

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## **'Leabaidh' ann an Ainmean-àite (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 865. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 561 corresponds to Litir 865.*

An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha mi a' bruidhinn mu dheidhinn ainmean-àite anns a bheil am facal 'leabaidh' no 'leaba'. Aig aon àm bha daoine a' bruidhinn mu 'leaba dìonaich' far am biodh feadhainn a bh' ann an èiginn a' dol am falach anns a' mhonadh. Lorg mi tè ann an Gleann Lìomhann ann an Siorrachd Pheairt. Tha i clàraichte air a' mhapa OS (sia òirlich ris a' mhìle) a chaidh fhoillseachadh anns a' bhliadhna naoi ceud deug (1900). Tha i gu tuath air Inbhir Bharra faisg air Allt a' Mhorachain. Eucoltach ri Leaba Dhonnacha Dhuibh ann an Raineach, chan eil ainm duine co-cheangailte rithe. Chan eil air a' mhapa ach 'Leaba Dìonaich'.

Bha fios agam gun robh a leithid ann oir bha mi air leughadh mu a deidhinn anns a' Chunntas Staitistigeil Ùr. Bha fear ann uaireigin a' fuireach ann an Inbhir Bharra air an robh Iain Buidhe Ruadh mar ainm. Tha mi an dùil gur e fear-taca a bh' ann. Bhuineadh e do Chloinn 'ic Ghriogair agus thàinig an t-àm nuair a bha aig na Griogaraich ri dhol am falach. Thàinig Caimbeulach Labhair air a thòir. Bha Iain am falach anns an Leaba Dhìonaich.

Dh'aontaich bean Iain an duine aice a **bhrathadh**. Dh'iarr i air na Caimbeulaich thighinn chun an àite air an oidhche agus sùil a chumail air aghaidh na beinne air taobh a' ghlinne mu àm na camhanaich. **Chitheadh iad i**, a' tighinn a-mach às an leabaidh dhìonaich agus a' coiseachd air ais 's air adhart air a beulaibh. Thàinig a' mhadainn agus rinn i mar a gheall i.

Ach chunnaic Iain Buidhe Ruadh i agus dh'fhàs e amharasach. Thug e sùil a-mach. Chunnaic e gràisg de Chaimbeulaich a' tighinn. Thug e droch-bheul do a bhean agus theich e thar a' mhonadh. Cha chualas guth air bho sin a-mach.

Anns an leabhar aige mu ainmean-àite an Eilein Sgitheanaich, chuir Alasdair Forbais trì ainmean ann anns a bheil am facal 'leabaidh'. 'S iad sin Leaba na Làrach '*the mare's bed or resting place*', Leabaidh a' Mhèirlich '*the thief's bed*' agus Leabaidh na Glas Ghiollan. Bha Forbais dhen bheachd gun robh am fear mu dheireadh a' tighinn bho 'Glas Ghuailne' no '*grey shoulder*' – bò ann an sgeulachdan na Fèinne a bheireadh aona ghalan deug de bhainne gach turas a bhite ga bleoghann. Gu mì-fhortanach chan eil comharran-clèithe ann airson nan ainmean-àite.

Ach anns an leabhar ùr aca mu ainmean-àite an t-Sratha, tha Jake King agus Eilidh Sgaimeal ag innse dhuinn mun ainm mu dheireadh. 'S e an dreach ceart air – Leabaidh na Glais-Ghoilein. 'S e beathach mòr gun chron a bh' ann – 's dòcha mart – a bhiodh a' gluasad bho àite gu àite anns an eilean, a' sireadh ionaltraidh. Tha an 'leabaidh' aice ri lorg ri taobh nan Torran air cladach Loch Shlaopainn.

Nas fhaisg' air Ealaghol, tha Leabaidh na Bà Uidhre 'the bed of the dun cow' agus 's iongantach mura h-eil sin co-cheangailte – mar a tha Leabaidh na Glais-Ghoilein – ri dualchas na Fèinne.

Bha mi a' meòrachadh air a' chuspair seo oir thàinig mi tarsainn air Leabaidh na Bà Bàine nuair a bha mi ann an Geàrrloch. Tha dùil gun robh sin co-cheangailte ri sgeulachdan na Fèinne, ged a tha an sgeulachd air chall a-nise.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Gleann Lìomhann: *Glen Lyon*; Siorrachd Pheairt: *Perthshire*; Inbhir Bharra: *Invervar*; Iain Buidhe Ruadh: *John with the light red hair*; amharasach: *suspicious*; gràisg: *mob*; comharran-clèithe: *grid references*; Leabaidh na Glais-Ghoilein: 'the bed of the grey greedy-gut'; Ealaghol: *Elgol*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** 'leaba dìonaidh' far am biodh feadhainn a bh' ann an èiginn a' dol am falach: 'a sheltering bed' where those in danger would hide; sia òirlich ris a' mhìle: *six inches to the mile*; bha fios agam gun robh a leithid ann: *I knew such a thing existed*; bha mi air leughadh mu a deidhinn anns a' Chunntas Staitistigeil Ùr: *I had read about it in the New Statistical Account*; tha mi an dùil gur e fear-taca a bh' ann: *I imagine he was a tacksman*; bhuineadh e do Chloinn 'ic Ghriogair: *he belonged to the MacGregors*; nuair a bha aig na Griogaraich ri dhol am falach: *when the MacGregors had to hide*; thàinig Caimbeulach Labhair air a thòir: *Campbell of Lawers came in pursuit of him*; sùil a chumail air aghaidh na beinne air taobh tuath a' ghlinne: *to keep an eye on the face of the hill on the north side of the glen*; mu àm na camhanaich: *around dawn*; air ais 's air adhart air a beulaibh: *back and forth in front of it*; rinn i mar a gheall i: *she did as she [had] promised*; thug e droch-bheul do a bhean: *he gave his wife verbal abuse*; theich e thar a' mhonaidh: *he fled over the hill*; cha chualas guth air bho sin a-mach: *nothing was ever heard of him again*; aona ghalan deug de bhainne gach turas a bhite ga bleoghann: *eleven gallons of milk every time she was [would be] milked*; beathach mòr gun chron: *a big harmless animal*; a' sireadh ionaltraidh: *looking for grazing*; ri taobh nan Torran air cladach Loch Shlaopainn: *next to Torrìn on the shore of Loch Slapin*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** **Chitheadh iad i**, a' tighinn a-mach às an leabaidh dhìonaidh: **they would see her**, coming out of the 'sheltering bed'. This is a conditional form of the irregular verb 'faic'. The subject comes immediately after the verb, followed by the object. In contrast, chitheadh i iad (with 'iad' pronounced like 'ad') means 'she would see them'. Here some more examples: chitheadh sibh e 'you would see him'; chitheadh tu sinn 'you would see us'; chithinn iad 'I would see them'; chitheamaid thu or chitheadh sinn thu 'we would see you'.

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** Dh'aontaich bean Iain an duine aice a bhrathadh: *John's wife agreed to betray him*.

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