

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Lann

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 1,404. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,100 corresponds to Litir 1,404. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Dè a' Ghàidhlig a th' air 'laboratory'? Tha dà rud ann am faclair an latha an-diugh – *obair-lann* agus *deuchainn-lann*. Tha *obair* a' ciallachadh 'work'. Agus 's e sin bunait an fhacail *laboratory* 'place of labour or work'. Tha *deuchainn* a' ciallachadh 'test, examination, trial, experiment'. *Deuchainn-lann* – a place for testing or experimentation.

Ach dè dìreach a tha an dàrna eileamaid *lann* a' ciallachadh? O shean, bha *lann* a' ciallachadh 'enclosure' no 'enclosed land'. Tha am facal boireanta. Mar sin, bhiodh daoine ag ràdh gu traidiseanta '**anns an lann**' no '**anns an loinn**', an àite 'anns an lann'. Tha sin a' fàgail ainmean-àite air a' Ghàidhealtachd le *loinn*.

Tha eisimpleirean faisg air Inbhir Nis. Tha an Lann Mhòr agus an Lann Bheag faisg air a' Mhòigh. Ann am Beurla, canaidh daoine *Lynemore* agus *Lynebeg* riutha.

Ann am Moireibh, faisg air Tom an t-Sabhail, tha *Lynachork*. Sin Lann a' Choirce 'the enclosed field of the oats'. Cuideachd ann am Moireibh, faisg air Eilginn, tha *Lhanbryde*. Sin Lann Brìghde 'St Bride's enclosure or church'.

Ach, anns an latha an-diugh, tha *lann* mar as trice, ann an còmhradh no litreachas, ceangailte ri facal no eileamaid eile. Tha e a' ciallachadh 'àite' gu sònraichte 'àite far a bheil rudeigin a' tachairt'. Bidh sibh eòlach air leabharlann 'library'. Mar as trice, bidh sinn a' cur tàthan – no *hyphen* – ron eileamaid *lann*. Ach tha *leabharlann* air a sgrìobhadh mar aon fhacal, gun tàthan. Tha *tasglann* 'archive' coltach ri sin. Tha e air a sgrìobhadh mar aon fhacal, gun tàthan – mar a tha an seann fhacal *iodhlann* 'corn yard' a tha a' tighinn bho *iodh* 'corn' agus *lann*. Tha *iodh* a' nochdadh ann an Tiriodh (Tiree) – 'land of corn'.

Tha *arm-lann* a' ciallachadh 'arsenal'. Tha *amharc-lann* a' ciallachadh 'observatory'. Tha *lèigh-lann* a' ciallachadh 'doctor's surgery'. Agus **math dh'fhaodte gum bi sibh eòlach air biadh-lann** 'canteen, dining hall'.

Tha grunn eisimpleirean co-cheangailte ri beathaichean ann an seann fhaclair Dwelly. Mar eisimpleir, *cearc-lann* 'henhouse' no 'poultry yard' agus *bò-lann* 'cow house, byre'. Tha *beach-lann* a' seasamh airson 'bee-hive', tha *fiadh-lann* a' ciallachadh 'deer park', agus 's e *gèadh-lann* àite far an cumar geòidh.

Saoil an tuig sibh an fheadhainn a leanas? *Suain-lann*. *Suain-lann*. *Càr-lann*. *Càr-lann*. *Long-lann*. *Long-lann*. *Broc-lann*. *Broc-lann*. Agus *siol-lann*. *Siol-lann*.

Uill, seo na fuasglaidhean. Tha *suain-lann* a' ciallachadh 'dormitory' – far am bi daoine a' dol nan suain. Tha *càr-lann* a' ciallachadh 'carpark'. Long-lann? Uill, tha *long* a' ciallachadh 'ship'. Mar sin, 's e *long-lann* 'a dockyard'. *Broc-lann* 'a badger's den or sett'. Agus tha *siol-lann* a' ciallachadh 'granary', le *siol* a' ciallachadh 'seed'.

Co-dhiù, mach à seo leam. Tha mi a' dol a ghabhail srùbag anns a' ghrian-lann!

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Faclan na Litreach: Moireibh: *Moray*; Tom an t-Sabhail: *Tomintoul*; Eilginn: *Elgin*; Lann Brìghde: *Lhanbryde*; fuasglaidhean: *solutions*.

Abairtean na Litreach: 's e sin bunait an fhacail: *that's the basis of the word*; dè dìreach a tha an dàrna eileamaid a' ciallachadh?: *what exactly does the second element mean?*; tha an Lann Mhòr agus an Lann Bheag faisg air a' Mhòigh: *Lynemore and Lynebeg are near Moy*; faisg air làimh: *close at hand*; mar as trice, ann an còmhraidh no litreachas, ceangailte ri: *usually, in conversation or literature, connected to*; air a sgrìobhadh mar aon fhacal, gun tàthan: *written as one word, without a hyphen*; math dh'fhaodte gum bi sibh eòlach air: *perhaps you will know*; tha grunn eisimpleirean co-cheangailte ri beathaichean: *there are several examples connected to animals*; saoil an tuig sibh an fheadhainn a leanas?: *do you understand the following?*; co-dhiù, mach à seo leam: *anyway I need to scarper* ['out of here with me']; tha mi a' dol a ghabhail srùbag anns a' ghrian-lann: *I'm going to have a cuppa in the conservatory*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: bhiodh daoine ag ràdh gu traidiseanta 'anns an lann' no 'anns an loinn', an àite 'anns an lann': *people would traditionally say 'anns an lann' or 'anns an loinn', an àite 'anns an lann'. The point here is that lann, as a feminine noun, traditionally slenderises in the dative or prepositional case (sometimes known as the locative). In turn, this slenderised form is retained in place names – thus An Loinn Mhòr rather than An Lann Mhòr.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: math dh'fhaodte gum bi sibh eòlach air: *perhaps you will know/be familiar with*.

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