

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 87 (which corresponds to Litir 391). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bho àm gu àm, bidh tuiltean anns na h-aibhnichean againn. Agus bha tuiltean dona againn ann an ochd ceud deug, fichead 's a naoi (1829).

Bha iad dona gu leòr ann an Siorrachd Rois. Bha iad dona cuideachd ann an Cataibh, Gallaibh agus Arcaibh. Ach bha iad na bu mhiosa ann am Moireibh. Bha dìle anns a' Mhonadh Liath. Bha dìle cuideachd anns a' Mhonadh Ruadh. Chuir Uisge Narann agus Uisge Èireann thairis.

Thòisich an dìle air an dàrna latha dhen Lùnastal. Thuit beagan òirleach de dh'uisge taobh a-staigh latha. Rinn an tuil sgrios air drochaidean. Bha muileann fùcaidh, no muileann luadhaidh, ann an Srath Narann. Bha uidheamachd ann. Bha an uidheamachd trom. Ach dh'fhalbh i leis an t-sruth.

Aig Clàbha, ann an Srath Narann, tha seann bharpaichean. Bha iad ann bho Linn an Umha. Sheas na barpaichean an aghaidh na tuile. Ach cha robh Muileann Chlàbha cho fortanach. Dh'fhalbh e leis an t-sruth.

Bha an aon stòiridh aig na daoine a bha a' fuireach faisg air na h-aibhnichean. Chaidh sgrios a dhèanamh air Cala Inbhir Narann. Chaidh an drochaid air rathad mòr an Rìgh, thairis air Uisge Èireann, a leagail. Chaill daoine taighean, bàrr is stoc.

Agus cha robh an gnothach seachad. Air an t-seachdamh latha fichead (27^{mh}) dhen Lùnastal, bha dìle ann a-rithist. Agus thachair an aon seòrsa sgrios a-rithist. Bha uidheamachd a' mhuilinn luadhaidh air ais anns an àite cheart. Ach dh'fhalbh i leis an t-sruth a-rithist. Chaidh sgrios a dhèanamh cuideachd – a-rithist – air Cala Inbhir Narann.

Bha dithis uaislean ann an Caisteal Chaladair. Bha iad ag iarraidh na màileidean aca a chur a dh'Inbhir Nis. Dh'fhalbh fear de luchd-obrach a' chaisteil. Bha na màileidean aige ann an cairt. Ràinig e an abhainn. Dh'fheuch e ri faighinn a-null. Ach dh'fhalbh e fhèin is an t-each aige leis an t-sruth. Bha iad ann am meadhan na h-aibhne airson seachd uairean a thìde. Sin mar a bha cùisean ann an *Tuil Mhòr Mhoireibh* ann an ochd ceud deug, fichead 's a naoi (1829). Abair samhradh!

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Faclan is abairtean: Bho àm gu àm: *from time to time*; bidh tuiltean anns na h-aibhnichean againn: *there are floods in our rivers*; dona gu leòr ann an Siorrachd Rois: *bad enough in Ross-shire*; Cataibh, Gallaibh agus Arcaibh: *Sutherland, Caithness and Orkney*; na bu mhiosa ann am Moireibh: *worse in Moray*; dìle: *exceptionally heavy rain*; am Monadh Liath: *The Monadhliath (mountains between Strathspey and Loch Ness)*; am Monadh Ruadh: *The Cairngorms*; chuir Uisge Narann agus Uisge Èireann thairis: *the Nairn and Findhorn rivers overflowed*; an dàrna latha dhen Lùnastal: *the 2nd of August*; beagan òirleach de dh'uisge: *a few inches of rain*; bha muileann fùcaidh, no muileann luadhaidh, ann an Srath Narann: *there was a [cloth] fulling mill in Strathnairn*; bha an uidheamachd trom: *the machinery was heavy*; dh'fhalbh i leis an t-sruth: *it went with the current [ie was washed away]*; aig Clàbha, tha seann bharpaichean: *at Clava, there are old chambered cairns*; bha iad ann bho Linn an Umha: *they were there since the Bronze Age*; sheas X an aghaidh na tuile: *X withstood the flood*; cha robh Muileann Chlàbha cho fortanach: *the Mill of Clava was not so fortunate*; chaidh sgrios a dhèanamh air cala Inbhir Narann: *Nairn harbour was damaged*; chaidh an drochaid air rathad mòr an Rìgh, thairis air Uisge Èireann, a leagail: *the bridge on the main road ("king's highway"), over the Findhorn River, was knocked down*; chaill daoine taighean, bàrr is stoc: *people lost houses, crops and stock*; cha robh an gnothach seachad: *the matter wasn't concluded*; bha uidheamachd a' mhuilinn luadhaidh air ais anns an àite cheart: *the fulling mill's equipment was back in the correct place*; bha dìthis uaislean ann an Caisteal Chaladair: *there were two gentlemen in Cawdor Castle*; bha iad ag iarraidh na màileidean aca a chur a dh'Inbhir Nis: *they were wanting their cases taken to Inverness*; dh'fheuch e ri faighinn a-null: *he tried to get across*; ann am meadhan na h-aibhne airson seachd uairean a thìde: *in the middle of the river for seven hours [of time]*; Tuil Mhòr Mhoireibh: *The Great Flood[s] of Moray*; abair samhradh!: *what a summer!*

ends