

HSHC SPORRAN

www.HighlandSocietyofHarfordCounty.com

September 2025 — Alba Gu Brath — Scotland Forever

The Highland Society of Harford County was incorporated for the preservation of the spirit, lore, poetry, art, dress, welfare, and history of the Scottish people dedicated to the promotion of these traditions among those of Scottish ancestry within Harford County and its environs.



Our September 16 Gathering

Mount Felix Vineyard and Winery

1904 Level Road (MD 155),
Havre de Grace

5:30 Social gathering
6:00 Toasts, dinner, dessert
7:00 Business items, Get to Know You
7:30 Adjourn

Meal: Catered, Olive Tree of Aberdeen

Cost: \$40/person (to include 2 glasses of
your choice of wine)

Please RSVP to John, Yea or Nay
jfpolk@comcast.net



Upcoming Gatherings

Tuesday September 16 5:30 PM
Mt. Felix Winery
1904 Level Road, Harve de Grace

Monday, October 20 6:30 PM
Battery Island Brewery
101 a North Washington Street, Harve de Grace

Tuesday, November 18th 6:30 PM
Vandiver Inn
301 South Union Avenue, Harve de Grace



The State Theater of Havre de Grace,
our home base for
several years, is closed

- from WMMR, by Dominick Philippe - Auguste

The State Theater, a historic landmark in the Havre de Grace community will not be able to reopen, per the owners via Facebook.

On the post, the owners said that the inability to reopen is 'out of their control.'

Willing to contribute an article, news, a joke or humorous anecdote or other contributions, or have you got suggestions for articles?

Send them to: sallyjoanderson@hotmail.com or abowden@bcps.k12.md.us

Our Annual Picnic, June 2025

**Thank you, Steve and Lee
Ann Anderson for hosting
us at your lovely home!!**

Please remember to share your HSHC
pictures with us!

Send them to

sallyjoanderson@hotmail.com

abowden@bcps.k12.md.us



Annual Axe Throwing July 15, 2025

A small, but enthusiastic group of HSHC members and guest gathered at the Route 22 Hatchet House in Aberdeen to display their skills. Axes of different weights were available for women and men. Targets ranged from the traditional bullseye to other backgrounds. Everyone had a good time. Thanks to David Ray for arranging this outing.



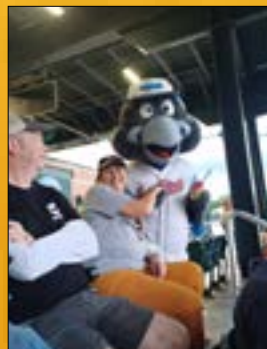
Charlie Zahm Concert at Jerusalem Mills July 20, 2025



On a muggy Sunday evening, a group of HSHC members and guests gathered at Jerusalem Mills Historical Site in Pleasant Hills for a concert by the ever-popular Charlie Zahm. The concert was preceded by a spirited performance by the Harford Highlanders Pipe Band. Charlie Zahm sang a wide range of Celtic songs - some historical, some ballads and some modern. His concert was interrupted by a downpour that drenched everyone. When the sun came out, a beautiful rainbow appeared, and the concert resumed. Thanks to Steve and Lee Ann Anderson for alerting us to this enjoyable concert.

Ironbirds Baseball Game August 19, 2025

Kallie Lyons arranged our annual baseball game at Ripkin Stadium in Aberdeen on a cool evening. Twelve Highland Society members and guests attended. Although the Iron Birds lost to the Cyclones, a good time was had by all!



We Visited Donaldson Brown Center and Bainbridge Naval Museum on August 3, 2025



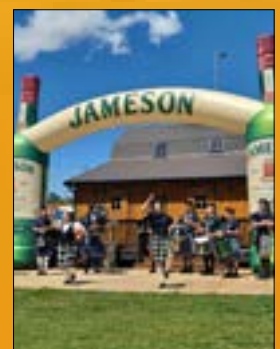
On a beautiful Summer Sunday, 20 HSHC members and guests visited the Donaldson Brown Center and Bainbridge Naval Museum in Port Deposit. Overlooking the Susquehanna River from Mt. Ararat, the Donaldson Brown Center is an estate managed by the University of Maryland as a conference center and event venue. It has four large meeting rooms and multiple one, two and four-person bedrooms. HSHC enjoyed a delicious lunch in the large dining room. We had a fascinating tour of the lovely facility.

