



PBFSCO Exchange

March 2009

<http://www.pbsco.org>

Newsletter of the Pleasanton/Blairgowrie/Fergus Sister City Organization

PBFSCO Members and Friends,

Our recent Burns Supper provided a wonderful start to 2009. It is always enjoyable to spend an evening honoring Robert Burns with PBFSCO members and friends from Kindred Clubs. This year was particularly noteworthy, being the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns and the 15th anniversary of our Burns Supper. A huge thank you to Jean Purves for chairing the Burns Supper committee, in addition to designing the programs, and the committee of Board members, Alan Purves and Scott Laird.

It is time to get out your calendars and mark dates for 2009 PBFSCO events:

April 19: Ride The Flying Scotsman train from Sunol to Niles and then picnic in the park

May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5,

September 2: PBFSCO booths at the Pleasanton First Wednesday Street Parties

July 11&12: PBFSCO booth at Dunsmuir Scottish Highland Games.

August 1: Monterey Games Bus Trip, including dinner at Britannia Arms in Aptos --- yep, it's back!

August 8: Summer Ceilidh in Alameda, co-hosted with the Caledonian Club of San Francisco, St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco, and St. Andrew's Society of Oakland

September 3: PBFSCO Pub Night before the Highland Games in Pleasanton

September 5&6: PBFSCO booth at the 144th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, Pleasanton Fair Grounds

October (tbd): Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Pleasanton

Watch this space, our web site (www.pbsco.org), and e-mails for more details on these upcoming events. And, we've included the flyer to sign up for The Flying Scotsman train ride this newsletter.

In our continuing endeavor "...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", the Board is pleased to initiate a scholarship program in 2009. The Mission of the program is: *To enable the study and pursuit of those things that are identified as being of or related to Scottish culture through the endowment of monies.*

Areas for consideration include Scottish sports, dance, music, history, arts and crafts, and language. Please see John Morrison's article in this newsletter for additional details. The scholarship program application is on our website www.pbsco.org.

I am pleased to introduce and extend a warm welcome to Jack Smith to the Board. Jack enthusiastically accepted an appointment in January. The Board also welcomed Jean Purves back to the board. Jean graciously stepped in to fill Ridge Douglass' term to the end of June 2009. Ridge's work schedule, which often takes him out of the Bay Area did not allow him to continue to serve.

Finally, I am saddened to report that Betty Dawson, wife of Past President and current Board Member Dan Dawson, passed away March 13th after a valiant battle against cancer. Betty will be greatly missed by us all. Please join the Board in keeping Dan in your thoughts and prayers.

Until next time, yours aye.

Steve Lind
President, PBFSCO

PBFSCO Introduces a Scholarship Program

By John Morrison

The PBFSCO board is pleased to announce the formation of a perpetual scholarship program. The PBFSCO web page has rules and an application form but in short, the program is designed to facilitate the pursuit of scholarly endeavors in the areas of study that are uniquely Scottish. How did this come about you might ask? Simple, what better way to spread Scottish culture and to get more interest in the club than to encourage others to undertake the study of things Scottish. You may be surprised but this does not mean only Bagpipe lessons. :) Scottish culture has a depth and breadth of richness that will astound you. From kilt making to Shinty, from

bagpipes to Celtic metal work, as long as this is a structured class setting, it likely qualifies for consideration.

Now is the time to take that class in Royal Scottish Country Dance that you have always marveled at during the games. Now is the time to take up the pipes. Now is the time to see about getting your child into highland dance. In short, **NOW IS THE TIME!**

The guidelines around what qualifies as well as how to get an application form and then submit it are all to be found on the PBFSCO website.

www.pbsco.org

We are also looking for people who would be willing to serve on the Scholarship Committee – three in all. PBFSCO members preferred, plus if you have had some experience with this kind of program, that would be helpful. Please contact John Morrison at

Burns Supper a Big Success

By Malcolm Carden

210 people gathered at the Pleasanton Marriott on January 31 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. This was also PBFSCO's 15th annual Burns Supper, so was a doubly special event for all present. The importance of the evening was underlined by the presence of several notable dignitaries, including U.K. Consul General Julian Evans, Deputy Consul General Mary Gilbert, the Mayor of Pleasanton, Jennifer Hosterman, and the heads of the three leading Scottish societies in the Bay Area, Chief Alan Purves of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco, Fred Rutledge, President of the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco, and Kenny Lawrence, President of the St. Andrew's Society of Oakland.

The formal events of the evening began with the Posting of the Colors by the heads of the Kindred Clubs present. Following PBFSCO President Steve Lind's welcoming remarks, U.K. Deputy Consul General Mary Gilbert delivered the Selkirk Grace. Master of Ceremonies Scott Laird then asked for the haggis to be piped in, and John Gray performed Burn's Address to the Haggis in his inimitable Aberdeen accent. Dinner was then served. Musical entertainment after the main course was ably provided by the Piedmont

Highlanders Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Lloyd Christiansen.

