

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## **Bodach an t-Siabainn**

*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](mailto:rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 693. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 389 corresponds to Litir 693.*

Bodach an t-Siabainn. Ma tha sibh à Leòdhas no Na Hearadh, bidh fios agaibh cò tha mi a’ ciallachadh. Fear a rinn fhortan à siabann – am Morair Leverhulme. ’S ann leis-san a bha Leòdhas agus Na Hearadh tràth anns an fhicheadamh linn. Chaidh an t-ainm Beurla – Leverburgh – a chur air an t-Òb ann an ceann a deas na Hearadh. Dh’fheuch Leverhulme ri gnìomhachas iasgaich a stèidheachadh anns a’ phort sin.

Carson a tha mi ag ainmeachadh Leverhulme? Uill, o chionn beagan sheachdainean, bha mi air oighreachd eile a bhuineadh uaireigin don dearbh dhuine. Ach bha i fada bho na h-Eileanan Siar. Bha i ann an ceann an iar-thuath Shasainn faisg air Bolton.

Rugadh Uilleam Hesketh Lever ann am Bolton ann an ochd ceud deug, caogad ’s a h-aon (1851). Ann an ochdad ’s a còig (1885), thòisich e fhèin agus a bhràthair companaidh airson siabann a dhèanamh. Thug iad an t-ainm *Sunlight Soap* oirre.

Nuair a chaidh inbhe morair a bhuileachadh air, dh’atharraich e ainm gu Leverhulme mar chomharra air a bhean, Ealasaid Hulme. Nuair a cheannaich e Leòdhas, agus an uair sin Na Hearadh, bha e a’ tighinn faisg air deireadh a bheatha phroifeiseanta. Taobh a-staigh seachd bliadhna, bhiodh e marbh.

Am measg na rinn e, agus **’s iomadh rud sin**, cheannaich e oighreachd Rivington Hall timcheall cnoc air a bheil Rivington Pike faisg air baile a bhreith. Thug e cothrom don Liverpool Corporation am fearann a cheannach an toiseach, oir bha am baile sin a’ faighinn uisge bho lochan aig bonn a’ chnuic. Ach dhiùlt Liverpool an cothrom. Chùm Lever (oir cha robh e na mhorair fhathast) ceathrad ’s a còig acaire dha fhèin. Thug e an còrr do Bholton Corporation. Bhiodh e tric a’ toirt seachad fearann don phoball. Tha fearann Urras Steòrnabhaigh fhathast ann an làmhan nan daoine. ’S e Leverhulme a thug seachad e.

Thòisich Lever air pàirc phoblach a chruthachadh air Rivington Pike. Gu h-annasach, ge-tà, dh’atharraich Liverpool Corporation am beachd air an fhearann. Bha iad ga iarraidh a-nise, airson na lochan uisge aca a dhìon. Thug iad a’ chùis don Phàrlamaid ann an Lunnainn. Aig a’ cheann thall, bha aig Liverpool ris am fearann a cheannach, agus **a dhà uiread dhen phrìs air** ’s a phàigh Lever. Ghlèidh Lever an taigh aige a-mhàin, agus an leas mu a thimcheall. Bha aig Liverpool ri pàirc phoblach a dhèanamh dheth, ge-tà – agus an t-ainm a chur oirre – ‘Lever Park’. ’S e sin an t-ainm a th’ oirre fhathast.

Ann an naoi ceud deug is trì-deug (1913), chaidh an taigh fiodha a thog Lever anns a’ phàirc a losgadh gu làr a dh’aona-ghnothach fhad ’s a bha e fhèin ’s a bhean a’

gabhaill dinnear leis an Rìgh agus Banrigh aig dachaigh Iarla Derby. 'S i Edith Rigby a chuir teine thuige. Bha Edith na tagraiche airson còraichean bhòtaidh do bhoireannaich.

Thog Lever taigh ùr cloiche air an làraich agus b' e sin a dhachaigh shamhraidh agus an d' fhuair e bàs ann an naoi ceud deug 's còig air fhichead (1925). Thathar ag ràdh gun do ghabh e am fiabhras-clèibhe a thug bàs dha anns an taigh sin, ged a chaochail e ann an Lunnainn. Agus, le a bhàs, dh'atharraich eachdraidh Leòdhais is Na Hearadh, a bharrachd air Lever Park air Rivington Pike.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** dhiùlt: *refused*; an còrr: *the remainder*; dh'atharraich: *changed*; fiabhras-clèibhe: *pneumonia*; chaochail: *died*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Bodach an t-Siabainn: *The Soap Man (Leverhulme's Gaelic nickname)*; a rinn fhortan à siabann: *who made his fortune from soap*; ri gnìomhachas iasgaich a stèidheachadh: *to establish a fishing industry*; air oighreachd eile a bhuineadh uaireigin don dearbh dhuine: *on another estate that belonged at one time to the same man*; nuair a chaidh inbhe morair a bhuileachadh air: *when he was elevated to the peerage [when he was granted the status of a lord]*; mar chomharra air a bhean: *as a tribute to his wife*; faisg air deireadh a bheatha phroifeiseanta: *towards the end of his professional life*; faisg air baile a bhreith: *near the town of his birth*; thug e cothrom do X am fearann a cheannach an toiseach: *he gave X an opportunity to buy the land first*; ceathrad 's a còig acaire dha fhèin: *45 acres for himself*; tha fearann Urras Steòrnabhaigh fhathast ann an làmhan nan daoine: *the land of the Stornoway Trust is still in the people's hands*; pàirc phoblach: *a public park*; airson na lochan uisge aca a dhìon: *to protect their reservoirs*; thug iad a' chùis don Phàrlamaid: *they took the matter to Parliament*; ghlèidh Lever an taigh aige a-mhàin, agus an leas mu a thimcheall: *Lever only retained his house, and the garden around it*; chaidh an taigh fiodha a thog X a losgadh gu làr a dh'aona-ghnothach: *the wooden house X built was deliberately burned to the ground*; fhad 's a bha e fhèin 's a bhean a' gabhaill dinnear: *while he and his wife were dining*; tagraiche airson còraichean bhòtaidh do bhoireannaich: *a suffragette [lobbyist for the right of women to vote]*; b' e sin a dhachaigh shamhraidh: *that was his summer house*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** bha aig Liverpool ris am fearann a cheannach, agus a dhà uiread dhen phrìs air 's a phàigh Lever: *Liverpool had to buy the land at twice the price Lever paid*. Uiread 'a measure, certain amount, as much' is used in such expressions as tha (a cheart) uiread agamsa 's a th' agadsa (*I have just as much as you*). But it can also be used in combination with a number to express multiples, with the numeral lenited. Tha a thrì uiread de dh'fhearann aige a-nise (*he now has three times the amount of land*). Tha a cheithir uiread de dhaoine a' fuireach ann an Alba, seach Estonia (*four times as many people live in Scotland as do in Estonia*).

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** 's iomadh rud sin: *there were/many [things] of them*.

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