

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 129 (which corresponds to Litir 433). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleam@bbc.co.uk.

Anns an Litir mu dheireadh, dh'innis mi dhuibh mu dhà bheathach annasach. Tha iad a' fuireach air eileanan ann an Loch Laomainn. 'S iad an dathas – no *fallow deer* – agus seòrsa de ualabai. An t-seachdain seo, tha mi ag iarraidh innse dhuibh mu chreutair eile. 'S e sin eun mòr – an capall-coille.

Thàinig Seton Gòrdan a Loch Laomainn anns na tritheadan. Chuala e gun robh capaill-choille a' cur seachad na h-oidhche ann an Innis Caillich. Bha iad a' dol suas air na craobhan-giuthais. Gach oidhche bha iad a' fàgail tìr-mòr, agus a' dol don eilean.

Chaidh Gòrdan a-mach don eilean. Dhìrich e don choille far a bheil na craobhan-giuthais. Dh'fhuirich e gu sàmhach. Thàinig an oidhche. Ach cha tàinig na capaill-choille.

Chan fhaca mi fhìn capall-coille nas motha. Ach, a rèir choltais, tha iad fhathast ann an sgìre Loch Laomainn. 'S e eileanan Loch Laomainn an t-àite as fhaide deas ann an Alba anns a bheil an capall-coille.

Bha mi a' fuireach ann an Innis Mhearain. 'S e sin an t-eilean as motha anns an loch. Tha e a' faighinn ainm bhon Naomh Mearain. Bha caibeal aig Mearain anns an eilean. Tha an naomh sin gu mòr co-cheangailte ri Pàislig. 'S e *Saint Mirren* an t-ainm a th' air ann am Beurla. Tha sgioba ball-coise ann am Pàislig air a bheil *St Mirren FC*.

Bidh daoine aig a bheil bàtaichean a' tadhal air Innis Mhearain. Tha taigh-òsta anns an eilean. Tha feadhainn a tha a' fuireach anns an eilean a' dèanamh sgitheadh-uisge. Tha an t-àite math airson sin.

Bha seann charaid agam na phoileas ann an Lus. 'S e Lus baile beag air bruach Loch Laomainn. Bha stòiridhean matha aige. Bha e ag innse dhomh mu bhith a' coimhead airson daoine a bha a dhìth anns an loch. Uaireannan cha d' fhuair iad na cuirp aca. Tha mi fìor dhuilich nach do chlàir mi na stòiridhean aige. Bha iad fìor mhath. Agus bha iad aige ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla.

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Faclan is abairtean: dh'innis mi dhuibh mu dhà bheathach annasach: *I told you about two unusual animals*; eileanan ann an Loch Laomainn: *islands on Loch Lomond*; dathas: *fallow deer*; seòrsa de ualabai: *a sort of wallaby*; tha mi ag

iarraidh innse dhuibh mu chreutair eile: *I want to tell you about another creature;*
capall-coille: *capercaillie;* anns na tritheadan: *in the thirties;* chuala e gun robh
capaill-choille a' cur seachad na h-oidhche: *he heard that capercaillie were*
spending the night; suas air na craobhan-giuthais: *up on the pine trees;* bha iad a'
fàgail tìr-mòr: *they were leaving the mainland;* dhìrich e don choille: *he climbed to*
the wood; dh'fhuirich e gu sàmhach: *he stayed quietly;* cha tàinig na capaill-
choille: *the capercaillie didn't come;* nas motha: *either;* a rèir choltais:
apparently; anns na naochadan: *in the nineties;* bha – sa chuibheas – naoi dhiubh
ann: *there were – on average – nine of them;* an t-àite as fhaide deas: *the most*
southerly place; Innis Mhearain: *Inchmurrin;* Naomh Mearain: *St Mirren;* an t-
eilean as motha: *the largest island;* caibeal: *chapel;* co-cheangailte ri Pàislig:
linked to Paisley; tha sgioba ball-coise ann am Pàislig air a bheil *St Mirren FC:*
there is a football team in Paisley called St Mirren FC; a' tadhal air Innis
Mhearain: *visiting Inchmurrin;* sgitheadh-uisge: *water skiing;* bha seann charaid
agam na phoileas ann an Lus: *an old relative of mine was a policeman in Luss;* mu
bhith a' coimhead airson daoine a bha a dhìth: *about looking for people that were*
missing; cha d' fhuair iad na cuirp aca: *they didn't get [find] their bodies;* tha mi
fìor dhuilich nach do chlàir mi na stòiridhean aige: *I'm really sorry I didn't record*
his stories.

ends