

HSHC SPORRAN

www.HighlandSocietyofHarfordCounty.com

October 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 October 20 Gathering

The Battery Island Brewery

101A Washington Street, Harve de Grace

Program:

- 6:30 - Social gathering
- 7:00 - Toasts, dinner, dessert
- 7:45 - Any business items
- 8:00-9:30 - Havre de Haunts Tour

Meal: Catered, Mission BBB

Cost: \$30/person – Meeting and meal
plus \$16 Havre de Haunts Tour.

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

HSHC WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS IN SEPTEMBER



As the sun set over the Mt. Felix Farm, John Polk, Laird, inducted three new members into the Highland Society of Harford County. Pictured are John Polk, Clan Pollock; John Belkoff, Clan McLane; Lisa Stewart, Clan Stewart; and Bracken Polk Stanard, Clan Pollack, John Polk's sister. (See their profiles on page 6.)



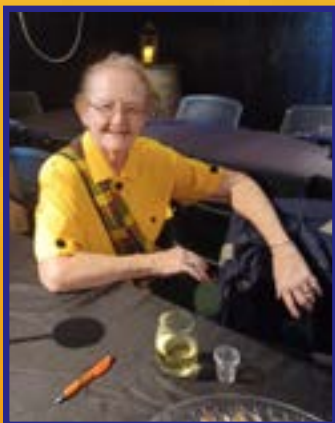
- Tours are 1.5 hours in length
- Tours go out rain or shine
- No refunds or Exchanges
- Cameras are encouraged!
- This is a walking tour, about a mile in length
- Tours are outside
- Tips are highly encouraged

<https://www.havredehaunts.com/>

Anyone wishing to contribute an article, news, a joke or humorous anecdote or other contributions, news, suggestions for articles send them to:

sallyjoanderson@hotmail.com or abowden@bcps.k12.md.us

Our September 2025 Gathering at Mt. Felix Vineyard & Winery



Laird's Letter



Greetings Fellow Highlanders –

Fall has come and the days are growing short. It is the time of Samhain, the traditional Celtic festival of the fall harvest and the onset of winter. In the Celtic world this is a time for celebrations, rituals and costumes, blending the physical and spiritual realms. Samhain is the origin of our own Halloween celebration of spooks and spirits, and in this vein we have organized a special tour of Havre de Grace haunts at our October meeting.

New Members. We were very happy to induct three new members into our esteemed society at the September meeting: Lisa Stewart, Steve Belkoff and Bracken Polk (your Laird's sister). Please see article in this Sporran with their profiles

Officers for 2026. We are blessed with good officers in our Society and have enjoyed the fruits of their service and skills over the past two years. It is a great team and inspiring to work with. As we approach the end of 2025, the time has come to decide who will lead us in the year ahead. A leadership committee will consider and recommend next year's officers for membership approval at the November meeting. Every organization benefits from bringing new voices into its management regularly and we are no different, so please consider if you would like to step up and offer your services in any capacity. Contact me between now and our October meeting if you wish to do so.

October Meeting. Battery Island Brewery, Havre de Grace, 20 October, Monday not Tuesday. We have arranged for a guided tour of the haunted sites of Havre de Grace, following our meal catered by Mission BBQ. The tour will be conducted by Havre de Haunts which has done much research on the spooky spots of Havre de Grace and will share their secrets with us. Please RSVP me, Yea or Nay, if you have not already done so.

November Meeting. Vandiver Inn in Havre de Grace, 18 November. They are preparing a special Celtic harvest meal for us, to enjoy in their private banquet room. I am greatly looking forward to this.

Ceilidh. This fabulous show is having its US premier in Baltimore. It is under way and continues through 12 October. We are not organizing a HSHC group attendance but do consider going. It has 5-star ratings from everyone.

Thanks. Thank you once again, Andrea and SJ, for the splendid job you do in writing and publishing the Sporran. Great issue. More contributors are needed. Please help.

