

# 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 103 (which corresponds to Litir 407). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk)*

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Chalum Beag an t-seachdain sa chaidh. Bha Calum a' fuireach anns na Srianan no *Streens of Findhorn*. Bha e mì-chliùiteach. Carson? Uill bha e a' goid sprèidh.

Bha aon each aige – fear sean, bàn. Bha e feumach air each. Bha e a' dol a threabhadh na talmhainn. Ach cha robh airgead aige airson fear a cheannach. Mharbh e an t-each aige. Thug e an t-seiche dheth. Thiodhlaic e an closach.

Air an ath oidhche, choisich e gu tuathanas. Chaidh e don stàball. Thug e each a-mach leis. Bha an t-each donn. Chaidh e dhachaigh leis.

Chuir e an t-seiche bhàn air an each dhonn. Bha e coltach ri each bàn. Cha do lorg an tuathanach an t-each. Rinn Calum an treabhadh. An uair sin, thug e an t-seiche far an eich. Bha an t-each donn a-rithist. Thug e an t-each donn air ais don stàball.

Bha nàbaidh aig Calum. Bha an duine spìocach. Latha a bha seo, dh'iarr e air Calum a' mhuc aige a mharbhadh. Ach cha robh e ag iarraidh feòil na muice a thoirt seachad do dhaoine eile. Dh'iarr e comhairle bho Chalum.

“Cuir an closach don abhainn air beulaibh an taigh agad a-nochd,” thuirt Calum. “Fàsaidh e fuar is bidh sin math don fhèoil. Faodaidh tu coiseachd sìos don taigh againn a-màireach. Bidh an naidheachd agad gun do ghoid cuideigin a' mhuc. Can sin ris a h-uile duine.”

Uill, dè bha Calum Beag a' dèanamh air an oidhche? Cha robh e anns a' leabaidh aige fad na h-ùine, co-dhiù. Air an làrna-mhàireach, cha robh closach na muice san abhainn. Chaidh an duine gu taigh Chalum. “Ghoid cuideigin a' mhuc agam,” thuirt e.

“Seadh, seadh,” arsa Calum ris. “Cum ris an sgeul sin nuair a tha thu a' bruidhinn ri daoine eile.”

“Ach 's e an fhìrinn a th' agam,” thuirt an nàbaidh a-rithist. “Ghoid cuideigin i ann an dha-rìreabh.”

“Seadh, seadh, tha fhios a'm,” thuirt Calum. Tha mi a' smaoinichadh gun do phriob e a shùil ris an fhear eile!

Cha robh fios aig an nàbaidh gur e Calum a ghoid a' mhuc. Agus tha mi cinnteach gun do chòrd an fheòil ri Calum 's a' bhean aige.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** mì-chliùiteach: *infamous*; bha e a' goid sprèidh: *he was stealing livestock*; bha e feumach air each: *he needed a horse*; bha e a' dol a threabhadh na talmhainn: *he was going to plough the land*; mharbh e an t-each aige: *he killed his horse*; thug e an t-seiche dheth: *he took the hide off it*; thiodhlaic e an closach: *he buried the carcass*; air an ath oidhche: *on the next night*; stàball: *stable*; thug e each a-mach leis: *he took a horse out with him*; air an each dhonn: *on the brown horse*; cha do lorg an tuathanach an t-each: *the farmer didn't find the horse*; thug e an t-seiche far an eich: *he took the hide off the horse*; spìocach: *miserly*; dh'iarr e air Calum a' mhuc aige a mharbhadh: *he asked Calum to kill his sheep*; cha robh e ag iarraidh feòil na muice a thoirt seachad do dhaoine eile: *he wasn't wanting to give the pig's meat to other people*; cuir an closach don abhainn air beulaibh an taigh agad a-nochd: *put the carcass in the river in front of your house tonight*; faodaidh tu coiseachd sìos don taigh againn a-màireach: *you can walk down to our house tomorrow*; gun do ghoid cuideigin a' mhuc: *that somebody stole the pig*; can sin ris a h-uile duine: *tell that to everybody*; air an làrna-mhàireach: *the next day*; "Seadh, seadh," arsa Calum ris: "Aye, aye," Calum said to him; cum ris an sgeul sin: *keep to that story*; 's e an fhìrinn a th' agam: *I'm telling the truth (lit. it's the truth I have)*; tha mi a' smaoinichadh gun do phriob e a shùil: *I think that he winked*; tha mi cinnteach gun do chòrd an fheadail ri Calum 's a' bhean aige: *I'm sure that Calum and his wife enjoyed the meat.*

ends