

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## **Loch an Eich-uisge (1)**

*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 1,319. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,015 corresponds to Litir 1,319. The Litir is also available at [www.bbc.co.uk/litir](http://www.bbc.co.uk/litir) and [www.learnghaelic.scot/litir](http://www.learnghaelic.scot/litir). Ruairidh can be contacted at [fios@learnghaelic.scot](mailto:fios@learnghaelic.scot).*

O chionn ghoirid, choisich mi a-steach gu àite le ainm a bha riamh gam tharraing. 'S ann an sgìre Loch Carrann a tha e, ann an taobh an iar Rois. Tha e tuath air Àird an Fheusgain agus 's e loch uisge – loch monaidh – a th' ann.

'S e an t-ainm a th' air *Loch an Eich-uisge*. Tuigidh sibh carson a bha mi airson a dhol ann ann an solas an latha, agus le companach!

Tha e iongantach na th' ann de lochan air a' Ghàidhealtachd a tha co-cheangailte, ann am beul-aithris, ri each-uisge. Chaidh naidheachdan a chruinneachadh mu each-uisge ann an iomadh sgìre. Mar eisimpleir, **ann an Loch Baghasdal an Uibhist a Deas**, ann an Gleann Chailtnidh ann an Siorrachd Pheairt, ann an Loch Sin ann an Cataibh, Loch Phrìosa ann am Muile, Loch Bhasapoll ann an Tiriodh, Loch Meadaidh ann an Dùthaich MhicAoidh ...

Leis an fhìrinn innse, tha cus dhiubh ann airson an ainmeachadh air fad. **Chaidh tomhas a dhèanamh air na bh' ann de** lochan air a' Ghàidhealtachd mun robh cunntas de dh'each-uisge ann ann an litreachas an naoidheamh linn deug. Uile-gu-lèir, bha mu sheasgad ann. Agus cò aige tha fios cia mhead a bhiodh ann nam biomaid airson cunntas a dhèanamh orra leis an fhianais a th' againn an-diugh.

Corra uair, bidh cuideigin a dh'fhuiling bàs anns an loch ainmichte ann an ainm an locha fhèin. Dh'inns mi dhuibh mu dheidhinn Loch na Mnà ann an Ratharsair ann an Litir còig ceud 's a seachd-deug (517). Bha boireannach òg air a mharbhadh an sin le each-uisge. Tha Loch na Mnà a' ciallachadh '*the loch of the woman*'. Agus tha Loch Iain Mhic Aonghais, faisg air Gleann Eilg, ainmichte airson fear – Iain Mac Aonghais – a chaidh a mharbhadh an sin le each-uisge.

Corra uair, tha ainm annasach air loch a tha co-cheangailte ri uilebheist de sheòrsa air choreigin. Tha eisimpleir faisg air Loch Ma-ruibhe ann an Ros an Iar. A rèir beul-aithris, tha Loch na Fideil ainmichte airson uilebheist a bhiodh a' fiddleadh '*entangling*' casan daoine. Ach an e each-uisge a bh' anns an Fhideal? Chan eil fhios a'm. Tha e coltach gur e creutair de sheòrsa eile a bh' ann.

Fhad 's as aithne dhòmhsa, chan eil ann ach aon loch air a' Ghàidhealtachd a tha ainmichte air na mapaichean mar 'Loch an Eich-uisge'. Agus, leis gun robh an t-ainm cho annasach, choisich mi ann o Àird an Fheusgain airson fhaicinn.

Uill, tha suidheachadh an locha snog gu leòr, ged nach eil coltas air gu bheil an t-uisge domhainn. Tha an t-uabhas dhen duilleig-bhàite a' fàs ann.

A thaobh na h-àrainneachd timcheall an locha, feumaidh mi aideachadh gun do ghabh mi briseadh-dùil. Bha carbadan far-rathaid air sgrios a dhèanamh air a' mhòintich. Saoilidh mi gun do theich an t-each-uisge o chionn fhada.

Nise, bha mi faiceallach le bhith ag ràdh gur e sin an aon loch a tha ainmichte air na mapaichean mar Loch an Eich-uisge. Ach tha loch beag ann am Barraigh, agus tha muinntir an eilein a' gabhail 'Loch an Eich-uisge' air. Ge-tà, chan eil e ainmichte idir air mapaichean na Suirbhuidh Òrdanais. 'S e loch beag bìodach a th' ann, don iar-thuath air Loch na Cuilce ann am fìor cheann a tuath an eilein. Innsidh mi dhuibh an stòiridh mu dheidhinn anns an ath Litir.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Loch Carrann: *Lochcarron*; Àird an Fheusgain: *Ardaneaskan*; loch uisge: *freshwater loch*; loch monaidh: *hill loch*; Gleann Chailtnidh: *Glen Keltney*; Barraigh: *Barra*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** gu àite le ainm a bha riamh gam tharraing: *to a place with a name that had always attracted me*; ann an solas an latha, agus le companach: *in the light of day, and with a companion*; chaidh naidheachdan a chruinneachadh mu each-uisge ann an iomadh sgìre: *anecdotes were gathered about a water-horse in many areas*; tha cus dhuibh ann airson an ainmeachadh air fad: *there are too many of them to name them all*; uile-gu-lèir, bha mu sheasgad ann: *all told, there were about sixty*; cò aige tha fios cia mhead a bhiodh ann nam biomaid airson cunntas a dhèanamh orra: *who knows how many there would be if we were to count them all*; leis an fhianais a th' againn an-diugh: *with the evidence we have today*; bidh cuideigin a dh' fhuiling bàs anns an loch ainmichte ann an ainm an locha fhèin: *somebody who suffered death in the loch is named in the name of the loch itself*; uilebheist de sheòrsa air choreigin: *a monster of some nature*; fhad 's as aithne dhòmhsa, chan eil ann ach aon loch: *as far as I know, there is only one loch*; ged nach eil coltas air gu bheil an t-uisge domhainn: *although it doesn't appear that the water is deep*; tha an t-uabhas dhen duilleig-bhàite a' fàs ann: *a lot of water lilies grow there*; feumaidh mi aideachadh gun do ghabh mi briseadh-dùil: *I must admit I was disappointed*; bha carbadan far-rathaid air sgrios a dhèanamh air a' mhòintich: *off-road vehicles had damaged the moorland*; 's e loch beag bìodach a th' ann: *it's a tiny loch*; don iar-thuath air Loch na Cuilce ann am fìor cheann a tuath an eilein: *to the north-west of Loch na Cuilce ('the loch of the reeds') in the very north of the island*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** ann an Loch Baghasdal an Uibhist a Deas: *in Lochboisdale in South Uist. Although you might have expected me to say ann an Uibhist a Deas, the 'ann' is sometimes excluded in speech, particularly where it might become repetitive.*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** Chaidh tomhas a dhèanamh air na bh' ann de lochan air a' Ghàidhealtachd: *an estimate was made of how many there were of lochs in the Highlands.*

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