

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## **Brot Cuilinn**

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 1,397. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,093 corresponds to Litir 1,397. 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 latha ann, agus chan eil e fada bhuaithe, nuair a bha tuathanaich agus croitearan gu math eòlach air 'AI'. Anns an latha an-diugh, ma nì sibh rannsachadh air an eadar-lìon fo 'farming and AI', gheibh sibh fiosrachadh mu 'Artificial Intelligence' seach 'Artificial Insemination'.

Tha an saoghal didseatach a' sìor atharrachadh. Agus tha a' Ghàidhlig an lùib nan atharrachaidhean. Tha goireasan eadar-theangachaidh ann – Beurla gu Gàidhlig – ach feumaidh sinn a bhith faiceallach ma tha sinn gan cur gu feum.

An latha eile, thàinig mi tarsainn air abairt air an eadar-lìon. Cha robh mi buileach ga thuigsinn anns a' chiad dol a-mach. B' e an abairt *Brot Cuilinn*. Seadh – Brot Cuilinn – C.U.I.L.I.N.N. 'S e biadh Albannach ainmeil a th' ann.

Nise, **air a' chiad shealladh**, tha 'brot cuilinn' a' ciallachadh 'holly soup'. Tha *cuileann* a' ciallachadh 'holly'. Craobh-chuilinn – *a holly tree*. Cha bhiodh sin ro bhlasta, chanainn! Agus chan e sin a th' ann.

Mus mìnich mi an gnothach, tha mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh mar a nì sibh Brot Cuilinn. Math dh'fhaodte gun tuig sibh an uair sin dè th' ann. Bruichibh adag smocte ann an uisge. Ann am pana eile, bruichibh uinneanan sgudaichte ann an ìm. Bruichibh buntàta ciùbaichte anns an dàrna pana agus cuiribh a h-uile rud còmhla. Dìreach mus cuir sibh am brot ann am bobhla, cuiribh bainne no uachdar ris agus measgachibh a h-uile rud còmhla.

'S e an rud as cudromaiche ann am Brot Cuilinn – an adag smocte no *smoked haddock*. Tuigidh sibh gur e brot èisg a th' ann am Brot Cuilinn. Ach dè tha 'cuilinn' a' ciallachadh?

Ann am Beurla, canaidh sinn '*Cullen skink*' ris a' bhrot seo. 'S e *skink* seann fhacal Albais a tha a' ciallachadh 'brot'. Agus 's e *Cullen* baile beag air costa Mhoireibh, le beagan is mìle duine a' fuireach ann. 'S e baile iasgaich a bh' ann uaireigin.

Nise, cò às a thàinig an t-ainm-àite, *Cullen*? Thathar a' smaoinichadh gur ann bhon Ghàidhlig a thàinig e. Cha bu chòir sin a bhith na iongnadh. Tha ainmean-àite gu leòr ann am Moireibh a thàinig bhon Ghàidhlig.

'S e *Invercullen* a bh' air Cullen uaireigin ann am Beurla. Tha sgoilearan a' dèanamh dheth gun robh Invercullen a' riochdachadh Inbhir Cuilinn, a' ciallachadh

‘the mouth of the holly stream’. Ged as e ‘Burn of Cullen’ a th’ air an allt an-diugh, tha dùil gur e Allt Cuilinn no Allt a’ Chuilinn a bh’ air nuair a bha Gàidhlig air a bruidhinn anns an sgìre.

Tuigidh sibh a-nise carson as e Brot Cuilinn a gheibh sibh air an eadar-lìon nuair a chuireas sibh a’ cheist ‘*what’s the Gaelic for Cullen skink?*’ Tha muinntir an àite moiteil as a’ bhrot ainmeil aca. A h-uile bliadhna, bidh farpais mhòr ann, agus daoine ga frithealadh à iomadh ceàrn is dùthaich air feadh an t-saoghail. Is i sin *The Cullen Skink World Championships* – no mar a chanamaid, math dh’fhaodte, ann an Gàidhlig – Farpais-Chruinne Brot Cuilinn.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** tuathanaich agus croitearan: *farmers and crofters*; goireasan eadar-theangachaidh: *translation facilities*; uinneanan sgudaichte: *chopped onions*; buntàta ciùbaichte: *potato cut into cubes*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Bha latha ann, agus chan eil e fada bhuaithe: *there was a day, not so far back*; gheibh sibh fiosrachadh mu: *you’ll get information about*; dìreach sin, mar a thuirt am bodach eile: *just so, as the other guy said (an ironic comment)*; tha a’ Ghàidhlig an lùib nan atharrachaidhean: *Gaelic is caught up in the changes*; feumaidh sinn a bhith faiceallach ma tha sinn gan cur gu feum: *we have to be careful if we are using them*; cha robh mi buileach ga thuigsinn anns a’ chiad dol a-mach: *I wasn’t fully understanding it initially*; bruichibh adag smocte: *cook smoked haddock*; dìreach mus cuir sibh am brot ann am bobhla: *just before you put the soup in a bowl*; cuiribh bainne no uachdar ris: *add milk or cream to it*; measgaichibh a h-uile rud còmhla: *mix everything together*; baile beag air costa Mhoireibh, le beagan is mìle duine a’ fuireach ann: *a wee town on the Moray coast, with a bit over a thousand people living there*; tha dùil gur e X a bh’ air nuair a bha Gàidhlig air a bruidhinn anns an sgìre: *it is thought that it was called X when Gaelic was spoken in the area*; moiteil as a’ bhrot ainmeil aca: *proud of their famous soup*; bidh farpais mhòr ann, agus daoine ga frithealadh à iomadh ceàrn is dùthaich air feadh an t-saoghail: *there is a great competition, with people attending it from many corners and lands throughout the world*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** Tha an saoghal didseatach a’ sìor atharrachadh: *the digital world is continually changing*. Sìor is a very useful adjective, adjective modifier or adverb that precedes (and lenites) the noun or verb/verbal noun. It means continual(ly), perpetual(ly), incessant. ’S e seo gaol a tha sìor-bheò ‘*this is everlasting love*’; ’s e sìor-ghalar a th’ ann ‘*it’s a chronic illness*’; tha bàraichean teoclaid a’ sìor dhol an lughad ‘*chocolate bars are forever diminishing in size*’ (*suffering ‘shrinkflation’*).

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** air a’ chiad shealladh: *upon first view [‘the initial impression’]*.

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