

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Caisteal a' Bhreabadair (2)

*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 1,304. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,000 corresponds to Litir 1,304. The Litir is also available at [www.bbc.co.uk/litir](http://www.bbc.co.uk/litir) and [www.learn Gaelic.scot/litir](http://www.learn Gaelic.scot/litir). Ruairidh can be contacted at [fios@learn Gaelic.scot](mailto:fios@learn Gaelic.scot).*

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Chaisteal a' Bhreabadair – no Caisteal an Reubadair – air an Stac Àrd, deas air Èirisgeigh. Nuair a bha am breabadair aig an àirigh ann an Uibhist a Deas, roghnaich e tè de na boireannaich òga a ghabhail mar bhean. Thug e am bruid i. Thug e i dhachaigh leis.

Feumaidh gun do ghabh am boireannach ris an t-suidheachadh aice. Bhiodh i a' dèanamh a h-uile càil mar a bha esan. Bhiodh i ag iasgach, ag eunachadh agus a' spùinneadh còmhla ris.

Anns na làithean ud cha robh bàtaichean ceangailte le sèineachan, ach le ròpan. Bha e furasta gu leòr don bhreabadair na ròpan a ghearradh agus leigeil leis na bàtaichean a bhith air an sguabadh don chladach. An uair sin, bhiodh e fhèin, a bhean agus an **ceathrar bhalach** aca a' faighinn a' bhathair a bh' air bòrd dhaibh fhèin. Bha iad ri spùinneadh mar seo fad na h-ùine agus bha daoine a' fàs **seachd searbh sgìth** dhiubh.

Chan eil fhios agam cò na h-ùghdarrasan-lagha a bh' ann aig an àm. Chanainn gur e Clann 'ic Nèill a bh' ann – agus an ceann-cinnidh aca ann am Barraigh. Co-dhiù, chaidh òrdugh a-mach am breabadair a chur an grèim.

Latha a bha seo, bha am breabadair agus triùir de na balaich aige a-muigh ag iasgach. Bha a bhean agus an gille as òige anns a' chaisteal. Chitheadh iad càch anns an eathar.

Chunnaic am boireannach iùbhrach – soitheach-seòlaidh – a' tighinn seachad air Eilean Ghioghaigh. Tha sin eadar Èirisgeigh agus Barraigh. Bha an soitheach luath, le seòl mòr oirre. A bharrachd air sin, bha dusan duine air bòrd, a h-uile duine na ràmhadair.

An toiseach bha am boireannach a' smaoinichadh gun robh an iùbhrach a' dèanamh air a' chaisteal. Rinn i deiseil a dhol gu mullach a' bhearraidh. An sin b' urrainn dhi clachan a thilgeil sìos air duine sam bith a bhiodh a' sreap ann le droch rùn.

Ach 's ann air an eathar-iasgaich a bha na seòladairean ag amas. Chunnaic am breabadair iad. Rinn e fhèin is na balaich aige air ceann a deas Èirisgeigh. Bha iad a' dol a dhol am falach an sin. Ràinig iad Èirisgeigh ach bha an soitheach eile na bu luaithe na iad. Cha robh iad fada air cùl a' bhreabadair. Ràinig iad an t-eilean, ghlac iad am breabadair agus na gillean aige agus chuir iad gu bàs iad.

Dh'òrdaich an comann-dair nach biodh a chladheamh air a ghlanadh. Bha fuil a' bhreabadair air a' chladheamh a' cur ann an cuimhne dhaoine mar a mharbh an comann-dair am breabadair.

Tha trì ainmean-àite air cladaich a deas Èirisgeigh, aig bonn Beinn Staca, a tha ceangailte ris a' bhreabadair agus a bhàs. Tha Sloc na Creiche ann '*the hollow of the plundering*' agus Sgala na Creiche '*the cliff of the plundering*'. Faisg air làimh, aig fìor cheann a deas Èirisgeigh, tha Leac na Banaraich '*the slab of the milkmaid*'. Tha sin a' cuimhneachadh bean a' bhreabadair. A rèir an sgeòil, bha i na banarach mus deach a toirt am bruid.

Cha robh fios aig bean a' bhreabadair gu dè bh' air tachairt. Ach mu dheireadh, thàinig a h-athair agus thug e a nighean agus a mac dhachaigh a dh'Uibhist a Deas. Bhon latha sin a-mach cha robh duine a' fuireach ann an Caisteal a' Bhreabadair.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Èirisgeigh: *Eriskay*; sèineachan: *chains*; na h-ùghdarrasan-lagha: *the legal authorities*; Barraigh: *Barra*; trìùir: *three people*; iùbhrach: *cutter (type of boat)*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Nuair a bha am breabadair aig an àirigh ann an Uibhist a Deas, roghnaich e tè de na boireannaich òga a ghabhail mar bhean: *when the weaver was at the shieling in South Uist, he chose to take one of the young man as a wife*; thug e am bruid i: *he kidnapped her*; feumaidh gun do ghabh am boireannach ris an t-suidheachadh aice: *the woman must have accepted her situation*; bhiodh i ag iasgach, ag eunachadh agus a' spùinneadh còmhla ris: *she would go fishing, birding and pirating along with him*; air an sguabadh don chladaich: *washed ashore*; chitheadh iad càch anns an eathar: *they could see the others in the boat*; a h-uile duine na ràmh-dair: *and every man a rower*; rinn i deiseil a dhol gu mullach a' bhearraidh: *she made ready to go to the top of the cliff*; b' urrainn dhi clachan a thilgeil sìos air duine sam bith: *she could throw stones down on any person*; a bhiodh a' sreap ann le droch rùn: *who was climbing there with evil intent*; rinn e fhèin is na balaich aige air ceann a deas Èirisgeigh: *he and his sons made for the southern end of Eriskay*; chuir iad gu bàs iad: *they put them to death*; bha fuil a' bhreabadair air a' chladheamh a' cur ann an cuimhne dhaoine mar a mharbh an comann-dair am breabadair: *the weaver's blood on the sword was reminding people of how the commander killed the weaver*; bha i na banarach mus deach a toirt am bruid: *she was a milking maid before she was kidnapped*; thug e a nighean agus a mac dhachaigh a dh'Uibhist a Deas: *he took his daughter and her son home to South Uist*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** bhiodh e fhèin, a bhean agus an ceathrar bhalach aca a' faighinn a' bhathair a bh' air bòrd dhaibh fhèin: *he himself, his wife and their four boys (sons) would be getting the goods/merchandise for themselves. For 'four sons' we can use the numerical noun ceathrar but note that the noun commanded by it must be in the genitive plural case i.e. ceathrar mhac, ceathrar bhalach, ceathrar ghillean.*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** bha daoine a' fàs seachd searbh sgìth dhiubh: *people were getting thoroughly sick of them.*

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