

# **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 88 (which corresponds to Litir 392). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

Rinn tuiltean sgrìos ann am Moireibh ann an ochd ceud deug, fichead 's a naoi (1829). Bha mi ag innse sin dhuibh an t-seachdain sa chaidh. Ach o chionn fhada, rinn gainmheach sgrìos ann am Moireibh cuideachd. Seadh – gainmheach.

Thachair e faisg air a' chladach ann an *Culbin Sands*. Ann an Gàidhlig 's e sin Bàr Inbhir Èireann. Tha sin a' ciallachadh *the sand bar of Findhorn*. Bàr Inbhir Èireann.

Tha baile Inbhir Èireann – no *Findhorn village* – air taobh thall na h-aibhne bho Bhàr Inbhir Èireann. Chan eil duine a' fuireach air a' Bhàr an-diugh. 'S e coille a th' ann. Chaidh a' choille a chur. B' e sin an aon dòigh airson stad a chur air a' ghainmhich.

Bha Bàr Inbhir Èireann uaireigin ainmeil airson a bhith torrach. Bha ùir domhainn ann. Bha taigh mòr ann. Bha leas brèagha timcheall an taigh mhòir. Bha ubhalhort ann cuideachd. Bha crodh is caoraich ann. Bha tuathanasan ann. Bhathar a' fàs eòrna is coirce.

An uair sin thàinig am foghar sia ceud deug, naochad 's a ceithir (1694). Thàinig stoirm. Thàinig gainmheach – gainmheach mhòr mhòr. Thàinig i gu h-obann is gun rabhadh. Bha duine a' treabhadh. Theich e. Dh'fhàg e an crann. Chaidh an crann a chòmhdachadh leis a' ghainmhich.

Chòmhdach a' ghainmheach a h-uile nì. Chòmhdach i leas an taigh mhòir. Chòmhdach i an t-ubhalhort. Dh'fhàs an stoirm na bu mhiosa air an dàrna latha. Theich na daoine.

Dhùin a' ghainmheach beul na h-aibhne. Bhris an abhainn tron ghainmhich. Agus rinn i sgrìos air seann baile Inbhir Èireann.

Thill muinntir Bhàr Inbhir Èireann do na bailtean aca. Ach cha robh sgeul air an dachannan. Bha a h-uile rud fon ghainmhich. Agus tha fhathast.

Mu cheud bliadhna às dèidh na stoirme, nochd an taigh mòr. Bha e a' stobadh os cionn na gainmhich. Chaidh fear air mullach an taighe. Chaidh e gu mullach an t-simileir. Dh'èigh e sìos an similear. Chuala e guth. Bha an guth ag èigheachd suas an similear! Dè bh' ann? Mac-talla? No taibhs de dhuine a chaidh a chall ann an stoirm mhòr na gainmhich?

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**Faclan is abairtean:** Rinn tuiltean sgrìos ann am Moireibh: *floods caused damage in Moray*; bha mi ag innse sin dhuibh: *I was telling you that*; o chionn fhada: *a long time ago*; gainmheach: *sand*; air taobh thall na h-aibhne: *on the far [other] side of the river*; chaidh a' choille a chur: *the forest was planted*; b' e sin an aon dòigh airson stad a chur air a' ghainmhich: *that was the only way to stop the sand*; bha X uaireigin ainmeil airson a bhith torrach: *X was at one time famous for being fertile*; ùir domhainn: *deep soil*; bha leas brèagha timcheall an taigh mhòir: *there was a beautiful garden around the estate [big] house*; ubhalhort: *orchard*; crodh is caoraich: *cattle and sheep*; tuathanasan: *farms*; bhathar a' fàs eòrna is coirce: *barley and oats were grown*; thàinig am foghar: *autumn came*; thàinig i gu h-obann is gun rabhadh: *it came suddenly and without warning*; bha duine a' treabhadh: *a man was ploughing*; dh'fhàg e an crann: *he left the plough*; theich e: *he fled*; chaidh an crann a chòmhdachadh leis a' ghainmhich: *the plough was covered with the sand*; chòmhdachadh a' ghainmheach a h-uile nì: *the sand covered everything*; chuir i stad air daoine bho bhith a' faighinn a-mach às na dorsan aca: *it stopped people getting out of their doors*; dh'fhàs an stoirm na bu mhiosa air an dàrna latha: *the storm got worse on the second day*; dhùin a' ghainmheach beul na h-aibhne: *the sand closed the mouth of the river*; bhris an abhainn tron ghainmhich: *the river broke through the sand*; rinn i sgrìos air seann bhaile Inbhir Èireann: *it destroyed the old village of Findhorn*; cha robh sgeul air an dachannan: *there was no sign of their homes*; mu cheud bliadhna às dèidh na stoirme: *about 100 years after the storm*; bha e a' stobadh os cionn na gainmhich: *it was sticking up above the sand*; cha robh e ann fada: *it wasn't there long*; chaidh e gu mullach an t-simleir: *he went to the top of the chimney*; dh'èigh e sìos: *he called down*; bha an guth ag èigheachd suas an simleir: *the voice was calling up the chimney*; mac-talla: *echo*; taibhs de dhuine a chaidh a chall: *the ghost of a man who was lost*.

ends