

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 147 (which corresponds to Litir 451). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha Lochan nan Damh faisg air Loch Tatha. Tha sin ann an Siorrachd Pheairt. Tha Lochan nan Damh anns a' mhonadh. O chionn fhada, bha daoine a' smaoinichadh gun robh taibhse a' fuireach aig an lochan.

Bha eagal air a' mhòr-shluagh ron taibhse. Bha an taibhse ann air an oidhche agus air an latha. Cha robh daoine a' dol faisg air an loch.

Bha fear a' fuireach faisg air làimh. 'S e an t-ainm a bha air Donnchadh Mòr Ruadh na Feusaig. Tuigidh sibh dè an coltas a bha air! Bha Donnchadh sgileil le claidheamh. Agus cha do chuir rud sam bith eagal air. Chuir e roimhe cur às don taibhse. No mar a thuir e fhèin "an taibhse a chur aig fois".

Feasgar a bha seo chaidh Donnchadh don lochan. Thachair e ris an taibhse. Bhruidhinn e rithe. Cha do nochd an taibhse aig Lochan nan Damh a-rithist.

Nuair a bha Donnchadh sean, bha daoine faisg air Calasraid a' gearain mu thaibhse. Bha Donnchadh ag iarraidh faighinn cuidhteas i. Cha robh a' bhean aige toilichte. Bha e ro shean. Dh'iarr i air Donnchadh fuireach aig an taigh. Ach dhiùlt e.

Dh'iarr a bhean air fear òg anns a' bhaile ruith air thoiseach air Donnchadh. Dh'innis am fear òg do sheann charaid aig Donnchadh dè bha a' dol a thachairt.

Nuair a chuala an seann charaid an naidheachd, dh'fhalbh e a-mach air an rathad. Bha e a' toirt a' chreidsinn gun robh e dìreach a' gabhail cuairt. Thachair e ri Donnchadh air an rathad.

"Càite a bheil thu a' dol, a Dhonnchaidh?" thuir a charaid ris.

"Tha taibhse faisg air Calasraid. Tha i a' cur dragh air na daoine," thuir Donnchadh. "Tha mi a' dol ga cur aig fois."

"Tut, a dhuine!" thuir a charaid, "'S e taibhse Ghallta a tha innte. Chan eil Gàidhlig aice. Chan eil Beurla agad. Chan urrainn dhuibh a chèile a thuigsinn."

Mheòraich Donnchadh air sin. Thuir e, "Tha thu ceart. Cha do smuainich mi air sin." Thill e dhachaigh. Agus cha deach Donnchadh Mòr Ruadh na Feusaig an tòir air taibhsean a-chaidh tuilleadh.

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Faclan is abairtean: Lochan nan Damh: [*loch of the stags*]; faisg air Loch Tatha: *near Loch Tay*; Siorrachd Pheairt: *Perthshire*; o chionn fhada: *a long time ago*;

bha eagal air a' mhòr-shluagh ron taibhse: *the populace were scared of the ghost*; air an oidhche agus air an latha: *at night and during the day*; faisg air làimh: *close by*; Donnchadh Mòr Ruadh na Feusaig: [*big red-haired Duncan of the beard*]; tuigidh sibh dè an coltas a bha air: *you'll understand how he appeared*; sgileil le claidheamh: *skilful with a sword*; chuir e roimhe cur às don taibhse: *he made up his mind to get rid of the ghost*; an taibhse a chur aig fois: *to put the ghost to rest*; feasgar a bha seo: *one afternoon*; thachair e ri: *he met*; bhruidhinn e rithe: *he spoke to her*; bha daoine faisg air Calasraid a' gearain mu thaibhse: *people near Callander were complaining of a ghost*; ag iarraidh faighinn cuidhteas i: *wanting to get rid of her*; dh'iarr i air Donnchadh fuireach aig an taigh: *she asked Duncan to stay at home*; dhiùlt e: *he refused*; ruith air thoiseach air Donnchadh: *to run ahead of Duncan*; dè bha a' dol a thachairt: *what was going to happen*; dh'fhalbh e a-mach air an rathad: *he went out on the road*; bha e a' toirt a' chreidsinn: *he was pretending*; gun robh e dìreach a' gabhail cuairt: *that he was just taking a stroll*; càite a bheil thu a' dol?: *where are you going?*; tha i a' cur dragh air na daoine: *she is annoying the people*; 's e taibhse Ghallta a tha innte: *she is a non-Gaelic ghost*; chan eil Gàidhlig aice: *she doesn't speak Gaelic*; chan urrainn dhuibh a chèile a thuigsinn: *you can't understand each other*; mhedraich Donnchadh air sin: *Duncan considered that*; thill e dhachaigh: *he returned home*; cha deach X an tòir air taibhsean a-chaidh tuilleadh: *X never again went in pursuit of ghosts*.

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