

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 150 (which corresponds to Litir 454). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

An t-seachdain sa chaidh dh'fhàg sinn Naomh Pòl – Saint Pol de Leon – air eilean anns a' Bhreatainn Bhig. Chuir Pòl às do nathair mhòr a bha cunnartach. Shàbhail e an t-eilean – Batz, no L'Isle de Batz. Mar sin, chaidh an t-eilean a thoirt dha. Chaidh pàirtean de thìr-mòr faisg air an eilean a thoirt dha cuideachd.

Thog Pòl manachainn anns an eilean. Agus thog e cathair-eaglais air tìr-mòr. Ann am Fraingis 's e Saint Pol-de-Leon an t-ainm a tha air an àite sin.

Bha Pòl gu math sean nuair a chaochail e. Tha cuid ag ràdh gun robh e ceud is ceathrad (140) bliadhna a dh'aois. A rèir aithris, dh'fhàs e uabhasach tana.

Chaochail Pòl ann an cealla. Bha an cealla faisg air a' mhanachainn anns an eilean. Bha na h-eileanaich ag iarraidh a thiodhlacadh anns an eilean. Ach bha muinntir tìr-mòr ag iarraidh a thiodhlacadh anns a' chathair-eaglais. Ciamar a bha iad a' dol a thighinn gu rèite?

Uill, chaidh dà chairt ullachadh. Bha dà dhamh a' tarraing gach cairt. Bha na cairtean air an cur letheach-slighe eadar an t-eilean agus a' chathair-eaglais. Bha aon phaidhir dhamh a' coimhead a dh'ionnsaigh na mara. Bha am paidhir eile a' coimhead a dh'ionnsaigh a' bhaile. Chaidh a' chiste-laighe a chur air an dà chairt. Bha leth dhith air gach cairt. Bha e an urra ris an naomh fhèin dè an taobh a bha e a' dol a ghabhail.

A rèir beul-aithris, nuair a thòisich na daimh air gluasad, chaidh a' chiste à fianais. Cha b' urrainn do dhuine a faicinn. Cha robh fios aig daoine dè an taobh a bha a' chiste a' dol.

Ràinig an dàrna cairt an cladach. Ràinig an tèile a' chathair-eaglais. Agus chunnaic na daoine dè bha air tachairt. Ghabh na h-eileanaich briseadh-dùil. Bha a' chairt aca falamh. Bha muinntir a' bhaile a' dèanamh gàirdeachas. Bha a' chiste air a' chairt acasan. Agus bha Naomh Pòl, Saint Pol de Leon, air a thiodhlacadh sa chathair-eaglais. Tha am baile a' giùlain ainm fhathast.

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Faclan is abairtean: an t-seachdain sa chaidh dh'fhàg sinn Naomh Pòl: *last week we left Saint Paul*; anns a' Bhreatainn Bhig: *in Brittany*; chuir Pòl às do nathair mhòr a bha cunnartach: *Paul killed a snake that was dangerous*; chaidh an t-eilean a thoirt dha: *the island was given to him*; manachainn: *monastery*; thog e cathair-

eaglais air tìr-mòr: *he built a cathedral on the mainland*; gu math sean nuair a chaochail e: *very old when he died*; tha cuid ag ràdh: *some [people] say*; dh'fhàs e uabhasach tana: *he became very thin*; cho tana 's gum b' urrainn do dhaoine solas fhaicinn tro a làmhan: *so thin that people could see light through his hands*; chaochail Pòl ann an cealla: *Paul died in a cell*; ag iarraidh a thiodhlacadh: *wanting to bury him*; bha muinntir tìr-mòr ag iarraidh a thiodhlacadh anns a' chathair-eaglais: *the mainland people wanted to bury him in the cathedral*; Ciamar a bha iad a' dol a thighinn gu rèite?: *how were they going to come to a resolution?*; chaidh dà chairt ullachadh: *two carts were prepared*; bha dà dhamh a' tarraing gach cairt: *two oxen were pulling each cart*; letheach-slighe eadar: *halfway between*; bha aon phaidhir dhamh a' coimhead a dh'ionnsaigh na mara: *one pair of oxen were facing the sea*; a dh'ionnsaigh a' bhaile: *towards the town*; chaidh a' chiste-laighe a chur air an dà chairt: *the coffin was placed on the two carts*; leth dhith air gach cairt: *half of it on each cart*; bha e an urra ris an naomh fhèin dè an taobh a bha e a' dol a ghabhail: *it was up to the saint himself which way he was going to take*; chaidh a' chiste à fianais: *the coffin disappeared from view*; cha b' urrainn do dhuine a faicinn: *nobody could see it*; cha robh fios aig daoine dè an taobh a bha a' chiste a' dol: *nobody knew which route the coffin was taking*; ràinig an dàrna cairt an cladach: *the first ["second"] cart reached the shore*; ràinig an tèile a' chathair-eaglais: *the other one reached the cathedral*; chunnaic na daoine dè bha air tachairt: *the people saw what had happened*; ghabh na h-eileanaich briseadh-dùil: *the islanders were disappointed*; falamh: *empty*; bha muinntir a' bhaile a' dèanamh gàirdeachas: *the people of the town were happy*; air a thiodhlacadh sa chathair-eaglais: *buried in the cathedral*; tha am baile a' giùlain ainm fhathast: *the town still carries his name*.

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