

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.macleaen@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 520. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 216 corresponds to Litir 520.

An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu dhualchainnt nan iasgairean ann an Cromba – dualchainnt aig a bheil dìreach dithis luchd-labhairt a tha fileanta an-diugh. Thàinig leabhar beag a-mach mu a deidhinn o chionn ghoirid – *The Cromarty Fisherfolk Dialect*. Chaidh a chur ri chèile le *Am Baile*, stòrlann eadar-lìn a bhuineas do Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd.

Bha mi a’ coimhead tro liosta de dh’fhaclan anns an dualchainnt sin agus tha feadhainn dhiubh furasta gu leòr a thuigsinn. Tha iad coltach ri faclan ann an dualchainntean eile de dh’Albais. Seo eisimpleir no dhà – *bauchles* (seann slioparan), *belligut* (neach sanntach), *guloot* (fear a tha gròt a dhìth an tastain) agus *howp* (balgam ri òl). Agus tha faclan aca nach fhaighear ann an dualchainntean eile, mar eisimpleir *sallikatazaar* a tha a’ ciallachadh “deillseag”.

Ach bha Cromba air a chuirteachadh fad ùine mhòr le Gàidhlig agus tha faclan ann an dualchainnt nan iasgairean a dh’èirich bho thùsan Gàidhlig. Seo eisimpleirean bhon leabhar: *amitan* (a fool), *boddach* (odd, old man), *brachtan* (a young chaffinch – bhon Ghàidhlig *breacan*), *buss* (a mouth), *callach* (old woman), *cootyach* (family group, company or clan) agus *crogs* (fingers).

Seo feadhainn eile: *doorcans* (fir cones used to smoke fish – bhon Ghàidhlig *durcan*), *dossan* (fringe, forelock), *gob* (the opening or mouth of a receptacle) agus *gullachan* (an earwig). Agus tha *greesoch* ann. Tha sin a’ ciallachadh “shivery, shuddery”. Ged a thàinig a’ Ghàidhlig *grìs*, *grìseach* bho Albais bho thùs, tha e coltach gun d’ fhuair na Crombaich am facal *greesoch* bhon bhuadhair Ghàidhlig.

Seo corra fhacal eile ann an dualchainnt iasgairean Chrombaidh a thàinig bhon Ghàidhlig a rèir choltais: *laroch* (a house site), *meenyach* (greedy for dainty fare), *parton* (small crab), *ropach* (untidy), *sheemie* (straw rope – bhon Ghàidhlig *sìoman*), *smoorach* (fire ash) agus *spatyel* (grand or well-dressed – chanadh iad “he’s rael spatyel the day”).

’S e am facal a bh’ aca orra fhèin *Croompach* – sin cuideigin a bhuineas do Chromba. Tha sin gu cinnteach bhon Ghàidhlig *Crombach*. Agus, gu h-inntinneach chanadh iad *Ballachalls* ris na daoine a bhuineadh do dh’Inbhir Pheofharain. Ann an Ros an Ear ’s e *Bail’ a’ Chàil* a chanadh muinntir an àite ri Baile Inbhir Pheofharain airson ùine mhòr. Eadhon an-diugh tha feadhainn anns an sgìre leis am b’ fheàrr Baile a’ Chàil a bhith ann mar ainm Gàidhlig seach Inbhir Pheofharain no, mar a chanar ann an Ros an Iar, Inbhir Pheafharain.

Ann an Cromba bha seann tobar ann air an robh *The Stroopie Well*. Bha muinntir an àite a’ dèanamh dheth gun robh an t-uisge sin na leigheas airson iomadach rud. Airson a

bhith èifeachdach, 's e clann òg a dh'fheumadh an t-uisge a thoirt dhachaigh. Agus gheibheadh a' chlann duais. B' e sin bonnach beag le toll anns a' mheadhan a bh' air a dhèanamh leis an taois agus min-fhlùir a bh' air fhàgail air a' chlàr-fhuine nuair a bha an t-aran air a dhol don àmhainn.

Ann an Gàidhlig 's e *bonnach fallaid* a chanadh daoine ri a leithid. Ann an dualchainnt nan iasgairean Crombach, chanadh iad *bonnach faaly* ris. Bhathar a' creidsinn gun robh am bonnach sin a' toirt deagh fhortan don taigh. Air an làimh eile, thigeadh droch fhortan nan cuirte min-fhlùir air ais don chiste.

Bha an aon chleachdadh aig na Gàidheil. Bha iad fhèin agus iasgairean Chrombaidh a' creidsinn an aon rud. Bha diofar chànanan aca, ach **bha mòran anns a' chumantas eatarra.**

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Faclan na Litreach: dualchainnt: *dialect*; Albais: *Scots Language*; Cromba: *Cromarty*; deillseag: *skelp*; grìs: *horror, shuddering*; griseach: *shivering*; Crombach: *a native of Cromarty*;

Abairtean na Litreach: stòrlann eadar-lìn a bhuineas do: *an internet database which belongs to*; tha feadhainn dhiubh furasta gu leòr a thuigsinn: *some of them are easy enough to understand*; fear a tha gròt a dhìth an tastain: *a simple man*; nach fhaighear ann an X: *which are not found in X*; air a chuirteachadh fad ùine mhòr le: *surrounded for a long time by*; a dh'èirich bho thùsan Gàidhlig: *which arose from Gaelic origins*; gun d' fhuair na Crombaich am facal bhon bhuadhair Ghàidhlig: *that the Cromarty folk got the word from the Gaelic adjective*; ann an Ros an Ear 's e *Bail' a' Chàil* a chanadh muinntir an àite ri Inbhir Pheofharain: *in Easter Ross the locals called Dingwall Bail' a' Chàil* (“cabbage town”); leis am b' fheàrr Baile a' Chàil a bhith ann mar ainm Gàidhlig: *who would prefer Baile a' Chàil to be the Gaelic name*; mar a chanar ann an Ros an Iar: *as is said in Wester Ross*; na leigheas airson iomadach rud: *a cure for many things*; 's e clann òg a dh'fheumadh an t-uisge a thoirt dhachaigh: *it's young children that would need to bring the water home*; bonnach beag le toll anns a' mheadhan: *a wee bannock with a hole in the middle*; thigeadh droch fhortan nan cuirte min-fhlùir air ais: *bad luck would come if meal/flour were put back*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **bonnach fallaid.** *A bannock made with fallaid – a word that sums up a lot in Gaelic tradition (do any of you know its origin?) Fallaid was the dry meal and fragments of unused dough left on the baking board (clàr-fuine) when the bread went in the oven. It was considered unlucky to put unused meal (min-fhlùir) back in the meal kist (ciste-mhine) or to throw away unused dough (taois). So the fallaid would be swept up with a feather and the bonnach fallaid made in the hands (without kneading it on the board). Then a hole would be made in it with the forefinger of the right hand. The hole charmed the baking, but only after a child who had collected the water from the special well was given the bonnach fallaid. The water from the well was sprinkled around the fire to complete the charm.*

Gnathas-cainnt na Litreach: **bha mòran anns a' chumantas eatarra:** *they had much in common (there was much in common between them).*

Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA