

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 82 (which corresponds to Litir 386). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Ann an ochd ceud deug, ceathrad 's a sia (1846), bha gaiseadh a' bhuntàta ann. Bha e uabhasach ann an Èirinn. Bha e dona gu leòr ann an Alba cuideachd. Bha daoine ann an èiginn. Cha robh biadh gu leòr aca. Ach bha cuid eile a' reic biadh, agus a' dèanamh prothaid às. Bha iad eadhon a' reic buntàta.

Latha a bha seo, bha daoine a' cur buntàta air dà shoitheach ann an Inbhir Nis. Bha iad a' dol a Lunnainn. Bha prìs mhath air buntàta ann an Lunnainn. Bha fearg air mòran.

Chaidh buidheann de mhàthraichean is clann don chidhe. Bha fir ann cuideachd. Nam measg bha gobha air an robh Aonghas Siosalach. Thàinig cairtean is eich. Bha na cairtean làn bhuntàta. Chuir na daoine stad orra.

An ath latha thàinig na cairtean don chidhe a-rithist. Agus a-rithist chuir na daoine stad orra. Chuala ùghdarrasan a' bhaile mu dheidhinn. Chaidh an t-Iar-Shiorram, am Pròbhaist agus poilis don chidhe. Ach chuir na daoine stad orra. Thilg iad poll air a' Phròbhaist.

Chuir am Pròbhaist fios don arm. Bha iadsan ann an Gearastan Deòrsa. Thàinig seachdad saighdear. Chaidh iad a Chaisteal Inbhir Nis.

Ach cha do chuir sin eagal air na daoine. Thàinig mìle gu leth dhiubh a-mach. Bha iad ag iarraidh stad a chur air às-mhalairt a' bhuntàta.

B' e Aonghas Siosalach an ceannard. Chaidh an sluagh tro shràidean a' bhaile. Chaidh iad gu Tom a' Chaisteil. Sin far an robh na saighdearan. Bha iad ag èigheachd air na saighdearan. Chaidh iad gu taigh a' phròbhaist. Bhris iad uinneagan aige. Chaidh iad gu taigh aig fear a bha a' ruith nan soithichean. Sin na soithichean a bha a' toirt a' bhuntàta air falbh. B' esan Seumas Mason. "S e mise a bu choireach," thuirt e, "ri às-mhàlairt a' bhuntàta. Ach bheir mi arbhar is buntàta gu leòr a-steach a dh'Inbhir Nis ma tha sin a dhìth." Agus innsidh mi dhuibh an ath-sheachdain dè rinn an sluagh.

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Faclan is abairtean: gaiseadh a' bhuntàta: *potato blight*; ann an èiginn: *in dire straits*; cha robh biadh gu leòr aca: *they didn't have enough food*; na bu mhotha na a' dèanamh prothaid às: *making a profit from it*; eadhon a' reic buntàta: *even selling potatoes*; dà shoitheach: *two vessels (ships)*; Lunnainn: *London*; prìs mhath: *a good price*; bha fearg air mòran: *many people were angry*; buidheann de

mhàthraichean is clann: *a group of mothers and children*; gobha air an robh Aonghas Siosalach: *a blacksmith called Angus Chisholm*; cairtean is eich: *carts and horses*; chuir na daoine stad orra: *the people stopped them*; chuala ùghdarrasan a' bhaile mu dheidhinn: *the town authorities heard about it*; chaidh an t-Iar-Shiorram, am Pròbhaist agus poilis don chidhe: *the Depute Sheriff, the Provost and police went to the quay*; thilg iad poll: *they threw mud*; chuir am Pròbhaist fios don arm: *the Provost sent word to the army*; Gearastan Deòrsa: *Fort George*; thàinig mìle gu leth dhiubh a-mach: *1,500 of them came out*; bha iad ag iarraidh stad a chur air às-mhalairt: *they were wanting to stop export*; chaidh an sluagh tro shràidean a' bhaile: *the people went through the town's streets*; sin far an robh na saighdearan: *that is where the soldiers were*; bhris iad uinneagan: *they broke windows*; fear a bha a' ruith nan soithichean: *a man who was running the vessels*; 's e mise a bu choireach: *it's me who was responsible*; bheir mi arbhar is buntàta gu leòr a-steach: *I will import enough corn and potatoes*; ma tha sin a dhìth: *if that is needed*; dè rinn an sluagh: *what the people did*.

ends