

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Murchadh nan Gobhar (3)

Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 2:55pm on Sunday as part of BBC Radio nan Gàidheal's hour-long learning zone, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'SpeakGaelic Extra', with a repeat at 10.30 pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,387. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,083 corresponds to Litir 1,387. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Mhurchadh nan Gobhar ann an Cinn t-Sàile. Bha e ainmeil airson cho fallain 's a bha e, eadhon aig seann aois. Chan eil mi cinnteach am biodh e a' cluich iomain, ach latha a bha seo – Latha na Bliadhn' Ùire – bha geama mòr iomain gu bhith ann air pàirc faisg air an taigh aige. Nise, airson an sgeul seo a thuigsinn, feumaidh mi innse dhuibh gun robh mullach-tughaidh air taigh Mhurchaidh – tughadh a bh' air a dhèanamh de fhraoch, mar a bha cumanta air a' Ghàidhealtachd.

Bha Murchadh agus caraid dha airson a bhith ri poidseadh fèidh an latha sin. Chaidh iad don mhonadh-sheilg a bha mu cheithir mìle bho thaigh Mhurchaidh. Mharbh iad fiadh agus **rinn iad greallachadh air**. Gheàrr iad closach an fhèidh ann an ceithir pìosan agus thug iad leotha na ceathramhan-deiridh. Bha iad a' dol a thilleadh an ath latha airson na ceathramhan-toisich a thoirt dhachaigh.

Bha caraid Mhurchaidh mì-chinnteach mu dheidhinn na ceathramhan-deiridh a thoirt air ais oir bhiodh sluagh mòr fhathast ann aig pàirc na h-iomain. Anns na làithean ud, air Latha na Bliadhn' Ùire, bhiodh na geamannan iomain a' dol fad an latha! Ciamar a bha iad a' dol a thoirt na feòla seachad air na daoine sin gun fhiosta dhaibh?

Bha plòigh aig Murchadh oir bha e gu math innleachdail. Thug e dheth a bhreacan-guailne agus chuir e sin timcheall na feòla. Chòmhdaich e a h-uile càil le gasan fraoich agus chuir e sin air a dhruim. Nuair a bha iad faisg air an taigh aige, thàinig fear a bhruidhinn ri Murchadh. Bha an geama iomain a' tighinn gu ceann. 'Dè th' agad an sin, a Mhurchaidh?' thuirt e.

'Chan eil ann ach fraoch airson mullach an taighe,' fhreagair Murchadh. Ràinig an t-sitheann an taigh aige **gun an còrr dālach!**

Bhiodh Murchadh a' dol gu tric don mhargaidh sprèidh aig Tom na Fèille ann an Cille Chuimein. Turas a bha seo, bha fear a bha a' ceannach agus a' reic ghobhar amharasach mu Mhurchadh agus mun chliù aige mar bhuachaille-ghobhar air leth. 'Dè na th' agad de ghobhair uile-gu-lèir, co-dhiù?' dh'fhaighnich e.

'À,' fhreagair Murchadh, 'nam biodh an aon uiread de dheargannan nad chuid aodaich 's a th' agam de ghobhair, chan fhaigheadh tu fois sam bith a-nochd!'

Bha Murchadh measail air fighe le biorain. Rinn e na mìltean de phaidhrichean stocainnean. Bhiodh e ri fighe fhad 's a bha e a' cumail sùil air na gobhair aige.

Rinn am fear a sgrìobh an t-alt mu Mhurchadh ann an *Scotland's Magazine*, Alasdair Caimbeul, rannsachadh gu leòr air an duine. An dèidh fichead bliadhna de rannsachadh, fhuair e grèim air dealbh-camara dheth, agus Murchadh na bhodach.

Nuair a bha e òg, bhruidhinn Alasdair ri daoine a bha eòlach air Murchadh bliadhnaichean roimhe, agus a thachair ris aig na fèilltean-sprèidh. Bha sin a' gabhail a-steach phearsaichean eaglais. Dh'inns iad do dh'Alasdair gun robh cumhachdan iongantach aig Murchadh. Mar eisimpleir, nuair a bha e air gobhar no meann a reic, cha robh aige ach a bhachall a thogail agus am beathach a chomharrachadh leis. Bhiodh a' ghobhair an uair sin a' coiseachd thuige gu socrach.

B' e sin Murchadh nan Gobhar. Tha fhios gum bi feadhainn ann an Cinn t-Sàile air sgeulachdan is naidheachdan a chluinntinn mu dheidhinn.

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Faclan na Litreach: Murchadh nan Gobhar: *Murdo of the Goats*; Cinn t-Sàile: *Kintail*; iomain: *shinty*; Latha na Bliadhn' Ùire: *New Year's Day*; mullach-tughaidh: *thatched roof*; poidseadh: *poaching*; innleachdail: *inventive*; meann: *kid [goat]*.

Abairtean na Litreach: ainmeil airson cho fallain 's a bha e, eadhon aig seann aois: *famous for how healthy he was, even at an advanced age*; tughadh a bh' air a dhèanamh de fhraoch: *thatch that was made of heather*; don mhonadh-sheilg: *to the hunting hill*; gheàrr iad closach an fhèidh: *they cut the deer carcase*; thug iad leotha na ceathramhan-deiridh: *they took the haunches (hind-quarters) with them*; bhiodh sluagh mòr fhathast ann aig pàirc na h-iomain: *there would still be a large number of people at the shinty field*; thug e dheth a bhreacan-guailne agus chuir e sin timcheall na feòla: *he took off his shoulder plaid and he put that around the meat*; chòmhdach e a h-uile càil le gasan fraoich: *he covered everything with stems of heather*; don mhargaidh sprèidh aig Tom na Fèille ann an Cille Chuimein: *to the livestock market at Markethill in Fort Augustus*; bha fear a bha a' ceannach agus a' reic ghobhar amharasach mu Mhurchadh agus mun chliù aige mar bhuachaille-ghobhar air leth: *a man who was buying and selling goats was suspicious of Murdo and his reputation as a remarkable goatherd*; nam biodh an aon uiread de dheargannan nad chuid aodaich 's a th' agam de ghobhair: *if you had the same number of fleas in your clothing as I have of goats*; chan fhaigheadh tu fois sam bith a-nochd: *you wouldn't get any rest tonight*; measail air fighe le biorain: *keen on knitting with knitting needles [fighe can also mean 'weaving']*; na mìltean de phaidhrichean stocainnean: *thousands of pairs of stockings*; ri fighe fhad 's a bha e a' cumail sùil air na gobhair aige: *knitting while he was keeping an eye on his goats*; a thachair ris aig na fèilltean-sprèidh: *who met him at livestock sales*; cha robh aige ach a bhachall a thogail agus am beathach a chomharrachadh leis: *he only had to lift his shepherd's crook and to point to the animal with it*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Ràinig an t-sitheann an taigh aige **gun an còrr dälach**: *the venison reached his house without further delay*. An còrr means 'the remainder, excess' and dälach is the genitive form of the feminine noun däl 'delay'.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: rinn iad greallachadh air: *they gralloched it (cleared out the internal organs).*

Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoineachadh le MG ALBA