



# What we said

Comments from the chat stream

## Ás an Talamh | Stories from the Land that Sustains us

**February 2, 2024**

**Host:** Màiri Britton

**Guest:** Ceit Langhorne

After listening to the guest, discussing what we'd heard in the breakout rooms, and then returning to the main room, we shared our reflections in the chat stream.

### **What stands out for you from tonight?**

- These animal names are just fascinating! Definitely seeing these animals with new eyes. <3
- I want more!!!! That's the sign of a good feast, I'd love to come back to this table!!
- I had a beautiful conversation in my breakout room about the connections we each have to the land, especially when the land is soaked in family history, experiences, and connections. The land and people are so deeply intertwined.
- It's great to see that young people today like Ceit are taking interest in these old tales
- Talking about being in the landscape, understanding your surroundings is so much part of the culture of the indigenous peoples here in Canada
- Chòrd e rium gu mòr! Bidh mi a' smaoin eachadh barrachd air a' cheangal a th' againn ris an tìr. Tha mi ag ionndrainn Alba!
- Yes the goat stuff was very fascinating!!!
- I enjoyed hearing about the birds. The birds in Nova Scotia once spoke Gaelic, according to old folklore collected by Tiber Falzett
- Very sweet connections in the small group ... realizing how much Gaelic song has painted a world for me that I can feel, connect to, and call in! <3
- The connection between Ireland and Scotland and the Fianna too. I was introduced to Fionn MacCumhaill's Chair in Malin Head when I was 4.... and that was when I started noticing Scotland on the eastern horizon. Also the place names too. Scots Gaidhlig came originally from

the north of Ireland -- Ulster -- so for me it's connecting me back to an older shared time in learning Gaidhlig.

- Land and landscape are important to so many people. A source of comfort. You can understand the longing that some emigrants felt when they never were able to return to their landscapes.
- How meaningful old stores can be, and the stories we make as we have our own experiences in a place
- The love for and nostalgia of one's 'home' shows so often in our songs, stories, art, place names, recipe titles, ....we want to preserve the feeling our home culture gives us, no matter how far away from that home we live, and perhaps especially because of how far away from 'home' we live.
- Since I am from Pictou I am fascinated and love the hilly places like Cape Breton and Earltown, because it is new to me. In Scotland I hiked and climbed - wonderful trip.
- There is a lovely book about the Summer Walkers (author: Timothy Neat)

### Is there an action you feel inspired to take?

- I want to learn the 110 Gaelic words for mountain
- I'm all the more determined to make it out to the Isle of Iona, that my mum gave me as my middle name because she adored it so much - Christina shared it was really incredible for her as well, so I have renewed motivation!
- Feeling very inspired to learn more of the big stories about the Feinne. Wondering where I can find them to listen to online? Tobar an Dualchais? [See links below]
- I'd love to learn more about the words Ceit shared ... and to make goat art! 🐐
- I would like to learn more of the Gaelic animal names
- So inspiring - thank you ladies. I want to love the land I love more and better. It's only right.
- I want to learn more about the Cailleach and the deer. That speaks to me.
- I'm just learning to sing in '[Gleann Bhaile Chaoil](#)' in Gaelic. I want to wander around there. Thank you, móran taing!

### Gratitude

- The love of mountains from Scotland to Yosemite! Thank you John Muir
- I enjoyed hearing about our folklore. Would love to hear more
- So happy to listen to Gaelic spoken and to hear the stories Ceit told about the landscape
- Móran taing a Mhàiri 's Cheit and all! ❤️
- Móran taing!
- Ceud taing!
- Taing mhór uile!

## Links

Ceit mentioned Duan na Ceàrdaich, a Fenian lay preserved in Gaelic living memory on both sides of the Atlantic. A Cape Breton version was recorded from Joe Allan MacLean of Rear Christmas Island and is [available on Sruth nan Gàidheal](#).

Féisean nan Gàidheal created a great website with 20 hero-tales edited and recorded by Ruairidh MacIll'Eathain (of Litir do Luchd Ionnsachaidh): <https://gaisgeach.com/>

Recordings of Essie Stewart, a storyteller who has greatly inspired Ceit, can be found on [Am Baile](#) and [Tobar an Dualchais](#).

Ceit has made a podcast about the Auld Wives Lifts, which you can [listen to here](#).

Ceit shared a song she made about water spirits, Òran nan Uraisgean. You can [listen to a recording of it on her SoundCloud](#), lyrics below.

## Òran nan Ùraisgean

Peallaidh an Spùit is Bruanaidh an Easain  
Babaidh an Lochain is Bruanaidh an Eilein

*Peallaidh of the Spout and Bruanaidh of the falls  
Babaidh of the Lochan and Bruanaidh of the Island.*

Padarlan a Feàrnan thall, Peadragan,  
Patragan is Triubhas Dubh.

*Padarlan from Feàrnan thall, Peadragan  
Patragan and the Black Trews*

Gaol tha buan, tlachd nach gann  
A' lasadh suas na beanntan seachad

*Love that is abundant, pleasure not scarce  
Igniting the mountains flowing past*

Balgam, bog-bhrisgein, breac-thuil  
Puilbheadh, fèin-brosnachadh, garbh rainn

*A mouthful, soft silverweed, speckled stream  
Pulsating upwards in a spring, self-motivating, wild verses.*

Ghìbhteadh nach ghìbhtinn idir  
Craiceann èisg is bèilleag liath-ghlas

*He would gift what I would not  
Fish skin and greying silvery birch bark.*

Dh' fhàg e snaod is boinne dheth a ghlacainn  
Gleus is gleans air casan a' sruthadh!

*He left an otter-trail and a drop of that I'd catch  
Tuning up, putting a shine on streaming feet!*

*The above are direct quotes from participants, edited only to correct typos. Thank you to all who  
shared their thoughts and gifts! Tapadh leibh uile!*