



# PBFSCO Exchange

Winter 2012

## From the President - Karen Burton-Lind

Christmas is a week away and Steve and I will be in New York with our sons Jason and Corey and daughters-in-law Lauren and Erin. This will be our first Christmas in New York and Hogmanay in Vermont. We might get some snow.

The late fall was eventful for PBFSCO. Enjoying St. Andrews' Societies of San Francisco and Oakland celebrations and our Kirkin' o' the Tartan kept us busy in November.

Getting Fiona from Scotland in time for the parade was especially meaningful for me. As an employee of the City of Pleasanton, I heard a desire expressed to have a cow from Scotland who could be part of programs for children at the Alviso Adobe. As the person who stands in the street to put the Hometown Holiday parade together to send downtown, I was able to witness Fiona on a Richert Lumber truck heading down the parade route with pipes and friends to escort her. She has had quite a journey to Pleasanton. We can look forward to seeing her at the Milking Barn

at the Alviso Adobe at a future event.

With Bonnie Stocker at the head, the Burns Committee is planning and preparing for another fabulous Burns Super in January. The committee has planned beautiful decorations, gifts and great entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Be sure to send in your reservations for dinner and there are rooms available to spend the night. You can extend your evening by joining us in the Hospitality suite after dinner.

Please notice our new ongoing news articles about our sister cities from friends who live there. Thank you to Amelia and Steve for getting the connections and correspondence. Reading about what is happening in Blairgowrie and Fergus will help our sister connection strengthen for the future.

Hope to see everyone in the New Year!



Looking Ahead:  
mark your calendar

### **PBFSCO Burns Supper**

Pleasanton Marriott  
January 28, 2012

*Flyer/Reservation Form last page*

### **St. Andrews Society of Oakland Burns Supper**

Dick's Restaurant, San Leandro  
February 2012

### **Caledonian Club of SF Tartan Ball**

April 14, 2012

### **PBFSCO Flying Scotsman Train Ride & AGM**

Niles Canyon Railway, Sunol  
April/May (tbd) 2012

*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.*

# PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

## FIONA ARRIVES IN PLEASANTON

As reported in the last issue of PBFSCO Exchange, PBFSCO helped bring a Life Size Milking Cow from Scotland (affectionately named Fiona) to Pleasanton for the Alviso Adobe Milking Barn. We are pleased to report that after an eventful journey, including much ado getting through US Customs, Fiona arrived in Pleasanton on Friday night, December 2, 2011. It was touch and go whether she would arrive in time to be featured in Pleasanton's Hometown Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 3rd. Credit the extra effort by the City of Pleasanton Support Services who picked up Fiona late on Friday night after learning she would not be delivered until after the weekend.

With anxious times of Fiona's arrival put to rest, she was uncrated on Saturday morning and secured to the flatbed truck graciously donated by Richert Lumber for the parade. PBFSCO members Jackie Gardner, Carol Taylor, Susan Spiegel, Steve Lind and Pleasanton Naturalist Eric Nicholas set about dressing Fiona in holiday splendor for the parade. The centerpiece, of course, was Fiona's tartan 'kilt'. Needless to say, Fiona was an instant hit with the large crowd along the Main Street parade route.

Fiona moved in to her permanent residence at the Alviso Adobe Milking Barn where she greets her adoring public. PBFSCO is planning a special "meet Fiona day" in February for members to celebrate her arrival. Factoid: Fiona was born in Longforgan, Perth & Kinross, Scotland, about 30 miles south of Blairgowrie! To learn more, visit her Facebook page: Fiona Pleasanton.



Fiona finally arrives ...



and the unveiling begins



Eric & Karen unwrapping



And here she is



Together at last



Fiona seems pleased!



Dressed up for the parade



Dan & Mike w/ our banner



Showtime - heading down Main St.

# PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER



## INTRODUCING BLAIRGOWRIE AND FERGUS CORRESPONDENTS

Please welcome PBFSCO Exchange correspondents Jessie McLean from Blairgowrie and Deb Dalziel from Fergus. Jessie and Deb will bring us a bit closer to our sister cities through articles of interest and local perspective. We trust you will enjoy their articles and learn something new each issue about our twin cities. A big thank you to Amelia Murray Lindsay for the introductions to Jessie and Deb.

### A WINDOW ON BLAIRGOWRIE - Jessie McLean

When contacted by Steve and asked if I would write a small piece for the PBFSCO Exchange it was mentioned a name would be required for the section – I am suggesting “A Window on Blairgowrie” as working in the VisitScotland Information Centre I look out on the very heart of the town the “Wellmeadow” where all the roads in and out and passing through meet.

My “window” view on Saturday 3rd September was looking out on all the activities going on for the “Braemar Day” celebrations. This can be quite a confusing affair for visitors to the town as we are 35mls/56 klm south from the town of Braemar. The history of this day being celebrated in Blairgowrie came about 60 years ago when pipe bands heading home from the famous Braemar Highland Gathering stopped in the town for some liquid refreshment and gave an impromptu display to entertain locals and visitors.