Alba gu bràth –
John Polk, Laird

MINUTES OF OUR LAST GATHERING

Dr. Andrea Bowden



for the September 16, 2025 gathering

HSHC convened at Mt. Felix Winery in Harve de Grace. Laird, John Polk, Clan Pollock, called the Gathering to order at 6:30 pm. The Pledge to the Flag was led by Keith Reagan, Clan Keith. David Ray, Clan McRay gave the toast to King Charles, everyone toasted the office of the President of the United States. Jim Wasson, Clan Buchanan gave the traditional toast to Scotland. SJ Anderson, Clan Anderson offered a blessing,

Dinner was catered by Olive Tree of Aberdeen. Members were served a delicious Italian dinner. There was a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside from an area where the food buffet was set. Throughout dinner people worked on a challenging Get to Know You game with clues about members constructed by Andrea Bowden. (See the next page for the answers.)

After dinner, Bracken Polk Stanard, Clan Pollack; Stephen Belkoff, Clan McLane; and Lisa Stewart, Clan Stewart were inducted into the Highland Society of Harford County by John Polk, Laird.

John reported that the Scholarship Committee chaired by Andrea Bowden did a thorough investigation and Regina Ray, committee member, proposed that Whereas: the monies (\$1400) designated for scholarship have not been awarded since 2011 and the initial intent of funds is no longer relevant to the HSHC, the Scholarship Committee recommends that the monies be absorbed into the General Fund of the Highland Society of Harford County. Requests to donate to worthy charities should be considered on an individual basis. This was accepted by the Board of Directors.

John reminded attendees of First Friday in Havre de Grace on Washington Street 4:00-8:00 PM on October 3, 2025. The next Gathering will be at a new venue, The Battery Island Brewery 101A Washington Street, Harve de Grace on Monday, October 20, 2025. After a catered dinner, members will be able to take a Ghost Tour of Harve de Grace. Jeanie Nesbit won the 50/50 drawing of \$33. Thanks to Alicia Velez for running the 50/50 this month.

Jeanie Nesbit assisted Andrea in leading the group in answering the Get to Know You questions. There were 35 clues. The highest number answered correctly was 30. Members had fun proposing the solutions to the clues. Answers will be published in the October 2025 SPORRAN.

The Gathering ended at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Bowden. Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Dr. John Polk

Period: 1 September – 30 September 2025

OLD BALANCE	\$4239.90
Expenses:	
Bank fee	\$3.00
Hardware, booth canopy	\$24.43
Olive Tree, catered meal	\$364.50
Mount Felix, wine & venue fee	\$713.36
Reservation fee, Bulle Rock, December	\$150.00
Income:	
Meeting proceeds	\$770.00
Raffle proceeds	\$33.00
NEW BALANCE	\$3787.81

HALLOWEEN IN IRELAND

from Ireland.com Magazine complied by Dr. Andrea Bowden

Halloween traditions in Ireland and Scotland are similar due to the shared Celtic history.



The island of Ireland embraces Halloween like nowhere else – it is the [Home of Halloween](#), don't forget. It all goes back over 2,000 years ago to the ancient Celtic harvest festival of Samhain, which heralded the coming of winter, a time when light turned to darkness and the veil between this world and the next was thinnest!

Today, Ireland celebrates Halloween with festivals, parades and events that fuse ancient traditions with music, color and creativity. Experience the magic for yourself at any of these eight Halloween hubs across the island, each one brimming with the irrepressible spirit of the spooky season.

1. "Derry~ Londonderry in Northern Ireland

The scares don't get any bigger than at **Derry Halloween** – Europe's largest Halloween festival. **Derry~Londonderry's** historic 400-year-old city walls – the most complete of their kind on the island of Ireland – are a fitting backdrop against which performers, dancers, festival-goers and creatures of the night enjoy a frightfully good time. Get spooked on the **Awakening the Walled City Trail**,



party hard with good food and live music at the Heart of Samhain in Guildhall Square, then round things off with a spectacular **Carnival Parade and Fireworks Finale** above the River Foyle on Halloween night.

