



PBFSCO Exchange

February 2016

From President Linda Morrison

Well, another Burns Supper has come and gone, and we are already making plans for the next one! On Wednesday February 10th we had a board meeting wherein we discussed all sorts of exciting plans. The first one is a hold-the-date for the next Burns Supper, which will happen January 28, 2017.

One of the ideas thrown around at the meeting was to have events almost monthly because PBFSCO is so much more than just the Burns Supper and the Train Ride (May 1st). We would like to promote a feeling of community amongst our members, and we also know that nobody wants to spend a fortune to have that sense of community. So we are starting off with Bunko on Sunday, March 6, at 2pm. This is not going to be a tea, like the last (first) Bunko, but instead just an excuse to get together. Jean Purves will be hosting at her house, so there is only space for 24 people. It will be a \$10 buy-in, with half going to the good of the club and half going for prize money. Afterwards, we will play the Left-Right-Center game (another \$3.00 in ones). If you're interested, contact me at pousette_too@yahoo.com and I'll get you on the list.



We've talked about Shakespeare in the Park, Music, Bunko, and even Outlander. If you have any ideas of a good way to get together as a group, please let one of the Board Members know. Or even better, come to one of our board meetings, held at my house the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Email me for details. I would love to get to know more of you!

Slainte

Linda

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.

SCENE AROUND PLEASANTON - Steve Lind

Super Bowl 50

As San Francisco hosted Super Bowl 50 on February 7th, the entire Bay Area joined in for pre-game events through January and the week leading up to Super Bowl Sunday. And Pleasanton was right there in the mix! On Saturday the 6th, downtown Pleasanton was the site of a Super Scavenger Hunt for kids from 10am-noon and a Hunt for the Golden Football from 5-6pm for adults.

Children 10 years old and younger picked up instructions, goody bag and their first clue from the starting location outside of the Museum on Main — a golden balloon arch and giant football. Children had to solve the clue in order to find the next downtown location, where they were given a fun football themed treat and their next clue.

Adults followed Pleasanton Downtown Association on social media — Twitter, Facebook, Instagram — to learn where seven footballs were hidden downtown. Footballs were color coded and matched a prize. The golden football had a cash prize of \$300.

Pleasanton Weekly turns 'Sweet 16'

The Pleasanton Weekly newspaper, launched on January 28, 2000, turned Sweet 16 with the recent January 29th edition. Jeb Bing, the long time editor of the Weekly, reflected on the 16 year history of the Weekly in his Around Pleasanton column. Jeb recalled that the then Mayor Ben Tarver "...congratulated me. But then he shook his head, saying it would be a short-lived business venture since there was so little news to report in this small town, and that I would have nothing left to write about within six months".

Of course history has shown that Mayor Tarver's prediction didn't pan out. The paper is delivered every Friday to residences and newsstands around town as well as the BART station. For Pleasanton residents, the Weekly has become the staple of local news, sports, business and feature stories.

Beside the print edition, there is a vibrant website at www.PleasantonWeekly.com with popular sections such as Town Square, Blogs and Classifieds. And, arguably, the most popular feature of the Weekly is the "Take Us Along" in which folks traveling around the country or world take a picture of themselves holding a copy of the Weekly and submit it to the paper for publication in a future edition. You may recall seeing photos with the Pleasanton Weekly in the Fall 2015 PBFSCO Exchange newsletter articles about PBFSCO at the 2014 Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games. Yep, we couldn't resist.

Looking Ahead:

