

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Beurla Inbhir Nis

Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 2:55pm on Sunday as part of BBC Radio nan Gàidheal's hour-long learning zone, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'SpeakGaelic Extra', with a repeat at 10.30 pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,287. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 983 corresponds to Litir 1,287. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

How ye doo'een? Ach yir se-en it. How's yerself? No bad – it's a smasheen day, ri'eenuff.

Tha mi a' tòiseachadh na Litreach an-diugh le beagan Beurla. **Buinidh i do phrìomh bhaile na Gàidhealtachd**, Inbhir Nis.

O chionn ghoirid, fhuair mi leabhran a chaidh fhoillseachadh le Fòram Eachdraidh Ionadail Inbhir Nis. 'S e an tiotal a th' air an leabhran '*Old Inverness Words and Phrases*'. Tha e a' toirt sùil air Beurla Inbhir Nis. Tha e gu math inntinneach.

Tha cuid de na faclan sònraichte do Inbhir Nis. Mar eisimpleir – *clacher*. Chan e neach a tha ag obair gu proifeiseanta le clachan, ach cuideigin a tha a' toirt taic don sgioba ball-coise ionadail – Clachnacuddin FC! Agus *salachs* – chan urrainn dhomh a ràdh am bi am facal sin a' nochdadh ann an àiteachan eile. Ach tha e a' ciallachadh '*Salvation Army*' – *salachs*.

Nochdaidh cuid de na faclan ann an sgìrean eile – gu sònraichte air a' Ghalltachd. Mar eisimpleir – *scaffies* airson luchd-glanaidh sgudail agus *trachled* – air a shàrachadh no air a chlaoidheadh le obair.

Tha earrann anns an leabhran mu fhaclan a thàinig a-steach a Bheurla Inbhir Nis bhon Ghàidhlig. Is beag an t-iongnadh, oir bha Gàidhlig aig a' mhòr-chuid de mhuinntir a' bhaile thairis air ceudan bhliadhnaichean.

Seo eisimpleir bhon bhriathrachas aca, leis a' Bheurla ionadail an toiseach agus an uair sin am mìneachadh. *Amadan* – *a fool*. Uill, tha sin gu follaiseach bhon Ghàidhlig agus 's e facal a chluinnear tric gu leòr fhathast. Cuideachd *groyk* – *a fool, an awkward person* – bhon Ghàidhlig *gròig*. *Bodach* – *an old man* – agus *cailleach* – *an old woman*. Tha an dà fhacal sin air an cleachdadh ann am Beurla air feadh na Gàidhealtachd – co-dhiù am measg dhaoine a bhuineas don Ghàidhealtachd.

Cyarack – *left-handed*. Chan eil an leabhran a' mìneachadh mar a bhios daoine ga chleachdadh. Ann an Gàidhlig bidh sinn ag ràdh gu bheil cuideigin leis a' chearraig no gu bheil a' chearrag aige. *Doorchan* – *a pine cone*. Tha sin a' tighinn bhon Ghàidhlig *durcan*. *Dossan* – *fringe of hair on the forehead* – bhon Ghàidhlig *dosan*.

Tha am facal *cappach* air an liosta cuideachd, a' ciallachadh *toothless*. Tha am facal Gàidhlig *cabach* a' ciallachadh 'gun fhiacalan no le beul grànda'. Tha fhios gu

bheil e stèidhichte air an fhacal *cab*. Tha cab a' ciallachadh 'beul' ach tha faclair Dwelly ag innse seo dhuinn: '*cab – mouth ill-set with teeth*'.

Ann an Inbhir Nis, canar *mappach* airson *very drunk and confused*. Ann an Gàidhlig tha *mabach* a' ciallachadh '*stammering, stuttering*' – tha e co-cheangailte ri cainnt ach cha leig e leas a bhith co-cheangailte ri deoch làidir.

Tha an abairt *mo-hooker* ann am Beurla Inbhir Nis, a' ciallachadh *it doesn't matter*. Tha sin gu follaiseach bhon abairt Ghàidhlig *ma thogair* leis an dearbh chiall. Bidh e inntinneach faicinn dè mhaireas beò de na seann fhaclan is abairtean Gàidhlig ann am Beurla Inbhir Nis anns an ùine fhada.

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Faclan na Litreach: Fòram Eachdraidh Ionadail Inbhir Nis: *Inverness Local History Forum*; luchd-glanaidh sgudail: *rubbish collectors*; gu follaiseach: *obviously*.

Abairtean na Litreach: cò às a tha a' chainnt sin?: *where is that speech from?*; math dh'fhaodte gun aithnich sibh i: *perhaps you will recognise it*; neach a tha ag obair gu proifeiseanta le clachan: *somebody that works professionally with stones*; cuideigin a tha a' toirt taic don sgioba ball-coise ionadail: *somebody that supports the local football team*; gu sònraichte air a' Ghalltachd: *particularly in the Lowlands*; is beag an t-iongnadh, oir bha Gàidhlig aig a' mhòr-chuid de mhuinntir a' bhaile thairis air ceudan bhliadhnaichean: *it's hardly surprising, because the majority of the townsfolk spoke Gaelic for centuries*; 's e facal a chluinnear tric gu leòr fhathast: *it's a word that is heard often enough still*; am measg dhaoine a bhuineas don Ghàidhealtachd: *among people who belong to the Highlands*; gu bheil cuideigin leis a' chearraig: *that somebody is left-handed*; gun fhaclan no le beul grànda: *toothless or possessing an ugly mouth*; cha leig e leas a bhith co-cheangailte ri deoch làidir: *it doesn't need to be connected to strong drink*; bidh e inntinneach faicinn dè mhaireas beò de na seann fhaclan is abairtean Gàidhlig ann am Beurla Inbhir Nis anns an ùine fhada: *it will be interesting to see what survives of the old Gaelic words and phrases that in the English of Inverness in the long term*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Tha mi a' tòiseachadh na Litreach an-diugh le beagan Beurla: *I am starting the Litir today with a bit of English*. Litir is a slender feminine noun that broadens with an -ach ending in the genitive singular case. It is here in the genitive singular with the article following the verbal noun a' tòiseachadh. Without the article we would leave it in its nominative form e.g. bidh mi a' tòiseachadh litir.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Buinidh i do phrìomh bhaile na Gàidhealtachd: *it belongs to the Highland capital*.

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