

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 19 (which corresponds to Litir 323). Ruairidh would welcome feedback on An Litir Bheag from listeners/readers. He can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Seo agaibh seann sgeulachd bhon Eilean Sgitheanach. 'S e an t-ainm a th' oirre *Bàillidh Throndairnis agus a' Bhana-bhuidseach*. Thachair e anns an t-siathamh linn deug. Tha Trondairnis ann an ceann a tuath an Eilein Sgitheanaich.

Chuir Rìgh na h-Alba air leth màl dà bhaile ann an Trondairnis. Bha an t-airgead a' dol gu aon duine – fear air an robh Coinneach mar ainm. Coinneach Mac Uilleim 'ic Sheumais. Carson a rinn an Rìgh sin? Uill, bha Coinneach ag iarraidh foghlam anns an lagh. Bha an t-airgead a' pàigheadh airson foghlam Choinnich.

Ach bha cùisean truagh anns an Eilean Sgitheanach. Bha daoine bochd. Cha do phàigh iad am màl. Chaidh Coinneach fhèin don sgìre mar bhàillidh. Bha e a' dol a thogail a' mhàil ann an ainm an Rìgh.

Bha boireannach ann a bha uabhasach bochd. Chaill i an duine aice. Chaill i an dithis mhac aice. Agus chaill i an sprèidh aice. Cha robh aice ach aona bhò.

Thàinig Coinneach air muin eich. Bha maor còmhla ris. Cha robh airgead sam bith aig a' bhoireannach. Ach 's e duine cruaidh a bh' ann an Coinneach. Thug e leis a' bhò. Dh'fhalbh e sìos an rathad leatha. Chuir Coinneach agus am maor a' bhò agus an t-each ann am buaile. Chaidh iad gu biadh ann an taigh a' mhaoir.

Thàinig còmhlan de ghillean cruinn. Bha iad feargach. Bha iad a' càineadh a' bhàillidh agus a' mhaoir. "Nach biodh e math," thuirt fear dhiubh ri càch, "a' bhò aiseag gu Eilean Thuilm." Dh'aontaich càch ris.

Bha bàta faisg air làimh. Chuir na gillean a' bhò don bàta. Chuir iad an t-each ann cuideachd. Dh'fhalbh iad a-mach don eilean. Dh'fhàg na gillean a' bhò agus an t-each anns an eilean. Bha iad air ais an ceann ùine ghoirid. Cha robh fios aig a' bhàillidh no aig a' mhaor mu dheidhinn.

An ceann ùine thill am bàillidh agus am maor don bhuaile. Ach, mo chreach, nuair a ràinig iad am buaile, cha robh sgeul air each no bò ann.

Nise, aig toiseach gnothaich, dh'innis mi dhuibh gur e tìotal na sgeulachd *Bàillidh Throndairnis agus a' Bhana-bhuidseach*. Thuige seo cha robh sgeul air bana-bhuidseach. Ach na gabhaibh dragh. Bidh i còmhla rinn an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: sgeulachd bhon Eilean Sgitheanach: *a story from Skye*; Bàillidh Thronairnis agus a' Bhana-bhuidseach: *the factor of Trotternish and the witch*; anns an t-siathamh linn deug: *in the 16th Century*; chuir Rìgh na h-Alba air leth màl dà bhaile: *the King of Scotland set aside the rent of two townships*; Coinneach Mac Uilleim 'ic Sheumais: *Kenneth the son of William, the son of James*; foghlam anns an lagh: *education in the law*; foghlam Choinnich: *Kenneth's education*; bha cùisean truagh: *things were bad*; cha do phàigh iad am màl: *they didn't pay the rent*; bha e a' dol a thogail a' mhàil ann an ainm an Rìgh: *he was going to collect the rent in the name of the King*; chaill i an dithis mhac aice: *she lost her two sons*; sprèidh: *livestock*; cha robh aice ach aona bhò: *she only had one cow*; thàinig Coinneach air muin eich: *Kenneth came on horseback*; bha maor còmhlà ris: *there was a ground officer with him*; 's e duine cruaidh a bh' ann an Coinneach: *Kenneth was a hard man*; buaile: *cattfold*; chaidh iad gu biadh: *they went for food*; thàinig còmhlàn de ghillean cruinn: *a group of lads came together*; bha iad a' càineadh a' bhàillidh agus a' mhaoir: *they were criticising the factor and the ground officer*; nach biodh e math a' bhò aiseag: *a wouldn't it be good to ferry the cow*; dh'aontaich càch ris: *the others agreed with him*; dh'fhàg na gillean a' bhò agus an t-each anns an eilean: *the lads left the cow and the horse on the island*; bha iad air ais an ceann ùine ghoirid: *they were back a short time later*; cha robh sgeul air each no bò ann: *there was no sign of a horse or cow in it*; thuige seo cha robh sgeul air bana-bhuidseach: *until now there has been [there was] no sign of a witch*; na gabhaibh dragh: *don't worry*; bidh i còmhlà rinn an ath-sheachdain: *she'll be with us next week*.