

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Gille agus Ghillie (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 1,336. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,032 corresponds to Litir 1,336. 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).*

Anns an Litir mu dheireadh, bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun fhacal *gille* agus mar a thàinig e a-steach don Bheurla mar '*ghillie*'. **Bha m' aire air a toirt** don fhacal le prògram telebhisein Astràilianach.

'S e dràma a bh' ann, stèidhichte air talamh àrd, am measg nam beann, ann am Bhictoria, ann an ceann an earra-dheas na dùthcha. Bha fear car neònach ann. Bha e a' fuireach anns a' choille fad na h-ùine. Bha e a' cumail am falach bho dhaoine eile. Ged a bha fios aig daoine gun robh e ann, 's ann ainneamh a chitheadh iad e. Agus bha muinntir na sgìre a' gabhail '*the ghillie-man*' no '*Ghillie Jack*' air.

An toiseach, cha robh mi cinnteach dè bhathar a' ciallachadh le *ghillie-man*, agus an ann bhon Ghàidhlig no bho chànan tùsanach a fhuair e. An uair sin, nochd an duine fhèin. Bha e còmhdaichte le aodach a bha coltach ri crìonach na coille. Mura biodh e a' gluasad, bhiodh e fìor dhoirbh fhaicinn am measg nan craobh. Ach carson as e *ghillie-man* a bhathar a' gabhail air? A chionn 's gun robh '*ghillie-suit*' air!

Feumaidh mi aideachadh nach robh fios agam mun *ghillie-suit* roimhe. Cha bhi mi a' sealg agus cha robh mi riamh anns an arm. Tha fhios gum bi sealgairean agus saighdearan eòlach air a leithid.

'S e *ghillie-suit* aodach breug-riochda (no *camouflage*) a **chuireas neach uime** gus nach fhaic daoine eile e. Mar as trice, 's e lìon a th' ann anns a bheil clò is sreang a tha coltach ri geugan is duilleagan. Gu tric, bidh saighdear a' cur duilleagan bhon àite anns a bheil e an sàs ann.

Chaidh a chleachdadh an toiseach le saighdearan Gàidhealach. Ann an Dàrna Cogadh nam Boers chleachd an rèisimeid ris an canar na *Lovat Scouts* a leithid de dh'èideadh airson cumail am falach on nàmhaid. Anns a' Chogadh Mhòr, chaidh buidheann de shnaidhpearan a dhèanamh anns na *Lovat Scouts* – a' chiad buidheann dhen t-seòrsa ann an Arm Bhreatainn. Bha sin nàdarrach gu leòr, math dh'fhaodte. Bha na buill de na *Lovat Scouts* – a chaidh a chruinneachadh le Mac Shimidh – nan geamairean is nan stalcairean air oighreachdan Gàidhealach. Bha iad cleachdte ri bhith a' cur peilear ann am fiadh bho astar.

'S dòcha gur e sin as coireach gur e èideadh-gille – no, gu dualchainnteach, èideadh-gillidh – a bhathar a' gabhail air an aodach sin. 'S e Gàidhlig a bh' aig a' chuid a bu mhotha dhuibh mar chainnt, co-dhiù aig an toiseach. Agus bha am facal *ghillie* aithnichte ann am Beurla ann an co-cheangal ri sealg air a' Ghàidhealtachd.

Ach tha smuain eile ann. Ann am beul-aithris nan Gàidheal tha caractar air a bheil an Gille Dubh. Dh'inns mi an sgeul dhuibh à Locha Druing ann an sgìre Gheàrrloch ann an Litir sia ceud, trithead 's a h-ochd (638). Tha amharas agam gun robh sgeul dhen t-seòrsa air aithris ann an grunn sgìrean.

Bha an Gille Dubh am falach anns a' choille. Bhiodh e a' cur còinneach agus duilleagan am measg a chuid aodaich gus nach fhaiceadh duine e. Gun teagamh, 's ann aigesan a bha a' chiad 'ghillie-suit'! Ma tha ùidh agaibh ann an sgeul a' Ghille Dhuibh, cuiribh 'gille dubh sgeul a gearloch' anns an inneal lorgaidh agaibh agus gheibh sibh an sgeul air aithris ann an Gàidhlig.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** prògram telebhisein Astràilianach: *an Australian television programme*; car neònach: *a little strange*; lìon: *net, netting*; geugan is duilleagan: *branches and leaves*; Dàrna Cogadh nam Boers: *The Second Boer War*; nàmhaid: *enemy*; Arm Bhreatainn: *The British Army*; Mac Shimidh: *Lord Lovat*; inneal lorgaidh: *search engine*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Chuirinn X ris an liosta: *I would add X to the list*; stèidhichte air talamh àrd, am measg nam beann: *set in high country, among the mountains*; ceann an earra-dheas na dùthcha: *the south-east of the country*; a' cumail am falach bho dhaoine eile: *keeping hidden from other people*; 's ann ainneamh a chitheadh iad e: *rarely would they see him*; cha robh mi cinnteach dè bhathar a' ciallachadh le: *I wasn't certain what was meant by*; còmhdhaichte le aodach a bha coltach ri crìonach na coille: *covered with clothing that was like brushwood of the forest*; mura biodh e a' gluasad, bhiodh e fìor dhoirbh fhaicinn: *if he weren't moving, it would be extremely difficult to see him*; tha fhios gum bi sealgairean agus saighdearan eòlach air a leithid: *I'm sure that hunters and soldiers know the like*; chaidh buidheann de shnaidhpearan a dhèanamh: *a group of snipers was created*; geamairean is stalcairean air oighreachdan Gàidhealach: *gamekeepers and stalkers on Highland estates*; cleachdte ri bhith a' cur peilear ann am fiadh bho astar: *used to putting a bullet in a deer from distance*; gur e sin as coireach gur e èideadh-gille a bhathar a' gabhail air an aodach sin: *that is why that clothing was called a 'ghillie-suit'*; tha amharas agam gun robh sgeul dhen t-seòrsa air aithris ann an grunn sgìrean: *I suspect that a tale of that nature was told in a few areas*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** a chuireas neach uime gus nach fhaic daoine eile e: *which a person puts around them so that other people can't see them*. While we generally use the preposition air 'on' with regard to clothes today (bidh thu a' cur aodach ort), the preposition mu 'about' was more generally used of Highland garb in olden times – because you pulled clothes (like the fèileadh mòr) around you (bhiodh tu a' cur aodach umad). This seems more appropriate to the èideadh-gille in question. The third person singular masculine prepositional pronoun for mu is uime. Chuir e a' phlaide uime 'he put the blanket around him'.

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** Bha m' aire air a toirt don fhacal: *my attention was drawn to the word*.

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