

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 108 (which corresponds to Litir 412). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleane@bbc.co.uk

Bha sinn ann an Gleann Sìdh an t-seachdain sa chaidh. Agus tha sinn ann fhathast. Tha àite ann air a bheil *Finegand* ann am Beurla. 'S e sin Fèith nan Ceann. Seo mar a dh'èirich an t-ainm.

Bha oifigearan siorraim anns an sgìre. Bha iad a' togail chisean. Chaidh iad gu taigh aig bantrach. Bha i bochd. Bha glè bheag de dh'airgead aig a' bhoireannach ri làimh. Thug na h-oifigearan leotha an sprèidh aice. Bha am boireannach troimh-chèile.

Chuir i fios gu ceann-cinnidh Chlann 'ic Thomaidh. Thug esan daoine leis. Thachair an dà bhuidhinn ri chèile aig an drochaid thairis air an fhèith. Thòisich argamaid. Bha sabaid ann. Chaidh fear de na h-oifigearan a mharbhadh. Ghèill càch. Ach rinn fear dhiubh mearachd. "A MhicThomaidh Mhòir," thuirt e, "is sinne muinntir an Rìgh agus bheir sinn fianais nad aghaidh."

Fhreagair MacThomaidh Mòr, "Cha bhi luchd-fianais ann." Thug e òrdugh na h-oifigearan siorraim a mharbhadh. Thug e òrdugh cinn nam marbh a ghearradh dhiubh. Thug e òrdugh eile na cinn a thilgeil don fhèith. Bhon uair sin, 's e Fèith nan Ceann a bh' air an fhèith sin.

Bha droch bheachd aig an riaghaltas air Clann 'ic Thomaidh. Aig a' cheann thall, fhuair iad dìoghaltas. Chaill Clann 'ic Thomaidh am fearann aca.

Ceithir mìle gu tuath air Fèith nan Ceann tha àite air a bheil, ann am Beurla, *Spittal of Glenshee*. Ann an Gàidhlig, 's e sin Spideal Ghlinn Sìdh. 'S dòcha gum faca sibh an t-ainm sin ann an àiteachan eile – Spideal. Tha *Dalsnapidal* faisg air Dail Chuinnidh. 'S e sin Dail na Spideil. Tha Spideal a' ciallachadh àite far an robh luchd-siubhail a' faighinn cuid na h-oidhche. 'S e sin biadh is leabaidh.

Tha mi a' smaoinichadh gu bheil am facal a' tighinn bhon Laidinn *hospitium*. Thàinig am facal *ospadal* bhon aon fhreumh. Agus, ann am Beurla, *hospital* is *hospice*. Faisg air Spideal Ghlinn Sìdh tha beinn a tha ainmeil. Is ise Beinn Ghulbain. Tha i co-cheangailte ri tè de na sgeulachdan as ainmeile a th' againn. Innsidh mi dhuibh mu dheidhinn sin an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: Gleann Sìdh: *Glenshee*; tha àite ann air a bheil *Finegand*: *there's a place there called Finegand*; Fèith nan Ceann: [lit.] *the bog-stream of the heads*; seo mar a dh'èirich an t-ainm: *here's how the name arose*; oifigearan siorraim: *sheriff's officers*; a' togail chìsean: *collecting taxes*; banntlach: *widow*; bha glè bheag de dh'airgead aig a' bhoireannach ri làimh: *the woman had very little money to hand*; thug na h-oifigearan leotha an sprèidh aice: *the officers took with them her livestock*; troimh-chèile: *extremely upset*; chuir i fios gu ceann-cinnidh Chlann 'ic Thomaidh: *she sent word to the chief of Clan MacCombie (now MacThomas)*; thachair an dà bhuidhinn ri chèile aig an drochaid thairis air an fhèith: *the two groups met each other at the bridge over the bog-stream*; bha sabaid ann: *there was a fight*; ghèill càch: *the others surrendered*; rinn fear dhiubh mearachd: *one of them made a mistake*; is sinne muinntir an Rìgh agus bheir sinn fianais nad aghaidh: *we are the King's men and we'll give evidence against you*; cha bhi luchd-fianais ann: *there will be no witnesses*; thug e òrdugh cinn nam marbh a ghearradh dhiubh: *he gave an order to cut off the heads of the dead*; na cinn a thilgeil don fhèith: *to throw the heads into the bog-stream*; bhon uair sin: *since that time*; bha droch bheachd aig an riaghaltas air: *the government had a bad opinion of*; fhuair iad dìoghaltas: *they got revenge*; chaill Clann 'ic Thomaidh am fearann aca: *the MacCombies lost their land*; far an robh luchd-siubhail a' faighinn cuid na h-oidhche: *where travellers were getting a night's lodging*; bhon aon fhreumh: *from the same root*; Beinn Ghulbain: *Ben Gulabin*; co-cheangailte ri tè de na sgeulachdan as ainmeile a th' againn: *linked to one of the most famous stories we have*.

ends