

# **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 120 (which corresponds to Litir 424). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.*

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh an t-seachdain sa chaidh mu *chrios Chuchulainn*. 'S e sin an lus air a bheil *meadowsweet* ann am Beurla. A bheil sibh eòlach air? Agus cò tha ann an Cuchulainn? Uill, 's e gaisgeach a bha ann. Bha e ainmeil ann an Èirinn agus Alba.

Seo stòiridh mu dheidhinn Chuchulainn à Alba. Bha uaireigin ann an Alba rìgh. 'S e Cumhal an t-ainm a bha air. Bha cù mòr aige. Bha an cù a' cumail sùil air a chrodh. Bha e a' toirt a' chruidh a-mach sa mhadainn. Bha e a' toirt a' chruidh dhachaigh feasgar.

Bha daoine a' fuireach faisg air taigh an rìgh. Bha mac aca. Feasgar a bha seo, bha an gille a' dol gu taigh an rìgh air gnothach. Bha caman is ball aige. Bha e a' cluich leis a' chaman is ball. Thachair e ri cù an rìgh. Thog an cù am ball na bheul. Ruith e air falbh.

Chaidh an gille an tòir air a' chù. Bhuail e am ball leis a' chaman. Bha am ball fhathast ann am beul a' choin. Mharbh e an cù. Cha robh cù aig an rìgh an uair sin, airson sùil a chumail air a chrodh. Ghabh an gille àite a' choin. Bha e a' toirt a' chruidh a-mach gach madainn. Bha e a' toirt a' chruidh dhachaigh gach feasgar.

Bidh cuimhne agaibh gur e Cumhal ainm an rìgh. Leis gun robh an gille air àite a' choin a ghabhail, 's e Cù Chumhail a bha daoine a' gabhail air. Chaidh sin atharrachadh gu Cuchulainn.

Uill, sin an stòiridh le dreach Albannach air. Ann an Èirinn chan e Cumhal a bha air an duine, ach Culann, agus chan e rìgh a bha ann. 'S e Setanta an t-ainm-baistidh a bha air Cuchulainn. Fhuair e an t-ainm ùr aige nuair a mharbh e an cù-faire fiadhaich aig Culann. Leis nach robh cù aig Culann tuilleadh, ghabh Setanta àite a' choin. Bha e fhèin an uair sin mar chù-faire dha – "Cù Chulainn".

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**Faclan is abairtean:** Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu chrios Chuchulainn: *I was telling you about meadowsweet [lit. Cuchullin's belt]; a bheil sibh eòlach air?: do you know it?; 's e gaisgeach a bha ann: he was a [legendary] hero; bha uaireigin ann an Alba rìgh: there was at one time in Scotland a king; a' cumail sùil air a chrodh: keeping an eye on the cattle; bha e a' toirt a' chruidh dhachaigh feasgar:*

*he was taking the cattle home in the afternoon; bha an gille a' dol gu taigh an rìgh air gnothach: the lad was going to the king's house on a matter; caman is ball: a shinty stick and ball; thachair e ri: he met; thog an cù am ball na bheul: the dog picked up the ball in his mouth; an t-òir air a' chù: in pursuit of the dog; beul a' choin: the dog's mouth; mharbh e an cù: he killed the dog; ghabh an gille àite a' choin: the lad took the dog's place; 's e Cù Chumhail a bha daoine a' gabhail air: people called him Cù Chumhail; 's e Setanta an t-ainm-baistidh a bha air Cuchulainn: Cuchullin's given (baptism) name was Setanta; an cù-faire fiadhaich aig Culann: Culann's savage watch-dog; leis nach robh cù aig Culann tuilleadh: as Culann no longer had a dog.*

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