

## **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 149 (which corresponds to Litir 453). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

Tha sinn a' tadhal air a' Bhreatainn Bhig an t-seachdain seo. 'S e sin a' Ghàidhlig air *Brittany*. A' Bhreatainn Bheag. Tha mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh stòiridh mu naomh. Bha an naomh beò anns an t-siathamh linn AC. 'S e Pòl Aurélien an t-ainm a bha air an naomh.

Bha Pòl às a' Chuimrigh. Bha rìgh na dùthcha ag iarraidh air a bhith na easbaig. Ach bha Pòl ag iarraidh beatha shìmplidh. Bha e ag iarraidh fuireach ann am manachainn. Chaidh e gu manachainn anns a' Bhreatainn Bhig.

Bha seachd cluig aig rìgh na Cuimrigh. Bha iad brèagha. Bha iad air an dèanamh de dh'airgead is copair. Nuair a bha Pòl a' falbh, dh'iarr e air an rìgh fear de na cluig a thoirt dha. Ach dhiùlt an rìgh.

Rinn Pòl iomadh rud diadhaidh anns a' Bhreatainn Bhig. Latha a bha seo bha e air eilean. Tha an t-eilean faisg air Roscoff, port mara ann an ceann a tuath na Breatainne Bige. 'S e an t-ainm air an eilean Batz no L'Isle de Batz ann am Fraingis.

Thàinig iasgair thuige. Bha bradan mòr aige. Am broinn a' bhradain lorg an t-iasgair rudeigin annasach. Lorg e clag air a dhèanamh de dh'airgead is copair! Tha an clag fhathast anns a' chathair-eaglais ann an Saint Pol-de-Leon faisg air Roscoff. Nuair a chunnaic e an clag, rinn Pòl gàire. B' e sin fear de na cluig a bha aig rìgh na Cuimrigh!

Nuair a bha e anns an eilean, chuala Pòl mu nathair mhòr. Bha an nathair cunnartach. Air aon latha, mharbh i dà dhamh agus dithis fhear. Bha na lanntan oirre uabhasach cruaidh. Cha robh comas aig claidheamh no sleagh a dhol tro na lanntan.

Chaidh Pòl a dh'ionnsaigh na nathrach. Chuir e an sgarfa aige timcheall amhaich na nathrach. Dh'fhàs an creutair solt. Thug Pòl an nathair gu costa an eilein. Dh'iarr e air an nathair leum don mhuir. Rinn i sin. Bha i air a bàthadh.

Tha daoine ag aithneachadh an àite far an do thachair sin. Ann am Breatainnais, 's e *Toul ar Zarpant* a chanas iad ris. Tha sin a' ciallachadh Toll na Nathrach.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** a' tadhal air a' Bhreatainn Bhig: *visiting Brittany*; a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh stòiridh: *going to tell you a story*; bha an naomh beò anns an t-siathamh linn AC: *the saint was alive in the sixth Century AD*; às a' Chuimrigh: *from Wales*; bha rìgh na dùthcha ag iarraidh air a bhith na easbaig: *the king of the country wanted him to become a bishop*; beatha shìmplidh: *a simple life*; fuireach ann am manachainn: *to live in a monastery*; seachd cluig: *seven bells*; air an dèanamh de dh'airgead is copair: *made of silver and copper*; dh'iarr e air an rìgh fear de na cluig a thoirt dha: *he asked the king to give him one of the bells*; dhiùlt: *refused*; iomadh rud diadhaidh: *many divine things*; port mara ann an ceann a tuath na Breatainne Bige: *a sea port in the north of Brittany*; thàinig iasgair thuige: *a fisherman came to him*; am broinn a' bhradain: *inside the salmon*; lorg an t-iasgair rudeigin annasach: *the fisherman found a strange thing*; anns a' chathair-eaglais: *in the cathedral*; rinn Pòl gàire: *Paul smiled*. bha an nathair cunnartach: *the serpent was dangerous*; mharbh i dà dhamh agus dithis fhear: *it [fem] killed two oxen and two men*; bha na lanntan oirre uabhasach cruaidh: *the scales on her were very hard*; cha robh comas aig claidheamh no sleagh a dhol tro: *neither sword nor spear could penetrate*; a dh'ionnsaigh na nathrach: *towards the serpent*; an sgarfa aige timcheall amhaich na nathrach: *his scarf around the serpent's neck*; dh'fhàs an creutair solt: *the creature became amenable*; gu costa an eilein: *to the coast of the island*; leum don mhuir: *to jump into the sea*; air a bàthadh: *drowned*; ag aithneachadh an àite far an do thachair sin: *know/recognise the place where that happened*; Toll na Nathrach: *the serpent's hole*.

*ENDS*