

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 80 (which corresponds to Litir 384). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha sinn ann am Baile Cheatharnach. Tha sin faisg air Loch Nis. 'S e Baile Cheatharnach (*place of freebooters*) an t-ainm a bh' air anns an ochdamh linn deug. Bha mòran à Baile Cheatharnach a' goid crodh.

Ach chan e crodh a-mhàin. Bha feadhainn a' goid eich. Agus chan e crodh is eich a-mhàin. Nochd fear Alasdair Fearghasdan anns an taigh-chùirte ann an Inbhir Nis. Ghoid e muilt, uain agus clòimh. Bha sinn anns an Tolm, faisg air Inbhir Nis.

Dh'fhuiling muinntir an àite eucoir cuideachd. Chaidh each a ghoid turas bho thuathanach. Chaidh bliadhna seachad. Cha chuala an tuathanach guth mun each. An uair sin, aig a' Bhliadhn' Ùir, nochd an t-each aig an doras. Bha e a' giùlain botail de dh'uisge-beatha. Mar sin fhuair an tuathanach tiodhlac!

Tha am fiosrachadh seo a' tighinn bho dhà leabhar. Is iad fear le Ailean B Lawson – *A Country Called Stratherrick* – agus leabhran a rinn uachdaran. B' esan Niall Friseal-Tytler. Sgrìobh e an leabhran tràth anns an fhicheadamh linn. Fhuair e fiosrachadh bho Sheumas Gobha. Rugadh Seumas ann an ochd ceud deug 's a trì (1803). Chaochail e ann an naoi ceud deug 's a trì (1903). Bha cuimhne mhath aige fad a bheatha. Chruinnich am ministear ainmeil, an Dr Tòmas Sinton, mòran de na naidheachdan aige.

Bha athair Sheumais na threabhaiche ann am Baile an Lagain, faisg air Dùn Dearduil. Chaochail e nuair a bha Seumas ochd bliadhna a dh'aois. Às dèidh Blàr Chùil Lodair, bha seanair Sheumais am falach ann an uamh. Bha na saighdearan dearga a' dèanamh sgrios aig an àm. Bha còig balaich dheug anns an uaimh. Chuala na daoine gun robh na saighdearan dearga a' murt balaich. Bha sinn-seanmhair Sheumais na banntrach. Bha sia bà bainne aice. Mharbh na saighdearan an crodh aice air fad.

Nuair a bha Seumas na ghille, fhuair e obair aig a' Choirneal Lester. Bha an Coirneal Lester a' sealg ann an Srath Fharragaig. Bha oighreachd aige ann an Ceant. Bha Seumas ag obair ann. Ach thill e don Ghàidhealtachd agus cha do dh'fhalbh e a-rithist. Bha e a' dèanamh uisge-beatha. Ach cha robh cead aige!

Bha triùir bhràithrean aige. Chaidh iad uile don arm. Bha obair annasach aig fear de na bràithrean. Bha e na fhreiceadan aig uaigh Napoleon ann an St Helena.

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Faclan is abairtean: Bha mòran a' goid crodh: *many were stealing cattle*; chan e crodh a-mhàin: *not only cattle*; bha feadhainn a' goid eich: *some were stealing horses*; anns an taigh-chùirte: *in the courthouse*; ghoid e muilt, uain agus clòimh: *he stole wedders, lambs and wool*; anns an Tolm: *in Holm*; dh'fhuiling muinntir an àite eucoir cuideachd: *the people of the place suffered crime also*; chaidh each a ghoid turas bho thuathanach: *a horse was stolen one time from a farmer*; chaidh bliadhna seachad: *a year went past*; cha chuala X guth: *X heard nothing*; nochd: *appeared*; bha e a' giùlain botail de dh'uisge-beatha: *he was carrying bottles of whisky*; tiodhlaic: *present, gift*; uachdaran: *landlord, laird*; Seumas Gobha: *James Gow*; bha cuimhne mhath aige fad a bheatha: *he had a good memory all his life*; Chruinnich X mòran de na naidheachdan aige: *X gathered many of his anecdotes*; treabhaiche: *ploughman*; às dèidh Blàr Chùil Lodair: *after the Battle of Culloden*; am falach ann an uamh: *hidden in a cave*; bha na saighdearan dearga a' dèanamh sgrios: *the redcoat soldiers were engaged in atrocities*; bha còig balaich dheug anns an uaimh: *there were fifteen boys in the cave*; a' murt balaich: *murdering boys*; bha sinn-seanmhair Sheumais na bantrach: *James's great-grandmother was a widow*; sia bà bainne: *six milking cows*; nuair a bha Seumas na ghille: *when James was a lad*; bha an Coirneal Lester a' sealg ann an Srath Fharragaig: *Colonel Lester was hunting in Stratherrick*; bha oighreachd aige ann an Ceant: *he had an estate in Kent*; cha do dh'fhalbh e a-rithist; *he never left again*; trìùir bhràithrean: *three brothers*; chaidh iad uile don arm: *they all went into the army*; bha e na fhreiceadan aig uaigh Napoleon: *he was a guard at Napoleon's grave*.

ends