

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Carbadan Argyll (1)

*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 1,021. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 717 corresponds to Litir 1,021.*

Tha ceud is fichead bliadhna air a dhol seachad on a chaidh a’ chompanaidh *Hozier Engineering* a chur air dòigh. Agus cò bh’ ann an *Hozier Engineering*? Uill, ’s e companaidh a bh’ ann, stèidhichte ann an Glaschu, a bha a’ togail chàraichean gu coimeirsealta. Seadh, bha gnìomhachas togail chàraichean againn ann an Alba, fada mus robh guth air a’ *Hillman Imp*!

Cha bhi cuimhne agaibh air **carbadan-ola** a bha ainmichte mar Hoziers, oir cha robh a leithid ann. Ach ’s dòcha – ma tha ùidh agaibh ann an eachdraidh thionnsgalach na h-Alba – gu bheil sibh air cluinntinn mun *Argyll*. Bha na h-Argylls air an dèanamh aig factaraidh Hoziers ann an Glaschu. Tha mi airson innse dhuibh mun deidhinn agus mu dheidhinn Alexander Govan a bh’ air cùl an Argyll.

**Thogadh e ann am bochdainn** ann am Baile an t-Saoir ann an Siorrachd Lannraig. Ghluais a theaghlach gu ruige Baile na Drochaid ann an Glaschu ach bha iad air an cuairteachadh le bochdainn an sin cuideachd.

Bha Ailig airson piseach a thoirt air a shuidheachadh fhèin. Chaidh e gu colaiste theicnigeach, far an do rinn e gu math. An uair sin, chaidh e fhèin ’s a bhràthair-chèile còmhla airson rothairean a dhèanamh. Ge-tà, bha cùisean doirbh aig an àm sin airson luchd-dèanaimh rothairean. Cha robh a’ mhargaidh a’ dol am meud luath gu leòr airson na bh’ ann de chompanaidhean a bha gan dèanamh.

Ghluais Ailig a Shasainn – gu Redditch ann am Worcestershire, far an d’ fhuair e obair ann am factaraidh einnseanairidh. Thòisich a’ chompanaidh air càraichean a thogail, le bhith a’ cleachdadh phàirtean a bhuineadh do chàraichean a bh’ air an togail ann an dùthchannan eile.

Dh’ionnsaich Ailig gu leòr an sin airson obair a ghabhail ann an Glaschu mar mhanaidsear air companaidh a bh’ air a bhith a’ dèanamh rothairean – *The Scottish Manufacturing Company*. ’S e an entrepreneur, Uilleam A Mac a’ Ghobhainn, a bh’ air cùl na companaidh. Bha e na shàr-eòlaiche air lagh nam peutantan. Bha Mac a’ Ghobhainn airson a dhol an sàs ann an togail charbadan-ola, agus dh’fhastaich e Ailig Govan airson cruth-atharrachadh a thoirt air a’ chompanaidh. Dh’atharraich iad a h-ainm gu *The Hozier Engineering Company*.

Bha càr aca taobh a-staigh beagan mhìosan. ’S e *Argyll Voiturette* a chanadh iad ris agus bhathar ga reic aig prìs reusanta – ceud, caogad ’s a còig gini. ’S e *voiturette* a chanadh daoine ri mòran chàraichean beaga aig an àm sin, agus bha an Argyll stèidhichte air *voiturette* a chaidh a thogail le Renault san Fhraing.

Ach carson nach tug Renault gu cùirt iad? Uill, mar a bha mi ag ràdh, bha ceannard Hozier, Uilleam Mac a' Ghobhainn, na eòlaiche air lagh nam peutantan! Ge-tà, bha aca ri bogsa-ghèaraichean ùr a dhealbhadh, agus thug Hozier a-mach peutant airson sin.

Bha dà is trì-chairteal *horsepower* ann an einnsean a' voiturette agus bha an t-einnsean ann an toiseach a' chàir. Bha e air fhionnarachadh le rèididheatar làn uisge. Bha aingleachadh dealain ann, agus càbradair math Frangach.

Bha an t-einnsean air a cheangal ris na cuibhlichean deiridh le fearsaid-dràibhidh, cluidse agus bogsa-ghèaraichean a bha ag obair aig trì astaran. B' e an t-astar a bu luaithe aig a' Voiturette ochd mìle deug san uair. Bidh tuilleadh agam air an Argyll an-ath-sheachdain.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Faclan na Litreach:** Baile an t-Saoir: *Blantyre*; Baile na Drochaid: *Bridgeton*; Siorrachd Lannraig: *Lanarkshire*; colaiste theicnigeach: *technical college*; luchd-dèanamh: *manufacturers*; factaraidh einnseanairidh: *engineering factory*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Tha ceud is fichead bliadhna air a dhol seachad on a chaidh a' chompanaidh a chur air dòigh: *120 years have gone past since the company was established*; a bha a' togail chàraichean gu coimeirsealta: *who were building cars commercially*; bha gnìomhachas togail chàraichean againn: *we had a car-building industry*; cha robh a leithid ann: *there was no such thing*; chaidh e fhèin 's a bhràthair-chèile còmhla airson rothairean a dhèanamh: *he and his brother-in-law combined to make bicycles*; ghluais Ailig a Shasainn: *Alex moved to England*; le bhith a' cleachdadh phàirtean a bhuineadh do chàraichean a bh' air an togail ann an dùthchannan eile: *by using parts that belonged to cars that were built in other countries*; 's e Uilleam A Mac a' Ghobhainn a bh' air cùl na companaidh: *it's William A Smith that was behind the company*; bha e na shàr-eòlaiche air lagh nam peutantan: *he was an expert on patent law*; dh'fhastaich e X airson cruth-atharrachadh a thoirt air a' chompanaidh: *he hired X to restructure the company*; carson nach tug Renault gu cùirt iad?: *why didn't Renault take them to law?*; bha an t-einnsean ann an toiseach a' chàir: *the engine was in the front of the car*; bha e air fhionnarachadh le rèididheatar: *it was cooled by a radiator*; bha aingleachadh dealain ann, agus càbradair math Frangach: *there was electric ignition, and a good French carburettor [aingleachadh is a bit of 'posh' word for 'ignition' – in common parlance 'startadh' would generally be used]*; air a cheangal ris na cuibhlichean deiridh le fearsaid-dràibhidh, cluidse agus bogsa-ghèaraichean a bha ag obair aig trì astaran: *linked to the rear wheels by a drive-shaft, clutch and a gearbox that worked at three speeds*; b' e an t-astar a bu luaithe aig a' Voiturette ochd mìle deug san uair: *the Voiturette had a maximum speed of eighteen miles per hour*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** Cha bhi cuimhne agaibh air **carbadaan-ola** a bha ainmichte mar X: *you won't remember petrol cars that were called X. As the Litir concerns early motor cars, it's appropriate to use the term the Gaels used in the early days – carbadaan-ola 'a petrol vehicle' (and carbadaan-iarainn 'a train). You will still occasionally hear an older person speaking about 'carbadaan-ola'.*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach** Thogadh e ann am bochdainn: *he was raised in poverty.*

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