mark your calendar

**St. Andrew's Society
of Oakland
Burns Supper**

Castlewood Country Club
February 26, 2016

**Caledonian Club
of San Francisco
Tartan Ball**

San Ramon Marriott
April 9, 2016

**East Bay Scottish Assn.
Tartan Day Scottish
Faire**

Ardenwood Historic Farm,
Fremont
April 2, 2016

**PBFSCO Flying
Scotsman Train Ride**

Niles Canyon Railway,
Sunol
May 1, 2016

Summer Ceilidh

Encinal Yacht Club
July 9, 2016

**Caledonian Club
of San Francisco
151st Gathering Games**

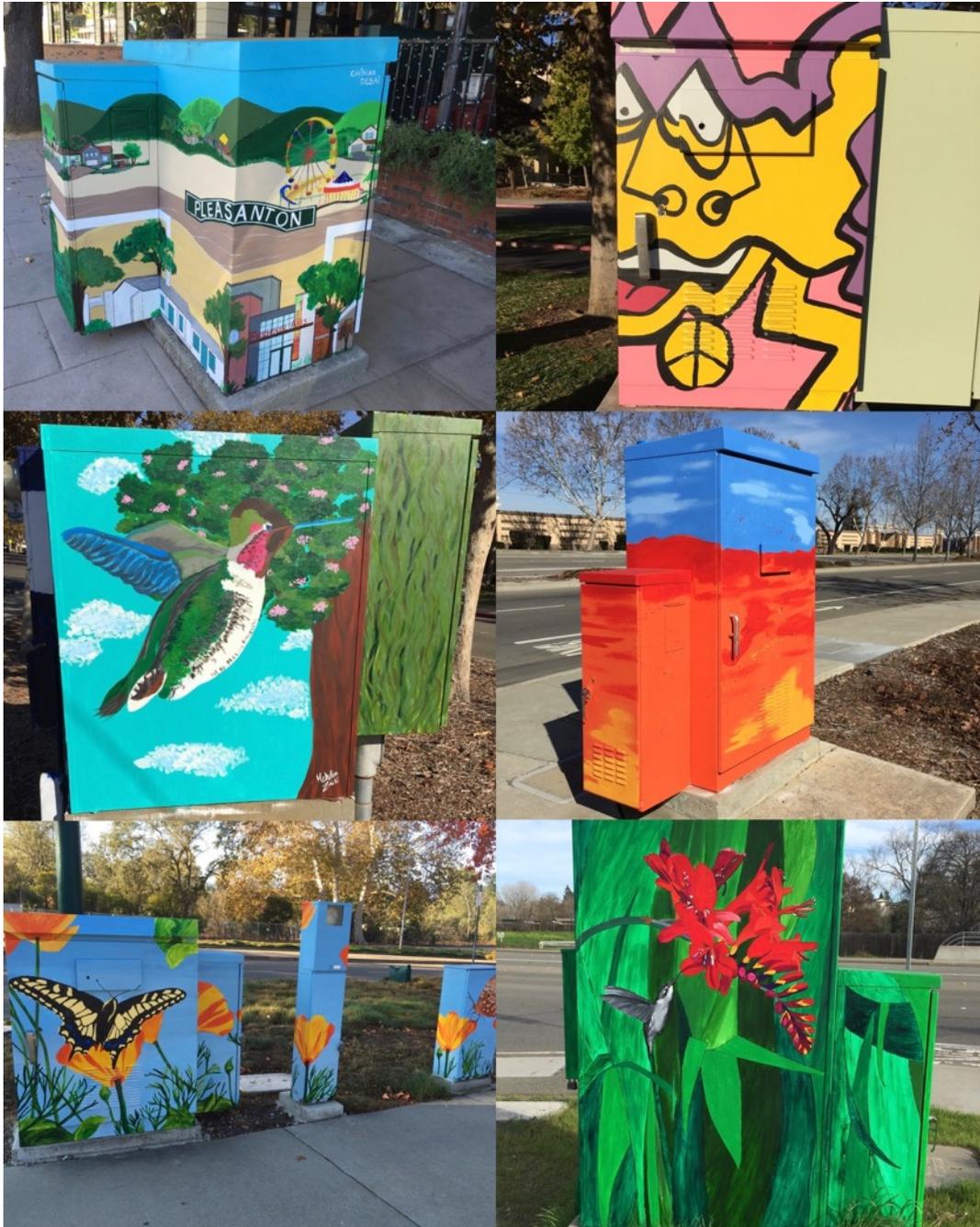
Alameda Co. Fairgrounds
September 3 & 4, 2016

SCENE AROUND PLEASANTON - Steve Lind

Project Paint Box - Utility Box Beautification Program

Project Paint Box is a public art beautification program of the City of Pleasanton that celebrates local artwork and encourages artists to share their creativity by decorating utility boxes around the city. Phase one was completed in 2015. The City of Pleasanton is looking for artists for the next phase.

Below are photos of six painted boxes from the first phase.



