

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 107 (which corresponds to Litir 411). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

O chionn ghoirid bha mi ann an Gleann Sìdh. Tha Gleann Sìdh air taobh sear na Gàidhealtachd. 'S e àite brèagha a th' ann. Tha beanntan àrda ann. Tha dualchas Gàidhealach aig an sgìre. Tha na h-ainmean-àite Gàidhealach.

Bha mòran a' fuireach anns a' ghleann uaireigin. Bhuineadh mòran do Chloinn 'ic Thomaidh. Bidh an comann aca – *the Clan MacThomas Society* – a' dol a Ghleann Sìdh a h-uile bliadhna. Bidh sin anns an Lùnastal. Bidh iad a' cruinneachadh aig clach air a bheil *Clach a' Choilich, the stone of the cockerel*. Clach a' Choilich.

Tha stòiridh ann mu mar a fhuair a' chlach a h-ainm. Bha Clann 'ic Thomaidh a' fuireach còmhla faisg air a' chloich. Oidhche a bha seo bha coileach a' gairm. Bha an coileach air mullach na cloiche. Dhùisg e muinntir a' bhaile. Bha iad a' smaoinichadh gun robh rudeigin ceàrr. Agus bha. Bha daoine a' dèanamh orra le droch rùn.

Rinn Clann 'ic Thomaidh a' chùis air na daoine eile. Thachair seo ann an àite ris an canar Finegand ann am Beurla. Finegand. Tha an t-ainm a' coimhead annasach. Fhuair mi a-mach gun tàinig e bho Fèith nan Ceann. Ainm Gàidhlig. Fèith nan Ceann. *The bog-stream of the heads*. A rèir beul-aithris, seo mar a dh'èirich an t-ainm.

Bha oifigearan siorraim anns an sgìre. Bha iad ann airson cìsean a thogail. Bha dòigh dhìreach aca cìsean a thogail. Bha buidheann de dhaoine a' dol gu sgìre. Bha armachd aca. Bha iad a' tadhal air a h-uile taigh. Bha iad ag iarraidh air na daoine airgead a thoirt seachad sa spot. Mura robh an t-airgead aca, bha na h-oifigearan a' toirt rudan air falbh leotha. Rudan mar sprèidh. No rudan luachmhor bhon taigh. Bha iad a' reic nan rudan sin airson an t-airgead fhaighinn.

Bha droch bheachd aig a' mhòr-shluagh air muinntir nan cìsean. Chì sinn an ath-sheachdain dè thachair ann am Fèith nan Ceann, is mar a fhuair an t-àite ainm.

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Faclan is abairtean: Tha Gleann Sìdh air taobh sear na Gàidhealtachd: *Glenshee is in the eastern Highlands*; tha na h-ainmean-àite Gàidhealach: *the place names*

are culturally Gaelic (English doesn't have an equivalent adjective to Gàidhealach); uaireigin: at one time; bhuineadh mòran do: many belonged to; anns an Lùnastal: in August; bidh iad a' cruinneachadh: they gather; mar a fhuair a' chlach a h-ainm: how the stone got its name; oidhche a bha seo bha coileach a' gairm: one night a cockerel was crowing; dhùisg e muinntir a' bhaile: he woke the people of the township; a' smaoinichadh gun robh rudeigin ceàrr: thinking something was wrong; bha daoine a' dèanamh orra le droch rùn: people were making for them with evil intent; rinn X a' chùis air Y: X defeated Y; thachair seo ann an àite ris an canar: this happened in a place called; annasach: unusual, strange; a rèir beul-aithris, seo mar a dh'èirich an t-ainm: according to oral tradition, this is how the name came into being; oifigearan siorraim: sheriff's officers; bha dòigh dhìreach aca cìsean a thogail: they had a direct way of raising taxes; armachd: weaponry; a' tadhal air a h-uile taigh: visiting every house; bha iad ag iarraidh air X airgead a thoirt seachad sa spot: they were asking X to hand over money instantly; a' toirt rudan air falbh leotha: taking things away with them; sprèidh: livestock; luachmhor: valuable; bha iad a' reic nan rudan sin airson an t-airgead fhaighinn: they were selling those things to get the money; bha droch bheachd aig a' mhòr-shluagh air muinntir nan cìsean: the populace had a poor opinion of the tax-collectors.

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