

**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 412 (which corresponds to Litir 716). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

*Here is a story for you – MacLeod of Dunvegan and Iain Garbh of Raasay.*

*Iain Garbh was living in Raasay. He was extremely strong. He wasn't paying rent to MacLeod of Dunvegan. But he should [have been]. MacLeod was afraid to go and ask for the money.*

*One day, a bully came to Dunvegan Castle. He was going to levy a cess on MacLeod. That was unless MacLeod could find somebody who could defeat him in a fight.*

*'Well,' said MacLeod. 'I have a man who'll defeat you, but he's not at home.'*

*'When will he return?' asked the bully.*

*'In three days' time,' replied MacLeod.*

*'I'll stay here, then,' said the bully. And he stayed in the castle.*

*MacLeod sent a servant with a letter to Raasay. He was wanting Iain Garbh to go to Dunvegan. There was something that was important. Iain didn't know what it was.*

*Iain left for Dunvegan. He reached the castle. MacLeod was waiting for him. He welcomed him. 'Come in,' he said.*

*Seo agaibh stòiridh – MacLeòid Dhùn Bheagain agus Iain Garbh Ratharsair.*

Bha Iain Garbh a' fuireach ann an Ratharsair. Bha e air leth làidir. Cha robh e a' pàigheadh màl do MhacLeòid Dhùn Bheagain. Ach bu chòir dha. Bha an t-eagal air MacLeòid a dhol a dh'iarraidh an airgid.

Latha a bha seo, thàinig burraidh a Chaisteal Dhùn Bheagain. Bha e a' dol a chur cìs air MacLeòid. Bha sin mura faigheadh MacLeòid cuideigin a dhèanadh a' chùis air ann an sabaid.

'Uill,' arsa MacLeòid. 'Tha duine agam a nì a' chùis ort, ach chan eil e aig baile.'

'Cuin a thilleas e?' dh'fhaighnich am burraidh.

'An ceann trì latha,' fhreagair MacLeòid.

'Fanaidh mi an seo, ma-thà,' thuirte am burraidh. Agus dh'fhan e sa chaisteal.

Chuir MacLeòid gille le litir a Ratharsair. Bha e ag iarraidh air Iain Garbh a dhol a Dhùn Bheagan. Bha rudeigin ann a bha cudromach. Cha robh beachd aig Iain gu dè a bha ann.

Dh'fhalbh Iain a Dhùn Bheagain. Ràinig e an caisteal. Bha MacLeòid a' feitheamh ris. Chuir e fàilte air. 'Thig a-steach,' thuirte e.

*'Why did you send for me?' said Iain.*

*'You'll find that out presently,' replied MacLeod.*

*Iain was suspicious. He refused to enter the castle.*

*'Come in and I'll tell you about the matter,' said MacLeod.*

*'If I don't find out outside,' replied Iain Garbh, 'I'll return home.' Iain turned on his heel. MacLeod returned inside the castle. The bully was waiting for him.*

*'Did he come?' said the bully.*

*'No,' replied the clan chief, 'but there is a scoundrel out there on the road. If you give him a slap on the backside, I'll give you a prize.'*

*'Oh, I'll give him a good slap,' replied the bully.*

*The bully went down the road. He reached Iain Garbh. He lifted Iain's kilt and gave him a good slap on the backside.*

*Iain Garbh turned in [with] anger. He squeezed the other man with his arms. He broke every bone in his body. The bully fell dead.*

*It's when Iain got home that he understood that MacLeod of Dunvegan had deceived him. And that's my story for you.*

*'Carson a chuir sibh fios thugam?' thuirt Iain.*

*'Gheibh thu sin a-mach fhathast,' fhreagair MacLeòid.*

*Bha Iain amharasach. Dhiùlt e a dhol a-steach don chaisteal.*

*'Thig a-steach agus innsidh mi dhut mun ghnòthach,' thuirt MacLeòid.*

*'Mura faigh mi fios a-muigh,' fhreagair Iain Garbh, 'tillidh mi dhachaigh.' Thionndaidh Iain air a shàil. Thill MacLeòid a-steach don chaisteal. Bha am burraidh a' feitheamh ris.*

*'An tàinig e?' thuirt am burraidh.*

*'Cha tàinig,' fhreagair an ceann-cinnidh, 'ach tha bleigeard a-muigh sin air an rathad. Ma bheir thu deidhseag dha air a thòin, bheir mi duais dhut.'*

*'O, bheir mi deidhseag mhath dha,' fhreagair am burraidh.*

*Chaidh am burraidh sìos an rathad. Ràinig e Iain Garbh. Thog e fèilleadh Iain agus thug e deidhseag mhath dha air a thòin.*

*Thionndaidh Iain Garbh le fearg. Dh'fhàisg e am fear eile le ghàirdeanan. Bhris e a h-uile cnàimh na bhodhaig. Thuit am burraidh marbh.*

*'S ann nuair a fhuair Iain dhachaigh a thuig e gun robh MacLeòid Dhùn Bheagain air brath a ghabhail air. Agus sin mo stòiridh dhuibh.*