

# 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 116 (which corresponds to Litir 420). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

Dh'fhàg mòran daoine Eilean Mhanainn anns an naoidheamh linn deug. Cha robh an t-eilean beartach mar a tha e an-diugh. Chaidh mòran do na Stàitean Aonaichte. Chaidh cuid mhath aca gu Ohio agus Pennsylvania. Bha an cànan aca – Gàidhlig Eilean Mhanainn – beò ann am Pennsylvania aig toiseach an fhicheadamh linn. Agus bha i aig mòran ann an grunn bhailtean ann an Ohio – eadhon ann an Cleveland fhèin. Tha tùsan Manainneach aig trithead mìle duine ann an Cleveland.

Anns an eilean fhèin, anns an naoidheamh linn deug, cha robh na h-ùghdarrasan uabhasach taiceil don chànan. Ann an ochd ceud deug, seachdad 's a h-aon (1871), bha i fhathast aig cairteal dhen t-sluagh – còrr is trì mìle deug duine. Aig toiseach an fhicheadamh linn bha sin air tuiteam gu beagan is ceithir mìle. Ann an naoi ceud deug seasgad 's a h-aon (1961), bha dìreach dithis ann – Sage Kinvig agus Ned Maddrell. Chaochail Sage bliadhna às dèidh sin. Chaochail Ned Maddrell ann an naoi ceud deug, seachdad 's a ceithir (1974).

Nuair a bha mi ann an Eilean Mhanainn chaidh mi a Chreneash. 'S e baile sean-fhasanta – agus brèagha – a th' ann an Creneash. Tha mullaichean tughaidh air cuid de na taighean fhathast. 'S e sin am baile anns an deach am film *Waking Ned* a dhèanamh. Am faca sibh am film? Tha e glè shnog. Tha iad a' toirt a' chreidsinn gu bheil a h-uile càil a' tachairt ann an Èirinn. Ach chaidh am filmeadh gu lèir a dhèanamh ann an Eilean Mhanainn.

Tha e car iongantach gur e Ned an t-ainm a bh' air a' bhodach anns a film, oir tha ceangal làidir eadar an t-ainm agus Creneash. 'S e sin am baile anns an robh Ned Maddrell a' fuireach. Agus roimhe sin bha Ned eile ann a bha ainmeil. B' esan Edward Faragher. Bha daoine eòlach air mar Neddy Beg Hom Ruy. Bha e na iasgair, sgrìobhadair, sgeulaiche is bàrd. Innsidh mi dhuibh tuilleadh mu dheidhinn an ath-sheachdain.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** Dh'fhàg mòran daoine Eilean Mhanainn anns an naoidheamh linn deug: *many people left the Isle of Man in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*; na Stàitean Aonaichte: *the United States*; cuid mhath aca: *a good proportion of them*; toiseach an fhicheadamh linn: *the start of the 20th Century*; ann an grunn

bhailtean: *in several towns*; tha tùsan Manainneach aig trithead mìle duine: *thirty thousand people have Manx roots*; cha robh na h-ùghdarrasan uabhasach taiceil: *the authorities weren't very helpful*; cairteal dhen t-sluagh: *a quarter of the population*; còrr is trì mìle deug duine: *more than thirty thousand people*; dìreach dithis: *only two people*; chaochail X bliadhna às dèidh sin: *X died the following year [a year after that]*; chaidh mi a Chreneash: *I went to Cregneash*; tha mullaichean tughaidh air cuid de na taighean: *some of the houses have thatched roofs [there are thatched roofs on some of the houses]*; am faca sibh am film?: *have you seen [did you see] the film?*; tha iad a' toirt a' chreidsinn gu bheil a h-uile càil a' tachairt ann an Èirinn: *they pretend that everything happens in Ireland*; chaidh am filmeadh gu lèir a dhèanamh: *all the filming was done*; tha e car iongantach gur e Ned an t-ainm a bh' air a' bhodach: *it is quite surprising/remarkable that the old man is called Ned*; am baile anns an robh Ned Maddrell a' fuireach: *the village in which Ned Maddrell lived*; roimhe sin bha Ned eile ann a bha ainmeil: *before that there was another Ned who was famous*; bha daoine eòlach air mar Neddy Beg Hom Ruy: *people knew him as Neddy Beag Thom Ruaidh*; bha e na iasgair, sgrìobhadair, sgeulaiche is bàrd: *he was a fisherman, writer, story-teller and poet.*

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