

# 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 23 (which corresponds to Litir 327). Ruairidh would welcome feedback on An Litir Bheag from listeners/readers. He can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

Ann an t-seachdamh linn deug bha mòran air an cur gu bàs ann an Alba. Carson? 'S e "buidseachan" no "bana-bhuidseachan" a bh' annta. 'S e sin a bha daoine ag ràdh co-dhiù.

Bha buidheann a' fuireach air Oighreachd Shrath Ghlais. B' e sin an oighreachd aig ceann-cinnidh nan Siosalach. 'S e buill de Chloinn 'ic Illeathain a bh' anns na daoine. Leathanaich. Bha iad fo amharas gu robh iad ri buidseachd. Thug an Siosalach a' bhuidheann don eaglais ann an Cnoc Mhoire. 'S e boireannaich a bh' anns a' mhòrchuid dhiubh.

Bha fear eile ann air an robh MacPheadrais. Bha esan a' sgrùdadh daoine a bha fo amharas de bhuidseachd. Rinn e sgrùdadh air a h-uile duine de na Leathanaich à Srath Ghlais. Seo mar a rinn e e. Bha prìne fada aige. Dh' iarr e air na daoine an aodach a chur dhiubh. Bha e a' suathadh a làmhan air am bodhaigean.

Bha e a' cur a' phrìne aige annta. Bha e a' cur a' phrìne fad an rathaid a-steach. Bha cothrom aig an duine am prìne a lorg. Mura d' fhuair e lorg air a' phrìne gu furasta, thuir MacPheadrais gu robh e ri buidseachd.

Chan eil e furasta prìne mar sin a lorg annad. Chaidh mòran daoine neo-chiontach a chur gu bàs air sàilleabh seo. Agus an là sin ann an Eaglais Chnoc Mhoire, bha na Leathanaich uile "ciontach".

Bha an Siosalach toilichte. Bha e ag iarraidh na Leathanaich seo a chur gu bàs. Dh' iarr e air a' Chomhairle Dhìomhair ann an Dùn Èideann leigeil leis coimisean a stèidheachadh. Bha an coimisean a' dol a thoirt sùil air a' chùis. Chaidh cead a thoirt seachad airson coimisean.

Ach cò na buill a bh' air a' choimisean? A, uill, ann Siosalach fhèin, a bhràthair agus dithis de na co-oghaichean aige. Bha cùisean a' coimhead dubhach do na Leathanaich. Chì sinn dè thachair an ath-sheachdain.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** anns an t-seachdamh linn deug: *in the 17th Century*; bha mòran air an cur gu bàs: *many people were put to death*; a' fuireach air Oighreachd Shrath Ghlais: *living on the Strathglass Estate*; ceann-cinnidh nan Siosalach: *the clan chief of the Chisholms*; 's e buill de Chloinn 'ic Illeathain a bh' anns na daoine: *they were members of the Maclean clan*; Leathanaich: *Macleans*; fo amharas gu robh iad ri buidseachd: *under suspicion that they*

*were involved in witchcraft; Cnoc Mhoire: Kirkhill; 's e boireannaich a bh' anns a' mhòrchuid dhiubh: most of them were women; bha fear eile ann air an robh MacPheadrais: there was another man called Paterson; rinn e sgrùdadh air a h-uile duine: he scrutinised every person; seo mar a rinn e e: here's how he did it; prìne fada: a long pin; an aodach a chur dhiubh: to take their clothes off; a' suathadh a làmhan air am bodhaigean: rubbing his hands on their bodies; bha e a' cur a' phrìne fad an rathaid a-steach: he was putting the pin all the way in; mura d' fhuair e lorg air a' phrìne gu furasta: if he didn't find the pin easily; annad: in you; chaidh mòran daoine neo-chiontach a chur gu bàs air sàilleabh seo: many innocent people were put to death because of this; bha na Leathanaich uile "ciontach": all of the Macleans were "guilty"; dh' iarr e air a' Chomhairle Dhìomhair ann an Dùn Èideann leigeil leis coimisean a stèidheachadh: he asked the Privy Council in Edinburgh to let him establish a commission; cò na buill a bh' air a' choimisean?: who were the members that were on the commission?; dithis de na co-oghaichean aige: two of his cousins; bha cùisean a' coimhead dubhach: things were looking gloomy; chì sinn dè thachair: we'll see what happened.*