2. Meath in the Midlands and Louth on the Northeast Coast



The history-laden Boyne Valley wears its Halloween colors well, as counties Meath and Louth join forces for not one, but four major Samhain festivals. Chief among them is the Púca Festival, one of Ireland's flagship Halloween events. Expect four days of music, comedy, fire displays and harvest banquets, all with a sinister but mischievous edge. Spirits of Meath features over 100 events across October, from the thrilling After Dark at Emerald Park to daytime fun on local farms and manors. Lú Festival of Light in Drogheda will see stories from Irish myth and legend projected onto striking local landmarks. And the Samhain Festival of Food & Culture celebrates the rich culinary and cultural heritage of the region with immersive tasting events, workshops, food markets and farm tours. All in all, there are tricks and treats aplenty in the valley this spooky season.

3. Dublin on the River Liffey in the East



The Fingal Festival of Fire & Light, held from late September to the end of October just north of Dublin city, is a Halloween celebration rooted in local culture. Think a [Festival of Fire](#) at the atmospheric Malahide Castle, an interactive light display (Lanterns) at the grand Georgian mansion of [Newbridge House](#), and a Samhain-inspired [Dining Club](#) feast at Whitestown House Estate. All of this and more, right on [Dublin city](#)'s doorstep! Fingal and frights are a hellish match at this time of year.

4. Galway City in the West



Spanning the month of October and early November, Gaillimh Ah-Boo will transform the colorful streets of Galway city into a devilish den of myth, mischief and magic. The festival name is a play on the Irish phrase “Gaillimh Abú!” which means “Up Galway!” and it’s this sense of pride and passion that locals are bringing to all things Halloween in the coastal city. Highlights range from the Macnas Parade by the internationally acclaimed theatre company and eight Samhain Supper Clubs in local restaurants, each one inspired by a figure from Irish folklore such as the Púca and the Banshee. Add to that, Dark History tours and many more after-dark happenings, and you won’t want to miss it.

5. Kerry in the Southwest

The timelessly beautiful and brooding terrain of [County Kerry](#) in the autumn sets the tone for Samhain Chiarraí: A Kerry Halloween. The name pays homage to the “Cailleach Chiarraí”, a mythical old hag from Irish folklore associated with winter, storms and the landscape. Traditional tourist favorites such as [Dingle](#), Kenmare and [Killarney](#) will play a leading role, but don’t miss the [Listowel Food Fair](#) or the Sneem International [Storytelling & Folklore Festival](#). The former is one of Ireland’s premier foodie

happenings, while the latter promises an eclectic mix of live performances. Is this the year you witness the homecoming of the “Cailleach Chiarraí” herself during the Samhain Parade?

6. Kilkenny in the Southeast



Deep in Ireland’s Ancient East, the medieval city of [Kilkenny](#) is preparing to showcase the best of Ireland in autumn and Halloween. With cobbled alleyways, stone archways and a Medieval Mile dotted with historic landmarks, walking these wonderful streets in autumn can feel like stepping into a gothic movie. Top of the bill here is [Savour Kilkenny](#), a harvest food festival set against the dramatic backdrop of [Kilkenny Castle](#). The 100-stall market is a feast for the senses, with everything from cookery demonstrations, artisan street food and top local tipples. At [Kilkenny Toil & Trouble](#), uncover the bewitching (pun intended) story of the Kilkenny Witch Trials from 1324 and the chilling tale of Petronella de Meath, the first woman burned alive for witchcraft in Ireland.

7. Limerick on River Shannon in the Midwest



“Where Darkness Dances with Delight” is the tagline for County Limerick’s Halloween extravaganza. This county-wide celebration will see key towns and villages transformed into “Haunted Hamlets” bedecked with spooky trails and more. In Limerick city, the 800-year-old King John’s Castle will come alive with a haunted castle experience and historical horror tours. Look out for the banshee said to roam the castle grounds. Meanwhile, the Fire & Shadows Parade will make good on that festival tagline, with large-scale illuminated supernatural beings mingling with dancers and performers through city streets lined with Halloween revellers. It’s time to embrace the darkness...