The lovely mansion was built in 1936 on 750 acres of Mt. Ararat Farm by Frank Donaldson Brown for his wife Greta DuPont and their six children. Born in Baltimore, Donaldson was brilliant and the youngest graduate of VPI in electrical engineering at age 17. He quickly rose in responsibility in General Motors and DuPont. He had an illustrious career and pioneered the Return on Investment Formula for which he is recognized worldwide. He reveled in his beautiful estate and willed it to the University of Maryland after his death in 1965. It is now used as a conference center and event venue for weddings and other functions.

The HSHC group then went to the town of Port Deposit to visit the Bainbridge Naval Museum located in a former bank building on Main Street. Although small, the museum contains interesting memorabilia from the Bainbridge Naval Training Center that was an important facility during World War II and the Korean War. Models of ships, Naval uniforms for men and women, mess hall dishes, personal scrapbooks, booklets, photographs and files on missions and training are displayed. Very knowledgeable volunteers regaled us with stories and anecdotes. It is a site worth visiting.

Harford Celtic Festival August 22-23, 2025

All Celtic flags fluttered around Friendship Park in Abingdon at the Second Harford County Celtic Festival. The sunny Saturday drew Celts of all backgrounds. The HSHC tent was next to the Irish Railroad Workers Museum from Baltimore whose leaders presented a program to us at Vandiver Inn. The Highland Pipe Band, Scottish dancers, solo performers and Irish dancers provided entertainment. Vendors sold everything from hats to honey, woolens to whisky. HSHC signed up a number of interested people!



Laird's Letter



Greetings Fellow Highlanders –

Hard to believe, but summer has come to an end. The school year is under way and our regular society meetings will commence once more.

Summertime thanks – Our informal gatherings over the Summer were relaxed and enjoyable – First of all, our annual picnic at Steve and Lee Ann Anderson's lovely house in June. Thank you both once again! – Ax throwing at Hatchet House in Aberdeen, organized by Dave Ray. Thank you, Dave. – the tour and luncheon of the Donaldson Brown Mansion and visit to Bainbridge Museum in Port Deposit in August – And the IronBirds game in August handled by Kalie Lyons. Thank you, Kallie!

September meeting – this will be at Mount Felix Winery where we enjoyed a pleasant evening back in April, but this time we expect to be outdoors. The date is Tuesday, 16 September. Please note we will start earlier than usual – 5:30 – because it gets dark earlier. This is an adjustment from the time (6:00) announced in my note last week. I will send another notice of this later. Please RSVP if you have not already done so.

October and November – The meeting in October will be at Battery Island Brewery in Havre de Grace (101 Washington St.) on Monday, 20 October, at 6:30. They cannot accommodate us on our preferred 3rd Tuesday of the month. The November meeting will probably be at the Vandiver Inn on Tuesday, 18 November.

Ski Schiaffino – As most of you know, Ski has had health problems recently and in and out of the hospital. I just spoke with him and Angie and there is good news. He is now out of the hospital and in a rigorous rehab program at Lorient, Bulle Rock, and moving about once again, with a walker. Hopefully he and Angie will be able to join us at a meeting once again, soon.

Regina Ray – Dave's wife was involved in a bad car crash last week. She was not seriously injured but thankfully no broken bones or serious internal damage. Some internal bleeding but it stopped without need for any surgery. She had extensive bruises and a lot of discomfort but was released from the hospital the following day and is recuperating at home. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Alba gu bràth –
John Polk, Laird

MARYLAND TRIVIA- September 2025

by Dr. Andra Bowden

How much do you know about our state? Each SPORRAN issue we will post some Maryland Trivia Questions. The answers will be published next month.

MD SYMBOLS MD ANIMALS MD PLANTS MD HISTORY CHESAPEAKE BAY

MD SYMBOLS	MD ANIMALS	MD PLANTS	MD HISTORY	CHESAPEAKE BAY
MD Flag colors	MD State bird	MD State flower	MD Founding Family	States that share
MD state song	MD state dog	MD state tree	Year colony founded	Approx. Length

Autumn Events in Scotland

from <https://www.visitscotland.com> - (visit the website for links to the events)

Wondering what to do in Scotland in September, October and November? We've gathered a great selection of suggestions for you to enjoy.



The Enchanted Forest, Pitlochry

Autumn is when Scotland is bursting with colour. Not surprising considering it boasts no fewer than six forest parks - nearly one fifth of the land is tree covered - and an abundance of leafy gardens and estates.

Go leaf peeping and witness dramatic autumn colours alongside some of Scotland's greatest wildlife sights: from huge flocks of migratory birds to the grey seal pupping season on the coastline; and from roaring red stags to leaping Atlantic salmon.

