

## **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 133 (which corresponds to Litir 437). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk).*

Thàinig leabhar a-mach o chionn ghoirid. Tha e mu dheidhinn eilean. Chan eil duine a' fuireach anns an eilean an-diugh. 'S e an t-eilean – Miughalaigh. Tha e deas air Barraigh. 'S e an t-ainm air an leabhar *Muinntir Mhiughalaigh*. Chuir Lisa Storey an leabhar ri chèile. Bha athair Lisa à Miughalaigh.

Seo earrann de stòiridh às an leabhar. 'S e an t-ainm a tha air – Boban Saor. 'S e sin ainm duine....

Bha fear ann ris an canadh iad Boban Saor. Bha triùir mhac aige. Bha a' bhean aige tinn. Bha i faisg air a' bhàs. Thuir i ri Boban Saor nach ann leis-san a bha fear de na mic. Ach cha tuirt i cò fear. Chaochail i.

Thuir Boban ris fhèin, “Gheibh mi a-mach cò am fear nach eil leam fhìn. Cuiridh mi bhuam e.”

Latha a bha seo, thug e a-mach trì eich. Thug e each an t-aon do na gillean. Thuir e riutha, “Thallaibh is thoiribh deoch dha na h-eich. Na toiribh dhaibh boinne ach far a bheil sruth an aghaidh àird.” Tha sin a' ciallachadh “*Don't give them a drop except where the water is running uphill.*” Na toiribh dhaibh boinne ach far a bheil sruth an aghaidh àird.

Dh'fhalbh dithis de na mic. Chrom na h-eich aca airson òl. Leig na gillean leotha. Dh'fhalbh an treas fear. Bha e a' siubhal gach àite. Bha e a' coimhead airson àite far an robh sruth an aghaidh àird.

Thill an dithis dhachaigh. Thuir Boban Saor riutha, “An tug sibh deoch dha na h-eich?”

“Thug,” fhreagair iad.

“An ann far an robh sruth an aghaidh àird?” dh'fhaighnich Boban Saor.

“S ann,” fhreagair na gillean, “Bha sruth an aghaidh àird nuair a bha iad a' sluigeadh an uisge.”

Thill an gille eile. Cha tug e deoch don each aige. Cha d' fhuair e lorg air àite far an robh sruth an aghaidh àird. “An tug thu deoch dhan each?” dh'fhaighnich Boban Saor.

“Cha tug,” ars esan, “Cha d' fhuair mi sruth an aghaidh àird.”

“O cha d' fhuair,” thuir Boban, “Ma-tà, faodaidh tu falbh às an seo.”

Uill, bha sin cruaidh. Ach chuir Boban Saor an gille air falbh. An ath-

sheachdain cluinnidh sinn an aon stòiridh, an ìre mhath. Ach bidh e a' tighinn thugainn bho àite a tha na mìltean mhiltean air falbh bho Mhiughalaigh.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** Thàinig leabhar a-mach o chionn ghoirid: *a book came out recently*; mu dheidhinn: *about*; Miughalaigh: *Mingulay*; deas air Barraigh: *south of Barra*; muinntir: *people*; chuir Lisa Storey an leabhar ri chèile: *Lisa Storey put the book together*; earrann de stòiridh: *part of a story*; ris an canadh iad: *whom they would call*; trìùir mhac: *three sons*; faisg air a' bhàs: *close to [the] death*; nach ann leis-san a bha fear de na mic: *one of the sons was not his*; cha tuirt i cò fear: *she didn't say which one*; chaochail i: *she died*; gheibh mi a-mach cò am fear nach eil leam fhìn: *I'll find out which one isn't mine*; cuiridh mi bhuam e: *I'll send him away*; thug e each an t-aon do na gillean: *he gave a horse each to the lads*; thallaibh is thoiribh deoch dha na h-eich: *go and give a drink to the horses*; na toiribh dhaibh boinne ach far a bheil sruth an aghaidh àird: *don't give them a drop except where the water is running uphill*; chrom na h-eich aca airson òl: *their horses bent down to drink*; leig na gillean leotha: *the lads let them [drink]*; dh'fhalbh an treas fear: *the third one left*; a' siubhal gach àite: *travelling every place*; a' coimhead airson àite far an robh sruth an aghaidh àird: *looking for a place where the water ran uphill*; nuair a bha iad a' sluigeadh an uisge: *when they were swallowing the water*; cha tug e deoch don each aige: *he didn't give his horse a drink*; cha d' fhuair e lorg air àite: *he didn't find a place*; faodaidh tu falbh às an seo: *you can go away*; an aon stòiridh, an ìre mhath: *the same story, pretty much*; bidh e a' tighinn thugainn: *it will be coming to us*; na mìltean mhiltean air falbh bho: *[the] thousands of miles from*.

ends