This year was special with it being the “diamond anniversary” celebration and all the stops were pulled out to make it a grand affair with funfair, stalls, and abundance of entertainment including massed pipe bands. The day ended with a wonderful firework display on the river Ericht.

Traditionally the first Sunday of September is the Annual Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games. The sun was shining brightly as if giving a special welcome to your very own Deb Dalziel who was in attendance enjoying the day and will have a report on her experiences. I did notice her admiring some of the fine figures of men in kilts and even taking part in the Tug-o-War! Over to Deb to fill in the details of her visit.....

September is also the month the annual Walking Festival is held - dates this year 15th to 18th which were not the driest days of the month but nothing dampened the spirits of those taking part as the countryside has a special attraction at this time of year with the changing colours. The walkers are able to enjoy walking part of the Cateran

Trail which is a circular walk starting and finishing in Blairgowrie and covers 64 mls/100 klm.

Singer/songwriter Dougie MacLean OBE holds a festival at the end of October which is called the Amber Festival and is attended by visitors from all over the world. His signature song Caledonia has just been chosen to be included on a “Scotland’s Greatest Album” CD to be released shortly. Dougie’s concert date in Blairgowrie was a great hit – if he ever visits Pleasanton or Fergus make sure you go to hear him!

At the end of November last year we had heavy snow with even the switch on of the Christmas lights having to be postponed but on 26<sup>th</sup> November this year no such problems - Carol Singers, Bell-Ringers, Blairgowrie & Rattray Junior Marching Drum Corps, Pipe Bands and Santa on his Sleigh were all in view from my “window” on Blairgowrie when the town was lit to welcome the start of the festive season.

30<sup>th</sup> November - an important date in the Scottish calendar to celebrate our Patron Saint St Andrew – ceilidhs, lots of flag waving, enjoying our traditional Scottish fare and national drink all accompanied by more pipe bands and a good time was had by all!!

I hope you enjoyed the little “window on Blairgowrie” and I have listed a few websites which may be of interest.

[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)  
[www.perthshire.co.uk](http://www.perthshire.co.uk)  
[www.visiteastperthshire.co.uk](http://www.visiteastperthshire.co.uk)  
[www.dougiemaclean.com](http://www.dougiemaclean.com)  
[www.perthshireamber.com](http://www.perthshireamber.com)

Sending the compliments of the season  
Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year.

# PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

## PLAID TIDINGS FROM FERGUS ONTARIO CANADA! - Deb Dalziel

On behalf of the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games and the community of Fergus, I am thrilled to be the “news correspondence” from the Great White North as we are lovingly referred to this time of year!

For almost 2 decades the Town of Blairgowrie and Fergus have been twinned with the welcome addition of Pleasanton shortly after. What a wonderful way to recognize the **3 C's** - Communicate, Contribute and Celebrate all that there is to enjoy between our organizations and respective communities.

This past summer I had an opportunity to really experience firsthand, what a strong engaged connection between our fair Towns and Cities could mean. I found this summer's expedition to “Blair” a wonderful opportunity to discuss like minded issues related to tourism, our economy, event management and to meet my counterparts across the ocean and those that make it happen.

As with Fergus, I am sure both Pleasanton and Blairgowrie are faced with the same challenges in presenting a world class event. Whether it is braving the elements, strain of volunteer power, financial and logistical “glitches” each event calls upon like minded people to rise to the challenge and brave on! Why we all must be “Scots” one would think? We experience and revel in what characteristics and traits make us uniquely different but share a common thread. That thread is our Scottish Heritage. Our roots to the old country run true, deep and strong regardless of the miles in-between.

Upon my arrival at the Blairgowrie Highland Games, I was pleased to have been put to work with a variety of tasks throughout the Games.

It was such fun to see the MacDuggars” of reality TV fame join the ranks of competitors and I enjoyed having a chance to interact with them

during activities such as welly tosses, tug o war games and being “kilted” for the first time. Such fond memories, and such a giggle to be able to enjoy on National Television in the weeks following. Still my ultimate favourite time, well I had 2 actually, first - the tug o war. I proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with the Chieftain, Lawrence Blair Oliphant and “heaved” with the best of them! My good shoes were pitched - bare feet is the best for traction for serious rope pulling - and our team tugged to triumph!

My second most favourite memory was the taking down of the flags at the closing of the day. I was privileged to be asked to share a dram with the volunteers and Board of the Games, sharing a laugh or two, satisfied we had “dodged the weather gods” and reflecting in a job well done.

I was touched by the number of North American visitors that sought me out specifically to say hello and to let me know that they shared my feelings on experiencing a “sense of home” in Scotland.

My special thanks to Steve Lind, for reaching out to Fergus and exploring the idea of re-kindling friendships and a shared collaboration in the PBFSCO newsletter. Our conversation this past month was a joy and I look forward to it being one of many.

For those interested, I encourage you to visit a few websites of interest from Ontario as Jessie has shared those from Scotland. In the interim, for you and your own, Fergus wishes you all a safe and happy holiday season and let's chat again in the New Year shall we?

