

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 374 (which corresponds to Litir 678). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Last week I was talking about Tannochbrae, Balamory and Glendarroch. They are three fictional places in Scottish television programmes. The names are all Gaelic or semi-Gaelic.

Balamory represents Baile Mhoire. It's based on Tobermory, or Tobar Mhoire, in Mull. And it's not entirely fictional. There is a Balmory in Bute.

The word cill(e) is sometimes linked to Moire. There are many places called Cille Mhoire – Kilmory or Kilmuir in English. They are between Skye and Ayrshire. Most of them are in Argyll.

Glendarroch was in the programme Take the High Road. The filming was done in Luss, by Loch Lomond. Glendarroch comes from Gleann Darach "glen of oaks".

I haven't said anything about two other programmes on television – Hamish MacBeth and Monarch of the Glen. Hamish MacBeth was based in Lochdubh. That's a good Gaelic name! And Compton MacKenzie created an

An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha mi a' bruidhinn mu Tannochbrae, Balamory agus Glendarroch. 'S iad trì àiteachan ficseanail air prògraman telebhisein Albannach. Tha na h-ainmean uile Gàidhlig no leth-Ghàidhlig.

Tha Balamory a' riochdachadh Baile Mhoire. Tha e stèidhichte air Tobermory, no Tobar Mhoire, ann am Muile. Agus chan eil e uile-gu-lèir ficseanail. Tha Balmory ann an Eilean Bhòid.

Tha am facal *cill(e)* uaireannan ceangailte ri Moire. Tha mòran àiteachan air a bheil Cille Mhoire – Kilmory no Kilmuir ann am Beurla. Tha iad eadar An t-Eilean Sgitheanach agus Siorrachd Àir. Tha a' chuid as motha aca ann an Earra-Ghàidheal.

Bha Glendarroch anns a' phrògram *Take the High Road*. Bha am filmeadh air a dhèanamh ann an Lus, taobh Loch Laomainn. Tha Glendarroch a' tighinn bho *Gleann Darach* "glen of oaks".

Cha tuirt mi càil air dà phrògram eile air an telebhisean – *Hamish MacBeth* agus *Monarch of the Glen*. Bha *Hamish MacBeth* stèidhichte ann an Lochdubh. 'S e sin deagh ainm Gàidhlig! Agus chruthaich Compton MacCoinnich àite macmeanmnach air an robh *Glenbogle*.

imaginary place called Glenbogle. That was for his novel Monarch of the Glen. It comes from Gaelic but I don't know what it means. "Glen of the Bog" perhaps?

There's a message here, isn't there? If you want to create the name of a village that is recognised as "Scottish", make sure it's based on Gaelic!

But is that true in the cities? River City is based in Glasgow. They created an area name for the programme – Shieldinch. I'd say that the first part is from old English, meaning "fishermen's bothies". And the second part? "Riverine meadow" from Gaelic or British [Cumbric].

And what about the cartoon characters, The Broons and Oor Wullie? For many years they weren't naming their town. In the nineties, however, the name came out – Auchenshoogle. A Gaelic name – Achadh an t-Seagail "field of the rye".

That's Tannochbrae, Balamory, Glendarroch, Lochdubh, Glenbogle, Shieldinch and Auchenshoogle. They're like the names you'd read on whisky bottles!

Bha sin airson a nobhail *Monarch of the Glen*. Tha e às a' Ghàidhlig, ach chan eil fhios agam dè tha e a' ciallachadh. "Gleann na Boglaich" 's dòcha?

Tha teachdaireachd an seo, nach eil? Ma tha sibh airson ainm baile a chruthachadh a tha aithnichte mar "Albannach", dèanaibh cinnteach gu bheil e stèidhichte air a' Ghàidhlig!

Ach a bheil sin fìor anns na bailtean mòra? Tha *River City* stèidhichte ann an Glaschu. Chruthaich iad ainm sgìre airson a' phrògram – *Shieldinch*. Chanainn gu bheil a' chiad phàirt bhon t-seann Bheurla, a' ciallachadh "bothain aig iasgairean". Agus an dàrna pàirt? "Riverine meadow" à Gàidhlig no Breatannais.

Agus dè mu na caractaran cartùn, na *Broons* agus *Oor Wullie*? Airson iomadach bliadhna, cha robh iad ag ainmeachadh a' bhaile aca. Anns na naochadan, ge-tà, thàinig an t-ainm amach – *Auchenshoogle*. Ainm Gàidhlig – *Achadh an t-Seagail* "field of the rye".

Sin Tannochbrae, Balamory, Glendarroch, Lochdubh, Glenbogle, Shieldinch agus Auchenshoogle. Tha iad coltach ris na h-ainmean a bhiodh tu a' leughadh air botail uisge-bheatha!