SCENE AROUND PLEASANTON - Steve Lind

Burns Supper 2016



Save the Date: 23rd Annual PBFSCO Burns Supper January 28, 2017

A WINDOW ON BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY - Jessie McLean



A little late but wishing everyone in **Fergus** and **Pleasanton** a very
Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year
from
Bonnie Scotland

It has been the wettest winter on record so far according to the Weather Forecast and around the area we have had a considerable amount of flooding. We are lucky that the river Ericht has high banks at the point where it runs through the town so we are keeping our feet dry!!

I am sure since they started giving these weather fronts names (we have just had Henry). They are appearing more often and with more intent to disrupt. We need some snow now as the ski season has not been able to get underway and there are a lots of frustrated ski enthusiasts out there.

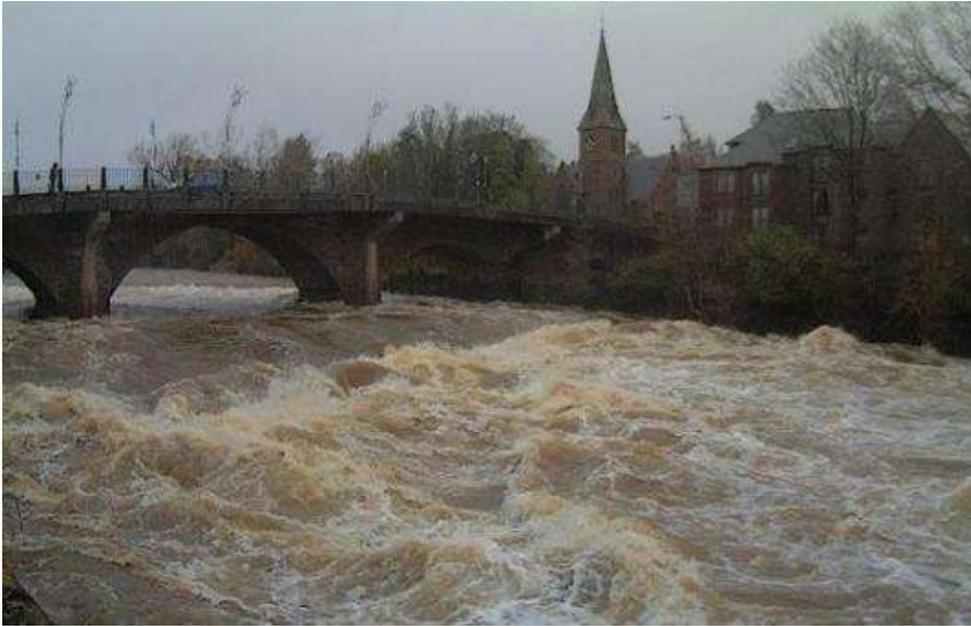


One compensation for the lack of skiers on the slopes is there are more Red Deer and Mountain Hare to be seen for those who are more interested in the Scottish Wildlife

A WINDOW ON BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY - Jessie McLean

Fishing on the River Ericht – Not at the moment!

The salmon fishing season opened on 15th January but it would have been a very brave fisherman who tried to cast a rod in the River Ericht that day as this was the scene just below the road bridge which connects Blairgowrie & Rattray.



The River Ericht, although only 10 miles in length, has one of the largest runs of salmon of any tributary of the River Tay with a recorded average of around 10,000 fish each year. The salmon season lasts until 15th October so lots of time to get better fishing days when the river is looking less angry.

Burns Nicht'

It's a good time of year for indoor entertainment and celebrating our National Bard is the most popular "sport" at the end of January. It is probably something most readers know but just in case, here is a short explanation of how the celebration came about.

In 1785, Burns was a guest at a Haggis Club in Kilmarnock where five lawyers met for dinner. When asked to say grace Burns instead chose to address the haggis. The following year the poem was completed and the "Address to the Haggis" became the first Burns poem to be published in a newspaper when it appeared in the Caledonian Mercury of 20th December 1786.

On the 5th anniversary of Robert Burns death, nine Ayrshire gentlemen sat down in Alloway to what is now regarded as the first ever Burns Supper. The assembled dined on good Scottish fayre and haggis. They recited the "Address to the Haggis" and drank several toasts!

