

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Pàdraig Friseal (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 1,324. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,020 corresponds to Litir 1,324. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Phàdraig Friseal à Taobh Sear Rois a bha airson ùine mhòr na Phrìomhaire ann an Sealann Nuadh. Nuair a bha e òg, ghabh e a' ghriùthrach. Thug sin droch bhuidh air a fhradharc. Ged a bha e math air luth-chleasachd, cha b' urrainn dha spòrs a chluich **far an robhar a' glacadh no a' bualadh ball.**

Ach bha Pàdraig math air leughadh. Bhiodh e gu tric a' dol don leabharlann ann am Port mo Cholmaig. Bhiodh an teaghlach a' frithealadh na h-Eaglaise Saoire agus bhite a' leughadh a' Bhìobaill anns an taigh gach oidhche.

Bha an teaghlach bochd, mar a bha a' chuid mhòr anns a' choimhearsnachd ann am Baile an Droma aig an àm sin. Dh'fhàg Pàdraig an sgoil aig aois ceithir-deug agus dh'obraich e an toiseach mar phost. An uair sin fhuair e preantasachd mar shaor.

Thogadh Pàdraig ann an dachaigh far an robhar a' beachdachadh air poilitigs agus air mar a dh'fhaodadh cur às do dh'ana-ceartas. Bhiodh fir a' bhaile gu tric a' tighinn cruinn còmhla ann an ceàrdach-greusaiche athar airson gnothaichean poilitigeach a dheasbad. Bha far-ainm air a' cheàrdaich gu h-ionadail – Taigh nan Cumantan!

An toiseach bha Pàdraig na Libearalach ach, mean air mhean, ghluais e don làimh chli, a dh'ionnsaigh a' Phàrtaidh Làbaraich. Bha e ag iarraidh an saoghal mòr taobh a-muigh Rois an Ear fhaicinn dha fhèin. Nuair a bha a phreantasachd seachad, dh'obraich e greis mar shaor ann an Dùn Èideann agus mar obraiche-doca ann an Lìte. Bha e ann an Glaschu greis agus an uair sin fhuair e obair ann an Lunnainn.

Bha e an sàs ann am pròiseact leasachaidh ann an Taigh nan Cumantan – am fear ceart! Tha fhios gun do chuir sin ris an ùidh a bh' aige ann am poilitigs. Bhiodh e ag èisteachd ri òraidichean ann an Hyde Park agus bhiodh e a' toirt taic do na *suffragettes* a bha a' strì airson còraichean bhòtaidh do bhoireannaich.

'S ann nuair a bha e ag obair ann an Lunnainn a chuala e mu Shealann Nuadh. Bha an dùthaich sin cliùmhòr airson dà rud ris an robh Pàdraig ag aontachadh gu mòr. Bha iad air bhòtaichean a thoirt do bhoireannaich – a' chiad dùthaich san t-saoghal a rinn sin. Agus bha iad an aghaidh an t-siostaim clas a bha dona ann am Breatainn, gu h-àraidh ann an Sasainn. Sheòl Pàdraig as t-Samhain naoi ceud deug 's a deich (1910).

Airson greis, bha e ag obair mar shaothraiche. Nuair a bha an cothrom aige, bhiodh e a' falbh don leabharlann, a' leughadh leabhraichean. Ged a bha Sealann Nuadh adhartach ann an iomadh dòigh, bha fhathast ana-ceartas ann. Bha Pàdraig a-nise misneachail gu leòr gus seasamh air beulaibh sluagh, a' gabhail òraidean.

Bha e air a chur an grèim dà thuras leis na poilis. A' chiad triop, bha e a' bruidhinn mu dheidhinn a bhith a' dìon còraichean luchd-obrach. An dàrna turas, bha e a' bruidhinn a-mach **an aghaidh dleastanas-airm** anns a' Chogadh Mhòr. Chuir e seachad bliadhna sa phrìosan airson sin.

Ged a bhiodh Pàdraig ainmeil an ceann ùine airson seasamh an aghaidh olc Nadsaidheachd anns an Dàrna Cogadh, bha e an aghaidh a' Chiad Chogaidh. Bha e dhen bheachd nach robh ann ach còmhrag eadar ceannardan dùthchannan ìmpireil.

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Faclan na Litreach: Pàdraig Friseal: *Peter Fraser*; Taobh Sear Rois: *Easter Ross*; a' ghriùthrach: *measles*; Port mo Cholmaig: *Portmahomack*; Baile an Droma: *Hill of Fearn*; obraiche-doca: *dockworker*; cliùmhòr: *renowned*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a bha na Phrìomhaire ann an Sealann Nuadh: *who was the Prime Minister in New Zealand*; thug sin droch bhuaidh air a fhradharc: *that had a bad effect on his eyesight*; bhiodh an teaghlach a' frithealadh na h-Eaglaise Saoire: *the family were attending the Free Church*; bhite a' leughadh a' Bhìobaill anns an taigh gach oidhche: *the Bible would be read in the house every night*; fhuair e preantasachd mar shaor: *he obtained an apprenticeship as a carpenter*; mar a dh'fhaodadh cur às do dh'ana-ceartas: *how injustice could be abolished*; a' tighinn cruinn còmhla ann an ceàrdach-greusaiche athar: *coming together in his father's shoemaker's workshop*; airson gnothaichean poilitigeach a dheasbad: *to debate political matters*; bha far-ainm air a' cheàrdaich gu h-ionadail – Taigh nan Cumantan: *the workshop had a local nickname – The House of Commons*; bha Pàdraig na Libearalach; *Peter was a Liberal*; mean air mhean, ghluais e don làimh chli, a dh'ionnsaigh a' Phàrtaidh Làbaraich: *gradually, he moved to the left, towards the Labour Party*; bhiodh e ag èisteachd ri òraidichean: *he would listen to speakers*; bhiodh e a' toirt taic do na suffragettes a bha a' strì airson còraichean bhòtaidh do bhoireannaich: *he would assist the suffragettes who were struggling for voting rights for women*; bha iad air bhòtaichean a thoirt do bhoireannaich: *they had given voting rights to women*; a' chiad dùthaich san t-saoghal: *the first country in the world*; Bha Pàdraig a-nise misneachail gu leòr gus seasamh air beulaibh sluagh: *Peter was now confident enough to stand in front of a crowd*; bha e air a chur an grèim dà thuras: *he was arrested twice*; a' dìon còraichean luchd-obrach: *protecting workers' rights*; chuir e seachad bliadhna sa phrìosan: *he spent a year in prison*; airson seasamh an aghaidh olc Nadsaidheachd: *for standing against the evil of Nazism*; còmhrag eadar ceannardan dùthchannan ìmpireil: *a conflict between the leaders of imperial powers*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: cha b' urrainn dha spòrs a chluich **far an robhar a' glacadh no a' bualadh ball**: *he couldn't play sport where a ball was being caught or hit*. An robhar is the dependent form of bhathar; both are forms of bi 'the verb to be' in the passive voice (past tense). We don't say who would be doing the catching or hitting i.e. there is no verbal subject.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: a' bruidhinn a-mach **an aghaidh dleastanas-airm**: *speaking out against military conscription*.

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