

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## An Giuthas Wollemi

*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.macleam@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.macleam@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 1,080. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 776 corresponds to Litir 1,080.*

Ann an Litir mu dheireadh, bha mi a’ bruidhinn mun uachdaran Rosach, Osgood MacCoinnich. Ged a bha e na shealgair air leth, agus na mhèirleach uighean, bha ùidh aige ann an nàdar. Bhiodh e a’ cur lusan is craobhan, a bhuineadh do dhùthchannan eile, air an oighreachd aige fhèin. Às an leas a chuir e air dòigh air cladach Loch Iù, timcheall air taigh mòr na h-oighreachd aige, dh’èirich Leas Inbhir Iù, a tha ainmeil air feadh an t-saoghail. Tha an leas fo stiùir Urras Nàiseanta na h-Alba an-diugh.

Am measg nan craobhan as fheàrr leam anns an leas, tha *Eucalyptus coccifera*. Ann am Beurla, ’s e *Tasmanian Snow Gum* a chanas daoine rithe, agus bha mi gu math eòlach oirre nuair a bha mi a’ fuireach ann an Tasmania. An sin, tha iad rin lorg air mullaichean nam beann far am bi reothadh is sneachd ann tric gu leòr anns a’ gheamhradh. Ann an Inbhir Iù, tha na craobhan air leth mòr agus fallain – agus **carson nach bitheadh?** Ged a tha Alba nas fhuaire na Tasmania, tha na craobhan ann an Inbhir Iù a’ fàs ri taobh a’ chladaich, seach air **mullaichean bheann**.

Ge-tà, chan eil mi airson innse dhuibh mu chraobhan à Tasmania, ach mu aon chraobh shònraichte a bhuineas do thìr-mòr Astràilia, agus a tha a’ fàs gu soirbheachail ann an Leas Inbhir Iù. Chunnaic mi an-uiridh i nuair a bha mi anns an leas, agus thug i toileachas mòr dhomh.

’S e sin an Giuthas Wollemi, craobh air leth sean a tha ri lorg gu nàdarrach a-mhàin ann am pàirc nàiseanta ceud gu leth cilemeatair à Sydney. Chan eil ach trì doireachan dhiubh ann am bith, agus tha iad uile ann an glòman domhainn ann an àite air leth garbh. ’S ann dìreach ann an naoi ceud deug, naochad ’s a ceithir (1994) a chaidh na craobhan a lorg. Roimhe sin, bha luchd-saidheans eòlach orra a-mhàin mar fosailean, a bha cho sean ri dà cheud millean bliadhna.

’S e fear Daibhidh Noble a lorg iad. Air sgàth sin, chaidh a’ chraobh ainmeachadh mar *Wollemia nobilis*. Tha *Wollemia* a’ tighinn bho ainm na pàirce nàiseanta agus *nobilis* à Noble, ged a tha e cuideachd a’ ciallachadh ‘usal’ ann an Laideann. Agus, gu dearbh, tha sin iomchaidh. Tha *wollemi* na fhacal a bhuineas do na tùsanaich. Tha e a’ ciallachadh, a rèir choltais, ‘thoir an aire, cùm do shùil a-mach’.

Chan e giuthas ceart a th’ anns a’ Ghiuthas Wollemi. Tha e nas dlùithe ann an càirdeas ris na *monkey puzzles* is craobhan dhen t-seòrsa sin. Tha e sìor-uaine, le duilleagan mòra leathann an coimeas ris a’ Ghiuthas Albannach. Ruigidh a’ chraobh ceathrad meatair ann an àirde.

Tha mi toilichte gu bheil an Giuthas Wollemi a' fàs ann an Inbhir Iù – an t-àite as fhaide tuath san t-saoghal anns a bheil e. Tha e a' ciallachadh, ma thachras dad dhaibh ann an Astràilia, gu bheil an gnè fhèin sàbhailte, beò ann an àite eile. Agus am-bliadhna, bha fìor chunnart ann gum falbhadh na craobhan nàdarach mu dheireadh anns na teintean-coille uabhasach ann an Astràilia. Chuir seirbheis na pàirce nàiseanta sgioba shònraichte ann le heileacoptair. Agus, gu fortanach, chaidh aca air na doireachan, anns a bheil an Giuthas Wollemi a' fàs, a shàbhaladh. Mo bheannachd orra.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** uachdaran: *landlord*; Rosach: *belonging to Ross-shire*; oighreachd: *estate*; Urras Nàiseanta na h-Alba: *National Trust for Scotland*; an-uiridh: *last year*; uasal: *noble*; iomchaidh: *fitting, appropriate*; teintean-coille: *bushfires [forest fires]*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Ged a bha e na shealgair air leth, agus na mhèirleach uighean: *although he was a skilful hunter, and an egg thief*; a bhuineadh do dhùthchannan eile: *that belonged to other countries*; às an leas a chuir e air dòigh air cladach Loch Iù: *from the garden he set up on the shore of Loch Ewe*; dh'èirich Leas Inbhir Iù: *Inverewe Gardens arose*; tha iad rin lorg air mullaichean nam beann: *they are found on the summits of the mountains*; far am bi reothadh is sneachd ann: *where there is frost and snow*; craobh shònraichte a bhuineas do thìr-mòr Astràilia: *a special tree that belongs to the mainland of Australia*; chan eil ach trì doireachan dhiubh ann am bith: *there are only three groves of them existing*; ann an glòman domhainn ann an àite air leth garbh: *in deep canyons in an extremely rugged place*; bha luchd-saidheans eòlach orra a-mhàin mar fosailean: *scientists only knew them as fossils*; thoir an aire, cùm do shùil a-mach: *be aware, keep your eyes open*; nas dlùithe ann an càirdeas ris: *closer in relationship to*; sìor-uaine, le duilleagan mòra leathann an coimeas ris a' Ghiuthas Albannach: *evergreen, with large, broad leaves compared to the Scots Pine*; an t-àite as fhaide tuath san t-saoghal anns a bheil e: *the northernmost place in the world where it is [to be found]*; ma thachras dad dhaibh ann an Astràilia, gu bheil an gnè fhèin sàbhailte: *if anything happens to them in Australia, that the species itself is safe*; chuir seirbheis na pàirce nàiseanta sgioba shònraichte ann le heileacoptair: *the national park service put in a special team by helicopter*; chaidh aca air na doireachan, anns a bheil an Giuthas Wollemi a' fàs, a shàbhaladh: *they were able to save the groves in which the Wollemi Pine grows*; mo bheannachd orra: *well done to them*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** seach air **mullaichean bheann**: *instead of on the summits of mountains*. The word beinn 'mountain' started off life as beann 'horn' but because it is a feminine noun, it was inflected in the dative case as eg air a' bheinn 'on the mountain'. Eventually the dative form became the nominative beinn. However, the genitive plural nam beann 'of the mountains' retains the old form of the word. Without the article it becomes bheann 'of mountains'.

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** carson nach bitheadh?: *why wouldn't [they be]?*

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