



na Sióga agus na Sióg

Conair draíochta trí thailte
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann - Saol na Tuaithe

of Fairies and Fairy Folk

A magical trail through the grounds of the
National Museum of Ireland – Country Life

Iúr

Taxus baccata

In Éirinn, bhaintí úsáid as an Iúr go minic ar Dhomhnach an Iúir. I ndiaidh shearmanas an tséipéil, thugtaí na ‘pailmeacha’ abhaile agus chaithfeadh an duine iad nó dhéantaí iad a chrochadh sa teacht nó sa scioból le haghaidh áidh nó cosanta. In áiteanna éagsúla in Éirinn, dhéantaí adhmaid Iúir a dhó chun an luaith a dhéanamh do Chéadaoin an Luaithrigh.

In Éirinn fadó, bhaintí úsáid as croí-adhmaid dúdhearg an Iúir chun bachalla agus scrínte a dhéanamh le haghaidh leabhair agus taisí naofa.

Tá baint láidir ag an gcrann Iúir le Contae Mhaigh Eo. Nuair a cruthaíodh an contae in 1585, tugadh Maigh Eo air rud a chiallaíonn Machaire na gCrann Feá Tá naoi gcrann feá ar armas Chontae Mhaigh Eo, a léiríonn naoi mbarúntacht Mhaigh Eo. Tagann dath dearg agus glas an chontae as na duilleoga gléghlasa agus sméara dearga an Iúir.

Yew

Taxus baccata

In Ireland, the Yew was often used on Palm Sunday. After the church ceremony, the ‘palms’ would be taken home and worn on the person or hung in the house or byre for good luck and protection. In some places in Ireland, Yew wood was burned to make the ash for Ash Wednesday.

In ancient Ireland, the deep red heart wood of the Yew was used to make croziers and shrines for holy books and relics.

The Yew tree has a strong association with County Mayo. When the county was created 1585, it was named Mhaigh Eo meaning Plain of the Yew Trees. There are nine yew trees on the Mayo County crest, representing the nine baronies of Mayo. The red and green county colours have their origins in the bright green leaves and red berries of the Yew.



Níl Iúir chomh coitianta níos mó mar gheall go bhfuil eagla ar fheirmeoirí go nimheadh a sméara tocsaineacha an beostoc. Faightear i bpáirceanna agus i reiligí anois iad den chuid is mó.

Yews are no longer as common due to farmers fearing that their toxic berries would poison livestock. Now they are mainly found growing in parks and graveyards.