If you have been inspired by ‘Oak Royal’, you can now try and use the structure of this tale to create a story about the area where you live.

The first step is to look at the structure of the story, which focuses on explaining how a local feature (a rocky outcrop with an oak tree on top) came to be. The basic structure is really simple, if you turn the tale around and look at it from the end to the beginning:

1. There is a natural feature (a rocky outcrop with an oak tree).

2. It was created by a supernatural disaster.

3. Because an ancient king angered the local fairy folk by attacking them for daring to make noise during his wedding.

If you follow this structure, it’s very easy to create your own legend based on the area where you live.

1. Take a natural feature in your area: hill, loch, river... this works better if the feature is well known by the locals. What makes this natural feature remarkable? A single tree growing on it, like in this story? A single rock in a field? A small forested island on a river or loch?
Once you have these elements in place, you can start telling the story. Bear in mind that the story is told in inverse order: it starts with point 3 (the wedding and the king angering the fairy folk) then the disaster happens as a consequence of that (point 2) and finally we get to the way the place looks today (point 1) after the disaster/supernatural event.

After you have told the story once or twice in your head you can start embellishing it if you like, by adding details. Who was the King? Who was he marrying? What were his wedding celebrations like? What did the fairy folk look like? Describe the way they dressed, looked, sounded...

Finally, don’t leave your story on the page! Tell it to your family, your friends, and feel free to share it with the Scottish Storytelling Centre!
**Going further**

Do you want to take story-making even further?

Go back to the three-step structure of the story and continue the chain:
Why was the king getting married and to whom?
Did he have to win/rescue his bride? Or maybe it was a queen who had to overcome difficulties to obtain the hand of a prince?
Was there a villain involved?
How was the villain defeated?

The possibilities are endless...