

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Sgeul à Gall-Ghàidhealaibh

*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 1,350. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,046 corresponds to Litir 1,350. 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).*

Chuir mi seachad seachdain ann an Gall-Ghàidhealaibh as t-fhoghar an-uiridh. Chòrd an sgìre rium gu mòr. Mar neach a tha measail air leabhraichean, bha mi airson a dhol a Bhaile na h-Ùige – no Wigtown. Tha am baile beag sin làn bhùthan-leabhraichean.

Ann an tè de na bùthan, cheannaich mi cruinneachadh de sgeulachdan à Gall-Ghàidhealaibh. Tha iad air an sgrìobhadh ann am Beurla ach tha e follaiseach gu bheil seann dualchas Gàidhlig ann an cuid dhiubh.

'S iomadh ainm cinnidh Gàidhealach a th' anns na sgeulachdan, ged a tha iad eadar-dhealaichte bhon fheadhainn air a' Ghàidhealtachd fhèin. Ainmean mar *McKendrick*, *McRobert*, *McNaught* agus *McClellan*. Agus tha tòrr ainmean-àite ann an Gall-Ghàidhealaibh aig a bheil tùs ann an Gàidhlig.

**Stob** aon sgeul **a-mach** mar fhear gu math Gàidhealach. 'S e an t-ainm a th' air '*Rowan Reek*' – a' ciallachadh 'toit na craobh-chaorainn'. Nì mi ath-innse air an sgeul ann an Gàidhlig.

Bha Dan MacEanraig agus a bhean a' fuireach ann am baile Sorbie sia mìle deas air Baile na h-Ùige. Bha mac aca air an robh Tòmas – no *Tammie* – mar ainm. Bha Tòmas ri mì-mhodh agus droch ghiùlan fad na h-ùine. Bha Dan agus a bhean dhen bheachd nach e an gille aca fhèin a bh' ann, ach tàcharan. Chuir na sìthichean an tàcharan ann an àite an leanaidh aca fhèin.

Bha iad airson comhairle fhaighinn bho neach glic. Chaidh iad a bhruidhinn ri seann bhoireannach air an robh Lucky NicRaibeirt mar ainm. Bha ise a' fuireach ann am baile beag eile faisg air làimh – Cill Chainneir no, ann am Beurla, *Kirkinner*.

Dh'aontaich Lucky taic a thoirt dhaibh agus, oidhche a bha seo, chaidh i gu taigh Dan. Bha teine a' dol ann am meadhan an ùrlair. Chuir an seann bhoireannach stòl air gach taobh dheth agus dh'iarr i air pàrantan a' ghille suidh' orra. Chuir i coinneal ann an coinnlear agus las i i. Chuir i ri taobh an teine i agus chuir i **clach-nathrach** anns a' chèir. 'S e clach-nathrach clach shònraichte a bh' air a cleachdadh ann an geasan.

Bha Dan air logaichean de chraobh-chaorainn a ghearradh agus a chur anns an t-seòmar. Chuir Lucky na logaichean air an teine, le ruideil air am muin. Chunnaic Tòmas – no an tàcharan – na bha a' tachairt agus dh'fheuch e ri teicheadh, ach chùm athair grèim air. Cheangail Lucky làmhnan agus casan a' ghille ri chèile le stiallan de chlà dearg.

Chuir am boireannach an tàcharan air an ruideil gus an robh a sgamhan làn toite. Bha e ag èigheachd agus a' mionnachadh mar an donas. Ach chùm am boireannach an gille air muin an teine. Mu dheireadh, rinn an toit draoidheil an gnothach air. Dh'fhalbh an gille leis an toit tron t-similear agus chaidh e à fianais.

An uair sin, bha gnogadh air an doras. Dh'fhosgail Lucky an doras agus bha gille beag laghach na sheasamh ann. 'Is mise Tòmas MacEanraig,' thuir e ann an guth beag socair. 'Am faod mi thighinn a-steach?'

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Baile na h-Ùige: *Wigtown*; làn bhùthan-leabhraichean: *full of bookshops*; tùs: *origin*; MacEanraig: *McKendrick*; NicRaibeirt: *McRobert*; Cill Chainneir: *Kirkinner*; coinneal: *candle*; coinnlear: *candlestick*; geasan: *spells*; draoidheil: *magic*; gnogadh: *knocking*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Chuir mi seachad seachdain ann an Gall-Ghàidhealaibh as t-fhoghar an-uiridh: *I spent a week in Galloway in autumn last year*; gu bheil seann dualchas Gàidhlig ann an cuid dhiubh: *that there is an old Gaelic heritage in some of them*; 's iomadh ainm cinnidh Gàidhealach a th' anns na sgeulachdan: *there are many Gaelic surnames in the stories*; toit na craoibh-chaorainn: *the smoke of the rowan tree*; nì mi ath-innse air: *I shall retell*; bha X aingidh: *X was wicked*; bha e ri mì-mhodh agus droch ghiùlan fad na h-ùine: *he was full of rudeness and badly behaved all the time*; bha Dan agus a bhean dhen bheachd nach e an gille aca fhèin a bh' ann, ach tàcharan: *Dan and his wife reckoned that he was not their son, but a changeling*; an àite an leanaibh aca fhèin: *in place of their own baby*; oidhche a bha seo: *one [particular] night*; bha teine ann am meadhan an ùrlair: *there was a fire in the middle of the floor*; chuir an seann boireannach stòl air gach taobh dheth: *the old woman placed a stool on each side of it*; dh'iarr i air pàrantan a' ghille suidh' orra: *she wanted the boy's parents to sit on them*; bha Dan air logaichean de chraobh-chaorainn a ghearradh: *Dan had cut rowan logs*; dh'fheuch e ri teicheadh, ach chùm athair grèim air: *he tried to flee, but his father kept hold of him*; cheangail X làmhnan agus casan a' ghille ri chèile le stiallan de chlà dearg: *X bound the boy's hands and feet with strips of red cloth*; air an ruideil gus an robh a sgamhan làn toite: *on the riddle until his lungs were full of smoke*; a' mionnachadh mar an donas: *swearing like the devil*; chaidh e à fianais: *he disappeared*; bha gille beag laghach na sheasamh ann: *a nice wee lad was standing there*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** clach-nathrach: *literally snake-stone but given in the story as 'adder bead' and explained thus in a footnote: 'a stone supposedly formed by adders: a particularly potent charm against witchcraft and fairies'*.

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** Stob aon sgeul a-mach: *one story stood out*.

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