

## **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 951 (which corresponds to Litir 1,255). Ruairidh can be contacted at [fios@learngaelic.scot](mailto:fios@learngaelic.scot).*

*I was telling you about Fuaran Mac Bhreac near Culloden and about the man himself – Mac Bhreac – who came from Barevan. Barevan is on the Cawdor estate. It's known for an ancient church and a stone that is connected to an evil matter.*

*To begin with – the place name Barevan. Bàrr means 'hilltop'. And, according to Professor Watson, Èibhinn refers to a religious figure – a woman called Áibind, who was one of Bride's holy maidens.*

*Watson tells us that it is not 'Bàrr Èibhinn' that the local Gaels would say but 'B'rèibhinn'. And it's close to an old fort called Dunevan.*

*Barevan kirk was built in the fourteenth century. There's a lot of it left, although it has no roof. This was the parish church of Cawdor until 1619. There is a graveyard surrounding the church.*

*Near the church are a large stone and a stone coffin next to each other. According to oral tradition they were employed in an old punishment. The criminal was lying flat on his back in the coffin. There was a place for his head. The rest of the coffin was covered by a large flagstone. Some people were*

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Fhuaran Mac Bhreac faisg air Cùil Lodair agus mun duine fhèin – Mac Bhreac – a thàinig à Bàrr Èibhinn. Tha Bàrr Èibhinn air oighreachd Chaladair. Tha e aithnichte airson fìor sheann eaglais agus clach a tha co-cheangailte ri gnothach olc.

An toiseach – an t-ainm-àite Bàrr Èibhinn. Tha bàrr a' ciallachadh 'mullach cnuic'. Agus, a rèir an Àrd-ollaimh Mhic Bhàtair, tha Èibhinn a' buntainn ri pears-eaglais – boireannach air an robh Áibind, a bha na maighdinn-naomh aig Brìghde.

Tha Mac Bhàtair ag innse dhuinn nach e 'Bàrr Èibhinn' a chanadh na Gàidheil a bhuineadh don àite ach 'B'rèibhinn'. Agus tha e faisg air seann dùn ris an canar Dùn Èibhinn.

Bha eaglais Bhàrr Èibhinn air a togail anns a' cheathramh linn deug. Tha gu leòr dhith air fhàgail, ged nach eil mullach oirre. B' e seo eaglais paraiste Chaladair chun na bliadhna sia ceud deug is naoi-deug (1619). Tha cladh timcheall na h-eaglaise.

Faisg air an eaglais, tha clach mhòr agus ciste-laighe chloiche ri taobh a chèile. A rèir beul-aithris, bha iad air an cleachdadh ann an seann pheanas. Bha an t-eucoireach na laighe air a dhruim dìreach anns a' chiste. Bha àite ann airson a chinn. Bha an còrr dhen chiste air a chòmhdachadh le leac mhòr. Bha feadhainn a' leigeil smugaid air aodann an

*spitting on the face of the person when they were on their way to the church. It's hard to believe, isn't it?*

*In addition to that, people were putting the large stone on top of the flagstone. The stone is somewhat famous today because it is a lifting stone. People come to lift it to prove how strong they are.*

*The Barevan Stone is made of granite. It is estimated that it weighs 252 pounds. That's equivalent to 114 kg.*

*This stone has an interesting history as a lifting stone. Among that is that a man from North Uist lifted it in the twentieth century. I'll have more on that story next week.*

duine nuair a bha iad air an rathad a-steach don eaglais. Tha e doirbh a chreidsinn, nach eil?

A bharrachd air sin, bha daoine a' cur na cloiche mòire air muin na lice. Tha a' chlach rudeigin ainmeil an-diugh oir 's e clach-neirt a th' innte. Bidh daoine a' tighinn ann airson a togail, mar dhearbhadh air cho neartmhor 's a tha iad.

Tha Clach Bhàrr Èibhinn air a dèanamh de chlach-ghràin. Thathar a' tomhas gu bheil dà cheud, caogad 's a dhà puinnnd de chuideam innte. Tha sin co-ionann ri ceud is ceithir-deug cileagraman.

Tha eachdraidh inntinneach aig a' chloich seo mar chlach-neirt. Am measg sin, tha gun do thog fear à Uibhist a Tuath i anns an fhicheadamh linn. Bidh tuilleadh agam air an sgeul sin an-ath-sheachain.