

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Tannochbrae agus Àiteachan “Albannach” eile (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.maclea@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 678. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 374 corresponds to Litir 678.*

An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha mi a’ bruidhinn mu Tannochbrae, Balamory agus Glendarroch – trì àiteachan ficseanail air prògraman telebhisein Albannach. Tha na h-ainmean uile Gàidhlig no leth-Ghàidhlig. Tha Balamory a’ riochdachadh *Baile Mhoire* (stèidhichte air Tobermory no *Tobar Mhoire* ann am Muile).

Nuair a bhios mi a’ ruith làithean Gàidhlig do dh’Albannaich aig nach eil an cànan idir, tha iad uile mothachail gur e ainm “fìor Albannach” a th’ ann am Balamory. Ach chan eil fhios aca, mar as trice, gur e ainm Gàidhlig a th’ ann no dè tha e a’ ciallachadh – am baile aig Moire.

Nam biodh *-mory* no *-Moire* no *-Mhoire* ann an ainm-àite, dè a’ chiad eileamaid **ris am biodh dùil?** *Cill(e)*, nach e? Àite co-cheangailte ris an Eaglais. Agus tha mòran dhiubhsan ann – *Kilmory* (cuideachd *Kilmuir*) no *Cille Mhoire*. Tha iad pailt air taobh an iar na dùthcha, eadar An t-Eilean Sgitheanach agus Siorrachd Àir. Tha a’ chuid as motha aca ann an Earra-Ghàidheal.

Bha *Glendarroch* anns a’ phrògram *Take the High Road*. Bha am filmeadh air a dhèanamh ann an Lus, taobh Loch Laomainn. Chruthaich iad ainm Gàidhlig airson a’ bhaile. Tha Glendarroch a’ tighinn bho *Gleann Darach* “glen of oaks”. Mar a thuir mi an t-seachdain sa chaidh, tha àite ann an Earra-Ghàidheal leis an dearbh ainm.

Cha tuirt mi càil thuige seo air dà phrògram eile air an telebhisean – Hamish MacBeth agus *Monarch of the Glen*. Uill, ’s ann an ***Lochdubh*** a bha Hamish MacBeth stèidhichte – deagh ainm Gàidhlig a tha sin. Agus chruthaich Compton MacCoinnich àite macmeanmnach air an robh *Glenbogle* airson a nobhail *Monarch of the Glen*. Chanainn gu bheil e Gàidhlig, ach chan eil fhios a’ m dè tha e a’ ciallachadh – Gleann na Boglaich ’s dòcha?!

’S e an teachdaireachd, ma-thà – a’ coimhead thairis air na prògramanan gu lèir – ma tha sibh airson ainm baile a chruthachadh a tha aithnichte don mhòr-shluagh mar “Albannach”, dèanaibh cinnteach gu bheil e stèidhichte air dualchas na Gàidhlig!

Ma tha sin fìor airson bailtean beaga dùthchail, a bheil e cuideachd fìor anns na bailtean mòra? Chaidh ainm a chruthachadh airson *River City* air a’ BhBC. Ged a tha am filmeadh air a dhèanamh ann an Dùn Breatann, tha an stòiridh stèidhichte ann an Glaschu. Agus chruthaich iad ainm sgìre – *Shieldinch*. Chanainn gu bheil a’ chiad phàirt bhon t-seann Bheurla, a’ ciallachadh “bothain aig iasgairean”. Agus an dàrna eileamaid – uill, Gàidhlig no Breatannais – *innis* no *ynys*, a’ ciallachadh “riverine meadow”.

Mus fhàg mi an cuspair seo, feumaidh mi rudeigin a ràdh mu characteran cartùin air a bheil mòran Albannach cianail toigheach. 'S iad sin na *Broons* agus *Oor Wullie*. Airson iomadach bliadhna cha deach innse dè am baile anns an robh iad a' fuireach. Anns na naochadan, ge-tà, thàinig e a-mach – *Auchenshoogle*. Ainm dha-rìreabh Albannach – agus ainm Gàidhlig – *Achadh an t-Seagail* – *field of the rye*.

Sin Tannochbrae, Balamory, Glendarroch, Lochdubh, Glenbogle, Shieldinch agus Auchenshoogle. Shaoileadh sibh, nach ann air bailtean macmeanmnach a bha mi a' bruidhinn, ach uisge-beatha!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Faclan na Litreach:** ficseanail: *fictional*; Moire: *The Virgin Mary*; Siorrachd Àir: *Ayrshire*; Earra-Ghàidheal: *Argyll*; macmeanmnach: *imaginary*; Dùn Breatann: *Dumbarton*; uisge-beatha: *whisky*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** tha X a' riochdachadh Y: *X represents Y*; do dh'Albannaich aig nach eil an cànan idir: *to Scots who have none of the language*; mar as trice: *usually*; tha mòran dhiubhsan ann: *there are many of them [emphatic]*; pailt air taobh an iar na dùthcha: *plentiful on the west side of the country*; bha am filmeadh air a dhèanamh ann an Lus, taobh Loch Laomainn: *the filming was done in Luss, by Loch Lomond*; chruthaich iad ainm Gàidhlig: *they created a Gaelic name*; leis an dearbh ainm: *with the same name*; cha tuirt mi càil thuige seo: *I've not said anything to this point*; 's e an teachdaireachd: *the message is*; thairis air na prògramanan gu lèir: *over all the programmes*; dèanaibh cinnteach gu bheil e stèidhichte air dualchas na Gàidhlig: *make sure it's based on the Gaelic heritage*; bailtean beaga dùthchail: *rural villages*; bothain aig iasgairean: *fishermen's bothies*; mu characteran cartùin: *about cartoon characters*; air a bheil mòran Albannach cianail toigheach: *of which many Scots are inordinately fond*; dè am baile anns an robh iad a' fuireach: *what town they were living in*; shaoileadh sibh: *you'd think*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** 's ann an ***Lochdubh*** a bha *Hamish MacBeth* stèidhichte: *it's in Lochdubh that Hamish MacBeth was based*. *Most Scots, whether or not they speak Gaelic, happily pronounce the letter combination dubh as "doo", without sounding the terminal "bh" (much as they happily leave letters silent in English words like knight, phlegm, dehiscence and debt). But I wonder how many of them realise that the "bh" was pronounced at one time. In the far south of Ireland, Gaelic-speakers still pronounce it (approximately) "doov"; they have retained the historical sounding of the "bh". That must be how we said it also at one time, hence the spelling; from the old dubh we get the surname MacDuff, with terminal "f". The river Deveron in north-east Scotland derives its name from dubh-Èireann "black Ireland" (note the preservation of the "v" sound). If we went back even further, we'd find the word written (and presumably pronounced) dub. A similar evolution took place in Welsh from Old Welsh dub to modern Welsh du.*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** dè a' chiad eileamaid ris am biodh dùil?: *what is the first element that would be expected?*

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