



DICKENS DAILY

NEWS FROM YE OLDE LONDON

DECEMBER
5-6 2025



A VISIT FROM CHARLES DICKENS

Charles Dickens will make many appearances throughout the weekend. He is portrayed with charm and authenticity by famed actor and storyteller Jimi Kinstle.

Chestertown's Annual Dickens of a Christmas weekend brings non-stop fun, shopping, dining, and discovery inspired by Victorian London.

The merriment begins on Friday, December 5 as Beers & Bonfires usher in the season with crackling firepits, joyful carolers, lively student bands, and festive visits from Queen Victoria, Charles Dickens, and Father Christmas himself. The evening crescendos with a stirring performance by the world-renowned Celtic ensemble, The Devils Brigade (formerly The American Rogues).

On Saturday morn, the festivities continue at a brisk Victorian pace with our annual Run Like the Dickens 5K run and walk. Throughout the day, enjoy charming carriage rides, a delightful petting zoo, hearty British-inspired fare, splendid holiday wares, and hands-on activities sure to enchant visitors of all ages.



HISTORICAL ROYAL VISIT

Her Majesty, Queen Victoria will grace the colonies for a special visit to Chestertown. She will greet her loyal subjects at the opening ceremony on Friday evening. Her Highness has not been seen in public since 1901.

More Holiday Happenings

Historic Chestertown Ghost Tours
Kent Historical Society
Beginning December 1

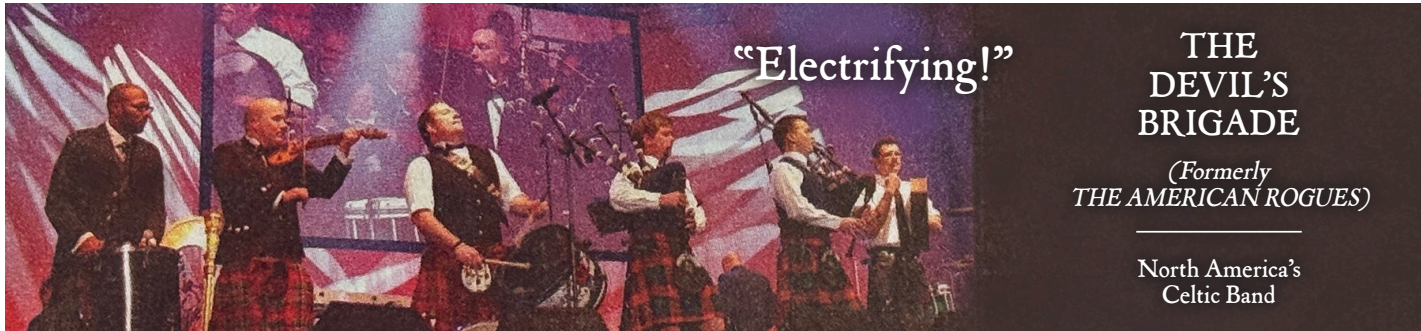
Garfield Center for the Arts
Cinderella ~ Now through December 21

River Arts Holiday Show & Sale
Now through December 22

Church Hill Theater
A Christmas Carol ~ December 19-21

Chestertown Farmers & Artisans Market
Saturdays 8:00am-12:00pm
High Street, Chestertown

Visit Santa's House
Saturdays through December 20
10am - 12:00pm



Back for another year as the official band of Dickens of a Christmas, this Canadian/American group brings a high-energy, high-caliber sound that has electrified audiences on three continents. Playing Celtic and world music THE DEVIL'S BRIGADE has established themselves as international artists renowned for their musical skill and warm audience engagement. The band's epic, multi-instrumental sound crosses musical borders to include jigs, reels, hornpipes, ballads, originals, covers, sound tracks, patriotic and military music, and Irish foot-stompers.

SPONSORS



ANDY & KIRK ALDERDICE

MAUREEN MALLEY



YOUR HOST FOR A DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS

A Dickens of a Christmas is a production of Main Street Chestertown, whose mission is to foster an inviting, diverse and prosperous downtown.

Main Street's vision for Chestertown is a welcoming and vibrant riverfront community where people of all ages and backgrounds are drawn to live, work, shop, and enjoy recreational and cultural activities in a beautiful setting.

FONDLY REMEMBERED



This year's Dickens celebration is dedicated to the cherished memory of Kathleen King, one of the festival's founding visionaries and the gifted graphic designer whose iconic illustrations helped define the very spirit of our Dickensian world. Kathleen's artistry gave our event its whimsical charm and timeless character, but it was her warmth, generosity, and steadfast belief in community that truly lit the way. As we gather in holiday cheer, we honor her enduring legacy - woven into every program, every playful detail, and every joyful moment shared this weekend. Kathleen's creative soul continues to guide us, and her memory remains ever present in the heart of Dickens.

