

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## **Pàdraig Friseal (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 1,323. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,019 corresponds to Litir 1,323. 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).*

Tha ceist agam dhuibh co-cheangailte ri poilitigs. Cò am fear – a bhuineadh do shliochd nan Gàidheal – a bha na b' fhaide na duine sam bith eile mar phrìomhaire ann an dùthaich a bhuineas don Cho-fhlaitheas? Nise, bidh sibh a' smaoinichadh gu bheil mi a-mach air Canada. Bhuineadh a' chiad dà phrìomhaire ann an Canada – an Ridire Iain Dòmhnallach agus Alasdair MacCoinnich – do shliochd nan Gàidheal.

Ach **tha mo shùil air** dùthaich eile – Sealann Nuadh, *New Zealand*. Tha e iongantach na bh' ann de dhaoine a bhuineadh do Shiorrachd Rois a bha ann an àrd-dreuchdan ann an Riaghaltas agus Pàrlamaid Shealainn Nuaidh. Mar eisimpleir, Scobie MacCoinnich à Baile Dhubhthaich agus Ruairidh MacCoinnich às a' Phloc. Bha Sir Iain MacCoinnich à Àird Rois na Leas-phrìomhaire, agus bha Sir Tòmas MacCoinnich à Inbhir Ghòrdain na Phrìomhaire greis. Bidh sibh a' mothachadh gum buin iad uile do Chloinn 'ic Coinnich. Sgrìobh mi mu Iain MacCoinnich ann an Litir 483 agus na Litrichean a lean air sin.

Ach cha robh gin de na daoine sin cho cliùmhòr ri Pàdraig Friseal – Peter Fraser. Bhuineadh esan do Bhaile an Droma ann an Sgìre Manachainn Rois, faisg air Baile Dhubhthaich. Fear eile à Siorrachd Rois!

'S e a' Bheurla a th' air Baile an Droma '*Hill of Fearn*'. Tha muinntir an àite fhathast a' cuimhneachadh Phàdraig Fhriseil, agus le fìor dheagh rùn. Tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu a bheatha. A rèir aithris, ged a choisinn e a chliù thall ann an Sealann Nuadh, bha riamh gràdh mòr mòr aige air a' Ghàidhealtachd.

Ged as e 'Peter' a bha air ann am Beurla, tha mi an dùil gur e 'Pàdraig' a bha a phàrantan a' gabhail air oir bha e aithnichte mar 'Pat' am measg a chàirdean 's a charaidean. Bha Gàidhlig aig a dhithis phàrantan, ged nach urrainn dhomh a ràdh an robh Gàidhlig aig Pàdraig fhèin. **Chuireadh e iongnadh orm mura robh tomhas dhith aige.**

Bhuineadh cuideachd a mhàthar do Sgìr' Raoghaird ann an Cataibh. Bha iad air am fuadachadh às an àite sin. Ghluais seanair Phàdraig gu Manachainn Rois far an robh e ag obair mar shaor. Rugadh màthair Phàdraig – Iseabail – an sin ann an ochd ceud deug, ceathrad 's a naoi (1849).

'S ann do sgìre taobh siar Loch Nis a bhuineadh sinnsirean athar. 'S e goibhnean a bh' annta. Bha seanair Phàdraig – Alasdair – na ghobha ann am Baile

Mhuchaidh faisg air Baile an Droma. Rugadh athair Phàdraig – Dòmhnall – ann an ochd ceud deug, ceathrad 's a còig (1845).

Gu h-annasach, math dh'fhaodte, cha do phòs Dòmhnall is Iseabail ann an Alba idir. Bha Dòmhnall ag obair mar ghreusaiche agus rinn e eilthreachd a Chanada. Bha e ann am Manitoba agus an uair sin chaidh e a dh'fhuireach ann am Montreal. Chaidh Iseabail a-null a choinneachadh ris agus phòs iad ann am Montreal.

Shàbhail iad beagan airgid, agus thill iad a dh'Alba. Cheannaich iad taigh, le trì seòmraichean, ann am Baile an Droma far an do thog iad ochdnar cloinne. Lean Dòmhnall air le obair greusaiche. Rugadh Pàdraig ann an ochd ceud deug, ochdad 's a ceithir (1884), an seachdamh leanabh aig Dòmhnall is Iseabail.

Fhuair Pàdraig a chuid foghlaim anns a' bhun-sgoil ionadail, far an robh e na dheagh sgoilear. Bheir sinn sùil air a bheatha anns an ath Litir.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** an Ridire Iain Dòmhnallach: *Sir John MacDonald*; Baile Dhubhthaich: *Tain*; Am Ploc: *Plockton*; Inbhir Ghòrdain: *Invergordon*; Sgìr' Raoghaird: *Rogart*; Iseabail: *Isabella*; goibhnean: *blacksmiths*; Baile Mhuchaidh: *Balmuchy*; phòs: *married*; ochdnar cloinne: *eight children*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Cò am fear – a bhuineadh do shliochd nan Gàidheal: *who was the man – who belonged to the descendants of Gaels*; na b' fhaide na duine sam bith eile mar phrìomhaire: *longer than any other man [person] as prime minister*; dùthaich a bhuineas don Cho-fhlaitheas: *a country that belongs to the Commonwealth [of Nations]*; tha e iongantach na bh' ann de dhaoine a bhuineadh do Shiorrachd Rois: *it's amazing how many people there were that belonged to Ross-shire*; àrd-dreuchdan ann an Riaghaltas agus Pàrlamaid Shealainn Nuaidh: *important positions in the Government and Parliament of New Zealand*; bha Sir Iain MacCoinnich à Àird Rois na Leas-phrìomhaire: *Sir John Mackenzie from Ardross was Deputy Prime Minister*; gum buin iad uile do Chloinn 'ic Coinnich: *that they all belong to Clan Mackenzie*; cha robh gin de na daoine sin cho cliùmhor ri Pàdraig Friseal: *none of those people were as renowned as Peter Fraser*; bhuineadh esan do Bhaile an Droma ann an Sgìre Manachainn Rois: *he belonged to Hill of Fearn in the Fearn area*; le fìor dheagh rùn: *with great affection*; ged a choisinn e a chliù thall ann an Sealainn Nuaidh, bha riamh gràdh mòr mòr aige air a' Ghàidhealtachd: *although he won his reputation over in New Zealand, he retained a great love of the Highlands*; bha e aithnichte mar 'Pat' am measg a chàirdean 's a charaidean: *he was known as 'Pat' among his relatives and friends*; bha Dòmhnall ag obair mar ghreusaiche: *Donald was working as a shoemaker*; rinn e eilthreachd a Chanada: *he emigrated to Canada*; shàbhail iad beagan airgid agus thill iad a dh'Alba: *they saved a bit of money and returned to Scotland*; fhuair Pàdraig a chuid foghlaim anns a' bhun-sgoil ionadail: *Peter received his education in the local primary school*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** **Chuireadh e iongnadh orm mura robh tomhas dhith aige:** *it would surprise me if he didn't have some of her i.e. if he didn't speak a bit of Gaelic*. *Chuireadh is a conditional form of the verb cuir. We form it by taking the verbal root, cuir, leniting it and adding an -(e)adh to the end. An cuireadh e iongnadh ort? 'would you be surprised?'; Chuireadh 'yes'. Cha cuireadh idir 'no, not at all'.*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: tha mo shùil air dùthaich eile: *my attention is on another country.***

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