

## 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 132 (which corresponds to Litir 436). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

Bha Johann von Lamont – no John Lamont – ainmeil mar reuladair. Bha e cuideachd ainmeil mar eòlaiche air iùil-tharraing. Chruthaich e uidheamachd airson iùil-tharraing a thomhas. Rinn e obair mhòr air iùil-tharraing na Talmhainn. Rinn e rannsachadh air mar a ghluaiseas snàthad iùil-tharraingeach fo bhuidh na gealaich. Bha e gu math ainmeil ann an saoghal saidheans – air feadh an t-saoghail.

Chaidh an reuladair, an t-Iarla Crawford, a chèilidh air von Lamont. Bhruidhinn e ris ann an Gearmailtis. Ghabh e iongnadh nuair a fhreagair von Lamont ann am Beurla, le blas Albannach.

Airson còrr is leth-cheud bliadhna, bha von Lamont a' fuireach leis fhèin ann am baile beag faisg air Munich. Chaochail e an sin ann an ochd ceud deug, seachdad 's a naoi (1879). Bha airgead mòr aige sa bhanca. Cha do phòs e. Cha robh clann aige. Mar sin, thug e an t-airgead do dh'Oilthigh Mhunch. Bha sin mar thaic-airgid do dh'oileanaich.

Bha iomradh air a bhàs anns na pàipearan-naidheachd anns a' Ghearmailt. Leugh Bana-phrionnsa na Gearmailt iomradh air. B' ise nighean Banrigh Bhictoria. Sgrìobh i gu a màthair. Bha i ag iarraidh oirre faighinn a-mach an robh càirdean aig von Lamont fhathast beò ann am Bràigh Mhàrr.

Bha fear à Bràigh Mhàrr ag obair don Bhanrigh ann am Windsor. Dh'iarr Bhictoria air rannsachadh a dhèanamh. Rinn e sin. Fhuair e a-mach gun robh nighean agus oghaichean aig leth-phiuthar von Lamont fhathast beò.

Chaidh carragh-cuimhne do von Lamont a chur suas. Bha sin ann an Inbhir Èidh. Chaidh an carragh a chur suas ann an naoi ceud deug, trithead 's a ceithir (1934).

Ach tha von Lamont air a chuimhneachadh ann an àite eile. Tha an t-àite sin fada air falbh. Tha e air a' ghealaich! Tha toll air uachdar na gealaich air a bheil an t-ainm "Lamont". Tha sin air Muir a' Chiùineis – faisg air far an tàinig Apollo 11 gu tìr, leis na ciad daoine riamh a choisich air a' ghealaich.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** ainmeil mar reuladair: *famous as an astronomer*; eòlaiche air iùil-tharraing: *an expert on magnetism*; chruthaich e uidheamachd airson iùil-

tharraing a thomhas: *he created equipment to measure magnetism*; na Talmhainn: *of the Earth*; rinn e rannsachadh air: *he did research on*; mar a ghluaiseas snàthad iùil-tharraingeach: *how a magnetic needle moves*; fo bhuidh na gealaich: *under the influence of the moon*; chaidh X a chèilidh air Y: *X went to visit Y*; bhruidhinn e ris ann an Gearmailtis: *he spoke to him in German*; ghabh e iongnadh nuair a fhreagair von Lamont ann am Beurla: *he was surprised when von Lamont replied in English*; còrr is leth-cheud bliadhna: *more than fifty years*; a' fuireach leis fhèin: *living by himself*; chaochail e: *he died*; bha airgead mòr aige sa bhanca: *he had a lot of money in the bank*; cha robh clann aige: *he had no children*; mar thaic-airgid do dh'oileanaich: *as financial assistance to students*; iomradh air a bhàs: *a report on his death*; Bana-phrionnsa na Gearmailt: *The [Crown] Princess of Germany*; nighean Banrigh Bhictoria: *a daughter of Queen Victoria*; ag iarraidh oirre faighinn a-mach an robh càirdean aig von Lamont fhathast beò: *wanting to find out if there were relatives of von Lamont still alive*; Bràigh Mhàrr: *Braemar (properly in Gaelic it is an area, the "upland of Mar" – the village itself is Baile a' Chaisteil)*; carragh-cuimhne: *memorial stone*; Inbhir Èidh: *Invereye*; tha von Lamont air a chuimhneachadh ann an àite eile: *von Lamont is remembered in another place*; air a' ghealaich: *on the moon*; toll air uachdar na gealaich: *a crater on the surface of the moon*; Muir a' Chiùineis: *The Sea of Tranquility*; faisg air far an tàinig Apollo 11 gu tìr: *close to where Apollo 11 came to land*; na ciad daoine riamh a choisich air a' ghealaich: *the first people ever who walked on the moon.*

ends