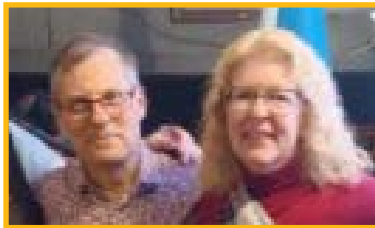
8. Longford and Westmeath in the Midlands



A spine-chilling time awaits off the beaten track in counties Longford and Westmeath at Samhain: Fire, Folklore & Feasting. From a Halloween parade and harvest food festival in Longford town, to spook-tacular events at the lush [Belvedere House, Gardens & Park](#), there's something for everyone in this folklore-rich region of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. The festival culminates with [Samhain on Uisneach](#), the ancient spiritual and mythological centre of Ireland. Druids, traditional Irish seanchaí (storytellers) and musicians will gather fireside at this sacred place for a hair-raising night to remember.

Meet New Members Lisa Stewart & Steve Belkoff

Both Lisa and John are originally from Michigan and have been in Maryland for about 25 years. We live in Northeast Baltimore



County on a small family farm and have sheep, chickens, a few cows, three dogs and a cat. We have a daughter in Oregon and a son currently moving to Colorado. He was recently married on the farm.

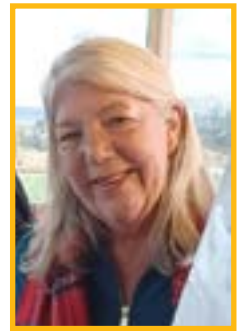
Steve is a retired engineering professor from Johns Hopkins University. He keeps busy working around the farm, volunteering for the Kingsville Fire Company, and restoring a 1947 Chevy truck.

Lisa is a self-employed small-animal veterinarian still working, but semi-retired. She has competed in numerous canine performance sports with her dogs and enjoys gardening, reading and adventurous vacations.

We are both social ballroom dancers, love traveling, and are looking forward to visiting our kids out west soon. We are happy to be new members of the HSHC and hope to host a CEILIDH on our farm in the future!

Meet New Member Bracken Stanard

Hi, I'm Bracken (a true Scottish name meaning "wild fern" - it was my great grandmother's maiden name) and I moved to Harve de Grace about 2 years ago from Richmond VA. My brother John (Laird of HSHC), sister Betsy and brother-in-law, Jim Wasson, did a family recruiting effort on me and so I am now a member of the Highland Society. I should add that my father was a member as well. I claim Clan Pollack from the Polk family.



I studied English and Literature, being interested in the themes of "the human condition" and had a career in human resources for a variety of companies - start-up tech company, publishing and international manufacturing. Having lived in Europe (Ireland and Austria) for 6 years during my growing up years and coming from a large family, I've always had an interest in people, where they're from, what they do. I have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 6 siblings and feel lucky to be part of such a large and fabulous family. I live in the historic part of Harve de Grace - 3 blocks from the water - and enjoy walking on the promenade and through town with my yellow lab, Bella.

My interests are mainly in the Arts of all kinds - music, theatre, art galleries, book club. I volunteer at Graw Alley Art Park in Harve de Grace and currently work/act part-time in the Simulated Patient Program at Johns Hopkins Medical School and University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore, which is fun and interesting. I am delighted to add to my interests and activities my new membership in HSHC and look forward to getting to know everyone and volunteering when needed.



ANSWERS TO HSHC GET TO KNOW YOU

from September 16, 2025, gathering

where we were asked to identify a person who matched each category.

If you belong in a category but aren't listed, please let us know - we want to get to know you better!

Belongs to a clan with Mc or Mac <i>Mary Jean Fischer, Andrea Bowden, Melissa & Sean Halligan, David & Regina Ray, Joanna Reagan, Ski & Angie Schiaffino, Sam May, Lee Ann & Seve Anderson</i>	Belongs to a clan without Mc or Mac <i>John Polk, Susan Wheeler, Susan & Ray Buchanan, SJ Anderson, Melissa Moreno, Brian & Jeanie Nesbit, Charles & Marjorie Nesbit, Pam Pippin, Jim & Betsy Wasson, Nancy Plummer, Glenn Schmiesing, Alicia Velez, Bill Fuentes, Tom Ritter, Keith Reagan, Melissa May, Kallie & Mark Lyons, George Kingery, Bill Fuentes, Carol Powers</i>	Has a tartan with RED in it <i>John Polk, Lee Ann & Steve Anderson, Brian & Jeanie Nesbit, Charles & Marjorie Nesbit, Pam Pippin, Glenn Schmiesing, Carol Powers</i>	Has visited Scotland <i>John Polk, Betsy & Jim Wasson, Brian & Jeanie Nesbit, Susan & Ray Buchanan, Andrea Bowden, Susan Wheeler, Nancy Plummer, Glenn Schmiesing, Lee Ann & Steve Anderson, Keith Reagan</i>
Has been a member of HSHC for over 5 years <i>John Polk, Susan & Ray Buchanan, David Ray, Andea Bowden, Tom Ritter, Nancy Plummer, Glenn Schmiesing, Keith Reagan, Jim Wasson, Ski & Angie Schiaffino, SJ Anderson</i>	Career in education <i>David Ray, Regina Ray, Ski & Angie Schiaffino, Susan Wheeler, Andrea Bowden, Steve Belkoff</i>	Has visited Ireland multiple times <i>Ray & Susan Buchanan., Andrea Bowden, John Polk, Betsy Wasson, Bracken Polk, Keith Reagan</i>	Was educated in another country <i>John Polk, Betsy Wasson, Bracken Polk, Keith Reagan, Bill Fuentes, Melissa May</i>
Lives in another state <i>Susan & Ray Buchanan, Nancy Plummer, Glenn Schmiesing</i>	Lives in Baltimore <i>Susan Wheeler, Andrea Bowden</i>	Tech expert <i>David Ray</i>	Served in the Navy or Coast Guard <i>Sam May, Melissa May</i>
Served in the Army or Air Force <i>Jim Wasson, Keith & Joanna Reagan, John Polk, Mark & Kallie Lyons</i>	Career in restaurant business <i>Jeanie Nesbit</i>	Served in Healthcare <i>Keith Reagan, Joanna Reagan, Betsy Polk, Susan Buchanan</i>	Can make scones <i>Betsy Wasson, Andrea Bowden, Nancy Plummer, Susan Buchanan, Betsy Wasson</i>
Is a Scotch whisky expert <i>John Polk, Steve Anderson</i>	Plays a musical instrument <i>Tom Ritter, Keith Reagan</i>	Makes period clothing <i>David Ray</i>	Active in Jerusalem Mills Historical Site <i>Lee Ann & Steve Anderson</i>

