

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Na Lighichean Muileach (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 1,402. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,098 corresponds to Litir 1,402. 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 na Peutanaich ann am Muile. Bha iad nan lighichean ainmeil. B' e am fear a b' ainmeile dhuibh an t-Ollamh Muileach, Iain Peutan. A rèir beul-aithris, fhuair e bàs nuair a chaidh a mhurt.

Bha Rìgh na h-Alba airson faighinn a-mach cò an lighiche a bu chomasaiche anns an rìoghachd. Leig e air gun robh e tinn. Thug e cuireadh **do chòig duine fichead** de na lighichean a bu chliùitiche ann an Alba. Bha e airson 's gun innseadh iad uile dha dè bha ceàrr air agus dè an leigheas a dhèanadh iad dha. Am measg nan lighichean bha an t-Ollamh Muileach.

Cha robh na Muilich toilichte gum biodh e air falbh airson ùine ann an Dùn Èideann. 'Dè nì sinn airson ar cumail fhèin slàn fallain?' dh'fhaighnich iad.

'Bithibh sunndach, stuama agus dèanaibh mocheirigh,' fhreagair an lighiche. Agus dh'fhalbh e. Ach, nuair a ràinig e lùchairt an rìgh, cha robh an rìgh a' ceadachadh sgrùdadh sam bith leis na lighichean. Thuig an t-Ollamh Muileach sa mhionaid plòigh an rìgh agus gur ann ri cleas a bha e. A rèir choltais, bha an rìgh dhen bheachd gur e sàr-lighiche a bh' anns an Ollamh oir thuig e dòighean dhaoine.

Ge-tà, bha na lighichean eile farmadach. Chuir iad romhpa Iain Peutan a mharbhadh. Bha fios aca càit am biodh e a' fuireach air a' chiad oidhche air a rathad dhachaigh. Thug iad airgead don òstair mar dhuais airson Iain a phuinnseanachadh.

Nuair a ràinig Iain agus a shearbhant an taigh-òsta, dh'iarr an lighiche air an òstair cupa uisge a thoirt dha. Cho luath 's a shluig e an t-uisge, bha fios aige gun robh e air a phuinnseanachadh. Dh'iarr e cupa bainne, ach cha robh bainne sam bith ann. Dh'iarr e air a shearbhant falbh a-mach don leas-chàil airson càl fhaighinn. Ach cha robh càl sam bith a' fàs ann.

'Uill,' ars am Peutanach ri a shearbhant, 'thoir an aire thoirt fhèin agus dèan cinnteach gum faigh thu dhachaigh. Cha mhair mise fada.' Bha fios aige gun robh an t-òstair air a h-uile stuth a dhèanadh leigheas air **a chur an dàrna taobh**. Bha an t-Ollamh Muileach ceart. Chaochail e taobh a-staigh beagan mhionaidean. Chaidh an dust aige a thoirt a dh'Eilean Ì far an robh e air a thiodhlacadh.

Mus fhàg sinn Peutanaich Mhuile, tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu Iain Peutan eile – an dàrna mac aig an Ollamh Mhuileach. Bha e na mhinistear Easbaigeach, seach a bhith na lighiche. Ach 's ann thuigesan a chaidh an cruinneachadh de làmh-sgrìobhainnean is leabhraichean a bha leis an teaghlach.

Thug e an cruinneachadh sin leis a dh'Èirinn oir chaill e a mhinistrealachd. Aig an àm sin, bha an Eaglais Chlàireach a' faighinn prìomhachas ann an Alba. Nuair a bha e ann an Èirinn, anns a' bhliadhna seachd ceud deug (1700), thachair e ris an t-sàr-sgoilear Chuimreach, Eideard Lhuyd, a bha a' dèanamh rannsachadh air na dùthchannan Ceilteach. Bha e a' dèanamh sgrùdadh air na cànanan, creideamhan is gnàthasan anns a' Chuimrigh, Èirinn, Alba, A' Chòrn agus sa Bhreatainn Bhig.

Thug an t-Urramach Iain Peutan taic mhòr do Lhuyd. Dh'ionnsaich an Cuimreach bhuaithe fuaimneachadh, briathrachas agus gràmar na Gàidhlig. Agus 's iongantach mura ionnsaich Lhuyd gu leòr bho na làmh-sgrìobhainnean Peutanach mu dheidhinn leigheas air a' Ghàidhealtachd.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Peutanaich: *Beatons*; lighichean: *physicians*; farmadach: *jealous*; Easbaigeach: *Episcopalian*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** fhuair e bàs nuair a chaidh a mhurt: *he died when he was murdered*; bha X airson faighinn a-mach cò an lighiche a bu chomasaiche: *X was wanting to find out who was the most capable physician*; gun innseadh iad uile dha dè bha ceàrr air: *that they would all tell him what was wrong with him*; dè nì sinn airson ar cumail fhèin slàn fallain?: *what shall we do to keep ourselves fit and well*; bithibh sunndach, stuama agus dèanaibh mocheirigh: *be cheerful and temperate, and rise early*; cha robh an rìgh a' ceadachadh sgrùdadh sam bith leis na lighichean: *the king was not permitting the physicians to examine him*; thuig X sa mhionaid plòigh an rìgh agus gur ann ri cleas a bha e: *X immediately understood the king's ploy and that was performing a trick*; thuig e dòighean dhaoine: *he understood the ways of people*; chuir iad romhpa Iain Peutan a mharbhadh: *they decided to kill John Beaton*; thug iad airgead don òstair mar dhuais airson Iain a phuinnseanachadh: *they gave the publican money as a reward for poisoning John*; cho luath 's a shluig e an t-uisge: *as soon as he swallowed the water*; dh'iarr e air a shearbhannt falbh a-mach don leas-chàil airson càl fhaighinn: *he asked his servant to go out to the kailyard to get cabbage*; cha mhair mise fada: *I won't last long*; chaidh an dust aige a thoirt a dh'Eilean Ì: *his mortal remains were taken to Iona*; chaill e a mhinistrealachd: *he lost his ministry*; bha an Eaglais Chlàireach a' faighinn prìomhachas: *the Presbyterian Church was achieving dominance*; 's iongantach mura ionnsaich X gu leòr: *it would be surprising if X didn't learn a lot*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** Thug e cuireadh do chòig duine fichead de na lighichean a bu chliùitiche: *he invited twenty-five of the most renowned physicians. There is more than one way to refer to 25 individuals. We might say 'còig duine fichead', 'còig duine air fhichead', 'fichead duine 's a còig' or 'fichead 's a còig daoine'. Note that only in the last is duine commonly pluralised. It is one of the nouns (along with bliadhna, not, sgillinn, latha and a few others) that tend not to pluralise when associated with numbers.*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** gun robh an t-òstair air a h-uile stuth a dhèanadh leigheas air a chur an dàrna taobh: *that the publican had put aside all of the materials that would cure him.*

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