

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

## le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

### Àirighean na Pàirce

*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 956. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 652 corresponds to Litir 956.*

Halò a-rithist, a chàirdean. Tha mi airson eachdraidh thiamhaidh innse dhuibh an t-seachdain seo. Tha i a' tighinn à Eilean Leòdhais, à sgìre na Pàirce ann an taobh an ear-dheas an eilein. Innsidh mi ro dheireadh na Litreach carson a tha mi ag aithris an sgeòil seo.

Timcheall na bliadhna ochd ceud deug is seachdad (1870), bha dithis bhràithrean a-muigh sa mhonadh tuath air baile Leumrabhaigh. 'S e toiseach an t-samhraidh a bh' ann. B' iad na gillean Ruairidh Mhurchaidh Ruairidh à Leumrabhagh agus a bhràthair, Aonghas. Bha Ruairidh dìreach trì bliadhna' deug a dh'aois.

Bha an dithis a' coimhead airson caoraich. Lorg iad sa mhonadh iad aig na Lochan Beaga a tha mu dhà mhìle bho Leumrabhagh. Tha na lochan sin clàraichte air a' mhapa mar 'Lochan na Beinne Buidhe'. Bha na gillean eòlach gu leòr air an àite. Thug Aonghas a bhrògan mòra dheth gus am biodh e na bu luaithe air a chasan. Dh'iarr e air Ruairidh fuireach far an robh e, fhad 's a bhiodh esan a' dol gu luath gu taobh thall an tràid chaorach. Bhiodh Aonghas an uair sin ag iomain nan caorach air ais gu Leumrabhagh, seachad air Ruairidh. Dh'fhàg e a bhrògan mòra aig Ruairidh.

Fhuair Aonghas seachad air na caoraich agus dh'iomain e iad air ais don àite far an do dh'fhàg e Ruairidh. Ach cha robh sgeul air Ruairidh. Bha Aonghas dhen bheachd gur dòcha gun robh a bhràthair air a dhol **air thoiseach air**. Mar sin, dh'iomain e na caoraich gu ruige an fhaing ann an Leumrabhagh. Ach cha robh sgeul air Ruairidh an sin **na bu mhotha**. Bha Aonghas dhen bheachd gun robh Ruairidh air a thrèigsinn agus gun robh e air a dhol dhachaigh. Dh'fhàg e an fhaing agus chaidh e fhèin dhachaigh.

Aig an taigh ghabh e briseadh-dùil. Cha robh duine air Ruairidh fhaicinn on a dh'fhalbh an dithis bhràithrean sa mhadainn. Leis gun do thachair seo as t-samhradh, bha na làithean fada agus dh'fhalbh feadhainn a choimhead airson Ruairidh sa mhonadh. Ach cha do lorg iad an gille, no brògan Aonghas. Thàinig iad chun a' bheachd gun robh Ruairidh air tuiteam a-steach a bhoglach faisg air na Lochan Beaga.

Chaidh trì no ceithir mìosan seachad agus fhuair boireannach san sgìre aisling. 'S e Bean Dhòmhnail Aonghas an t-ainm a bh' oirre. Anns an aisling, thàinig coigreach thuice. Dh'iarr e oirre a dhol do na h-àirighean agus a-steach air bothan far an robh caora ag ionaltradh aig an doras. Bhiodh an gille cailte na bhroinn.

Dh'fhalbh sguad a choimhead air na h-àirighean faisg air a' Bheinn Bhuidhe. Lorg iad bothan le caora ag ionaltradh aig an doras. Chaidh iad a-steach agus lorg iad corp Ruairidh Mhurchaidh Ruairidh. Bha e na laighe air an làr, agus brògan Aonghais fo a cheann. Ged a bha na daoine à Leumrabhagh air rùrachd air a shon feadh na mòintich, cha tug iad sùil am broinn nam bothan-àirigh.

Tha an sgeulachd a' nochdadh ann an leabhar grinn a chaidh fhoillseachadh am-bliadhna. 'S e an tiotal air 'The Historic Shielings of Pàirc'. Tha an t-ùghdar, John Randall, a tha a' fuireach ann an Leumrabhagh, air cunntas air leth inntinneach a dhèanamh air na h-àirighean air feadh sgìre na Pàirce. Ma tha ùidh agaibh anns a' chuspair, mholainn an leabhar gu mòr dhuibh.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Faclan na Litreach:** tiamhaidh: *plaintive*; Eilean Leòdhais: *The Isle of Lewis*; coigreach: *stranger*; sguad: *squad*; corp: *body*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** sgìre na Pàirce ann an taobh an ear-dheas an eilein: *from the area of Pàirc in the south-east of the island*; a tha mi ag aithris an sgeòil seo: *that I'm reporting this story*; tuath air baile Leumrabhaigh: *north of the village of Lemreway*; toiseach an t-samhraidh: *the start of the summer*; clàraichte air a' mhapa: *recorded on the map*; thug Aonghas a bhrògan mòra dheth gus am biodh e na bu luaithe air a chasan: *Angus took his boots off so that he would be faster on his feet*; taobh thall an trèid chaorach: *the far side of the flock of sheep*; ag iomain nan caorach: *driving the sheep*; far an do dh'fhàg e X: *where he left X*; gun robh X air a thrèigsinn agus gun robh e air a dhol dhachaigh: *that X had abandoned him and gone home*; ghabh e briseadh-dùil: *he was disappointed*; air tuiteam a-steach a bhoglach: *had fallen into a bog*; fhuair boireannach san sgìre aisling: *a woman in the area had a dream*; a-steach air bothan far an robh caora ag ionaltradh aig an doras: *into a bothy where there was a sheep grazing at the door*; bhiodh an gille cailte na bhroinn: *the lost lad would be inside it*; agus brògan Aonghais fo a cheann: *with Angus's shoes under his head*; ged a bha X air rùrachd air a shon feadh na mòintich: *although X had searched for him throughout the moor*; cha tug iad sùil am broinn nam bothan-àirigh: *they didn't look inside the shieling bothies*; mholainn an leabhar gu mòr dhuibh: *I (would) warmly recommend the book to you*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** Bha Aonghas dhen bheachd gur dòcha gun robh a bhràthair air a dhol **air thoiseach air**: *Angus was of the opinion that perhaps his brother had gone ahead of him*. Toiseach is generally lenited in this expression, following an older grammatical model (although you will also hear it unlenited). Tha iad air a dhol air thoiseach oirnn 'they have gone ahead of us'.

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** cha robh sgeul air Ruairidh an sin **na bu mhotha**: *there was no sign of Ruairidh there either*.

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