[www.elorafergus.travel](http://www.elorafergus.travel)

[www.fergusscottishfestival.com](http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com)

[www.fergusbia.ca](http://www.fergusbia.ca)

[www.cwchamber.ca](http://www.cwchamber.ca)



Some fun promoting the August Fergus Scottish Festival



Deb with the Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games folks



Sharing the Fergus Paper at Blairgowrie & Rattray Games

# PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

## This and That

### BLAIRGOWRIE GAMES ON TLC NETWORK

Did you see The Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games featured on the TLC network reality show "19 Kids and Counting" starring the Duggar family?

The November 13th showing was an hour long 'Abroad Special' segment in Scotland and Ireland. The TLC film crew spent an entire day following the Duggar family's participation at the Games. The segment featured Amelia greeting the Duggars upon their arrival and Laurence as Cheifan opening the Games. Also notable was a brief glimpse of the fire truck!

### KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN

St. Clare's Episcopal Church in Pleasanton was the site again this year for the Kirkin' o' the Tartan on November 27th. PBFSCO members were led into the sanctuary at the start of the Sunday worship service by our very own Donna Willy on Highland Bagpipes.

For the blessing, Donna piped those in attendance wearing their tartan to the front of the assembled congregation where each person named their tartan. At the conclusion of the worship service, Donna piped folks out to end the service.

### MARY GILBERT'S QUAICH

To honor Mary Gilbert's involvement in the Scottish community during her posting as Deputy British Consul in San Francisco and wish her a fond farewell, Mary was presented a commemorative quaich at the 2011 Summer Ceilidh.



### SCOTCH WITH TWO DROPS OF WATER

'a wee Scotch humor' courtesy of Alan Purves

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water. As the bartender gives her the drink she says, 'I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it's today.'

The bartender says, 'Well, since it's your birthday, I'll buy you a drink. In fact, this one is on me.'

As the woman finishes her drink, the woman to her right says, 'I would like to buy you a drink, too.'

The old woman says, 'Thank you. Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water.'

'Coming up,' says the bartender.

As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says, 'I would like to buy you one, too.'

The old woman says, 'Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water.'

'Coming right up,' the bartender says.

As he gives her the drink, he says, 'Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?'

The old woman replies, 'Sonny, when you're my age, you've learned how to hold your liquor. Holding your water, however, is a whole other issue.'

### PBFSCO Burns Supper

Featuring Joann Gilmartin  
Saturday January 28, 2012  
Pleasanton Marriott  
5:30 - No Host Bar / Registration  
7:00 - Dinner  
Reservation Form on last page

### 2011/12 Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Karen Burton-Lind
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kathy Tollworthy
<b>Treasurer</b>	Susan Spiegel
<b>Secretary</b>	Juliana Silverman
<b>Membership</b>	Linda Morrison
<b>Burns Supper</b>	Bonnie Stoker
<b>Past President</b>	Dan Dawson

### Board Members:

Lori Kauth  
Shelby Snelgrove  
Carol Taylor

**Newsletter Editor** Steve Lind

## Renew your 2011/12 Membership Dues

PBFSCO Membership Renewal - [www.pbfsco.org](http://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

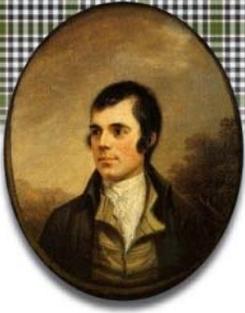


EmbroidMe in Livermore is our source for PBFSCO Logo items such as Polo Shirts and hats. You can purchase directly from EmbroidMe or bring in your own item(s) to have an embroidered PBFSCO logo added.

**EmbroidMe**

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

[www.embroidme-livermore.com](http://www.embroidme-livermore.com)



# BURNS Supper 2012

Join us for the annual tribute to  
ROBERT BURNS, the bard of Scotland

❖ SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH ❖  
FEATURING JOANN GILMARTIN

*5:30pm No Host Bar/Registration*  
*7:00pm Dinner*

*Pleasanton Marriott ❖ 11950 Dublin Canyon Road*

*Dinner \$70 ❖ Group Table (10) \$650*

*Advanced Reservations Required by January 20, 2012*  
*Your cancelled check is your receipt ❖ No Refunds*

*For information please visit [www.PBFSCO.org](http://www.PBFSCO.org)*  
*Susan Spiegel 650.799.9001 or [susan@celtic-lass.com](mailto:susan@celtic-lass.com)*

**Presented by the Pleasanton Blairgowrie Fergus Sister City Organization**

Please do not drink and drive—Rooms are available for \$90.00 + tax, breakfast included  
Please call 925.847.6000 and ask for the Burns Supper block. Rate available until January 11, 2012.  
[www.MarriottPleasanton.com](http://www.MarriottPleasanton.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount \_\_\_\_\_ (made payable to PBFSCO)

Dinner Choice: Grilled Flank Steak # \_\_\_\_ Chicken Wellington # \_\_\_\_ Salmon/Shrimp Combo # \_\_\_\_



**Please print legibly, complete this form in full and mail with check to:**  
**PBFSCO ❖ PO Box 10162 ❖ Pleasanton, CA 94588**