FRIDAY BEERS & BONFIRES

A Dickens tradition and the perfect way to start the weekend! Warm up by the firepits and enjoy a selection of cold craft beers, hot cider, mulled wine, and lively music.

Beverage and Food Tents
Open at 5pm

Carriage Rides from 6-8pm

FABULOUS FIRST FRIDAY
Downtown Shops Open until 8pm
for Holiday Shopping

Friday on the MAIN STAGE

5:00PM OPENING CEREMONIES

5:30PM GARNET ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL CHORUS

6:00PM KENT COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

6:30PM RIVER VOICES

7:00PM THE DEVIL'S BRIGADE



SATURDAY FESTIVITIES

Stroll through London Row to discover quality merchandise, fresh produce, holiday greens and wreaths, specialty wares, and hearty Dickensian fare – then continue your wanderings, for the day is filled with merry delights you won't want to miss!

7:00AM RUN LIKE THE DICKENS
5K RUN/WALK
REGISTRATION*

8:00AM RUN LIKE THE DICKENS
5K RUN/WALK
RACE*

9:00AM LONDON ROW VENDORS OPEN

10:00AM HERITAGE VILLAGE OPEN

BEVERAGE TENT OPEN

TAROT CARD READINGS
IN THE VAULT

SANTA'S HOUSE

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR*

MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT

10:30AM THE WHEELMEN

11:00AM TINY TIM'S CORNER
AND PETTING ZOO
FOOD VENDORS OPEN

12:00PM CARRIAGE RIDES OPEN

1:00PM VICTORIAN TEA*

2:00PM PALM READINGS
IN THE VAULT

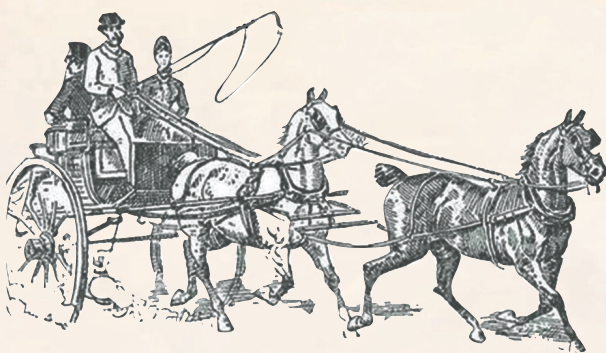
BOOKPLATE AUTHOR EVENT
HEAR MATTHEW DAVIS AT
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5:00PM 13 UNMERRY MONSTERS*

*Ticketed Event

Scan QR code →

or pick up tickets at
Heritage Village
Welcome Center



Saturday on the MAIN STAGE

10:30AM O'MCPUB BAND

11:30AM BALTIMORE PIPE BAND

12:00PM MOODAY'S STUDENT
DRUMMERS

12:30PM O'MCPUB BAND

1:30PM JIMI KINTSLE PRESENTS

2:30PM BALTIMORE PIPE BAND

3:30PM THE DEVIL'S BRIGADE

5:00PM FOND FAREWELL

TINY TIM'S CORNER 11AM-3PM

PETTING ZOO

VICTORIAN BOWLING

YARD GAMES

FACE PAINTER

BALLOON TWISTER

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

MAGICIAN



HERITAGE VILLAGE

NERD TRAVEL

WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF WAC

WILDLY NATIVE FLOWER FARM

MUSEUMS OF KENT COUNTY

RIVER ARTS

BESPOKE CHOCOLATE

MILLINERS OF OLD LONDON

MARIANNE SADE

YE OLDE LONDON

SPRING AVENUE

CANNON STREET



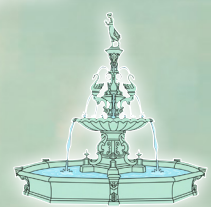
Farmers Market
8-12



Tiny Tim's
Corner



Petting Zoo



Fountain Park



Santa's House

CROSS STREET

London Row



Heritage Village
Welcome Center
& The Vault
(The Bank)
211 High Street



Food
Vendors



Beverage
Tent

HIGH STREET



Carriage
Boarding



Rest
Rooms

Public
Parking
(Courthouse)

MAPLE AVENUE (RTE. 213)

Main
Stage

Run Like the Dickens
5K Walk/Run

