

## 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 136 (which corresponds to Litir 440). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk).

Tha mi ag iarraidh innse dhuibh mun ghaisgeach Ghàidhealach, Finan MacDonald. Rugadh e ann an Cnòideart. Bha athair na thuathanach. Cò bha ann am Finan MacDonald? Carson a bha e na ghaisgeach? Uill, bha e ainmeil airson sabaid le tarbh-allaidh, no *bison*, le a làmhan.

Chan eil mi cinnteach dè an t-ainm a bha air ann an Gàidhlig. Leugh mi mu dheidhinn dìreach ann am Beurla. Canaidh mi Fionghan MacDhòmhnail ris.

Rugadh Fionghan ann an seachd ceud deug, ochdad 's a dhà (1782). Dh'fhàg e fhèin is a theaghlach Alba nuair a bha e òg. Chaidh iad a dh'Ameireagaidh a Tuath. Dh'fhàs e suas. Bha e gu math mòr. Bha e sia troighean is ceithir òirlich a dh'àirde. Bha falt fada ruadh agus feusag mhòr air. Fhuair e obair aig Companaidh an Iar-thuath. Bha iadsan an sàs ann am malairt nam bian.

Fhuair Fionghan a-steach air treubh de dhùthchasaich. Phòs e tè dhiubh. Uaireannan bha e a' sabaid airson an treubha.

Rinn e obair le luchd-rannsachaidh. Tha iad ag ràdh gum b' e Fionghan a' chiad duine – co-dhiù duine Eòrpach – a chaidh tarsainn nan *Rockies* trì tursan.

Rinn Fionghan obair rannsachaidh airson an lus-eòlaiche Albannaich, Daibhidh Dùbhghlas. Chruinnich Dùbhghlas tòrr lusan. Cha robh na lusan sin aithnichte anns an Roinn Eòrpa. Lorg e Giuthas an Dùbhghlasaich – an *Douglas Fir*. Fhuair Daibhidh bàs ann an Hawaii. Thuit e do shloc. Bha na daoine a' glacadh crodh fiadhaich anns an t-sloc. Bha tarbh anns an t-sloc. Mharbh an tarbh Daibhidh bochd.

Ach bha eachdraidh Fhionghain eadar-dhealaichte. Nuair a bha e ceathrad 's a còig bliadhna a dh'aois, chaidh a thilgeil far eich. Bha tarbh-allaidh mòr an tòir air. Thionndaidh Fionghan. Rinn an tarbh is Fionghan carachd le chèile. Chaidh an dithis a ghoirteachadh. Ach mhair iad beò. Bha iad ag ràdh nach robh duine eile air tighinn beò tro shabaid le tarbh-allaidh mòr mar sin.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** gaisgeach: *hero*; rugadh e ann an Cnòideart: *he was born in Knoydart*; bha athair na thuathanach: *his father was a farmer*; airson sabaid le tarbh-allaidh: *for fighting with a bull bison*; le a làmhan: *with his [bare] hands*; canaidh mi Fionghan MacDhòmhnail ris: *I'll call him Fionghan MacDhòmhnail*;

dh'fhàg e fhèin is a theaghlach Alba: *he and his family left Scotland*; a dh'Ameireagaidh a Tuath: *to North America*; sia troighean is ceithir òirlich: *six feet and four inches*; bha falt fada ruadh agus feusag mhòr air: *he had long red hair and a large beard*; Companaidh an Iar-thuath: *The North-west Company*; an sàs ann am malairt nam bian: *involved in the fur trade*; fhuair Fionghan a-steach air treubh de dhùthchasaich: *Finan got friendly with a tribe of native people*; phòs e tè dhiubh: *he married one of them*; a' sabaid airson an treubha: *fighting for the tribe*; a' chiad duine – co-dhiù duine Eòrpach – a chaidh tarsainn nan Rockies trì tursan: *the first man – at least, the first European – who went across the Rockies three times*; obair rannsachaidh: *exploration work*; airson an lus-eòlaiche Albannaich, Daibhidh Dùbhghlas: *for the Scottish botanist, David Douglas*; aithnichte anns an Roinn Eòrpa: *known in Europe*; Giuthas an Dùbhghlasaich: *The Douglas Fir (species)*; thuit e do shloc: *he fell into a pit*; a' glacadh crodh fiadhaich: *catching wild cattle*; mharbh an tarbh Daibhidh bochd: *the bull killed poor David*; bha eachdraidh Fhionghain eadar-dhealaichte: *Finan's [life] story was different*; chaidh a thilgeil far eich: *he was thrown from his horse*; bha tarbh-allaidh mòr an tòir air: *a big bull bison was pursuing him*; rinn an tarbh is Fionghan carachd le chèile: *the bison and Finan wrestled with each other*; chaidh an dithis a ghoirteachadh: *both were hurt*; mhair iad beò: *they survived*; nach robh duine eile air tighinn beò tro shabaid le tarbh-allaidh mòr: *that no other man had survived [come alive] through a fight with a big bull bison.*

ends