The company agreed to meet in January of the next year to commemorate the poet's birth and so evolved the custom of Burns Suppers held annually on or around 25th January.

The biggest celebrations now are held in Dunfries with music, ceilidhs, and shows over nine days starting off with a torchlight procession. This year there were 4,500 torches in the parade.

A WINDOW ON BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY - Jessie McLean

Our VisitScotland Burns window display



Rachael in our VisitScotland office enjoys doing the window displays and put this very smart one together to celebrate Burns.

Burns Celebrated at the Golf Club

Blairgowrie Golf Club members and guests enjoyed a great night of entertainment at their Burns Supper with Club Captain Robin Duncan leading "The Night's Ongauns" and introduced the guest speakers as the company settled back to enjoy a traditional and tasty Bill o' Fare.

Lady Captain Kathy Cameron gave a spirited reply to the "Toast to the Lassies"

The "Address to the Haggis" was expertly and passionately given by Lawrence Blair Oliphant who is in much demand for many a Burns Celebration throughout the area and as far away as Norway!!

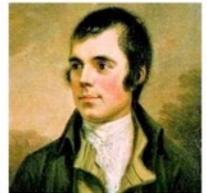
Until next time, Yours' aye, Jessie

PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS
SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

A WINDOW ON BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY - Jessie McLean



Oh, My Love is like a Red, Red Rose



PLAID TIDINGS FROM FERGUS ONTARIO CANADA! - Deb Dalziel

Snowy Salutations from the Great White North!

Winter is a magical time of year here in Canada. Icicles as tall as houses hang majestically from the steep Gorge walls. Whether you are looking for a wintery trail to blaze, a cozy nook with a wee dram to warm you, fine food or firelight - you can find it here in our neck of the woods.

The latest skinny on all things Scottish; The Fergus Pipe Band is celebrating the success of a completely sold out Burns Supper as a major fund raiser for their organization.

The Fergus Pipe Band took over the reins of the annual Robbie Burns Supper this year. The Pipe Band is one of the longest serving Pipe bands in Ontario and has just celebrated their 89th anniversary. Founded in 1927, the Fergus Pipe Band has been a musical ambassador for the community of Fergus performing across Ontario and neighbouring provinces and states.



Along with their musical accomplishments, the Fergus Pipe band and its bonnie members support Tartan Day, St. Andrew Day Celebrations, major community events and parades such as Canada Day, Santa Claus and are always loyal to each and every function for the Royal Canadian Legion - Fergus Branch #275 - when called upon.

I will mention, the Scottish Gathering and Highland Games of Pleasanton California is on many a Fergus Piper's 'bucket list' for some time in the future!

Fund raising events such as this past Burns Supper allows the band to recruit, travel, teach and mentor pipers and drummers of all ages. The Band rose to the challenge of ensuring a Burns Supper was held in Fergus, a long standing tradition for many a year.

PLAID TIDINGS FROM FERGUS ONTARIO CANADA! - Deb Dalziel

On the Fergus Scottish Festival front, our volunteer board and many committees are well under way to ensuring another successful Games for 2016. We are thrilled to have Diana Gabaldon join us again in Fergus this coming year. It is a privilege to have Diana acknowledge and support our humble event for many many years. Since 1997, Diana has graced us numerous times with her presence, delightful and engaging storytelling. Outlander fans from far and wide are anxiously awaiting her arrival back to Fergus, Ontario. Diana's enchanting tales, delightful sense of humour is a 'must do' for many of our Festival goers.

Back by popular demand, Gillebride MacMillan, will join us again this year. Part of the supporting cast of the successful Outlander Series, an accomplished Poet, teacher and story teller, Gillebride MacMillan hails from the Milton in South Uist. He comes from a family with a strong Gaelic background. Gaelic is his first language and Gaelic songs and traditions were always an important part of family life. "Gillie" quickly became a member of the Fergus family and has been called back to join us again. His talented work will be featured beside Diana in the Workshop series, the Avenue of the Clans and various musical venues in both Downtown and on the Festival Grounds. Our entertainment team is thrilled that Gillebride has agreed to be Master of Ceremonies at our Friday evening program "tattooed" in Traditions. This colourful event weaves old traditions, music, pipes and pageantry along with contemporary Scottish sights and sights. For more details check us out at www.fergusscottishfestival.com. If you haven't been to Fergus, its time you did!

