

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Faclair Armstrong (3)

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 1,332. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,028 corresponds to Litir 1,332. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Tha sinn a' toirt sùil air faclan às an fhaclair aig Raibeart Armstrong, a chaidh fhoillseachadh dà cheud bliadhna air ais. Tha sinn aig an litir 'n'. Agus seo agaibh am facal a thagh mi – *nigheachan*. Tha e stèidhichte air *nigh* 'wash, bathe, cleanse'. Tha *nigheachan* a' ciallachadh 'a washing of linen'. Tha Armstrong a' toirt seo dhuinn: *bean nigheachain* 'a laundress' agus *taigh nigheachain* 'a washing-house or laundry'.

'S e an ath fhacal agam *osna* 'sigh, sob, groan, breeze, blast'. *Leig i osna* 'she sighed, let out a sigh'. Tha *osnach* agus *osnachail* a' ciallachadh 'sighing, sobbing'. Tha an gnìomhair *osnaich* ann. Bha mi ag osnaich leam fhèin 'I was sighing in solitude'.

Tha sinn a-nise aig 'p'. Thagh mi am facal *pailleart* 'a slap given with the palm of the hand'. *Pailleart*. Tha MacBheathain ag ràdh gun tàinig e bho *palm-bheart* 'palm-action' bhon Laidinn *palma* 'palm'. Tha am buadhair *pailleartach* ann – 'ready to slap with the hand' – agus an gnìomhair *pailleartaich* 'slap with the hand'.

Fo 'r', tha am facal *rèite* againn. Saoilidh mi gu bheil am facal cudromach anns **an latha sa bheil sinn beò**. Tha e a' ciallachadh 'reconciliation, agreement, settlement'. Seach a bhith **an ugannan a chèile**, bu chòir don dà thaobh thighinn gu rèite. Tha sinn feumach air tuilleadh *rèiteachairean* anns an t-saoghal.

Chan eil air fhàgail againn anns an aibidil Ghàidhlig a-nise ach trì litrichean. Fo 's', bu mhath leam sùil a thoirt air an fhacal *sìor*. Tha e a' ciallachadh 'ever, forever, continually, eternally'. Tha Armstrong a' toirt seo dhuinn: Thuit mo ghrian gu sìor 'my sun has set for ever'. Tha e cuideachd ag innse dhuinn [that] *sìor* 'is often prefixed to a word to denote continuance or perpetuity'.

Seo eisimpleirean dheth on fhaclair: *sìor atharrachadh* 'continual fluctuation or shifting'. Tha *poileasaidh* a' phàrtaidh a' sìor atharrachadh 'the party's policy is always changing'. Tha *sìor-bhualadh* ann – 'a continued striking, constant thumping'. Chuala mi *sìor-bhualadh* nan drumaichean.

Tha *sìor-chainnteach* a' ciallachadh 'extremely garrulous, continually talking'. *Sìor-chainnteach*. Agus *sìor-iarraidheach* 'troublesome by reason of frequent requests or petitions'. *Sìor-iarraidheach*.

Agus *sìor-uisgeach*. Saoil dè tha sin a' ciallachadh? *Sìor-uisgeach*. Uill, math dh'fhaodte gum bi am facal feumail ann an Alba aig amannan. *Sìor-uisgeach* – 'raining continually'!

Tha sinn a-nise aig ‘t’ agus am facal *tearc*. Tha e a’ ciallachadh ‘*few, rare, scarce*’. Tha am facal *tearcad* ann cuideachd – ‘*scarceness, rareness*’. Bidh sinn ga chleachdadh anns an abairt a’ *dol an tearcad* ‘*becoming scarcer*’.

Mu dheireadh am facal *utag* ‘*a shove, a push, a jostle*’. Cuideachd ‘*strife, confusion, uproar*’. Cha toigh le duine againn a bhith ann an àite *utagach*. ’S fheàrr leam fhìn sìth an fhaclair Ghàidhlig!

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Faclan na Litreach: gnìomhair: *verb*; MacBheathain: [*Alexander*] MacBain; buadhair: *adjective*; rèiteachail: *conciliatory*; tearcad: *scarceness, rareness*; utag: *a shove, push, jostle*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Tha sinn a’ toirt sùil air faclan às an fhaclair aig Raibeart Armstrong: *we are looking at words from Robert Armstrong’s dictionary*; a chaidh fhoillseachadh dà cheud bliadhna air ais: *that was published two hundred years ago*; thagh mi am facal: *I chose the word*; saoilidh mi gu bheil am facal cudromach: *I reckon the word is important*; tha sinn feumach air tuilleadh rèiteachairean anns an t-saoghal: *we need more conciliators in the world*; chan eil air fhàgail againn anns an aibidil Ghàidhlig a-nise ach trì litrichean: *we only have three letters left in the Gaelic alphabet*; seo eisimpleirean dheth on fhaclair: *here are examples of it from the dictionary*; chuala mi sìor-bhualadh nan drumaichean: *I heard the continuous banging of the drums*; cha toigh le duine againn a bhith ann an àite *utagach*: *none of us wishes to be in a place full of strife/uproar*; ’s fheàrr leam fhìn sìth an fhaclair Ghàidhlig: *I myself prefer the peace of the Gaelic dictionary*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Seach a bhith **an ugannan a chèile**, bu chòir don dà thaobh thighinn gu rèite: *instead of being at each other’s throats, the two sides should come to an accommodation*. Ugannan [*plural*] *refers to the region of the upper chest to the throat. An idiomatic equivalent is an amhaichean a chèile, where amhaichean [plural] refers to the neck. An achlaisean a chèile is very different and refers to an extremely friendly relationship [literally ‘in each other’s armpits’]. Bha iad a’ coiseachd an achlaisean a chèile ‘they were walking arm-in-arm’.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **an latha sa bheil sinn beò**: *the current time [literally ‘the day in which we are alive’]*

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