Embrace the outdoors

Long-distance trails and lofty Munros beckon walkers, climbers and pony-trekkers while golfers can enjoy a more peaceful game at this time of year. You can even forage for your supper! Get your hands on edible pickings on guided woodland and coastal walks including wild-growing berries, mushrooms and shellfish.

Learn more about the first canal to be built in Scotland, as well as the restoration and construction of the popular Falkirk Wheel, at the Kirkintilloch Canal Festival. Join in on boat trips, a concert, family fun, fireworks and more. In September, take part or spectate at Salomon Skyline Scotland, a world-class mountain and trail running event.

Experience unmissable events

Summer might be over, but there are still plenty of events to fill chilly days and brighten dark nights. September is set to be a real page turner when the Wigtown Book Festival comes to Dumfries & Galloway or watch incredible displays at the International Ayr Show - Festival of Flight. October sees windsurfers flock to the beautiful Isle of Tiree for the Tiree Wave Classic. Head to Shetland for the unique Shetland Wool Week in September to get a feel for real island life. Hear the best in traditional music at the Royal National Mòd and Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Festival.

This is also the land of Halloween where you can party like a pagan at the Samhuinn Fire Festival and enjoy all manner of ghoulish fun and games. And of course, autumn simply wouldn't be autumn without the magic of Scotland's light festivals including The Enchanted Forest.

BROTHERS SET NEW RECORD FOR 9,000-MILE PACIFIC ROW

from BBC

Three brothers from Edinburgh have claimed a new record for rowing non-stop and unsupported across the Pacific Ocean after almost 140 days at sea. Jamie, Ewan and Lachlan Maclean endured violent tropical storms, which forced them into making lengthy detours on their 9,000-mile (14,484km) journey from Peru to Australia. During one storm, Lachlan was swept overboard by a large wave before being pulled back into the boat. The brothers, who have been reunited with their family and friends in Cairns, in eastern Australia, said they were looking forward to pizza, beer - and a decent night's sleep. Jamie said the crossing had been physically and mentally "relentless", but added: "Together we form a pretty good team, and together we've overcome this massive challenge." The Macleans did much of their training in the sea near a croft they have in Assynt in the north west Highlands. Their carbon fibre boat is called Rose Emily, in memory of their sister who died in 1996, six-and-a-half months into the pregnancy following complications. The brothers, who have so far raised more than £700,000 of a £1m target for clean water projects in Madagascar, had hoped to complete their journey in an even quicker time. They entered the harbor at Cairns, Australia playing the bagpipes and holding signal flairs



THOUSANDS TAKE PART IN SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE MARCH

from BBC



Thousands of people have taken part in a march through Edinburgh in support of Scottish independence.

The procession, organised by All Under One Banner (AUOB), set off from Johnstone Terrace at about 12:30.

It ended with a rally outside the Scottish Parliament.

It comes days after First Minister John Swinney urged the UK government to agree to a referendum on Scottish independence if the SNP wins a majority at next year's Holyrood election.

During the week, the first minister made his call for the UK government to agree to a referendum if his party won a majority at next year's Holyrood election.

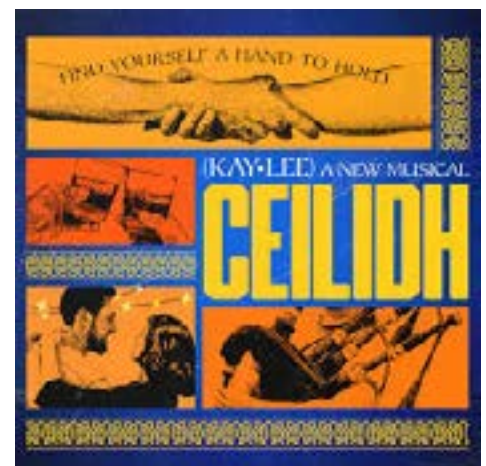
However, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer predicted the SNP would not win a majority and accused him of "distraction politics".

CEILIDH- THE MUSICAL

M&T Bank Exchange Sept. 6 - Oct. 12, 2025 - in Baltimore

All are welcome to join the celebration at Ceilidh, the exhilarating theatrical experience that is like nothing you've ever seen before! As the story of Ceilidh unfolds around you, you'll be swept into a whirlwind of lively Scottish dances, where every step tells a tale and honors a tradition passed down through generations of "callers." At its heart, Ceilidh is a musical about family, legacy, the enduring power of stories and having a good time! It will leave you with a lasting feeling of joy long after the last dance ends.

