

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 141 (which corresponds to Litir 445). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.*

Ann an ochd ceud deug, ceathrad 's a trì (1843), chaidh an soitheach an Linnet air na creagan. Bha sin faisg air Cadabol. Tha Cadabol faisg air Baile a' Chnuic ann am Machair Rois.

'S e bàta-seòlaidh a bha innte. Chaidh i air na creagan. Ach cha robh an t-slige aice briste. Bha feadhainn ag iarraidh a toirt gu Baile an Todhair. Chuir iad an Linnet air bhog. Tharraing iad i le eathraichean. Ach bha droch shìde ann. 'S efeasgar geamhraidh a bha ann. Bha i stoirmeil.

Dh'fhalbh an Linnet leis a' ghaoith. Bha seachdnar air bòrd. Bha i a' fàs dorch. Cha robh acair air bòrd. Agus cha robh stiùir aca.

Beagan làithean às dèidh sin, chaidh an long-bhriseadh a lorg. Chaill an seachdnar a bha air bòrd am beatha. Bha ceathrar aca à Baile an Todhair agus bha an triùir eile à Baile a' Chnuic. 'S e call uabhasach a bha ann.

Sgrìobh fear Artar Ros marbhrann Gàidhlig mu dheidhinn.

*Tha 'n duine truagh gach uile là
a' dol air thuras dh'ionnsaigh bhàis,
's gun fhios an t-àm an tèid e 'n sàs –
tha uair a bhàis am falach air*

Sin an dàrna rann. Seo a-nis an t-siathamh is an t-seachdamh rann:

*Ach dhiùlt i falbh dhaibh uair no dhà
is iad ga feuchainn le luchd-ceàird;
ach nuair a thàinig oidhche a' bhàis,
siud ghabh i an sàl is dh'imich i*

*Is ged bha àireamh mhòr air bòrd
ga tarraing suas gu Bail' an Todhair,
dh'fhalbh i uath' gun stiùir, gun seòl,
is cha bu deòin leath' fuireach dhaibh*

'S dòcha gum bi cuspair nas aotruime agam anns an ath Litir! Ach fàgaibh mi sibh an t-seachdain seo le rann eile bhon "Linnet Mhòr":

*Och, a Bhàis, b' an-ìochdmhor cruaidh
thu ann an siud 'm measg thonnaibh 'chuain*

*dar chuir thu ort do chlogaid chruaidh
is thilg gun truas do shaighead annt'.*

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Faclan is abairtean: chaidh an soitheach an Linnet air na creagan: *the vessel, the Linnet, went on the rocks*; tha Cadabol faisg air Baile a' Chnuic ann am Machair Rois: *Cadboll is near Hilton on the flat lands of Easter Ross ("the Seaboard Villages")*; 's e bàta-seòlaidh a bha innte: *she was a sailing boat*; cha robh an t-slige aice briste: *her hull wasn't broken*; ag iarraidh a toirt gu Baile an Todhair: *wanted to take her to Balintore (a neighbouring village)*; air bhog: *afloat*; tharraing iad i le eathraichean: *they pulled her with boats*; droch shìde: *bad weather*; feasgar geamhraidh: *a winter's afternoon*; leis a' ghaoith: *with the wind*; bha seachdnar air bòrd: *there were seven people on board*; acair; *anchor*; cha robh stiùir aca: *they had no rudder*; beagan làithean às dèidh sin: *a few days after that*; chaidh an long-bhriseadh a lorg: *the wrecked ship was found*; 's e call uabhasach a bha ann: *it was a terrible loss*; marbhrann: *elegy*; tha an duine truagh gach uile là: *the poor man each and every day*; a' dol air thuras dh'ionnsaigh bhàis: *going on a journey towards death*; gun fhios an t-àm an tèid e 'n sàs: *without knowing the time he will be taken [by death]*; an dàrna rann: *the second verse*; tha uair a bhàis am falach air: *the time of his death is hidden from him*; dhiùlt i falbh dhaibh uair no dhà: *she refused to leave [afloat] once or twice*; is iad ga feuchainn le luchd-ceàird: *with them trying [to float her] with tradesmen/engineers*; nuair a thàinig oidhche a' bhàis: *when the night of death came; she took to the salt water and she left*; ged bha àireamh mhòr air bòrd: *although there was a large number [of people] on board*; ga tarraing suas gu Bail' an Todhair: *dragging her up to Balintore*; dh'fhalbh i uatha gun stiùir, gun seòl: *she went from them without a rudder, without a sail [uatha is a Ross-shire variant of bhuapa – it means "from them"]*; cha bu deòin leatha fuireach dhaibh: *she wasn't willing to wait for them*; 's dòcha gum bi cuspair nas aotruime agam: *perhaps I'll have a lighter subject*; fàgaibh mi sibh: *I'll leave you*; a Bhàis, b' an-ìochdmhor cruaidh thu: *Death, you are unmerciful and hard*; am measg thonnaibh a' chuain: *amid the ocean waves (thonnaibh is an old dative plural of tonn)*; dar chuir thu ort do chlogaid chruaidh: *when you put on your hard helmet (dar is a variant of nuair, meaning "when")*; thilg gun truas do shaighead annta: *[you] fired your arrow into them.*

ends