

# **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 106 (which corresponds to Litir 410). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodgy.macleam@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodgy.macleam@bbc.co.uk).*

Bidh deich bliadhna ann an ath-mhìos bhon a fhuair muinntir Eige sealbh air an eilean aca. Bha iad ag iarraidh an t-eilean a cheannach bhon uachdaran, Keith Schellenberg. Ach cha robh esan deònach a reic dhaibh. Anns a' Mhàrt naoi ceud deug, naochad 's a còig (1995), chuala na h-Eigich droch naidheachd. Bha an t-eilean air a reic.

Reic Keith Schellenberg Eige airson £1.6 millean. Cheannaich neach-ealain Gearmailteach e. B' esan Marlin Eckhart. 'S e am far-ainm a bh' air – Maruma.

Cò bh' ann am Maruma? Bha cuid ag ràdh gur e adhradair-teine a bh' ann. Cha robh fios aig daoine ciamar a fhuair e an t-airgead aige. Is cha robh fios aca carson a cheannaich e Eige.

'S e fear mòr a bh' ann. Bha e a' smocadh fad na h-ùine. Gheall e airgead mòr a chosg air an eilean. Ach cha robh daoine cinnteach mu dheidhinn.

Thachair seo mus robh Pàrlamaid na h-Alba ann am bith. Ach nochd an suidheachadh ann an Taigh nan Cumantan. Ge-tà, cha do rinn an Riaghaltas ann an Lunnainn dad.

Anns an Iuchar, naoi ceud deug, naochad 's a sia (1996), nochd Eige air a' mhargaidh a-rithist. Bha Maruma ag iarraidh £2 mhillean. Anns an Lùnastal, thòisich Urras Eige air airgead a chur ri chèile airson an t-eilean a cheannach. Thàinig na mìltean notaichean a-steach. Thàinig an t-airgead bho dhaoine air feadh an t-saoghail.

As t-Samhain bha £1.2 millean aig an Urras. Ach cha robh sin gu leòr do Mharuma. Dhiùlt e an tagradh. Dh'fhàg e an t-eilean air a' mhargaidh. Bha e fhathast ag iarraidh £2 mhillean not. Ach bha a' chùis a' tighinn gu ceann. Bha neach-creideis aig Maruma ag iarraidh airgead air ais. B' e sin airgead a thug e do Mharuma mar iasad. Reic Maruma an t-eilean airson an t-airgead fhaighinn.

Anns a' Ghiblean, naoi ceud deug, naochad 's a seachd (1997), chuir Urras Eige £1.5 millean air a' bhòrd. Chaidh gabhail ris. Fhuair na daoine sealbh air an eilean air an dàrna latha deug dhen Ògmhios. Bha ceilidh mòr mòr aca air an oidhche sin!

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**Faclan is abairtean:** Bidh deich bliadhna ann an ath-mhìos: *it will be ten years next month*; bhon a fhuair muinntir Eige sealbh air an eilean aca: *since the people off Eigg achieved ownership of their island*; cha robh esan deònach a reic dhaibh: *he wasn't willing to sell it to them*; cheannaich neach-ealain Gearmailteach e: *a German artist bought it*; far-ainm: *nickname*; gur e adhradair-teine a bh' ann: *that he was a fire-worshipper*; ciamar a fhuair e an t-airgead aige: *how he got his money*; carson a cheannaich e Eige: *why he bought Eigg*; bha e a' smocadh fad na h-ùine: *he was constantly smoking*; gheall e airgead mòr a chosg: *he promised to spend a lot of money*; mus robh Pàrlamaid na h-Alba ann am bith: *before the Scottish Parliament existed*; Taigh nan Cumantan: *House of Commons*; cha do rinn an Riaghaltas ann an Lunnainn dad: *the Government in London did nothing*; anns an Iuchar: *in July*; air a' mhargaidh a-rithist: *on the market again*; thòisich Urras Eige air airgead a chur ri chèile: *The Isle of Eigg Trust started to put money together*; na mìltean notaichean: *thousands of pounds*; bho dhaoine air feadh an t-saoghail: *from people throughout the world*; bha a' chùis a' tighinn gu ceann: *the matter was coming to a conclusion*; bha neach-creideis ag iarraidh airgead air ais: *a creditor wanted [his] money back*; a thug e do Mharuma mar iasad: *which he gave to Maruma as a loan*; reic Maruma an t-eilean airson an t-airgead fhaighinn: *Maruma sold the island to get the money*; anns a' Ghiblean: *in April*; chaidh gabhail ris: *it was accepted*; fhuair na daoine sealbh air an eilean air an dàrna latha deug dhen Ògmhios: *the people got ownership of the island on the twelfth of June..*

ends