

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Geamannan Gàidhealach (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 1,338. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,034 corresponds to Litir 1,338. 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 mu sheann gheamannan a bhathar a' cluich ann an Uibhist. Anns a' *Cheltic Review* rinn an t-ùghdar, Alasdair Moireasdan, tuairisgeul de dh'fhichead geama.

Tha *Falach Fead* co-ionann ri *hide and seek*. Bidh aon chluicheadair a' còmhachadh a shùilean fhad 's a thèid càch am falach. Le fead, bidh an sealgair a' fosgladh a shùilean, agus a' lorg gach duine. Nuair a tha a h-uile duine aige, bidh a' chiad duine a lorg e a' dol na àite.

Tha *Sgipiteach* coltach ri *tig* ann am Beurla. Bidh sealgair a' ruith chàich gus am buin e ri cuideigin. An uair sin, bidh an neach sin na shealgair.

Tha *Mireag nan Cruach* a' cur Falach Fead agus Sgipiteach còmhla. Bha e air a chluich aig àm na buana nuair a bha cruachan arbhair ann. Tha an sealgair a' ruith chàich, mar a tha ann am Falach Fead – agus na daoine eile am falach am measg nan cruach – ach chan eil e math gu leòr na daoine fhaicinn. Feumaidh e buntainn riutha mar a dh'fheumas ann an Sgipiteach.

Bha geama ann coltach ri *Blind Man's Buff*. 'S e *Bodachan an Doille Bhodaich* a bh' air. Bha neapaiginn air a ceangal timcheall ceann cuideigin, ga dhèanamh 'dall'. Bha aige ri feadhainn eile a ghlacadh.

Bha an geama sin air an cluich a-muigh no am broinn taighe, ach bha *Bualadh nam Boisean* air a chluich a-mhàin **fo chabair**. Tha cuideigin a' cur aodann air glùn duine eile. Tha e a' cur a làmhnan a-mach air a chùlaibh, agus **na basan – no boisean** – suas. Tha neach eile a' bualadh basan a' chiad duine. Feumaidh an duine 'dall' a ràdh cò th' ann.

'S e geama eile a bh' air a chluich a-staigh *Falach a' Phàipeir*. Tha a h-uile duine ach aonan a' fàgail seòmar. Tha an neach am broinn an t-seòmair a' cur pìos pàipeir am falach. Thig càch a-steach agus nì iad rùrachadh airson a' phàipeir. Nuair a tha cuideigin faisg air, bidh am falachair ag èigheachd, 'Teth, teth!' Nuair a tha iad a' gluasad air falbh bhon phàipear, bidh e ag èigheachd, 'Fuar, fuar!' Nuair a lorgas cuideigin am pàipear, cha chan e guth, ach bidh e a' suidh sìos. Tha a' geama a' leantainn gus an lorg a h-uile duine am pàipear.

Tha an cunntas a' cur nar cuimhne mar a bhiodh daoine ri spòrs is dibhearsain nuair nach robh telebhisean no an t-eadar-lion aca. Cuiridh mi crìoch air mo chunntas fhèin le tuairisgeul dhen gheama *MacCruslaig 's na Mucan*.

'S e aon chluicheadair a' Mhuc Mhòr. Air a cùlaibh, tha clann bheaga ann an sreath singilte. Is iad na 'h-uirceanan'. Tha a h-uile 'uircean' a' gabhail grèim air aodach an neach a th' air thoiseach orra.

Tha 'MacCruslaig' a' tighinn a-steach. Tha e ag ràdh ris a' Mhuic Mhòir, 'Chuir MacLeòid a dh'iarraidh muic mi. Am faigh mi i seo ...? Tha e a' buntainn ri uircean.

Tha a' Mhuc Mhòr a' freagairt, 'Chan fhaigh!' Tha MacCruslaig an uair sin a' dèanamh an aon rud leis a h-uile uircean. Leis an fhear mu dheireadh, bidh a' Mhuc Mhòr a' leum air beulaibh MhicCruslaig. Bidh an fheadhainn bheaga a' feuchainn ri teicheadh agus bidh MacCruslaig a' feuchainn ri greim a ghabhail air fear dhiubh. Spòrs gu leòr, gun teagamh!

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**Faclan na Litreach:** fead: *whistle*; sealgair: *the person chasing others in games like hide and seek*; neapaiginn: *handkerchief*; uircean: *piglet*; an t-eadar-lion: *the internet*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** mu sheann gheamannan a bhathar a' cluich ann an Uibhist: *about old games that were being played in Uist*; rinn an t-ùghdar, Alasdair Moireasdan, tuairisgeul de dh'fhichead geama: *the author, Alexander Morrison, described twenty games*; bidh aon chluicheadair a' còmhachadh a shùilean fhad 's a thèid càch am falach: *one player covers his eyes while the others hide*; bidh a' chiad duine a lorg e a' dol na àite: *the first person he found will go in his place*; a' ruith chàich: *chasing the others*; gus am buin e ri cuideigin: *until he touches somebody*; aig àm na buana nuair a bha cruachan arbhair ann: *at the time of the harvest when there are cornstacks*; ga dhèanamh 'dall': *making him 'blind'*; bha aige ri feadhainn eile a ghlacadh: *he had to catch others*; am broinn taighe: *inside a house*; tha cuideigin a' cur aodann air glùn duine eile: *somebody puts his face on the knee of another person*; tha neach eile a' bualadh basan a' chiad duine: *another person hits the palms of the first person*; feumaidh an duine 'dall' a ràdh cò th' ann: *the 'blind' person must say who it is*; thig càch a-steach: *the others come in*; nì iad rùrachadh airson a' phàipeir: *they search for the paper*; bidh am falachair ag èigheachd: *the hider shouts*; cha chan e guth: *he doesn't say anything*; a' cur nar cuimhne mar a bhiodh daoine ri spòrs is dibhearsain: *reminding us how people would have fun and entertainment*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** Tha e a' cur a làmhan a-mach air a chùlaibh, agus na basan – no boisean – suas: *he puts his hands out behind him, with the palms upwards*. Bas is the original word for the palm, with the nominative plural form basan. However, it is a feminine noun so traditionally slenderises in the dative singular case, giving us the dative form bois (air a' bhois, fon bhois). Compare it with cas and cois. The dative singular form was used so much that it became, in several dialects, the nominative singular form of the word. Thus the nominative plural is often boisean, rather than basan.

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** bha X air a chluich a-mhàin fo chabair: *X was only played indoors [lit. 'under roofing timbers']*.

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