

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 816 (which corresponds to Litir 1,120). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

I'm still picking up crumbs from the website 'The Gaelic Story at the University of Glasgow'. The Ossianic Society sent a petition to the government in 1839. They were wanting Gaelic to be taught [that Gaelic would be taught] at the university. They got no support.

In 1894, the university received a legacy for hosting a series of 'Celtic' lectures. For five years, the university sat on the money. They did nothing with it. Eventually, students sent a petition to the University Court about the matter.

A year after that, the scientist, Professor Magnus Maclean, delivered a series of ten lectures on Celtic subjects. It's from Skye that Maclean hailed, and he was a Gaelic-speaker.

In 1906, the Rev. Dr. George Henderson was employed as a full-time lecturer. The students had an opportunity to do Celtic courses as part of a university degree. Unfortunately, Henderson died in 1912. He was only 46 years of age.

Tha mi fhathast a' togail chriomagan às an làraich-lìn 'Sgeul na Gàidhlig aig Oilthigh Ghlaschu'. Chuir an Comunn Oiseanach athchuinge don riaghaltas ann an ochd ceud deug, trithead 's a naoi (1839). Bha iad ag iarraidh gum biodh a' Ghàidhlig air a teagasg san oilthigh. Cha d' fhuair iad taic sam bith.

Ann an ochd ceud deug, naochad 's a ceithir (1894), fhuair an t-oilthigh airgead dìleib airson sreath òraidean 'Ceilteach' a chumail ann. Airson còig bliadhna, shuidh an t-oilthigh air an airgead. Cha do rinn iad dad leis. Mu dheireadh, chuir oileanaich athchuinge gu Cùirt an Oilthigh mun ghnòthach.

Bliadhna an dèidh sin, thug an neach-saidheans, an t-Àrd-ollamh Mànus MacGhill'Eain, sreath de dheich òraidean seachad air cuspairean Ceilteach. 'S ann às an Eilean Sgitheanach a bha MacGhill'Eain, agus bha Gàidhlig aige.

Ann an naoi ceud deug is sia (1906), chaidh an t-Oll. Urr. Deòrsa MacEanruig fhadadh mar òraidiche làn-thìde. Bha cothrom aig oileanaich cùrsaichean Ceilteach a dhèanamh mar phàirt de cheum oilthigh. Gu mì-fhortanach, chaochail MacEanruig ann an naoi ceud deug 's a dhà-dheug (1912). Bha

After him came the Rev. Dr. George Calder. He was a lecturer until 1935. Then James Carmichael Watson, the son of the famous scholar, William [J.] Watson, was there for three years. After him came Angus Matheson from North Uist. He was at the university for twenty years.

In 1956, Angus was made a professor. After a struggle that began more than a hundred years before, there was a Celtic Chair in Glasgow. Famous people have been in the job – Derick Thomson, Donald MacAulay, Cathair Ó Dochartaigh and Thomas Clancy.

In 2010, a Gaelic Chair was also established. Since then, Prof. Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh has been in the chair. When we are looking back, it is true to say that the situation of Gaelic at the University of Glasgow is much improved.

e dìreach ceathrad 's a sia bliadhna a dh'aois.

Às a dhèidh, thàinig an t-Oll. Urr. Deòrsa Calder. Bha esan na òraidiche gu naoi ceud deug, trithead 's a còig (1935). An uair sin, bha Seumas MacIlleMhìcheil MacBhàtair, mac an sgoileir ainmeil Uilleam MacBhàtair, ann airson trì bliadhna. Às a dhèidh, thàinig Aonghas MacMhathain à Uibhist a Tuath. Bha esan san oilthigh airson fichead bliadhna.

Ann an naoi ceud deug, caogad 's a sia (1956) chaidh Aonghas a dhèanamh na Àrd-ollamh. An dèidh strì a thòisich còrr is ceud bliadhna roimhe, bha Cathair Cheilteach ann an Glaschu. Tha daoine ainmeil air a bhith anns an dreuchd – Ruairidh MacThòmais, Dòmhnall MacAmhlaigh, Cathair Ó Dochartaigh agus Tòmas Clancy.

Ann an dà mhìle 's a deich (2010), chaidh Cathair Ghàidhlig a chur air dòigh cuideachd. Bhon uair sin, tha an t-Àrd-oll. Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh air a bhith anns a' Chathair. Nuair a tha sinn a' coimhead air ais, tha e fìor ri ràdh gu bheil piseach mòr air tighinn air suidheachadh na Gàidhlig ann an Oilthigh Ghlaschu.