

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Anndra Moireach agus Caisteal Abhaich (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 roddy.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 1,122. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 818 corresponds to Litir 1,122.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Anndra Moireach. Bha e beò o chionn seachd ceud bliadhna. Bha caisteal aige faisg air Abhach anns an Eilean Dubh.

Anns a’ Chèitean dà cheud deug, naochad ’s a seachd (1297), bha coinneamh chudromach ann an Caisteal Inbhir Nis. An làthair, bha ceannardan Sasannach ann an ceann a tuath na h-Alba. Nam measg, bha Constabal Caisteal na Sròine – no Caisteal Urchardain, faisg air Druim na Drochaid. B’ esan Sir Uilleam Fitzwarine. Bha e fhèin is càch a’ bruidhinn mun ar-a-mach, anns an robh Albannaich an sàs, an aghaidh an riaghladairean Sasannach.

An dèidh na coinneimh, chaidh Fitzwarine agus a chompanaich dhachaigh. Bha Anndra Moireach agus bàillidh à baile Inbhir Nis – Alexander Pilche – agus an luchd-taic’ a’ feitheamh riutha. Faisg air ceann a tuath Loch Nis, thug na h-Albannaich ionnsaigh air Fitzwarine. A rèir beul-aithris, thachair e ann an àite ris an canar Innis a’ Chatha.

Theich Fitzwarine le a bheatha. Lean am Moireach e gu Caisteal Urchardain, ach cha robh e comasach air ballachan a’ chaisteil a bhriseadh. Thug e ionnsaigh air a’ chaisteal air an oidhche, ach cha robh e soirbheachail. Thill e a Mhoireibh, far an do ghabh e thairis a h-uile caisteal a bh’ ann an làmhan nan Sasannach.

Bha Rìgh Eideard a’ call a smachd air Alba. Aig deireadh an t-samhraidh, cha robh ach aon chaisteal na làmhan tuath air a’ mhachair Ghallta. B’ e sin Dùn Dè. Thàinig na feachdan aig Anndra Moireach agus Uilleam Uallas còmhla agus chuir iad Caisteal Dhùn Dè **fo shèist**.

’S ann an uair sin a chuir Iarla Shurraidh armailt ri chèile. Rinn e air Sruighlea. Chaidh am Moireach agus Uallas gu ruige Drochaid Shruighlea airson coinneachadh ris. Dh’inns mi dhuibh mun chath sin, agus mar a bhuannaich na h-Albannaich, ann an Litir mìle, naochad ’s a ceithir (1,094).

’S dòcha gun robh am Moireach a cheart cho cudromach ri Uilleam Uallas ann an iomairt na neo-eisimeileachd. Carson, ma-thà, nach eil e cho ainmeil ri Uallas? Uill, **ma dh’fhaoidte gur e as coireach ri sin** nach robh Anndra Moireach beò fada an dèidh Cath Drochaid Shruighlea. Tha cuid dhen bheachd gun do chaill e a bheatha anns a’ chath sin.

Chan eil a’ chùis soilleir. Chuir ceannardan na h-Alba dà litir a-mach còrr is mìos an dèidh a’ chatha. Bha Anndra Moireach air ainmeachadh anns na dhà mar fhear de cheannardan na h-Alba. Ach, an dèidh sin, cha bhi ainm a’ nochdadh a-rithist. ’S dòcha gun deach a leòn aig Cath Drochaid Shruighlea agus gun do chaochail e beagan sheachdainean às dèidh làimhe. No ’s dòcha gun deach a mharbhadh sa chath, ach gun robh e feumail gu poilitigeach do Uallas ainm a chur gu feum mar gun robh e beò fhathast.

Ann an latha an-diugh, thathar a' cuimhneachadh Uilleim Uallais gu mòr ann an Alba. Tha carragh-cuimhne dha air cnoc os cionn Sruighlea. Agus rinn Mel Gibson gaisgeach dheth anns a' film *Braveheart*. Ach cò nach do nochd idir ann am *Braveheart*? Seadh, Anndra Moireach. Cha robh sgeul air sa film. Agus chan eil carragh-cuimhne ann dha. Ma tha feadhainn airson carragh-cuimhne a thogail dha, chanainn nach biodh àite na b' fheàrr air a shon na Caisteal Abhaich ri taobh Linne Mhoireibh.

* * * * *

Faclan na Litreach: Anndra Moireach: *Andrew de Moray*; an làthair: *present*; bàillidh: *baillie*; Innis a' Chatha: *Battlefield*; Dùn Dè: *Dundee*; Iarla Shurraidh: *The Earl of Surrey*.

Abairtean na Litreach: faisg air Abhach anns an Eilean Dubh: *near Avoch on the Black Isle*; air aithneachadh ann am Beurla mar: *known in English as*; a' Ghàidhlig cheart air an daingnich: *the correct Gaelic for the fortress*; Constabal Caisteal na Sròine – no Caisteal Urchardain, faisg air Druim na Drochaid: *the Constable of Castle Urquhart, near Drumnadrochit*; bha e fhèin is càch a' bruidhinn mun ar-a-mach an aghaidh an riaghladairean Sasannach: *he and others were speaking about the rebellion against their English governors*; anns an robh Albannaich an sàs: *in which Scots were involved*; cha robh e comasach air ballachan a' chaisteil a bhriseadh: *he wasn't able to break the walls of the castle*; thug e ionnsaigh air a' chaisteal: *he attacked the castle*; bha Rìgh Eideard a' call a smachd air Alba: *King Edward was losing his control of Scotland*; na làmhnan tuath air a' mhachair Ghallta: *in his hands north of the Central Belt*; a cheart cho cudromach ri Uilleam Uallas ann an iomairt na neo-eisimeileachd: *just as important as William Wallace in the campaign for [of] independence*; bha X air ainmeachadh anns na dhà mar fhear de cheannardan na h-Alba: *X was named in both as one of the leaders of Scotland*; feumail gu poilitigeach do Uallas ainm a chur gu feum mar gun robh e beò fhathast: *politically useful for Wallace to use his name as if he were still alive*; tha carragh-cuimhne dha air cnoc os cionn Sruighlea: *there is a memorial to him on a hill above Stirling*; cò nach do nochd idir?: *who didn't appear at all?*; nach biodh àite na b' fheàrr air a shon na Caisteal Abhaich: *that there won't be a better place than Ormond Castle*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **ma dh'fhaoidte gur e as coireach ri sin** nach robh Anndra Moireach beò fada an dèidh Cath Drochaid Shruighlea: ***perhaps it is that Andrew Murray was not alive long after the Battle of Stirling Bridge that is responsible/the reason for that.*** Note that if you are using this common idiom, you must use the correct verb. The expression begins with the assertive verb 'is' and not the verb 'to be'. 'S e Murchadh as coireach 'Murdo is responsible'; an tu fhèin as coireach 'are you responsible?'; chan e Màiri as coireach ris 'Mary is not responsible for it'.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: chuir iad Caisteal Dhùn Dè fo shèist: *they put Dundee Castle under siege*.

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