

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Caisteal Loch nan Doirb (5)

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 1,315. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,011 corresponds to Litir 1,315. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Thairis air a' mhìos a dh'fhalbh, tha mi air a bhith ag innse dhuibh mu Chaisteal Loch nan Doirb. An t-seachdain sa chaidh, dh'inns mi mar a chaidh a sgrìobhadh a dh'aona-ghnothach, fo òrdugh Rìgh Sheumais II, ann an ceithir cheud deug, caogad 's a còig (1455). Tha e air a bhith na thobhta bhon uair sin.

Chan e nach robh plana sam bith ann airson a leasachadh. A rèir aithrisean ann am pàipearan-naidheachd anns na h-ochdadan dhen linn a dh'fhalbh bha feadhainn a' beachdachadh air an t-àite a leasachadh airson luchd-turais.

Bha Iarla Chaladair airson a dhèanamh na phrìomh cheann-uidhe airson luchd-turais – ann an sgìre far nach robh mòran turasachd. Bhathar ag iarraidh àite-pàrcaidh do chàraichean a bhith ann air tìr-mòr mu choinneimh a' chaisteil. Bhiodh laimrig air a togail ann agus bhiodh seirbheisean-aiseig a' toirt daoine a-mach don chaisteal.

Ach cha robh a h-uile duine toilichte mun phlana. Nuair a bha mise thall aig a' chaisteal, chunnaic mi lachan-riabhach a' suirghe agus faoileagan a' neadachadh. Tha fhios gu bheil eòin gu leòr a' neadachadh anns an eilean – agus thog luchd-dìon nan eun an guthan an aghaidh an leasachaidh.

Chaidh a' chùis don Riaghaltas aig a' cheann thall – Riaghaltas Bhreatainn aig an àm sin – agus feumaidh gun deach a dhiùltadh. A bharrachd air suidheachadh nan eun is fiadh-bheatha eile, bhiodh ceist mhòr ann mu staid nam ballachan agus sàbhailteachd luchd-tadhail. Bhiodh cosgais mhòr co-cheangailte ris **an obair a dh'fheumte dhèanamh**.

Saoil dè thachair don stuth a bha am broinn a' chaisteil nuair a bha daoine a' fuireach ann? Chan eil fhios a'm. Math dh'fhaodte gu bheil gu leòr dheth ann an caistealan eile. Tha pìos no dhà ann an taighean-tasgaidh, leithid adharc-fhùdair – *a gunpowder-horn* – a chaidh a lorg ann an tobhta a' chaisteil.

Agus **abair an rud a chaidh a lorg** o chionn beagan is trithead bliadhna nuair a rinn sgioba de dh'arc-eòlaichean rannsachadh mionaideach fo uachdar an locha. Cha robh an obair gun chunnart. Bha dàibhearann air sligean a lorg nach do spreadh.

Lorg na h-arc-eòlaichean aon rud fìor shònraichte nuair a bha iad fhèin a' dàibheadh. B' e sin siuga mòr a bha còig ceud bliadhna a dh'aois. Bha e ann an deagh òrdugh, agus bha na dathan air – buidhe, uaine is donn – follaiseach gu leòr fhathast. Bha e air a thoirt a Thaigh-tasgaidh Inbhir Nis.

Bu mhath leam mo chunntas air Loch nan Doirb a thoirt gu ceann le iomradh air lus sònraichte a bha, a rèir aithrisean, a' fàs ann. Bha muinntir na sgìre a' gabhail 'Lochindorb kale' air. Bha iad dhen bheachd gur e tar-chineal a bh' ann eadar càl dearg no *red cabbage* agus snèap, agus an dà lus sin air an cur ann leis an fheadhainn mu dheireadh a bha a' fuireach anns an eilean.

Bha na duilleagan air an ithe le muinntir an àite, agus leis a' chrodh a bh' air a thoirt a-null. Bha na freumhaichean air leth mòr, suas ri punnd ann an cuideam. A bheil an lus sin fhathast a' fàs ann? Uill, chunnaic mi sgeallan anns an eilean, ach chan fhaca mi càl Loch nan Doirb. Is mòr am beud.

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Faclan na Litreach: Caisteal Loch nan Doirb: *Lochindorb Castle*; Iarla Chaladair: *Earl of Cawdor*; fiadh-bheatha: *wildlife*; taighean-tasgaidh: *museums*; siuga: *jug*; tar-chineal: *hybrid*; snèap: *turnip*; freumhaichean: *roots*; sgeallan: *wild mustard*.

Abairtean na Litreach: dh'inns mi mar a chaidh a sgrios a dh'aona-ghnothach: *I told you how it was destroyed deliberately*; fo òrdugh Rìgh Sheumais II: *under the order of King James II*; chan e nach robh plana sam bith ann airson a leasachadh: *it's not as if there was no plan whatsoever to develop/improve it*; airson a dhèanamh na phrìomh cheann-uidhe airson luchd-turais: *to make it a prime destination for tourists*; bhiodh laimrig air a togail ann: *a quay would be built there*; bhiodh seirbheisean-aiseig a' toirt daoine a-mach don chaisteal: *ferry services would transport people to the castle*; chunnaic mi lachan-riabhach a' suirghe agus faoileagan a' neadachadh: *I saw mallard ducks courting and seagulls nesting*; thog luchd-dìon nan eun an guthan an aghaidh an leasachaidh: *the bird conservation lobby raised its voices against the development*; feumaidh gun deach a dhiùltadh: *it must have been refused*; staid nam ballachan agus sàbhailteachd luchd-tadhail: *the state of the walls and the safety of visitors*; a bha am broinn a' chaisteil: *that was inside the castle*; nuair a rinn sgioba de dh'àrc-eòlaichean rannsachadh mionaideach fo uachdar an locha: *when a team of archaeologists did detailed research under the surface of the loch*; bha dàibhearan air sligean a lorg a nach do spreadh: *divers had found shells that had not exploded*; le iomradh air lus sònraichte: *with mention of a special plant*; bha na duilleagan air an ithe le muinntir an àite: *the leaves were eaten by the local people*; is mòr am beud: *more's the pity*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Bhiodh cosgais mhòr co-cheangailte ris **an obair a dh'fheumte dhèanamh**: *a great cost would be involved in the work that would have to be done*. Feumte is a past and conditional passive form of the verb feum 'have to, must' with the meaning 'would have to, would need to'. Because of the 'f' followed by a vowel (which silences when lenited), in this circumstance we precede it with a 'dh'' (and no space) which has a 'y' sound.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **abair an rud a chaidh a lorg**: *what an amazing thing was found*.

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