

1. Cad a rinne tú an tseachtain seo? What did you do this week?
Bhí mé ag ... *I was at ...*
Chuaigh mé go (dtí an) ... *I went to (the) ...*
Chonaic mé ... *I saw ...*
D'ith mé ... *I ate ...*

2. An dteastaíonn leat bheith ag Do you like climbing? Do you often go
dreapadóireacht? An dtéann tú amach climbing?
ag dreapadóireacht go minic?

3. An bhfuil stair faoi leith ag baint le Is there a special history associated with
áit éigin i do cheantar féin? your own area?

4. An bhfuil suim agat i stair na sean- Are you interested in the history of the old
deithe Ceilteacha nó sean-chreidimh Celtic gods, or old beliefs from other
ó áiteanna eile? areas?

Pobal Mhúscraí
Lá na Bealtaine

The People of Muskerry
May Day

1. Baineann mór-chuid traidisiún le Lá Bealtaine i gceantar Mhúscraí. Many traditions are associated with May Day in the district of Muskerry.
2. Ar mhaidin Lae Bealtaine, éiríonn Ruth Ní Riada agus a hathair Peadar le breacadh an lae dá n-oilithreacht go Sliabh Dhá Chích Dhanann. On May Day morning, Ruth Ní Riada and her father Peadar get up at daybreak for their pilgrimage to the Paps of Anu (the two breasts of Danú).
3. Áit a mbraitheann siad spríd is fuinneamh faoi leith agus cothú anama óna dturas bliaintiúil lena chéile. Where they feel a special spirit and energy and nourishment of the soul from their annual trip together.
4. Tá rud deas mar gheall ar Lá Bealtaine thuas ar Dhá Chích Dhanann mar, *you know*, sin an áit go raibh na Tuatha Dé Danann. There's something nice about May Day on the Paps of Anu because, *you know*, that's the place where the Tuatha Dé Danann (the people of the Goddess Danú) were.
5. Agus, *just*, tá rud éigint ann, ní féidir é a chur i bhfocal, ach níos mó ná aon lá eile tá Lá Bealtaine tá rud éigin mar gheall air. And, just, there is something there, it can't be put into words, but more than any other day, May Day there is something about it.
6. Is ana-chuid piseoga againn mar gheall ar Lá Bealtaine. Sin é athrú na bliana, mar a déarfá ar shlí. And we have many superstitions about May Day. It's the change of the year, you would say, in a way.
7. Sin é “uachtar an fhéir mhilis”, mar a déarfá, ag teacht isteach agus bhíodh ana-chuid ag braith ar bhainne, agus an im agus an cháis agus an uachtar is an stoc a chur amach ar an gcnoc. It's „the cream of the green grass”, as you would say, coming in and there would be a lot depending on milk, and butter, and cheese, and cream and putting the stock out on the hill.
8. Ach lá mór ab é agus gan dabht féile na Bealtaine féin sa Chríostaíocht leis an Maighdean Mhuire. But it was a big day, and doubtless there was the May festival in Christianity with the Virgin Mary.

9. Téann Cathair Crobh Dearg siar 5,000 (cúig mhíle) bliain ar a laghad. Is dócha gur leis na Dé Danann atá sé mar tá Dhá Chích Dhanann air. Cahercrovdarrig goes back 5,000 years at least. I supposed that it belonged to the Dé Danann because it's called Dhá Chích Dhanann.
10. Is deirtear sa Leabhar na nGabhála gurb é an áit ina maraíodh chun deireadh an chuid deireanach de na Tuatha Dé Danann mar i gCom na nÉag sin Cúil Aodha. It is said in the Book of Invasions that it is the place where the last of the Tuatha Dé Danann were killed off in Coomnaneage (the Hollow of the Dead), which is Coolea (Hugh's Corner).
11. So, tá ana-chuid ceangal leis na Tuatha Dé Danann sa *dúthaigh* (dúithe). So, there are a lot of connections with the Tuatha Dé Danann in the area.
12. An traidisiúin go léir le Bealtaine, inár *ndúthaigh* ar aon chuma, go dtugtaí an stoc go léir *anso* (anseo). All the traditions of May Day, in our area anyways, that all the livestock would be brought here.
13. Bhí siad ag buachaillíocht an am sin gan dabht, 's é sin a rá gur thiomáintí na ba suas ar an gcnoc don samhradh. They were booleying then, no doubt, which is to say that they drove the cows up the hill for the summer.
14. Ach roimhe sin do tugtaí *anso* iad agus suas an taobh *so* is thiomáintí an stoc go léir idir dhá thine ar son sláinte agus tairbhe. And before that they would be brought here and up this side and all the stock would be driven between two fires, for health and protection.
15. Peadar a bhí á dhéanamh le 50 (caoga) bliain, *I'd say. Níor thosnaíos* (níor thosnaigh mé) ag an dreapadh leis ach le deich mbliana deireanacha nó mar sin. Peadar has done this for 50 years, I'd say. I've only been down here climbing with him for the last ten years or so.
16. Nuair a d'éirigh mé ró-chríonna le dul amach liom féin. Bhí sí ag tabhairt aire dom. When I got too old to go out by myself. She looks after me.
17. Go raibh maith agat. *Yeah*. Sin é an t-aon chúis go bhfuilim ann, ná chun aire a thabhairt dó. Níl mé ach ag magadh. Thank you. Yeah. That's the only reason I'm here, to watch over him. I'm only joking.

18. Ní raibh mé ann anuraidh mar bhíos torrach le mo mhac. *Bhíos* (bhí mé) lá os cionn mo *due date*, so dúramar nach dtóg mise an seans anuraidh, ach tá sé go deas bheith *thar n-ais* (ar ais) arís. I wasn't able last year because I was pregnant with my son. I was one day over my due date, so we said that I wouldn't the chance last year, but it's nice to be back again.
19. Is rud deas é, *just*, bheith ag dul suas le chéile. Chuamar síos go Cathair Crobh Dearg chun *na rounds* a dhéanamh 's na paidreacha. It's nice to just be going up together. We went down to Cahercrovdarrig to do the rounds and the prayers.
20. *So*, tá lá curtha síos againn *roimis an* (roimh an) bricfeasta ar maidin. Sin é Lá Bealtaine. Sin é an saol. Nach aoibhinn an lá é? So, we've done a day before breakfast in the morning. That's May Day. That is life. Isn't it a beautiful day?
21. An chuach ag glaoch, na héin ag canadh, na huain ag *méiligh* (meili), na gabhna ag glaoch ar a máthair, an féar glas timpeall orainn agus an sceach gheal amuigh is na beacha ag obair. The cuckoo calling, the birds singing, the lambs bleating, the calves calling for their mothers, the green grass around us and the hawthorn out and the bees working.

Ceisteanna

1. Cathain a éiríonn Ruth Ní Riada maidin Lá Bealtaine?
2. Cá dtéann sí?
3. Cé leis a dtéann sí ann?
4. Cé a bhí san áit sin fadó?
5. Cén leabhar a bhfuil tagairt ann do chath a tharla i gCom na nÉag?
6. Cad a dheintí leis na ba sa samhradh?
7. Cén fáth a thiomáintí na ba idir dhá thine?
8. Cén fáth nach raibh Ruth Ní Riada in ann dul amach ag dreapadh anuraidh?
9. Cad a bhíonn an chuach ag déanamh?
10. Cad a bhíonn na beacha ag déanamh?

Questions

- When does Ruth Ní Riada get up on May Day morning?
- Where does she go?
- Who does she go there with?
- Who was in that place long ago?
- Which book has a reference in it to a battle that happened in Coomnaneage.
- What would they do with the cows in the summer?
- What would they drive the cows between two fires?
- Why couldn't Ruth Ní Riada go out climbing last year?
- What does the cuckoo do?
- What do the bees do?