

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 154 (which corresponds to Litir 458). As a trial, it is now in a new format, carrying a full English translation, in contrast to the full Litir which carries only a glossary. Ruairidh would be pleased to receive feedback on the new format (roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.)

I was telling you last week about Peter Grant, or Dubrach. He was an old Jacobite. Peter was the last man to die who was [had been] at the Battle of Culloden.

After Culloden he was living in Glen Lethnot. That is in the Glens [upland area] of Angus. Around 1820 there were two men in Glen Lethnot. They were merchants. They met Peter. Peter was more than a hundred years old. Peter told them about his life.

The two men tried to get a royal pension for Peter. That is a pension from the King – George IV. But Peter was still a Jacobite! The King went to Scotland in 1822. Peter received an invitation to meet the King in Edinburgh.

Lord Panmure sent clothes to Peter. The clothes were suitable for meeting the King. But Peter refused the clothes. He put on the clothes that were on him at the Battle of Culloden! He had on a tartan coat and a kilt.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh an t-seachdain sa chaidh mu Phàdraig Grannd, no Dubrach. 'S e seann Seumasach a bha ann. B' e Pàdraig am fear mu dheireadh a chaochail a bha aig Blàr Chùil Lodair.

Às dèidh Chùil Lodair, bha e a' fuireach ann an Gleann Lethnochd. Tha sin ann am Bràigh Aonghais. Timcheall air ochd ceud deug is fichead (1820) bha dithis fhear ann an Gleann Lethnochd. 'S e marsantaich a bha annta. Thachair iad ri Pàdraig. Bha Pàdraig còrr is ceud bliadhna a dh'aois. Dh'innis Pàdraig dhaibh mu a bheatha.

D'fheuch an dithis ri peinnsean rìoghail fhaighinn do Phàdraig. 'S e sin peinnsean bhon Rìgh – Deòrsa IV. Ach bha Pàdraig fhathast na Sheumasach! Chaidh an Rìgh a dh'Alba ann an ochd ceud deug, fichead 's a dhà (1822). Fhuair Pàdraig cuireadh coinneachadh ris an Rìgh ann an Dùn Èideann.

Chuir am Morair Panmure aodach gu Pàdraig. Bha an t-aodach freagarrach airson coinneachadh ris an Rìgh. Ach dhiùlt Pàdraig an t-aodach. Chuir e air an t-aodach a bha air aig Blàr Chùil Lodair! Bha còta tartain air agus fèileadh beag. Agus bha pic aige.

And he had a pike. The pike was seven feet long!

He met the King. Lord Panmure asked him to remove his bonnet. But Peter refused! Lord Panmure said to the King, "Your Majesty, this man is 108 years old. He is now the only old enemy you have on the surface of the Earth."

The King asked Peter if he were sorry that he fought [was fighting] for the Prince. "I'd fecht [fight] for him yet," said the old man.

The King understood that Peter was still a rebel. But he gave him a pension of fifty pounds a year. Peter took off his hat. He thanked the King.

But the Government didn't give Peter an excessive amount of money. The old man died two years later. He was 110 years old. The last old Jacobite rebel who was at the Battle of Culloden left [departed this life].

Bha am pic seachd troighean a dh'fhaid!

Choinnich e ris an Rìgh. Dh'iarr am Morair Panmure air a bhonaid a thoirt dheth. Ach dhiùlt Pàdraig! Thuir am Morair Panmure ris an Rìgh, "Ur Mòrachd, tha an duine seo ceud is ochd (108) bliadhna a dh'aois. 'S e a tha ann a-nise an aon seann nàmhaid a tha agaibh air uachdar na Talmhainn."

Dh'fhaighnich an Rìgh de Phàdraig an robh e duilich gun robh e a' sabaid airson a' Phrionnsa. "Bhithinn a' sabaid air a shon fhathast," thuir am bodach.

Thuig an Rìgh gur e reubaltach a bha ann am Pàdraig fhathast. Ach thug e dha peinnsean de leth-cheud not gach bliadhna. Thog Pàdraig a bhonaid. Thug e taing don Rìgh.

Ach cha tug an Riaghaltas cus airgid do Phàdraig. Chaochail am bodach dà bhliadhna às dèidh sin. Bha e ceud is deich (110) bliadhna a dh'aois. Dh'fhalbh an seann reubaltach Seumasach mu dheireadh a bha aig Blàr Chùil Lodair.