Has more than one kilt <i>David Ray, John Polk, Andrea Bowden, Jim Wasson, Keith Reagan</i>	Has a dirk (small knife that is held in hose) <i>David Ray, John Polk, Ray Buchanan, Jim Wasson, Keith Reagan</i>	Has a brooch (large pin that holds sash) <i>Betsy Wasson, SJ Anderson, Susan Wheeler, Andrea Bowden, Susan Buchanan</i>	Has a tartan sash (long scarf-like cloth worn over the right shoulder) <i>Betsy Wasson, SJ Anderson, Susan Wheeler, Andrea Bowden, Susan Buchanan</i>
Is new to HSHC <i>Bracken Polk Stadard, Steve Belkoff, Lisa Stewart</i>	Won the raffle the night he/she was inducted <i>Pam Pippin, SJ Anderson</i>	Has attended a Celtic festival <i>John Polk, David Ray, Keith Reagan, Susan Wheeler, Andrea Bowden, Pam Pippin, SJ Anderson</i>	Has served or is an officer other than laird in HSHC <i>Susan Wheeler, David Ray, Andrea Bowden, SJ Anderson</i>
Can sing Auld Lang Syne <i>Almost EVERYBODY</i>	Can name a Robert Burns Poem <i>Jim & Betsy Wasson, SJ Anderson, Andrea Bowden, Tom Ritter, Melissa May, John Polk</i>	Has arranged a HSHC event <i>John Polk, David Ray, Keith Reagan, Lee Ann and Steve Anderson, Andrea Bowden, Kallie Lyons, SJ Anderson</i>	Fan of the Outlander TV series <i>Almost EVERYBODY</i>
Has a tartan with GOLD or ORANGE in it <i>Susan & Ray Buchanan, Andrea Bowden, Jim Wasson, SJ Anderson</i>	Knows what is in haggis <i>Many people, but they won't tell!</i>	Is related to someone in HSHC <i>John Polk, Bracken Polk, Betsy Polk Wasson</i>	Speaks more than one language <i>Bill Fuentes</i>
Was born in Scotland <i>Melissa May</i>	Male who served as Laird <i>John Polk, Keith Reagan, Ray Buchanan, Jim Wasson</i>	First female Laird of HSHC <i>SJ Anderson</i>	Was born in a state west of the Mississippi <i>Joanna Reagan, Betsy Wasson, Bracken Polk, Ardis Rice</i>

**Must
Have
Been
a Scot**



Goings On in Scotland

compiled by Andrea Bowden

CASTLE FOR SALE from The Robb Report



Ever wanted to be a baron or a baroness? Now's your chance. Along with a castle on 160 acres—and your own miniature railway—the historic, Grade II-listed Ayton Castle is now on the market for £3.25 million (or roughly \$4.4 million) with Knight Frank, and with it comes with the rare opportunity to acquire the Barony of Ayton, a historic title dating back to 1324. Set in the rolling landscapes of the Scottish Borders, Ayton Castle was built in 1845 by James Gillespie Graham, Scotland's leading Gothic revival architect, for William Mitchell-Innes, then the chief cashier and later director of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Graham's dramatic red sandstone design, a standout landmark in the region, is downright baronial, of course, with two main stories anchored by a five-story Great Tower,

rope-molded turrets, crenelated parapets, and crow-step gables.

NUNS IN SCOTLAND OFFER A PATH TO FAITH AND TASTE OF CONVENT LIFE from NEWSBREAK

THE HIGHLANDS, Scotland -It is exciting to be here in these times, says Sister Mary Gianna, a 41-year-old nun from the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, based in Nashville, Tennessee in the US, who teaches children and adults in Scotland about the Catholic faith. She and the three other nuns who live at Greyfriars Convent in Elgin, northeast Scotland, run retreats for Catholic youth ministers and women aged 18-30, seeking to know more about God and life as a nun. They also offer classes with creative play and music for children, in a country where Sister Gianna feels secularization has become prevalent.

Globally, the number of Roman Catholic nuns has fallen to just under 600,000 from over a million in 1970, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, a U.S.-based research firm. In Scotland, the number of religious sisters has also declined to about 300 in 2021 from over 1,200 in 1980, according to the Catholic Directory and Catholic Record Society.

Sister Gianna says she sees potential for the Church to grow again, as people seek deeper meaning in life.

Julia Sledz, 14, attends the nun's youth group and is an altar server at Mass. She described the group as a place where she can understand more of her relationship with Jesus and talk about God without being judged, as well as enjoy a very different atmosphere from school.

Sister Miriam Ruth, 34, also hails from an order founded in the United States, the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, and has come to Edinburgh to spend several years in the Scottish capital. She lives with two other nuns and teaches Catholicism to adults online and records videos. Technology really expands the number of people that I can work with and speak with," she said. The Church is keen to spread its message digitally and embrace social media to speak to young people. This month Pope Leo made Carlo Acutis, a British-born Italian boy who died aged 15 and built websites to spread his faith, the first saint of the millennial generation.



