

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Fearchar Lighiche (5)

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. This is Litir 1,168. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 864 corresponds to Litir 1,168.

Tha mi air a bhith ag innse dhuibh mu Fhearchar Lighiche. An robh e às Ìle, mar a tha an Seann Chunntas Staitistigeach a’ cumail a-mach no à faisg air Inbhir Nis mar a tha cuid de sgoilearan ag ràdh? ’S dòcha gur e dìreach gun robh fios aig daoine gum buineadh na Peutanaich – no Clann ’ic Bheatha – do dh’Ìle bho thùs as coireach gun tuirt iad gur ann às Ìle a bha Fearchar fhèin.

Co-dhiù, **tha mi airson crìoch a chur air** na cunntasan agam mu Fhearchar le bhith a’ toirt sùil air a’ bheul-aithris a chruinnich Màiri Beith am measg muinntir Dùthaich MhicAoidh anns an fhicheadamh linn.

Bha muinntir an àite a’ gabhail ris gur e Peutanach a bh’ ann am Fearchar. Cha do mhair ainm a’ chinnidh sin ro fhada anns a’ cheann a tuath, ge-tà. Bha sin air dà adhbhar. Ghabh cuid de shliochd Fhearchair an cinneadh Mac Aoidh orra fhèin. Agus dh’fhalbh feadhainn dhiubh gu ruige Taobh Sear Rois far an robh iad nan lighichean do na Rothaich leis an robh Oighreachd Foghlais.

Bha na seanchaidhean air Taobh Mhealanais ag ràdh gun do chuir Fearchar air dòigh sgoil mheidigeach a fhuair a maoineachadh bhon sporan aig Rìgh Albannach. Bha an sgoil ag oideachadh lannsairean a bhiodh mar phàirt de dh’Arm na h-Alba.

Bha fear de na bodaich a thug fios do Mhàiri dhen bheachd gun robh Fearchar na shàr-eòlaiche air tinneasan nan sùl agus gun robh Raibeart II a’ fulang le a leithid. Bha e dhen bheachd gun robh an sgoil gu siar air Ach’ an Inbhir aig beul Allt Srath Mhealanais. Chan eil sgeul oirre an-diugh.

Faisg air sin, deas air Dail na Frìthe, bha làrach far an robh na h-oileanaich a’ fuireach. Agus cuideachd faisg air Allt Mhealanais, bha tobhta ann mu choinneimh dùn ris an canar an Dùn Buidhe. Bha sin aithnichte mar ‘Làrach Taigh Fhearchair’. Tuigidh sibh gun robh daoine dhen bheachd gun robh Fearchar Lighiche a’ fuireach an sin. Chan eil dad air fhàgail dhen tobhta an-diugh. Chaidh gàrradh agus bàthach a thogail leis na clachan.

A bheil ainmean-àite ann an Dùthaich MhicAoidh a tha co-cheangailte ri Fearchar Lighiche? Uill, tha sàilean beag sear air Armadal air a bheil ‘Port Fhearchair’. Chan urrainn dhomh a ràdh cò am Fearchar a tha ainmichte ann, agus chan eil an t-Suirbhuidh Òrdanais a’ toirt fiosrachadh dhuinn air.

Ge-tà, tha Màiri Beith ag innse dhuinn gu bheil sgeir faisg air Ach’ an Inbhir, Taobh Mhealanais, air a bheil ‘Fearchar’s Rock’. Chan fhaigh duine ga h-ionnsaigh ach ann am bàta. Tha mi an dùil gur e Sgeir Fhearchair a chanadh na Gàidheil rithe. Carson sgeir seach creag? Oir b’ e sin, a rèir beul-aithris, àite far am biodh Fearchar

a' cruinneachadh cairgein a bhiodh e a' cur gu feum ann an leigheasan. Bha sin anns a' cheathramh linn deug. Eadhon an-diugh, bidh daoine fhathast a' dèanamh slaman de chairgein dhaibhsan a tha a' fulang le droch stamag.

Sin agaibh deireadh an t-sreatha Litrichean mu Fhearchar Lighiche. Tha mi a' faireachdainn car dlùth ris an duine. Tha e againn ann am beul-aithris agus co-dhiù aon ainm-àite. Agus tha e a' cur nar cuimhne mar a tha seann dìleab de dh'eòlas meidigeach aig na Gàidheil. **Uair no uaireigin** bheir sinn sùil a bharrachd air a' chuspair sin.

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Faclan na Litreach: lighiche: *physician, healer*; Ìle: *Islay*; Peutanaich no Clann 'ic Bheatha: *Beatons*; Rìgh Raibeart II: *King Robert II*; Dail na Frìthe: *Dalnafree*; sàilean: *small sea-inlet*; An t-Suirbhidh Òrdanais: *The Ordnance Survey*.

Abairtean na Litreach: mar a tha an Seann Chunntas Staitistigeach a' cumail a-mach: *as the Old Statistical Account maintains*; gun robh fios aig daoine gum buineadh X do dh'Ìle bho thùs as coireach gun tuiirt iad gur ann às Ìle a bha Fearchar fhèin: *that people knew that X belonged originally to Islay was responsible for them saying that Fearchar himself was from Islay*; cha do mhair ainm a' chinnidh sin ro fhada: *that surname did not last too long*; ghabh cuid de shliochd Fhearchair an cinneadh Mac Aoidh orra fhèin: *some of Fearchar's descendants took the name Mackay*; gu ruige Taobh Sear Rois: *to Easter Ross*; far an robh iad nan lighichean do na Rothaich leis an robh Oighreachd Foghlais: *where they were physicians to the Munros who owned the Fowlis Estate*; sgoil mheidigeach a fhuair a maoinachadh bhon sporan aig Rìgh Albannach: *a medical school that obtained its funding from the coffers of a Scottish King*; ag oideachadh lannsairean: *teaching surgeons*; gun robh X na shàr-eòlaiche air tinneasan nan sùl: *that X was an expert on eye diseases*; gu siar air Ach' an Inbhir aig beul Allt Srath Mhealanais: *to the west of Achininver at the mouth of Strath Melness Burn*; bha tobhta ann mu choinneimh dùn ris an canar an Dùn Buidhe: *there was a ruin opposite a broch called Dùn Buidhe*; chaidh gàrradh agus bàthach a thogail leis na clachan: *a stone wall and byre were built with the stones*; àite far am biodh X a' cruinneachadh cairgein: *a place where X would be gathering carragheen [seaweed]*; dhaibhsan a tha a' fulang le droch stamag: *for those who are suffering a bad stomach*; tha mi a' faireachdainn car dlùth ris an duine: *I feel quite close to the man*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **tha mi airson crìoch a chur air** na cunntasan agam: *I want to conclude my accounts*. Note that in formal usage of the language (and informally in most dialects) in a structure like this, the verbal noun is lenited and in inverse position, after the noun it is commanding i.e. crìoch. We say *tha mi a' cur crìoch air X* 'I am finishing X', with *cur* in front of crìoch, but *tha mi airson crìoch a chur air X*. Dialectally, you might hear *tha mi airson cur crìoch air X* but it is still less common than the inversed form.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **Uair no uaireigin:** *[at] some time or other*.

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