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.maclean@bbc.co.uk. *This is Litir 533. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 229 corresponds to Litir 533.*

As t-samhradh seo fhuair mi gu ruige leas a bha mi riamh airson fhaicinn. 'S e leas poblach a th' ann, le flùraichean brèagha a' fàs ann, agus daoine gu leòr a' tadhal air. Anns an dòigh sin, tha e car coltach ri Leas Inbhir Iù no gàrraidhean dhen t-seòrsa sin air feadh costa siar na Gàidhealtachd. Ach tha aon diofar ann – chan fhaighear don leas seo ann an carbad-ola. Tha roghainn agad – coiseachd mìle gu leth thar a' mhonaidh no cuairt a ghabhail ann am bàta.

   Tha mi a' bruidhinn air Leas Chearachair ann an Asainte air cladach Loch a' Chàirn Bhàin – loch mara a tha ceangailte ri Bàgh Eadar Dà Chaolas. Tha an leas air a bhith fosgailte don mhòr-shluagh gach samhradh airson grunn bhliadhnaichean. Agus bidh an luchd-turais a' dol ann ann am bàta às a' Chaolas Chumhang.

   Bha mi fortanach faighinn ann oir 's e seo a' bhliadhna mu dheireadh a bhios i fosgailte don mhòr-shluagh. Tha an fheadhainn a tha ga ruith – Peter is Trish Kohn – dhen bheachd **gu bheil an t-àm aca sgur dhen obair sin**.

   Tha an leas an cois a' chladaich ann an àite brèagha. Tha an sgìre mu a thimcheall brèagha cuideachd, ach ann an dòigh eadar-dhealaichte. Tha i garbh, làn mòine is monaidh. Air cùl an taighe tha a' Chuinneag – tè de na beanntan as ainmeile anns an iar-thuath.

   Ged a rinn Peter is Trish obair mhòr ann a bhith a' leasachadh an àite, chan iad na ciad daoine a bha a' fuireach ann an Cearachar. Bha teaghlaichean ann romhpa agus, nuair a bha mi ann fhuair mi beagan a-mach mun deidhinn. Agus cheannaich mi an leabhar *The Kerracher Man*, a tha mu dheidhinn teaghlach a rinn an dachaigh an sin.

   'S e Eric MacLeòid a sgrìobh an leabhar. Rugadh Eric ann an Inbhir Pheofharain ach dh'fhalbh e a dh'obair mar chunntasair ann an dùthchannan eile. Bha e fhèin is a bhean Rut, a thogadh ann am Fìobh, air a bhith a' fuireach ann an Lunnainn, Chester, Johannesburg agus Reading. Chan e deagh ullachadh a bh' ann airson a bhith a' fuireach ann an taigh-croite ann an Asainte, gu h-àraidh fear a bha gun rathad! Agus bha dithis nighean òg aca a bharrachd.

   Ach thogadh athair Eric ann an Cearachar, agus bha Eric air tadhal air nuair a bha a sheanair, a sheanmhair agus bràthair athar fhathast a' fuireach ann. Bha sin nuair a bha Eric òg, ge-ta, agus bha an taigh **air a dhol a dholaidh** bhon uair sin. Co-dhiù, airson sgeul mòr a dhèanamh na sgeul beag, cho-dhùin Eric is Rut gluasad a Chearachar agus an seann taigh a dhèanamh na dhachaigh a-rithist. Cha b' urrainn dhaibh fuireach anns an taigh an toiseach. Bha an seòmar-suidhe gun ùrlar agus lorg iad closach caorach

ann. Anns a' chiad dol a-mach bhiodh aig an teaghlach ri fuireach ann an carabhan. Ach ciamar a bha iad a' dol a ghluasad carabhan gu ruige Cearachar?

Uill, dh'fheumadh iad a ghluasad sìos Loch a' Chàirn Bhàin bhon rathad anns a' Chaolas Chumhang. Bha dìreach aon bhàta mòr gu leòr anns an sgìre – am bàt'-aiseig a bha a' ruith thar a' Chaolais Chumhaing. B' e seo naoi ceud deug, seachdad 's a sia (1976) agus cha robh an drochaid ann. Ge-tà, cha robh a' Chomhairle ann an Inbhir Nis deònach am bàt'-aiseig a chur gu feum airson sin, eadhon taobh a-muigh a h-uairean obrach. Seo far a bheil caraid Gàidhealach a' nochdadh anns an stòiridh – agus innsidh mi dhuibh mu dheidhinn-san an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan na Litreach: Leas Chearachair: *Kerracher Gardens;* Asainte: *Assynt;* Bàgh Eadar Dà Chaolas: *Eddrachillis Bay;* An Caolas Cumhang: *Kylesku;* romhpa: *before them;* Inbhir Pheofharain: *Dingwall;* cunntasair: *accountant;* bàt'-aiseig: *ferry.*

Abairtean na Litreach: fhuair mi gu ruige leas a bha mi riamh airson fhaicinn: *I got to a garden I had always wanted to see;* agus daoine gu leòr a' tadhal air: *with lots of people visiting it;* coltach ri Leas Inbhir Iù no gàrraidhean dhen t-seòrsa: *like Inverewe Gardens or gardens of that type;* chan fhaighear don leas seo ann an carbad-ola: *one can't get to this garden in a vehicle;* tha roghainn agad – coiseachd mìle gu leth thar a' mhonaidh no cuairt a ghabhail ann am bàta: *you have a choice – to walk a mile and a half over the hill or take a trip in a boat;* an cois a' chladaich: *next to the shore;* garbh, làn mòine is monaidh: *rough and full of peat and high country;* chan e deagh ullachadh a bh' ann: *it wasn't good preparation;* gu h-àraidh fear a bha gun rathad: *particularly one that was without a road;* bha dithis nighean òg aca a bharrachd: *they also had two young daughters;* bha an seòmar-suidhe gun ùrlar agus lorg iad closach caorach ann: *the sitting room had no floor and they discovered the carcase of a sheep there;* bhiodh aig an teaghlach ri fuireach ann an carabhan: *the family would have to live in a caravan;* eadhon taobh a-muigh a h-uairean obrach: *even outside her working hours;* deònach: *willing;* mu dheidhinn-san: *about him.*

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **gu bheil an t-àm aca sgur dhen obair sin**: that the time has come [is at them] to stop that work. Be aware that at times a Gaelic preposition is used in conjunction with a verb where no such preposition occurs with the equivalent English verb. An example is the use of *de* with the verb *sguir, sgur* (stop, cease) – although note that it is not always used. A good way to remember it is thinking of how you would tell a child to stop something. You'd probably say *"sguir dheth!"* – automatically using the preposition *de.*

Gnathas-cainnt na Litreach: bha an taigh **air a dhol a dholaidh**: *the house **had fallen into disrepair**.*