SKARA BRAE, SCOTLAND – A 5,000-YEAR-OLD VILLAGE PRESERVED IN SAND from NEWSBREAK



On a wind-lashed shore of Orkney, a Neolithic village has been holding its breath for five thousand winters. Skara Brae looks small at first glance – just ten homes stitched together by stone passages, with eight well-preserved and clearly visible – but its story is vast, stretching from storm-torn discovery to cutting-edge science. Archaeologists see it as a rare time capsule where furniture, hearths, and everyday tools still sit almost where their makers left them. The village reappeared in 1850 when a fierce winter gale scoured the Bay of Skail and peeled back deep sand dunes. Imagine walking the beach the next morning and finding a stone house emerging from the ground, walls intact, hearth still centered.

Radiocarbon dating anchors Skara Brae in the late Neolithic, roughly between the thirty-second and twenty-fifth centuries BCE, with phases of occupation and adaptation. Today, archaeologists add layers of insight using micromor-

phology to read sediment thin-sections like diaries, and isotopic analyses to infer diet shifts across seasons and years. High-resolution photogrammetry and laser scanning now capture the village in digital relief down to hairline cracks, creating a time-stamped baseline against which future changes can be measured. Ground-penetrating radar helps trace buried structures and paths without lifting a single trowel of soil.

FALL PICTURES OF SCOTLAND from BBC



Red Stags in Upper Findhorn Valley



White Tailed Eagle in North Ulst



Fly Agaric by Loch Lowe



Dolphins off Wemyss



Bay Swan at Strathclyde Loch

THE TRUMPS VISIT KING AND QUEEN from BBC

President Donald Trump and his wife Melania were guests of King Charles II and Queen Camilla for the second time at Windsor Castle September 18 and 19 2025.



JANE GOODALL DIES at 91

from PEOPLE Magazine

Jane Goodall, the renowned conservationist and animal welfare advocate who was seen as the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees after spending decades studying them in the wild in Tanzania's Gombe Stream National Park, has died at 91. According to a statement on Wednesday, Oct. 1, from her institute, she died in Los Angeles of natural causes while on a speaking tour. Born in London in 1934 to a engineer father and a novelist mother, she spent most of her life in Africa.

"Dr. Goodall's discoveries as an ethologist revolutionized science, and she was a tireless advocate for the protection and restoration of our natural world," her institute said. The institute added that her "life and work not only made an indelible mark on our understanding of chimpanzees and other species, but also of humankind and the environments we all share. She inspired curiosity, hope and compassion in countless people around the world, and paved the way for many others."



It was Goodall's trailblazing research on the personalities and social interactions of the chimpanzees she so closely studied that changed how the public viewed its connection to the animal kingdom. Along the way, thanks in part to her tireless public events, she achieved a rare kind of celebrity for her profession. She led the fight with Dr. Francis Collins, then head of NIH, to end medical experimentation on chimpanzees in 2013. She was outspoken on many issues including climate change.

Among her many awards from across the globe, she was received the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, from President Joseph Biden in January of 2025.

WHITE TAILED EAGLE

contributed by Dr. Andrea Bowden

The adult white-tailed eagle is a greyish mid-brown color overall. The plumage is fairly uniform over most of the body and wings, but the upper wing coverts are typically somewhat paler. In the adult, the head, neck and upper breast have a distinctly paler appearance than the rest of the plumage and most often have a buff coloration. The distinctive white tail emerges as the juvenile matures.



The white-tailed eagle is one of the largest living birds of prey. It is the largest of the dozen species of eagle found in Europe. The white-tailed eagle measures anywhere from 26 to 37 in in total length with a typical wingspan of (5 ft 10 in to 8 ft 0 in). This species may have the largest wingspan of any living eagle.

White-tailed eagles may be found in varied habitat but usually are closely associated with water and generally occurs in lowland areas. In coastal areas, the species may range from high sea cliffs down to low-lying islands and archipelagos. Especially in winter, many white-tailed eagles often frequent low coastal spots, estuaries and coastal marshes. In Scotland it is found near the sea and throughout the highlands. It avoids urban areas and human settlements.



The diet of the white tailed eagle is mostly fish during warmer months and small mammals and birds during colder months. It regularly feeds on carrion. Once seized in its powerful talons, It can carry prey heavier than itself to an area where prey is consumed. The eagles eat 2-4 pounds of fish or meat daily. Parents feed their chicks, so they must capture more prey when they have nestlings. Populations have rebounded in Scotland after the banning of pesticides like DDT that caused weaken shells and the death of chicks. The majestic bird is now protected from hunting, However, it must be respected for its ability to capture prey! Left - sign from the highlands.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS TO WATCH AND ATTEND

by Dr. Andrea Bowden

At the movies:

Downton Abbey-the Final Chapter- Reunite with the familiar cast as they move into the modern era and Lady Mary assumes leadership for Downton Abbey.

On television:

Blood of My Blood - follow the prequel on Netflix of the story of Jamie and Claire's parents. If you liked Outlander, this is for you. Anew episode airs every Friday. It checks all boxes: familiar characters (but played by different actors), time travel by Claire's parents, convoluted plots, intrigue with Ellen McKenzie and Brian Fraser, sexy scenes, Scottish traditions and more....

KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

The Kirkin' takes place during a church service. It was started by a Presbyterian minister in Washington, DC. to raise funds for food distribution in Scotland during WWII.

Today it is a display of Scottish pride with the minister blessing the tartans and the people who wear them and attendees wear their tartans, carry clan banners and generally celebrate their Celtic heritage.

If you haven't attended, it is worth your time. Here are some opportunities to wear your tartan and show your Scottish pride:

October 12, 2025 -- 10:00 AM

Trinity Episcopal Church
12400 Mano Road
Clen Arm, MD

October 26, 2025 -- 10:15 AM

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1 St. Mary's Church Road
Abingdon, MD

November 2, 2025 -- 10:30 AM

Perry Hall Presbyterian Church
8848 Belair Road
Perry Hall, MD

November 23, 2025 -- 11:00 AM

Cathedral of Mary Our Queen
5200 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD



**HSHC
Kirkin'
2023**



Recipies for Fall



RYE BOULEVARDIER -an Orange/Red Cocktail for the Fall Season

2 ounces of rye whiskey
1 ounce of sweet vermouth
1 ounce Campari liqueur
1 ounce agave nectar
Combine all ingredients in a shaker over ice.
Shake well and serve with an orange peel.



ESPRESSO OLD FASHIONED

1 shot Espresso
1.5 ounce Old Fashioned bourbon
1 ounce Tia Maria cold brew coffee liqueur
2 dashes Aztec chocolate bitters
1 orange wedge
1 cherry

In a low ball glass muddle the orange wedge, cherry and 2 dashes Aztec chocolate bitters, coffee liqueur. Add ice cubes. In a shaker add 1 shot Espresso, 1.5 ounce Old Fashioned bourbon and ice. Shake until frothy. Pour over muddled ingredients in low ball class. Garnish with coffee beans if you like.

PUMPKIN ROLL (Esther Bowden, mother of Andrea)

3 eggs (beaten)
1 cup sugar
2/3 cup pumpkin
1 t lemon juice
3/4 cup flour
1 t baking powder
1 t ginger
1/2 t nutmeg
1/2 t salt
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts
1/2 cup powdered sugar

Filling

1 cup powdered sugar
2 packages cream cheese (room temperature)
4 Tbs butter 1/2 t vanilla

Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
Mix eggs and sugar.



Add spices and baking powder.
Add flour a little at a time.
Mix well.
Grease and flour sheet pan.
Pour on batter and top with chopped walnuts.

Bake 15 minutes at 375 degrees.
When cool, turn out on a towel sprinkled with powdered sugar.

Filling Directions

Well mix sugar, vanilla, butter and cream cheese.
Spread on cake- all the way to edges.

Carefully roll cake into a log- filling will make it stick together.

Chill seam side down before cutting into rounds to serve.