

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 46 (which corresponds to Litir 350). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodgy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha mi a' coimhead air an fhacal *mòd* an t-seachdain seo. Dè tha mòd a' ciallachadh? Uill, tha seo bhon fhaclair Ghàidhlig *Brìgh nam Facal* – mòd: 1. *Fèis far am bi co-fharpaisean ann an ceòl, seinn, dràma etc*, agus 2. (*aosta*) *cùirt*. Tha sin ceart, nach eil? Sin mar a tha am facal *mòd* an-diugh. Bidh sibh a' smaoinichadh air a' Mhòd Rìoghail Nàiseanta. An-uiridh, bha e ann an Steòrnabhagh.

Ach ma thèid sinn air ais ceud bliadhna, bha e eadar-dhealaichte. Tha seo ann am faclair Dwelly – mòd: 1. *Court, court of justice*, 2. *Assembly, meeting*, 3. *Petty court*, 4. *Baron baillie court*, 5. *Court at which presides the agent of landed proprietors, to adjust differences among tenants, and to take cognizance of all abuses of any portion of his employees' property*. Agus sìos aig àireamh 6: *Annual competition held in Gaelic literature and music etc, under the auspices of An Comunn Gàidhealach*. Atharrachadh mòr ann an ceud bliadhna!

Thàinig am facal *mòd* bhon t-Seann Lochlannais. Bha *mót* a' ciallachadh coinneamh no cùirt. Bha e a' ciallachadh sin ann an Gàidhlig cuideachd. An uair sin, thagh an Comunn Gàidhealach “mòd” mar ainm airson na fèise ciùil aca. Agus 's e *Mòd a' Chomuinn* a' phrìomh chiall air an fhacal an-diugh.

Seo seanfhacal anns a bheil “mòd”: ***Chan ann a h-uile là a bhios mòd aig Mac an Tòisich***. Chan ann a h-uile là a bhios mòd aig Mac an Tòisich. Tha mòd an seo a' ciallachadh “court”. *It is not every day that Mackintosh holds court*. Chan ann a h-uile là a bhios mòd aig Mac an Tòisich.

Bha Mac an Tòisich seo na bhàillidh do Iarla Pheairt. Bha fearann aige ann an Srath Èireann. 'S e duine cruaidh a bh' ann. Nuair a bha cùirt aige, bha e a' feuchainn ri aon eucoireach a chrochadh gach là. Bha e ag iarraidh eagal a chur air eucoirich eile. Bha e ag iarraidh a bhith ainmeil. Agus tha e ainmeil oir tha e ann an seanfhacal! Is math nach robh mòd aige a h-uile là, ge-tà. Agus bha fios aig na h-eucoirich nach robh!

Sin am facal *mòd*, ma-thà. Mar a bha e, is mar a tha e. Tha mòdan nas fheàrr an-diugh na bha iad o shean. Bidh feadhainn a' call ann am farpaisean. Ach cha bhi duine air a chrochadh!

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Faclan is abairtean: fèis far am bi co-fharpaisean ann an ceòl, seinn, dràma: *a festival where there is [will be] competitions in music, singing, drama*; bidh

sibh a' smaoinichadh air a' Mhòd Rìoghail Nàiseanta: *you will be thinking of [on] the Royal National Mod*; an-uiridh, bha e ann an Steòrnabhagh: *last year it was in Stornoway*; ma thèid sinn air ais ceud bliadhna: *if we go back a hundred years*; eadar-dhealaichte: *different*; atharrachadh mòr: *a big change*; thàinig X bhon t-Seann Lochlannais: *X came from [the] Old Norse*; thagh an Comunn Gàidhealach “mòd”: *An Comunn Gàidhealach chose “mòd”*; mar ainm airson na fèise ciùil aca: *as a name for their music festival*; a' phrìomh chiall air an fhacal: *the prime meaning of [on] the word*; bha X na bhàillidh do Iarla Pheairt: *X was a baillie/chamberlain to the Earl of Perth*; bha fearann aige ann an Srath Èireann: *he had land in Srath Earn*; 's e duine cruaidh a bh' ann: *he was a hard man*; bha e a' feuchainn ri aon eucoireach a chrochadh gach là: *he was trying to hang one criminal each day*; bha e ag iarraidh eagal a chur air eucoirich eile: *he was wanting to frighten other criminals*; tha e ainmeil oir tha e ann an seanfhacal: *he is famous because he is in a proverb*; is math nach robh mòd aige a h-uile là: *it is good he did not have a court every day*; bha fios aig na h-eucoirich nach robh: *the criminals knew he didn't*; tha mòdan nas fheàrr an-diugh na bha iad o shean: *mods are better today than they were in olden times*; bidh feadhainn a' call ann am farpaisean: *some [people] will lose in competitions*; cha bhi duine air a chrochadh: *nobody will be hanged*.

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