

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Crith-thalmhainn Lisbon (2)

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 rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 665. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 361 corresponds to Litir 665.

Bidh *seiche* a’ nochdadh ann an Loch Nis bho àm gu àm. Nise, ma tha sibh a’ leughadh seo, gun a bhith ag èisteachd ris, tha eagal orm gum bi sibh a’ smaoinichadh gu bheil mi a’ ciallachadh ‘seiche’ – craiceann beathaich. Ach chan eil. **Ged a tha an aon litreachadh orra**, tha mi a’ ciallachadh an fhacail *seiche* ann am Fraingis na h-Eilbheis.

Tha cuid a’ cumail a-mach gur e *seiche* as coireach ri cuid de na h-aithrisean mu uilebheist Loch Nis. ’S e a th’ ann tuinn mhòr a nochdas ann an loch air sàilleabh na gaoithe aig aon cheann dheth. Ma bhios a’ ghaoth a’ tighinn gu làidir bhon iar-dheas, bidh i a’ putadh an uisge air uachdar Loch Nis thar fad an locha. Nuair a bhuaileas an tonn ceann thall an locha, thig e air ais a-rithist. Bidh uachdar an uisge a’ dol air ais ’s air adhart mar sin airson greis.

Chì sibh an aon seòrsa rud anns an amar aig an taigh. Putaibh an t-uisge gu aon cheann dheth. Thig an t-uisge air ais a-rithist, agus bidh e a’ luasgadh a-null ’s a-nall **bhon dàrna ceann gu ceann eile** an amair airson ùine mus tig an gluasad gu crìch.

Chan e a’ ghaoth a-mhàin as coireach ri *seiche*. Faodaidh crithean-talmhainn an aon rud adhbharachadh. Eadhon ged nach bi daoine a’ faireachdainn gluasad anns an talamh, faodaidh buaidh na crithe a bhith ri a faicinn ann an uisge. Anns an Litir an t-seachdain sa chaidh, bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun bhuaidh a thug Crith-thalmhainn Mhòr Lisbon air dùthchannan eile anns an Roinn Eòrpa. Bha sin ann an seachd ceud deug, caogad ’s a còig (1755). Bha *seiches* ann an grunn àiteachan. Am measg sin, bha Loch Nis.

Tha aithrisean ann gun do dh’èirich uachdar an locha gu trì troighean na b’ àirde na ’n ìre a b’ àirde a ruigeadh e le tuiltean an Earraich. Ann an Cille Chuimein, chaidh bàta a bha làn fiodha a sguabadh às an loch, agus fhàgail air tìr. Ge-tà, ’s e aon rud nach do thachair gun robh aithrisean ann mu Niseag – uilebheist Loch Nis – ann an co-cheangal ris a’ chrith-thalmhainn!

B’ e sin Crith-thalmhainn Mhòr Lisbon. Ach dè mu dheidhinn crithean ann an Inbhir Nis? No anns a’ Ghleann Mhòr, far a bheil sgàineadh chreagan ann ris an canar “The Great Glen Fault”? Uill, chan eil iad a’ tachairt ach ainneamh. Chan eil Sgàineadh a’ Ghlinne Mhòir mar a tha Sgàineadh ainmeil San Andreas ann an California, gu fortanach dhuinn. Mar as trice, bidh meadhan na crithe pìos mòr a-mach à baile Inbhir Nis. Ach corra uair bha crithean-talmhainn ann, far an robh meadhan na crithe gu math faisg air a’ bhaile.

'S dòcha gur iad an dà eisimpleir as fheàrr dhiubh – an fheadhainn a thachair ann an ochd ceud deug is sia-deug (1816) agus ann an naoi ceud deug 's a h-aon (1901). Tha na h-eòlaichean dhen bheachd gun robh meadhan na ciad tè siar air Inbhir Nis agus gun robh meadhan na dàrna tè ann an Dabhach Gairbheach, dìreach seachd cilemeatair a-mach às a' bhaile.

Agus cuin a thig an ath chrith-thalmhainn a bhuaileas air Inbhir Nis? Uill, 's e an fhirinn a th' ann nach eil fhios againn.

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Faclan na Litreach: seiche (Swiss French): *oscillating wave*; seiche (Gaelic): *animal hide*; crith-thalmhainn: *earthquake*; Cille Chuimein: *Fort Augustus*; Niseag: *Nessie*.

Abairtean na Litreach: tha cuid a' cumail a-mach: *some people maintain*; as coireach ri cuid de na h-aithrisean mu uilebheist Loch Nis: *responsible for some of the reports about the Loch Ness monster*; tuinn mhòra: *big waves*; air sàilleabh na gaoithe aig aon cheann: *because of the wind at one end*; a' putadh an uisge air uachdar Loch Nis thar fad an locha: *pushing the water on the surface of Loch Ness along the length of the loch*; ceann thall: *far end*; air ais 's air adhart: *back and forward*; faodaidh buaidh na crithe a bhith ri a faicinn: *the effect of the quake can be seen*; trì troighean na b' àirde na 'n ìre a b' àirde a ruigeadh e: *three feet higher than the highest level it would reach*; tuiltean an Earraich: *Spring floods*; far a bheil sgàineadh chreagan: *where there is a geological fault*; chan eil iad a' tachairt ach ainneamh: *they only happen rarely*; bidh meadhan na crithe pìos mòr a-mach à: *the epicentre of the quake is a good bit outside*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: a' luasgadh a-null 's a-nall **bhon dàrna ceann gu ceann eile** an amair: *oscillates from one end of the bath to the other*. Although we think of dàrna as meaning "second" eg an dàrna latha dhen mhìos (*the second day of the month*), thàinig i san dàrna àite (*she came in second place*), it can be used in the above manner to meaning "the first considered of two things or people", used in combination with "eile". Other examples are: fanaidh an dàrna neach air làrach na tubaist, fhad 's a gheibh an neach eile taic (*the first person will remain at the site of the accident while the other person gets help*); cùm thusa an dàrna lethbhreac, agus bheir mise leam an lethbhreac eile (*you keep one [the first] copy and I'll take with me the other copy*). But note also the following usage in the Litir: gun robh meadhan na ciad tè siar air Inbhir Nis agus gun robh meadhan na dàrna tè ann an Dabhach Gairbheach (*that the epicentre of the first one was west of Inverness and that the epicentre of the second one was in Dochgarroch*). Here I used ciad and dàrna rather than dàrna and eile because they represent two events separated by time rather than a choice of two co-existent objects.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Ged a tha an aon litreachadh orra: *although they share the same spelling*.

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoineachadh le MG ALBA