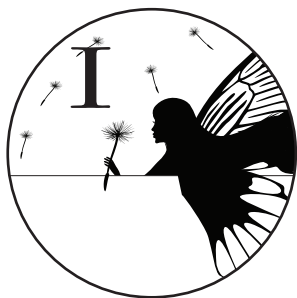




The story of Hallowe'en

Did you know that Ireland is the original home of Hallowe'en? Hallowe'en has been celebrated in Ireland for over 1,000 years. The origins of Hallowe'en can be found in the ancient Celtic harvest festival, Samhain.



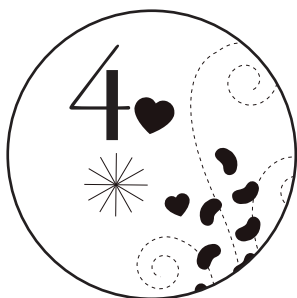
The Celts believed that the spirit world was closer to Earth at Samhain, and that 'púcaí', fairies and other spirits would visit the mortal world.



For this reason, the Celts wore masks to disguise themselves, and large communal fires were lit to ward off evil spirits and ghouls: the original Hallowe'en costumes and bonfires!



Many other modern Hallowe'en traditions began during the Celtic Samhain festival. Trick-or-treating dates back to when people would beg for food, known as 'soul cakes', offering prayers for the dead in exchange.



Hallowe'en was a good time to forecast the future! Many games, along with the traditional cake barmbrack attempted to predict the future for the year ahead.



On Hallowe'en it was traditional to carve lanterns out of turnips. Irish emigrants to America in the 19th century began carving pumpkins instead, because turnips were hard to find!



Irish emigrants brought the tradition of Hallowe'en to their new homes which is why it is celebrated all around the world today!



Happy Hallowe'en!



Ireland