

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Ar-a-mach Bheàrnaraigh (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 1,328. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,024 corresponds to Litir 1,328. 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).*

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun droch shuidheachadh ann am Beàrnaraigh Leòdhais o chionn ceud gu leth bliadhna. Thàinig triùir mhaor air tìr anns an eilean le pàipearan bàirlingidh – *eviction notices* – do na croitearan. Bha na croitearan feargach. Dhiùlt iad coinneachadh far an robh na maoir ag iarraidh coinneachadh riutha.

Chuir na croitearan às leth a' mhaoir-fhearainn, Seumas MacRath, gun robh e eas-onarach oir bha e a' feuchainn ris an cùmhnant a rinneadh a bhriseadh. Cha d' fhuair iad èisteachd sam bith. Mar a tha am bàrd is sgoilear Beàrnarach, Dòmhnall MacAmhlaigh, ga chur, 'Dhealaich an dà bhuidheann ri chèile glè mhì-riaraichte.'

Nuair a dh'fhalbh na h-oifigearan, bha e a' fàs dorch. Lean òigridh anns an dorchadas iad. Thilg iad caoranan agus plocan orra. Mhaoidh an t-oifigear-siorraim – Cailean MacGillFhinnein – orra, ag ràdh nam biodh gunna air a bhith aige, gum biodh màthraichean ann am Beàrnaraigh a' caoidh bàs am mac.

Chuir na h-oifigearan seachad an oidhche aig Tuath Thàcleit. Nuair a thill iad a bhruidhinn ris na croitearan sa mhadainn, mhaoidh MacGillFhinnein orra a-rithist gun cuireadh e a ghunna gu feum nan aghaidh. Mar a tha Dòmhnall MacAmhlaigh a' sgrìobhadh, '**Chuir seo am fuaim air feadh na fìdhle.**'

Chan e a-mhàin na croitearan a bha feargach. Bha na h-iasgairean a' dèanamh deiseil gus falbh gu muir ach leig iad sin seachad. Bha buidheann mhòr a' feitheamh ris na h-oifigearan nuair a ràinig iad an t-eathar aca air a' chladach.

Bha triùir chroitearan a' seasamh a-mach mar fhir-labhairt airson nan eileanach. B' iad sin Aonghas Thormoid, Iain Chaluim agus Tormod Mhurchaidh. Bha tuasaid ann air a' chladach ach cha robh fòirneart ceart ann.

Ceala-deug an dèidh seo, bha Aonghas Thormoid ann an Steòrnabhagh. Chunnaic Seumas MacRath e air thuiteamas. Chuir na poilis an grèim e oir b' esan fear de na 'reubaltaich Bheàrnarach'. Thàinig sluagh timcheall airson taic a thoirt dha agus chaidh Achd na h-Aimhreit a leughadh.

Bha Aonghas air a leigeil mu sgaoil nuair a chualas gun robh buidheann mhòr à Sgir' Ùige a' dèanamh air Steòrnabhagh. Chaidh a' bhuidheann a bhruidhinn ris an uachdaran, Sir Seumas MacMhathain, ann an Caisteal Leòdhais. Dh'aontaich esan a' chùis a rannsachadh. Bha e a' cumail a-mach nach robh fios aige dè bha a shiamarlan a' dèanamh às a leth.

Trì seachdainean an dèidh sin, chaidh Aonghas Thormoid, Iain Chaluim agus Tormod Mhurchaidh a ghairm gu cùirt ann an Steòrnabhagh. Bha iad fo chasaid gun tug iad ionnsaigh air oifigear an t-siorraim, Cailean MacGillFhinnein.

Air an t-seachdamh latha dhen Iuchar, ochd ceud deug, seachdad 's a ceithir (1874) bha a' chùis-chùirt air a cumail ann an Steòrnabhagh. B' e Teàrlach Innes, fear-lagh à Inbhir Nis, a bha a' riochdachadh nan croitearan. Bha e fìor mhath. Agus fhuair e an triùir chroitearan neoichiontach.

An ath latha bha Cailean MacGillFhinnein air fhaighinn ciontach de chasaid gun tug e ionnsaigh air Aonghas Thormoid ann an Stèisean nam Poileas. Fhuair e càin luach fichead tasan.

Mhisnich an gnothach croitearan air feadh na Gàidhealtachd. Cha deach an fheadhainn ann am Beàrnaraigh a chur às an taighean. Dh'fhuiling Dòmhnall Rothach, Siamarlan Leòdhais, call cliù, agus chaochail e ann am bochdainn.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Dòmhnall MacAmhlaigh: *Donald MacAulay*; òigridh: *young people*; Tuath Thàcleit: *Haclete Farm*; ceala-deug: *a fortnight*; air thuiteamas: *by chance*; reubaltaich: *rebels*; Achd na h-Aimhreit: *The Riot Act*; Sgìr' Ùige: *Uig Parish*; call cliù: *a loss of reputation*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** mun droch shuidheachadh ann am Beàrnaraigh Leòdhais: *about the bad situation in Great Bernera*; thàinig triùir mhaor air tìr anns an eilean: *three agents landed on the island*; dhiùlt iad coinneachadh far an robh na maoir ag iarraidh coinneachadh riutha: *they refused to meet where the agents were wanting to meet with them*; chuir na croitearan às leth a' mhaoir-fhearainn, Seumas MacRath, gun robh e eas-onarach: *the crofters claimed that the land agent, James MacRae, was dishonest*; dhealaich an dà bhuidheann ri chèile glè mhì-riaraichte: *the two groups parted from each other very dissatisfied*; thilg iad caoranan agus plocan orra: *they threw peats and clods of earth at them*; mhaoidh an t-oifigear-siorraim – Cailean MacGillFhinnein – orra: *the sheriff officer – Colin MacLennan – threatened them*; gum biodh màthraichean a' caoidh bàs am mac: *that mothers would be mourning the death of their sons*; nuair a ràinig iad an t-eathar aca: *when they reached their boat*; bha tuasaid ann air a' chladach ach cha robh fòirneart ceart ann: *there was a scuffle on the shore but there wasn't proper violence*; a' dèanamh air Steòrnabhagh: *making for Stornoway*; a' cumail a-mach nach robh fios aige dè bha a shiamarlan a' dèanamh às a leth: *making out that he didn't know what his factor was doing on his behalf*; fo chasaid gun tug iad ionnsaigh: *charged with attacking*; fhuair e an triùir chroitearan neoichiontach: *the three crofters were found not guilty*; càin luach fichead tasan: *a fine of twenty shillings*; chaochail e ann am bochdainn: *he died in poverty*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** a' feuchainn ris an cùmhnant a rinneadh a bhriseadh: *trying to break the agreement that was [had been] made*. Rinneadh is the past passive form of the irregular verb *dèan* and means 'was made, done'.

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** Chuir seo am fuaim air feadh na fìdhle: *literally this means 'this put the sound throughout the fiddle' and is a variant on the more common 'chuir seo an ceòl air feadh na fìdhle'*. It is an equivalent to the English 'this put the cat among the pigeons'.

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