

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 44 (which corresponds to Litir 348). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Nochd iomadh leabhar math Gàidhlig an-uiridh. 'S e deagh bhliadhna a bh' ann airson leabhraichean Gàidhlig. Am measg nan leabhraichean bha fear a tha làn rannan cloinne. Tha e math do chloinn agus do phàrantan. Agus do luchd-ionnsachaidh!

'S e an tiotal a th' air "Air do bhonnagan a ghaoil". Chaidh a chur ri chèile le Tormod Caimbeul. Tha Tormod à Nis ann an Leòdhas. Tha dà cheud gu leth duilleag ann. Agus tha dealbhan brèagha ann.

Tha cuid de rannan coltach ri rannan Beurla. Mar eisimpleir an rann Beurla:

Seagull, seagull, sit on the sand,

It's never good weather when you're on land

Agus seo ann an Gàidhlig:

Fhaoileag, fhaoileag, taobh an cuan,

Na faiceam thu air talamh cruaidh:

Air talamh cruaidh ma nì thu fois,

Bidh gaoth is dìle tighinn na chois.

Canaidh mi sin a-rithist:

Fhaoileag, fhaoileag, taobh an cuan,

Na faiceam thu air talamh cruaidh:

Air talamh cruaidh ma nì thu fois,

Bidh gaoth is dìle tighinn na chois.

A bheil sibh eòlach air "Four and Twenty Blackbirds" ann am Beurla? Uill, seo an dearbh rud ann an Gàidhlig. Chan e *blackbirds* a th' ann an Gàidhlig, ach *starlings* – druidean:

Seinn port na sia sg'inn,

Mo phòcaid làn sìol-cur;

Ann am broinn a' bhonnaich mhòir

Bha còrr is fichead druid;

Nuair dh'fhosgladh am bonnach suas

'S a sheinn na h-eòin le spìd,

*Nach b' e siud an truinnsear brèagh',
Ga chur air beulaibh rìgh.*

*Bha 'n rìgh an taigh an ionmhais
A' cunntadh suas nan sgillinn;
Bha bhanrigh anns a' chùlaist
Ag ithe mìr is mil air;
Bha 'n t-searbhant anns a' ghàrradh
Cur aodach air an ròp –
Nuas druid dhubh le sgreuch
Is spìon i dhith an t-sròn.*

Seo an rann a-rithist, rud beag nas luaithe. Bhuamsa, an t-seachdain seo, beannachd leibh:

*Seinn port na sia sg'inn,
Mo phòcaid làn sìol-cur;
Ann am broinn a' bhonnaich mhòir
Bha còrr is fichead druid;
Nuair dh'fhosgladh am bonnach suas
'S a sheinn na h-eòin le spìd,
Nach b' e siud an truinnsear brèagh',
Ga chur air beulaibh rìgh.*

*Bha 'n rìgh an taigh an ionmhais
A' cunntadh suas nan sgillinn;
Bha bhanrigh anns a' chùlaist
Ag ithe mìr is mil air;
Bha 'n t-searbhant anns a' ghàrradh
Cur aodach air an ròp –
Nuas druid dhubh le sgreuch
Is spìon i dhith an t-sròn.*

* * * * *

Faclan is abairtean: nochd iomadh leabhar math Gàidhlig an-uiridh: *many good Gaelic books appeared last year*; 's e deagh bhliadhna a bh' ann: *it was a good year*; rannan cloinne: *nursery rhymes*; chaidh a chur ri chèile le Tormod Caimbeul: *it was compiled by Norman Campbell*; fhaoileag, fhaoileag, taobh an cuan: *seagull, seagull, beside the ocean (strictly speaking, it should be taobh a' chuain)*; na faiceam thu air talamh cruaidh: *don't let me see you on hard land*; ma nì thu fois: *if you rest*; bidh gaoth is dìle tighinn na chois: *wind and rain will come with it*; an dearbh rud: *the same thing*; seinn port na sia sg'inn: *sing the tune of six pennies (sgillinnean)*; mo phòcaid làn sìol-cur: *my pocket full of planting-seed*; ann am broinn a' bhonnaich mhòir: *inside the big cake*; bha còrr is fichead druid:

there were more than twenty starlings; nuair dh'fhosgladh am bonnach suas: when the cake was opened up; 's a sheinn na h-eòin le spìd: and the birds sang with haste; nach b' e siud an truinnsear brèagha: wasn't that the lovely plate: ga chur air beulaibh rìgh: to put [being put] in front of a king; bha an rìgh [ann] an taigh an ionmhais: the king was in the counting house [treasury]: a' cunntadh suas nan sgillinn: counting up the pennies; bha [a'] bhanrigh anns a' chùlaist: the queen was in the parlour; ag ithe mìr is mil air: eating bread with honey on it; bha an t-searbhant anns a' ghàrradh: the servant was in the garden; [a'] cur aodach air an ròp: putting clothes on the washing line; nuas druid dhubh le sgreuch: down [came] a black starling with a screech; is spìon i dhith an t-sròn; and plucked off her [the] nose; bhuamsa: from me (emphatic).

ends