

## **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 1,038 (which corresponds to Litir 1,342). Ruairidh can be contacted at [fios@learngaelic.scot](mailto:fios@learngaelic.scot).

*Iain Beag MacAnndra was a part of a group in Kyllachy in Strathdearn. They stopped Lochaber men who had plundered cattle. Iain killed the leader of the Lochaber men with his bow. The laird of Kyllachy shouted, 'Thank you, Iain Beag MacAnndra of Dalnhatnich, it's your own hand that did this!'*

*But why did he shout? Was it treachery? Was the laird of Kyllachy wanting the Lochaber men to wreak revenge on Iain Beag, rather than on the people of Kyllachy?*

*A lad, who was a scout for the plunderers, heard everything. He returned home. He told other people what had happened. The Lochaber folk found out where Dalnhatnich was. They chose seven people. They were going to kill Iain Beag. But none of them knew what Iain looked like.*

*Iain was ready for them. He had a bow and arrows high in a large pine tree near the house.*

*After a while, the Lochaber men came. Iain saw them and he went to meet them. 'Where is the house of Iain Beag MacAnndra?' they said to him.*

*'I'll show that to you,' replied Iain. And he took them to his own*

Bha Iain Beag MacAnndra mar phàirt de bhuidheann ann an Coileachaidh ann an Srath Èireann. Chuir iad stad air Abraich a bha air creach a thogail. Mharbh Iain ceannard nan Abrach le a bhogha. Dh'èigh uachdaran Choileachaidh, 'Tapadh leat, Iain Bhig MhicAnndra à Dail na h-Aitnich, 's e do làmh fhèin a rinn sin!'

Ach carson a dh'èigh e? An e brathadh a bha ann? An robh uachdaran Choileachaidh airson 's gun dèanadh na h-Abraich dìoghaltas air Iain Beag, seach air muinntir Choileachaidh?

Chuala gille, a bha na bheachdair do na creachadairean, a h-uile càil. Thill e dhachaigh. Dh'inns e do dhaoine eile mar a thachair. Fhuair na h-Abraich a-mach cà' robh Dail na h-Aitnich. Thagh iad seachdnar. Bha iad a' dol a mharbhadh Iain Beag. Ach cha robh fios aig duine aca dè an coltas a bha air Iain.

Bha Iain deiseil air an son. Bha bogha agus saighdean aige gu h-àrd ann an craobh-ghiuthais mhòr faisg air an taigh.

An ceann greis, thàinig na h-Abraich. Chunnaic Iain iad agus chaidh e a choinneachadh riutha. 'Càit a bheil taigh Iain Bhig MhicAnndra?' thuirt iad ris.

'Seallaidh mi sin dhuibh,' fhreagair Iain. Agus thug e don taigh aige

<p><i>house. His wife was in. She understood the situation. She boxed Iain on the ear and said to him, 'Go and fetch your master. He is on the hill with the cattle. And be quick about it!'</i></p> <p><i>Iain went out. He didn't go to the hill. He climbed up the tree where his bow and arrow were. After a while, his wife looked out the window. 'Here is my husband,' she said.</i></p> <p><i>The Lochaber men didn't understand that they were in danger. They went out the front door, one after another. Iain Beag fired on them. According to oral tradition, he left one man alive. But many years later, seven graves were found near Dalnhatnich – meaning that the seven men were killed.</i></p> <p><i>A memorial was raised to Iain across the river from Dalnhatnich in his memory. It's still there.</i></p>	<p>fhèin iad. Bha a bhean a-staigh. Thuig i an suidheachadh. Thug i sgleog air cluas Iain agus thuir i ris, 'Thalla is faigh do mhaighstir. Tha e sa mhonadh leis a' chrodh. Agus bi sgiobalta!'</p> <p>Dh'fhalbh Iain a-mach. Cha deach e chun a' mhonaidh. Shreap e suas a' chraobh far an robh a bhogha is saighdean. An ceann greis, thug a bhean sùil a-mach air an uinneig. 'Seo an duine agam,' thuir i.</p> <p>Cha do thuig na h-Abraich gun robh iad ann an cunnart. Dh'fhalbh iad a-mach air an doras mhòr, fear mu seach. Loisg Iain Beag orra. A rèir beul-aithris, dh'fhàg e aon duine beò. Ach mòran bhliadhnaichean an dèidh làimhe, chaidh seachd uighean a lorg faisg air Dail na h-Aitnich – a' ciallachadh gun deach an seachdnar a mharbhadh.</p> <p>Chaidh carragh-chuimhne do dh'Iain a thogail air taobh thall na h-aibhne bho Dhail na h-Aitnich mar chuimhneachan air. Tha i ann fhathast.</p>
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