

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 37 (which corresponds to Litir 341). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha dualchas Gàidhealach aig mòran àiteachan ann an Siorrachd Obair Dheathain. Mar eisimpleir, an Tulaich, faisg air Bealadair. Tha àite anns an Tulaich air a bheil *Poll na h-Iuchrach*, “the pool of the key”. Poll na h-Iuchrach. Tha e air talamh ìosal ri taobh na h-aibhne. 'S e an t-ainm a th' air an abhainn *Uisge Dè*. Bha Poll na h-Iuchrach anns an abhainn fhèin o chionn fhada.

Bha an iuchair aig naomh. B' esan Nachlan. Bha e beò anns an t-seachdamh linn. Bha e às an sgìre sin. Tha seann tobhta anns an Tulaich air a bheil *Cill Nachlain*.

Bha Nachlan uabhasach sgileil mar thuathanach. Bha e math air bàrr fhàs – eòrna is coirce. Bha e a' teagasg nan sgilean sin do dhaoine eile. Bha bàrr math an-còmhnaidh aig Nachlan. Bha e a' toirt taing do Dhia.

Bliadhna a bha seo, bha gort ann. Cha robh biadh gu leòr aig na daoine. Bha stòras de dh'arbhar aig Nachlan. Thug e sin do na daoine. Ach cha robh sìol air fhàgail airson cur as t-earrach. Bha a h-uile duine gu bhith acrach.

Dh'iarr Nachlan air daoine gainmheach a thoirt às an abhainn. Sgaoil iad a' ghainmheach air na h-achaidhean. Chaidh Nachlan gu a ghlùinean. Bheannaich e an t-àite. Dh'fhàs bàrr math air a' bhliadhna sin.

As t-fhoghar, bha na daoine deiseil airson buain. Ach dh'èirich stoirm. Shèid i an t-arbhar thairis. Bha e na laighe air an talamh. Dh'fhàs Nachlan feargach. Chàin e Dia.

Chiùinich an stoirm. Chaidh an t-arbhar a bhuain math gu leòr. Ach bha Nachlan ga ithe fhèin airson na thuir e ri Dia. Ghabh e aithreachas. Chuir e peanas air fhèin. Cheangail e gàirdean do a chois. Chuir e glas air. Thilg e an iuchair do dh'Uisge Dè. Bha sin ann am *Poll na h-Iuchrach*.

Chaidh Nachlan don Ròimh. Nuair a bha e san Ròimh, thachair e ri balach air an t-sràid. Bha am balach a' reic èisg. Cheannaich Nachlan iasg. Thug e air ais e airson a dhìnnearach. Nuair a bha e ga chutadh, lorg e rudeigin na bhroinn. Dè bh' ann? A, uill, innsidh mi sin dhuibh an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: tha dualchas Gàidhealach aig mòran àiteachan: *many places have a Gaelic heritage*; Siorrachd Obair Dheathain: *Aberdeenshire*; mar eisimpleir, an Tulaich, faisg air Bealadair: *for example, Tullich, near Ballater*;

Poll na h-Iuchrach: *the pool of the key*; talamh ìosal ri taobh na h-aibhne: *low land beside the river*; Uisge Dè: *River Dee*; o chionn fhada: *a long time ago*; naomh: *saint*; anns an t-seachdamh linn: *in the seventh century*; às an sgìre sin: *from that area*; seann tobhta: *old ruin*; Nachlan: *Nathalan, Nachlan*; sgileil mar thuathanach: *skilful as a farmer*; bha e math air bàrr fhàs: *he was good at growing crops*; eòrna is coirce: *barley and oats*; bha e a' teagasg nan sgilean sin: *he was teaching those skills*; bha bàrr math an-còmhnaidh aig Nachlan: *Nachlan always had a good crop*; gort: *famine*; stòras de dh'arbhar: *a store of grain*; cha robh sìol air fhàgail airson cur as t-earrach: *there was no seed left to plant in spring*; bha a h-uile duine gu bhith acrach: *everybody was going to be hungry*; dh'iarr Nachlan air daoine gainmheach a thoirt às an abhainn: *Nachlan asked people to take sand from the river*; sgaoil iad: *they scattered*; chaidh Nachlan gu a ghlùinean: *Nachlan went on to his knees*; bheannaich e an t-àite: *he blessed the place*; deiseil airson buain: *ready to reap*; dh'èirich stoirm: *a storm arose*; shèid i an t-arbhar thairis: *it blew the corn over*; bha e na laighe air an talamh: *it was lying on the ground*; chàin e Dia: *he criticised God*; chiùinich an stoirm: *the storm abated*; chaidh an t-arbhar a bhuaibh: *the corn was harvested*; bha Nachlan ga ithe fhèin: *Nachlan was vexed (lit. "he was eating himself")*; ghabh e aithreachas: *he regretted (it)*; chuir e peanas air fhèin: *he punished himself*; cheangail e gàirdean do a chois: *he tied an arm to his leg*; chuir e glas air: *he put a lock on it*; thilg e an iuchair do dh'Uisge Dè: *he threw the key into the River Dee*; nuair a bha e san Ròimh: *when he was in Rome*; thug e air ais e airson a dhìnnearach: *he took it back for his dinner*; nuair a bha e ga chutadh: *when he was gutting it*; lorg e rudeigin na bhroinn: *he found something inside it*.

ends