For tickets and information go to <https://ceilidhmusical.com/>



WEE NEWS BITS FROM SCOT- LAND

compiled by
Dr. Andrea Bowden

ALL BACK TO BALMORAL

from the Scottish Times

Every August the Royal Family gathers at Balmoral, their 50,000 acre estate in Aberdeenshire in the Scottish Highlands. One of the first activities is inspecting the Balaklava guard including meeting the pony Cpl. Cruachan IV that was so naughty during the procession when the body of Queen Elizabeth left Balmoral in 2022.



While there King Charles and Camilla continue limited royal duties such as visiting charities. They attended the celebration of the 8th anniversary of the victory over Japan and the end of World War II. At the event, veteran Captain Yarar Abbas, 105, paid tribute to the King and Queen, bringing both to tears. Often, they receive important visitors who are expected to participate in outdoor pursuits. The whole family unwinds by hiking, fishing, hunting, picnicking and playing games together. The castle is well stocked with wellies, walking sticks, fishing rods and waterproofs, its heavy wooden front door invariably propped open with a curling stone and attended by a footman in a scarlet uniform. Dogs and children run wild. The interiors are a carpeted riot of flock wallpaper, tartan curtains, ornaments, stags' heads and oil paintings from the time of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert when it was built. When the Royals are not in residence, Balmoral is open to the public for tours.

THE SCOTTISH ISLAND IN CANADA WHERE MOST RESIDENTS ARE SCOTS AND MANY SPEAK GAELIC

- from The Daily Record

All over the world, there are people who have roots in Scotland. There are even some settlements in far-off countries that celebrate their Scottish heritage thanks to our huge diaspora. Prince Edward Island is among eastern Canada's maritime provinces. It is located off New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (New Scotland), within the Gulf of St Lawrence. According to the Prince Edward Island website, the history of the island is "like a rope made of intertwined strands"—with many different cultures represented.



One of these is Scotland, with the island having a strong and enduring Scottish heritage. Prince Edward Island is among Canada's oldest settled areas, with its population reflecting the origins of its early settlers. Hundreds of years ago, there was a large influx of Scots to the island. That resulted in the isle having the biggest proportion of Scottish immigrants in Canada—while today people of Scottish descent make up its largest ethnic group. As a result, Prince Edward Island became known for its thriving Scottish culture. Most of its Scottish population originated from the Highlands, with the settlers finding the island's terrain well suited to their Highland agricultural techniques. Prince Edward Island is even home to a number of Gaelic speakers. According to a tourism expert on the Prince Edward Island website, it has even been taught in some local schools. Visitor to Prince Edward Island feel that they have been transported to a different time and place. Canada's smallest province, a Maritime province on the east coast known for its red sandstone cliffs, pastoral landscapes, and famous seafood, especially lobster and mussels. Also called the "Garden of the Gulf" the island's capital is Charlottetown. Visitors enjoy its beaches, lighthouses, Scottish museums and attractions like those related to the famous novel Anne of Green Gables.

Fall Apple Desserts in Scotland



The United States is blessed with areas throughout the country where apples of all varieties thrive. No so in Scotland. Frosts into early summer damage the blossoms on apple trees and the fruit does not develop. Agricultural research in Scotland has revealed the areas that have the best micro-climates for growing apples and varieties of apples have been tested for hardiness. There is now a robust apple industry in Scotland in the Scottish Borders, Lothians, and Northumberland, which are particularly suitable for planting apple trees.

Because oats are a traditional crop, desserts using apples and oats called CRISPS are popular. Below is a recipe from my mother, Esther McMahon Bowden, who was of Irish descent, who got it from my paternal Great Aunt Minne Bell, who had Scottish ancestry.

Crisp- fruit dessert with a topping made of oats, flour, butter, sugar and sometimes nuts

Crumble- fruit dessert with a topping made of flour, butter, sugar and sometimes nuts- no oats

Cobbler- fruit dessert baked with a biscuit-style topping that is dropped onto the fruit

Betty- similar to a crisp, but with no oats and the flour, sugar and butter throughout

Buckle- fruit and cake baked together with a streusel topping, which makes the cake “buckle”

APPLE CRISP (Mother, Esther Bowden)

3 cups apples (peeled and sliced) Honeycrisp, Braeburn, McIntosh and Golden Delicious.

2 cups flour

2 cups brown sugar

1 cup old fashioned oats

½ cup crushed walnuts (optional)

¼ t cinnamon

1/8 t nutmeg

1 cup melted butter

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Grease 8 x 8 inch baking pan or dish

Whisk flour and brown sugar

Add oats and spices

Spread apples in pan or dish

Sprinkle topping over apples

Drizzle with melted butter

Bake 40 minutes at 350 degrees

Can serve hot or cold with ice cream or whipped cream or topping

