

An Litir Bheag

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 5 (which corresponds to Litir 309). Ruairidh would welcome feedback on An Litir Bheag from listeners/readers. He can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha leabhar ùr agam. 'S e leabhar math a th' ann. 'S e an t-ainm a th' air *The Gaelic Otherworld*. 'S e deasaiche an leabhair – 's e sin am fear a dheasaich e – Ragnall MacIlleDhuibh. Anns an leabhar ùr tha dà sheann leabhar a sgrìobh Iain MacGriogair Caimbeul. Is iad na leabhraichean sin *Superstitions of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland* agus *Witchcraft and Second Sight in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland*.

Tha fiosrachadh gu leòr anns an leabhar. Seo dìreach criomag dheth. Bidh sibh eòlach air an dà-shealladh, no *second sight*. An dà-shealladh. Bha sin cumanta am measg nan daoine air a' Ghàidhealtachd. Ach bha e cuideachd cumanta am measg nam beathaichean. Bha cuid de bheathaichean a' "faicinn" rudan leis an dà-shealladh. Agus bha coin agus eich na b' fheàrr na beathaichean eile.

Nuair a tha a' ghealach làn, bidh coin gu tric a' dèanamh donnal. 'S e sin an seòrsa fuaim a bhios madaidhean-allaidh a' dèanamh. Donnal. Ann an Sasainn, thathar ag ràdh gu bheil na coin a' dèanamh donnal ris a' ghealaich.

Ach bha na seann Ghàidheil ag ràdh gu robh na coin a' dèanamh donnal a chionn 's gu robh iad a' faicinn taibhs. Taibhs de dhuine a bha fhathast beò. Bha sin a' ciallachadh gu robh an duine sin faisg air a bhàs.

Tha Iain MacGriogair Caimbeul ag innse dhuinn mu thachartas ann an Latharna. Bha galla ann – 's e sin cù boireann. Cha robh earball aice. Bha i a' dol gu àite faisg air allt agus a' dèanamh donnal. Rinn i sin gach là airson ceala-deug.

Là a bha seo bha boireannach agus pàiste a' dol thar an uillt. Bha drochaid ann. Bha pasgan de leathar aig a' bhoireannaich. Bha i a' dol a chèilidh air greusaiche. Bha an greusaiche a' dol a dhèanamh brògan dhi leis an leathar.

Chaidh am boireannach a-null leis a' phasgan. Dh'fhàg i am pasgan air an taobh thall. Thill i airson a' phàiste. Ach nuair a bha i fhèin is am pàiste a' dol tarsainn a-rithist, thàinig tuil. 'S e sin uisge mòr. Chaidh an drochaid a sgrìos. Chaidh am boireannach is am pàiste a bhàthadh. Agus chaidh na cuirp aca a lorg ri taobh an uillt. Bha iad anns an dearbh àite far an robh a' ghalla a' dèanamh donnal.

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Faclan is abairtean: tha leabhar ùr agam: *I have a new book*; 's e leabhar math a th' ann: *it is a good book*; deasaiche: *editor*; Ragnall MacIlleDhuibh: *Ronald*

Black; dà sheann leabhar a sgrìobh Iain MacGriogair Caimbeul: two old books that John Gregorson Campbell wrote; tha fiosrachadh gu leòr anns an leabhar: there is much information in the book; seo dìreach criomag dheth: here is just a little bit of it; an dà-shealladh: the second sight; cumanta am measg nam beathaichean: common among the animals; cuid de bheathaichean: some animals; bha coin agus eich na b' fheàrr: dogs and horses were better; nuair a tha a' ghealach làn: when the moon is full; bidh coin gu tric a' dèanamh donnal: dogs will often howl; madaidhean-allaidh: wolves; a chionn 's gu robh iad a' faicinn taibhs: because they were seeing a ghost; de dhuine a bha fhathast beò: of a man who was still alive; faisg air a bhàs: close to his death; Latharna: Lorne; galla: bitch; earball: tail; gach là airson ceala-deug: every day for a fortnight; bha boireannach agus pàiste a' dol thar an uillt: a woman and a child were going across [over] the burn [thar takes the genitive ie of allt, a burn]; pasgan de leathar: a parcel of leather; bha an greusaiche a' dol a dhèanamh brògan dhi: the shoemaker was going to make shoes for [to] her; a-null: over [generally away from the narrator]; a' dol tarsainn a-rithist: going over again; tuil: flood; chaidh an drochaid a sgrios: the bridge was destroyed; chaidh X a bhàthadh: X was drowned; cuirp: bodies; anns an dearbh àite: in the very same place.

ends