



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

Sceach Gheal

Crataegus monogyma

Leis an sceach gheal bhláthaithe (whitethorn nó Maybush), fógraítear teacht an tsamhraidh in Éirinn. Creidtear go forleathan go bhfuil cumhachtaí draíochtúla aici a bhaineann go mór leis na síoga.

Tá eagla ar dhaoine roimh an gcrann seo ach tá meas air chomh maith; ní bheadh sé d'uchtach ach ag duine amaideach fearg a chur ar na 'daoine beaga' trí dhochar a dhéanamh don sceach gheal; go háirithe sceach gheal a sheasann ina haonar, agus amuigh faoin aer.

Creidtear go forleathan in Éirinn go bhfuil mí-ádh ar bhláth sceach gheal agus go bhféadfadh sé bás a thuar má thugtar isteach sa teach é. In iarthar Chorcaí mheastaí go raibh sé mícheart duine a bhuaileadh le slat sceach gheal toisc go gcreidí go raibh 'fearg' sa chrann. Dá dtugtaí isteach sa teach é, thabharfadh slat sceach gheal trioblóid agus míshástacht leis.

Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyma

The flowering hawthorn, whitethorn or Maybush heralds the arrival of summer time in Ireland. It is widely believed to have magical powers and is strongly associated with the fairies.

This tree is regarded with fear and respect; only a foolish human would dare to anger the 'little people' by harming the hawthorn; especially one which stands alone, and in the open.

A widespread belief in Ireland is that hawthorn blossom is unlucky and could portend a death if brought into the house. In west Cork it was considered wrong to hit someone with a stick of hawthorn as it was believed that there was 'temper' in the tree. Brought into the house, a hawthorn stick would bring with it trouble and discontent.



Chomh maith leis an tSamhain, mheastaí gurbh í Oíche na Bealtaine an oíche ba dhainséaraí den bhliain. Shíltí go gcuirfeadh a lán gnásanna amhail an Sceach Gheal a mhaisiú le ribíní, bláthanna, blaoscanna uibhe agus dráimh gheala ábhair ádh ar an teaghlach agus go dtabharfadh sé cosaint don oíche sin agus don bhliain le teacht.

Along with Hallowe'en, May Eve was considered the most dangerous night of the year. Many customs such as decorating the Maybush with ribbons, flowers, eggshells and bright scraps of material was thought to provide the household with good luck and protection for that night and the year ahead.

