

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 61 (which corresponds to Litir 365). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bha “Sabaid Mhòr Inbhir Ùige” ann an ochd ceud deug, caogad 's a naoi (1859). 'S e gnothach uabhasach a bh' ann. Bha Gàidheil is Goill a' sabaid le chèile air sràidean Inbhir Ùige. Thòisich e le ubhal no 's dòcha orainsear.

Bha na mìltean de Ghàidheil ann an Inbhir Ùige. Bha iad ann airson an iasgaich. 'S ann à Leòdhas a bha mòran aca. Thòisich sabaid air an àrd-shràid eadar dithis bhalach. 'S ann mu dheidhinn ubhal – no orainsear – a bha an t-sabaid. B' iad an dithis gille à Inbhir Ùige agus fear òg à Leòdhas.

Bha gu leòr eile a-muigh air an t-sràid. Taobh a-staigh dà mhionaid bha na ceudan a' sabaid. Thàinig na poilis. Chuir iad eileanach an grèim. Ach bha spàirn mhòr ann.

Chuaireadh na h-eileanaich an togalach. Bha iad mì-thoilichte. Bha na poilis dhen bheachd gum b' e an ceannard aca fear à Leòdhas, Raibeart Dòmhnallach. Thàinig na poilis a-mach. Thug iad Raibeart a-steach don togalach. Bha ùpraid ann. Chaill Raibeart a chuid aodaich anns an ùpraid.

Dh'fhàs a' mhì-rian na bu mhiosa. Bha dà mhìle gu leth duine an làthair. Bha iad a' dol a bhriseadh a-steach don togalach. Bha feadhainn a' sadail chlachan. Chaidh trithead uinneag a bhriseadh ann an Talla a' Bhaile. Chaidh bhruidhinn ris an t-sluagh ann an Gàidhlig is Beurla. Chaidh iarraidh orra dhol dhachaigh. Ach cha do dh'fhalbh iad.

Chuir an t-Àrd-chonstabal fios gu caiptean an t-soithich, am *Princess Royal*, a bha anns an sgìre. Bha e cuideachd a' clàradh fir a' bhaile mar chonstabalan sònraichte.

Bha dragh air na h-ùghdarrasan mu choinneamh-ùrnaigh faisg air làimh. Bha mìle gu leth duine aig a' choinneimh-ùrnaigh. 'S e Gàidheil a bh' annta. Chaidh brath a chur don mhinistear, Mgr MacAoidh. Dh'iarr esan air a' choitheanal aige dhol dìreach dhachaigh. Chaidh a' chuid a bu mhotha de na daoine dhachaigh.

Chaidh Mgr MacAoidh fhèin gu làrach na h-aimhreit. Bhruidhinn e ris an t-sluagh airson fichead mionaid. Bha e ag iarraidh orra dhol dhachaigh. Ach cha deach iad dhachaigh.

An uair sin leugh an Siorram Achd na h-Aimhreit. Agus chì sinn dè thachair an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: Sabaid Mhòr Inbhir Ùige: *The Great Fight of Wick*; 's e gnothach uabhasach a bh' ann: *it was a terrible affair*; bha Gàidheil is Goill a' sabaid le chèile: *Gaels and non-Gaels were fighting each other*; thòisich e le ubhal no 's dòcha orainsear: *it started with an apple or perhaps an orange*; bha iad ann airson an iasgaich: *they were there for the fishing*; eadar dithis bhalach: *between two lads*; b' iad an dithis gille à Inbhir Ùige agus fear òg à Leòdhas: *the two were a lad from Wick and a youngster from Lewis*; chuir iad eileanach an grèim: *they arrested an islander*; spàirn mhòr: *a great struggle*; chuairtich na h-eileanaich an togalach: *the islanders surrounded the building*; bha na poilis dhen bheachd gum b' e an ceannard aca: *the police reckoned their leader was*; chaill Raibeart a chuid aodaich: *Robert lost his clothes*; bha iad a' dol a bhriseadh a-steach don togalach: *they were going to break into the building*; bha feadhainn a' sadail chlachan: *some were throwing stones*; chaidh trithead uinneag a bhriseadh ann an Talla a' Bhaile: *30 windows were broken in the Town Hall*; chaidh bruidhinn ris an t-sluagh: *the assembly was addressed (spoken to)*; chaidh iarraidh orra dhol dhachaigh: *they were asked to go home*; cha do dh'fhalbh iad: *they didn't leave*; chuir an t-Àrd-chonstabal fios gu caiptean an t-soithich: *the Chief Constable sent information to the captain of the vessel*; a' clàradh fir a' bhaile mar chonstabalan sònraichte: *registering menfolk of the town as special constables*; coinneamh-ùrnaigh: *prayer meeting*; chaidh brath a chur don mhinistear: *a message was sent to the minister*; dh'iarr esan air a' choitheanal aige dhol dìreach dhachaigh: *he asked his congregation to go straight home*; chaidh Mgr MacAoidh gu làrach na h-aimhreit: *Mr Mackay went to the site of the disturbance*; leugh an Siorram Achd na h-Aimhreit: *the Sheriff read the Riot Act*.