

## 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 261 (which corresponds to Litir 565). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

*I have a story for you – Bàs Chiuinlaoich. In English, The Death of Conlaoch. It's from Scottish oral tradition.*

*When he was young, Cuchullin left Ireland. He came to Scotland. He came to the Isle of Skye. He learned fighting skills from the warrior queen Sgàthach. She was living in Dunscaith Castle. That's in Sleat.*

*Cuchullin was a champion. He had an amazing weapon. That was the gath-bolg, or fiery dart. While he was in Skye, Cuchullin got close to a Scottish warrior woman. She was called Aoife. She was expecting a child – Cuchullin's child. But Cuchullin returned to Ireland.*

*He was going to return to Scotland. But he didn't [return]. A boy-child was born to Aoife. He was called Conlaoch. Aoife received no assistance from Cuchullin. She was not pleased. She was going to exact revenge on Cuchullin.*

*The lad received training in fighting from his mother. Conlaoch had all the fighting skills*

*Tha stòiridh agam dhuibh – Bàs Chiuinlaoich. Ann am Beurla, The Death of Conlaoch. Tha e à beul-aithris Albannach.*

*Nuair a bha e òg, dh'fhàg Cù Chulainn Èirinn. Thàinig e a dh'Alba. Thàinig e don Eilean Sgitheanach. Dh'ionnsaich e sgilean sabaid aig a' bhanrigh ghaisgeil, Sgàthach. Bha ise a' fuireach ann an Caisteal Dhùn Sgàthaich. Tha sin ann an Slèite.*

*'S e treun-laoch a bh' ann an Cù Chulainn. Bha ball-airm iongantach aige. B' e sin an gath-bolg, no fiery dart. Fhad 's a bha e anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, fhuair Cù Chulainn dlùth ri bana-ghaisgeach Albannach. 'S e Aoife an t-ainm a bha oirre. Bha i an dùil leanabh – leanabh Chù Chulainn. Ach thill Cù Chulainn a dh'Èirinn.*

*Bha e a' dol a thilleadh a dh'Alba. Ach cha do thill. Rugadh leanabh-gille aig Aoife. 'S e Conlaoch an t-ainm a bha air. Cha d' fhuair Aoife taic sam bith bho Chù Chulainn. Cha robh i toilichte. Bha i a' dol a dh'fhaighinn dìoghaltas air Cù Chulainn.*

*Fhuair an gille trèanadh ann an sabaid bho a mhàthair. Bha a h-uile*

*except one. He didn't learn how to [how he would] use the gath-bolg. Aoife made sure he didn't have that skill. She was wanting to punish Cuchullin.*

*She asked Conlaoch to go to Ireland and to bring Cuchullin back to Scotland. But she asked him not to tell anybody who he was.*

*Conlaoch reached Ireland. He met Cuchullin. Cuchullin asked him who he was. Conlaoch refused to tell him. The two started to fight. Conlaoch was good at fighting. But he didn't have a gath-bolg. And Cuchullin defeated Conlaoch with the gath-bolg.*

*When he was dying, Conlaoch told Cuchullin his name. Cuchullin knew he had killed his own son. He was in mental turmoil. That was Aoife's revenge.*

sgil sabaid aig Conlaoch ach aonan. Cha do dh'ionnsaich e mar a chleachdadh e an gath-bolg. Rinn Aoife cinnteach nach robh an sgil sin aige. Bha i ag iarraidh Cù Chulainn a pheanasachadh.

Dh'iarr i air Conlaoch dhol a dh'Èirinn, agus Cù Chulainn a thoirt air ais a dh'Alba. Ach dh'iarr i air gun a bhith ag innse do dhuine sam bith cò e.

Ràinig Conlaoch Èirinn. Thach-air e ri Cù Chulainn. Dh'fhaighnich Cù Chulainn de Chonlaoch cò e. Dhiùlt Conlaoch innse. Thòisich an dithis air sabaid. Bha Conlaoch math air sabaid. Ach cha robh gath-bolg aige. Agus rinn Cù Chulainn a' chùis air Conlaoch leis a' gath-bholg.

Nuair a bha e a' bàsachadh, dh'inns Conlaoch ainm do Chù Chulainn. Bha fios aig Cù Chulainn gun robh e air a mhac fhèin a mharbhadh. Bha e troimhe-chèile. B' e sin dìoghaltas Aoife.