Following the meal, the serious part of the evening began, starting with the traditional “Immortal Memory”, dedicated to the life and works of Burns, and delivered this year by Bruce Rogerson, who with his wife Isobel, came all the way down from Fort Bragg for the evening. This is a toast only a native Scot can perform properly, and Bruce’s evocative speech provided ample evidence of how Burns’ works can still move us, 250 years after the fact.

Peter Daldry then came on to present his program of Burns songs, which included “The Star of Rabbie Burns” (not actually by Burns, but about him), “A Man’s a Man For A’ That”, “Green Grow the Rashes”, “Ye Banks & Braes”, and “Killiecrankie”. Interspersed between songs were the formal toasts for the evening:

“The President” - Fred Rutledge
“The Queen” - Kenny Lawrence
“The Lassies” - David Boyle
“The Laddies” - Susan Spiegel
“Absent Friends” - Linda Morrison
“Kindred Clubs” - Jay House
“The Sodjers” - Steve Lind

As part of his toast, Jay House read out messages received from several other Scottish clubs around the world, and a special message from our good friend in Blairgowrie, Laurence Blair Oliphant, himself no stranger to Burns Suppers, being the honored guest at several in Scotland at this time of year.

After another set by the Piedmont Highlanders, and the drawing for the sumptuous raffle prizes, the formal events of the evening came to an end with the singing of “Auld Lang Syne”. The party then continued until the wee hours in the Hospitality Room, accompanied by piping from Donna Willy and Richard Charette, and the telling of numerous jokes and stories of increasingly dubious quality by those able to last out until 3 am.

All in all, it was yet another night to remember, at an event which has become the Bay Area’s premier Burns Supper in the last few years. A special thanks to everyone who helped in organizing the event, from Chair Jean Purves, who hand made the gorgeous program boxes for the event, through Hospitality Chairs Susan Spiegel and David Boyle, to Master of Ceremonies Scott Laird, to Kathy Tollworthy, who organized the raffle and donated one of her amazing dolls as a

prize, to everyone who gave a toast, plus the PBFSCO Board, and the musical entertainers. And, last but not least the staff of the Marriott, who looked after us all very well.

See you all again next year!



PBFSCO President Steve Lind welcomes guests to the 2009 Burns Supper



Mayor Jennifer Hosterman says a few words.



John Gray addresses the haggis

(Photos by Carol Taylor)



The Piedmont Highlanders Pipe Band enters the room to perform



Peter Daldry entertains the audience with Burns songs



Steve Lind, PBFSCO President, with Kenny Lawrence, President of the St. Andrew's Society of Oakland, and Alan Purves, Chief of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco



Donna Willy entertains guests with her piping in the Hospitality Room

We Need Your Body

The First Wednesday events in Pleasanton will start on May 6, and we would very much like to have as many PBFSCO members as possible come down to the events and help man the Club booth. If you can spare an hour or so, please give Steve Lind a call at (925)922 9154. These are fun evenings, you will get to meet a lot of your neighbors, and have the opportunity to spread the word about the good work that PBFSCO is doing furthering relationships with Scotland, Canada and amongst our immediate community.

ENGLISH HUMOR (Just for a change)

(Warning: this joke will be totally meaningless to you unless you understand how cricket is played. Anyone requiring an explanation, please contact Malcolm)

A man walks into a doctor's surgery.

Doctor: "Well, Mr. Smith, what seems to be the problem?"

Mr. Smith, "Well, Doctor, I have this cricket ball stuck up my bum."

Doctor (startled): "How's that?"

Mr. Smith : "Oh God, don't YOU start!"

PBFSCO CALENDAR 2009

See President's Letter!

PBFSCO 2008/09 Board of Directors

President Steve Lind
Vice President Peggy Gibson
Treasurer Susan Spiegel
Secretary Karen Burton-Lind
Membership John Morrison
Past President Malcolm Carden

Board Members:
Kathleen Tollworthy
Jack Smith
Dan Dawson
Jean Purves

Newsletter Editor Dan Dawson
Acting Newsletter Editor Malcolm Carden

Here are just a few of the benefits of membership:

- Cultural learning experiences
- Celtic genealogical resources
- Social activities & events
- Good comradeship
- Newsletter
- Discount for certain Club activities
- Best Annual Burns Supper in the Bay Area!

Membership Application/Renewal

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Clan, if any: _____

Level of Membership required:

Corporate (\$50) _____

Family (\$20) _____

Individual (\$15) _____

Newsletter only (\$10) _____

Send form with check made out to PBFSCO to John Morrison, 1572 Cielo Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. Any questions? Call John at (925)449 9981.