This is a truly winter wonderland. Us Canadians learn to embrace the cold.

Fishing shot **Fergus-Style** taken by Bill Longshaw, longtime friend and photographer for the Festival.



PLAID TIDINGS FROM FERGUS ONTARIO CANADA! - Deb Dalziel

Elora gorge being rappelled by Frederick Schuett our resident daredevil extraordinaire-owner/operator of One Axe Pursuits and the Elora Sky Rider - the Elora Zipline Company



Looking forward to perhaps crossing paths with some of our PBFSCO members at the Tartan Day Celebrations in New York City this coming April.

Until next time, Plaid Tidings!
Deb Dalziel
Fergus, Ontario, Canada

Flying Scotsman - Niles Canyon Train Ride

Please join PBFSCO on Sunday May 1st for our annual train ride through beautiful Niles Canyon. Wear your tartan and bring your children. Aye, there will be pipes on the journey!

The train will take us from Sunol to Niles and back. The ride is about 1.5 hours but you may stop in Niles for a walkabout if desired. There is free parking at the Sunol Railway Station.

After the train ride, we will gather in the park adjacent to the Sunol Railway Station to picnic with family and friends, followed by our Annual General Meeting (AGM).



Summer Ceilidh

July 9
Encinal Yacht Club
Alameda CA

WHISKY TASTING
DINNER
DANCING
PRIZE DRAWING



*Presented by The Caledonian Club of SF, St. Andrew's Society of SF, St. Andrew's Society of Oakland,
Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister City Organization*

2016 Scottish Gatherings and Highland Games Calendar

Sonora Celtic Faire: March 11, 12, & 13, Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Sonora CA (30th Anniversary)

ESBA Tartan Day Scottish Faire: April 2, Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont CA

Kern County Scottish Games and Gathering: April 16, Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield CA

140th Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Festival: April 23 & 24, Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland CA

Scottish Fest: May 28 & 29, Orange County Fair and Event Center, Costa Mesa CA

The Mother Lode Highland Games: June 18 & 19, Amador County Fairgrounds, Plymouth CA

San Diego Scottish Highland Games: June 25 & 26, Brengle Terrace Park, Vista CA

Summer Ceilidh: July 9, Encinal Yacht Club, Alameda CA

Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival: August 6 & 7, Monterey County Fair & Event Center, Monterey CA

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games: August 12, 13, & 14, Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex, Fergus Ontario Canada

151st Scottish Highland Gathering & Games: September 3 & 4, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton CA

Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games: September 4, Bogles Field, Blairgowrie Perthshire Scotland

Fresno Scottish Highland Gathering & Games: September 17, Kearney Park, Fresno CA

Dixon Scottish Cultural Association Games: September 24, Dixon May Fairgrounds, Dixon CA

Celtic Festival: September 30, October 1 & 2, Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley CA

Big Trees Scottish Gathering and Highland Games: October 1, Roaring Camp, Felton CA

Seaside Highland Games: October 7, 8, & 9, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura CA

Pleasanton Public Art

Pennington and Sylvester

Bronze statues of dogs at the Valley Humane Society
By Marty Goldstein
2014

Description: Gary and Nancy Harrington, as part of another "Harrington Art Partnership Piece for You" project, donated these beautiful Marty Goldstein pieces specifically to be placed outside of the Valley Humane Society.



Courtesy: STQRY

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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>

Fiona Pleasanton

living & milking happily at
Alviso Adobe Milking Barn



Visit my **facebook** page
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Renew your 2015/16 Membership Dues

PBFSCO Membership Renewal - www.pbfsc.org

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City/St/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Level of Membership:

Family (\$20) ____ Individual (\$15) ____

Submit payment via PayPal at <http://www.pbfsc.org/join.php>

-or-

Send form with check payable to PBFSCO at:

PBFSCO Membership
PO Box 10162
Pleasanton, CA 94588



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

Embroidery & Moore
51 Wright Brothers Ave, Suite G, Livermore, CA 94551, Phone: 925-245-9186
www.eandmoore.com