

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Eisirean nan Linneachan (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 1,412. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,108 corresponds to Litir 1,412. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Bha 'Pandore oysters' rudeigin ainmeil ann an Alba anns an naoidheamh linn deug. Bha iad mòr agus blasta. Bha iad co-cheangailte, ann an inntinn dhaoine, ri Prestonpans air cladaich Linne Fhoirthe. Bha oitirean làn eisirean faisg air Prestonpans agus baile eile, Cùil Choinnich. Bhiodh na h-iasgairean anns an dà bhaile sin a' dreideadh grunn na mara airson eisirean.

Mus tàinig na rathaidean-iarainn, cha robh cus iasgaich a' dol. Ach, leis gun robh e furasta gu leòr eisirean a chur air tràna gu ruige margaidh-èisg Bhillingsgate ann an Lunnainn, thòisich cus iasgaich. Agus thàinig lùghdachadh mòr air na bh' ann de dh'eisirean ann an Linne Fhoirthe.

Fada gu tuath air sin, ann an Linne Mhoireibh, bha Pandore oysters air an cur ris na h-eisirean a bh' ann mu thràth. Bhathar ag aithris gun tàinig iad bhon cheann a tuath. Ach bhiodh iasgairean an Eilein Duibh a' cumail a-mach gun do chuir Fear Chùil Lodair luchd de dh'eisirean ann o shean, agus gur ann à Linne Fhoirthe a thàinig iad. Cò aige tha fios nach ann à Prestonpans a bha iad.

Ann an Courier Inbhir Nis, anns a' Ghearran ochd ceud deug, seachdad 's a dhà (1872), bhathar ag aithris mun dragh a bh' ann gun robhar a' dèanamh sgrios air stoc nan eisirean ann an Linne Mhoireibh. Bha iad a' **coireachadh** iasgairean Sasannach. Bha na h-iasgairean sin a' dreideadh suas agus a' cumail nan eisirean gu lèir, co-dhiù bha na maoraich sean no òg. Bha iad a' reic na seann fheadhainn, agus deagh phrìs orra. Agus bha iad a' toirt leotha na feadhainn òga airson oitirean eisirean a stèidheachadh faisg air beul Abhainn Thames.

Cha chreid mi gun robh bacadh sam bith air na h-iasgairean Sasannach. Air an làimh eile, dh'fheumadh na h-iasgairean ann an Abhach cead iarraidh air an oighreachd airson eisirean a dhreideadh – oir 's iad na h-uachdarain a chuir iad ann anns a' chiad dol a-mach. Bha feadhainn ag iarraidh air an riaghaltas smachd a thoirt air an iasgach mus fhalbhadh na h-eisirean gu lèir. Ach dh'fhalbh iad.

Beagan seachdainean an dèidh don naidheachd seo a nochdadh ann an Courier Inbhir Nis, bha aithris ann mu dheidhinn droch thachartas ann an Linne Mhoireibh, faisg air Abhach. Bha grunn bhàtaichean beaga ionadail a-muigh ag iasgach eisirean.

Dh'èirich a' ghaoth. Ann an aon eathar, anns an robh criutha de thriùir, dh'atharraich iad an taca. Ach cha do ghluais iad an uidheamachd dreididh timcheall. Bha i air an taobh cheàrr dhen t-soitheach – a chaidh a chur thairis. Cha do mhothaich

na daoine anns na h-eathraichean eile ann an àm do na thachair. Gu mì-mì-fhortanach, chaidh an triùir a bhàthadh.

Bha dithis bhràithrean am measg na triùir. Agus, na bu mhiosa buileach, dh'aithris an Courier gun robh iad air bràthair eile, agus an athair, a chall ann an tubaist iasgaich eile a' bhliadhna roimhe. Taobh a-staigh bliadhna, bha fichead duine à baile beag Abhach air an call ann an tubaistean ann an Linne Mhoireibh.

A thaobh nan eisirean, tha daoine a-nise ag amas air piseach a thoirt air an t-suidheachadh ann an linneachan taobh an ear na h-Alba. Tha feadhainn a' cur eisirean às ùr air grunn na mara ann an Linne Dhòrnaich agus Linne Fhoirthe. Agus tha feadhainn eile gan àrach ann an Linne Chrombaigh. Gur math a thèid leotha uile.

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Faclan na Litreach: blasta: *tasty*; oitirean: *shellfish banks*; Cùil Choinnich: *Cockenzie*; gu mì-mì-fhortanach: *extremely unfortunately*; Linne Dhòrnaich: *Dornoch Firth*.

Abairtean na Litreach: co-cheangailte, ann an inntinn dhaoine, ri Prestonpans air cladach Linne Fhoirthe: *linked, in people's minds, to Prestonpans on the shore of the Firth of Forth*; a' dreideadh grunn na mara airson eisirean: *dredging the seabed for oysters*; furasta gu leòr eisirean a chur air trèana gu ruige margaidh-èisg Bhillingsgate: *very easy to send oysters on the train to the Billingsgate fish market*; bhiodh iasgairean an Eilein Duibh a' cumail a-mach gun do chuir Fear Chùil Lodair luchd de dh'eisirean ann o shean: *the Black Isle fishermen were maintaining that the Laird of Culloden put a cargo of oysters there in olden times*; cò aige tha fios nach ann à Prestonpans a bha iad: *who knows that they weren't from Prestonpans*; gun robhar a' dèanamh sgrios air stoc nan eisirean: *that the stocks of oysters were being damaged*; co-dhiù bha na maoraich sean no òg: *whether the shellfish were old or young*; a' reic na seann fheadhainn, agus deagh phrìs orra: *selling the old ones which obtained a good price*; a' toirt leotha na feadhainn òga airson oitirean eisirean a stèidheachadh: *taking with them the young ones in order to establish shellfish beds*; ag iarraidh air an riaghaltas smachd a thoirt air an iasgach mus fhalbhadh na h-eisirean gu lèir: *wanting the government to control the fishing before the oysters disappeared entirely*; bha grunn bhàtaichean beaga ionadail a-muigh ag iasgach: *several small local boats were out fishing*; dh'atharraich iad an taca: *they changed tack*; cha do ghluais iad an uidheamachd dreididh timcheall: *they didn't shift the dredging gear around*; a chaidh a chur thairis: *which was caused to capsize*; gun robh iad air bràthair eile, agus an athair, a chall ann an tubaist iasgaich eile a' bhliadhna roimhe: *that they had lost another brother, and their father, in another fishing accident the year before*; gan àrach ann an Linne Chrombaigh: *raising them in the Cromarty Firth*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Cha chreid mi gun robh bacadh sam bith air X: *I don't think there was any restriction on X. As a learner, have you mastered this very idiomatic phrase yet? It's an alternative to 'chan eil mi a' creidsinn gun robh'. You will hear it a lot. If you make it a 'double negative', then it becomes an affirmative e.g. cha chreid mi nach robh e fìor 'I think it was true'.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Bha iad a' coireachadh iasgairean Sasannach: *They were blaming English fishermen.*

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