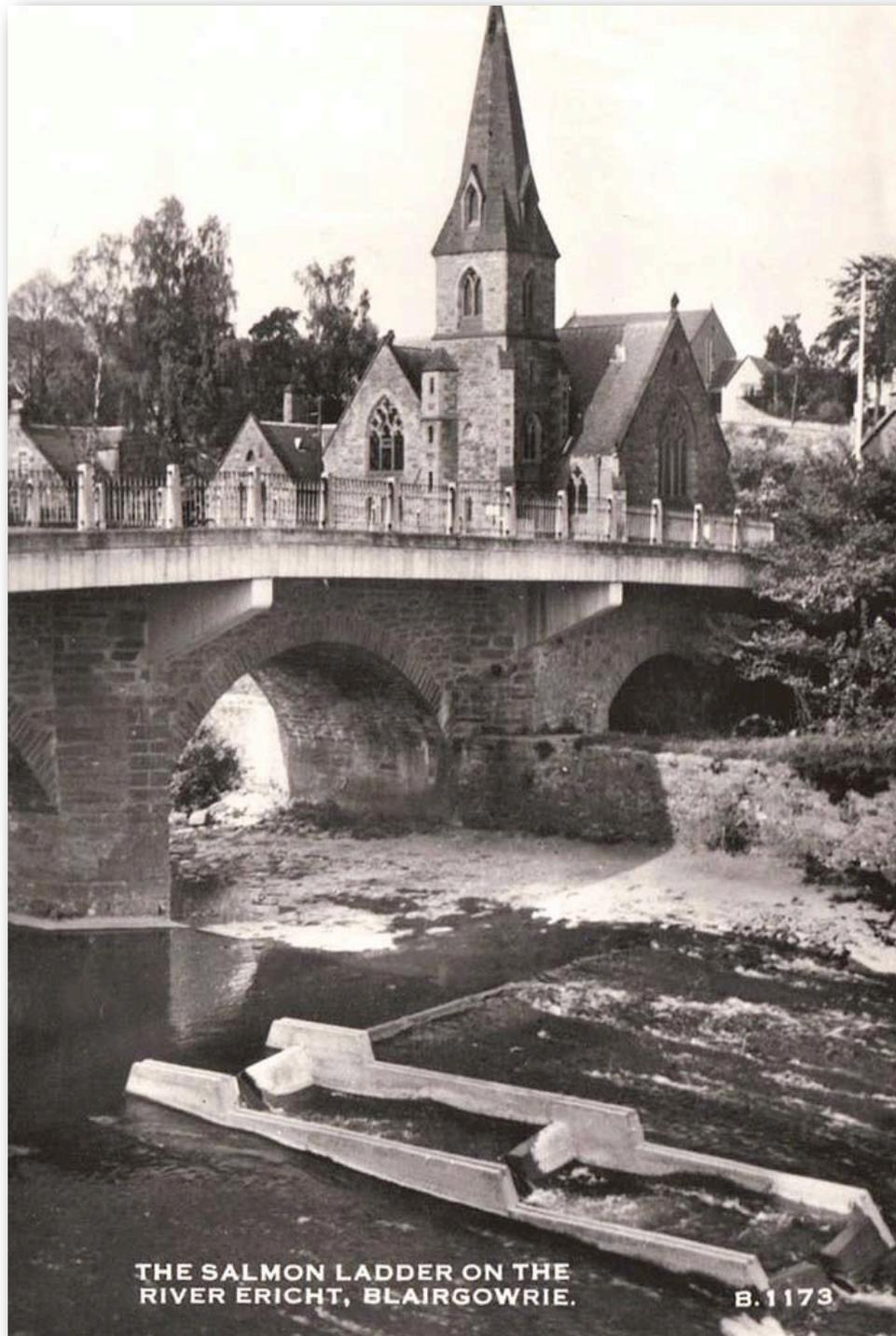
living & milking happily at
Alviso Adobe Milking Barn



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

PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS
SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

Kris Anderson found this old photo on the Web and provided to PBFSCO Exchange
The Salmon Ladder on the River Ericht, Blairgowrie



THE SALMON LADDER ON THE
RIVER ERICHT, BLAIRGOWRIE.

B.1173

Renew your 2011/12 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

51 Wright Brothers Ave, Suite G, Livermore, CA 94551, Phone: 925-245-9070

www.embroidme-livermore.com



THE FLYING SCOTSMAN (NILES CANYON TRAIN RIDE)

PLEASE JOIN PBFSCO
FOR OUR ANNUAL NILES CANYON TRAIN RIDE,
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND PICNIC

SUNDAY, MAY 6TH
TRAIN DEPARTS 10:15AM PROMPTLY!

ALL ABOARD! Wear your tartan and bring your children. Aye, there will be pipes on the journey!

The train will take us from the Sunol Station to Niles and back. The train leaves **promptly at 10:15am** so please arrive early. There is free parking at Sunol Station. The ride is about 1.5 hours but you may stop in Niles for a walkabout if desired.

After the train ride, we will meet in the adjacent park for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and picnic with family and friends. All are welcome. FYI, lunch is **NOT** included in the ticket price so don't forget to bring your own. Space is limited so get your reservations soon!

Train Ticket Cost:	Adults	\$15	Children	\$5
	Seniors (62+)	\$10	Under 3 years	Free

Questions/Information? Susan Spiegel ❖ 650.799.9001 ❖ susan@celtic-lass.com

PRESENTED BY PLEASANTON BLAIRGOWRIE FERGUS SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION

Please print legibly, complete this form in full and mail with check by April 30th to:
PBFSCO ❖ c/o Susan Spiegel ❖ PO Box 10162 ❖ Pleasanton, CA 94588

Ticket Type: Adult (A) Senior (S) Child (C) Under 3 years (FREE)

Name _____

Ticket Type: _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Check Amount _____ (made payable to PBFSCO)