

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 128 (which corresponds to Litir 432). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk.

An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha mi ag innse dhuibh gun robh mi air Innis Caillich ann an Loch Laomainn. Bha an teaghlach agam còmhla rium. Chùm mise sùil air a' bhàta. Chaidh iadsan air chuairt anns an eilean. Nuair a thill iad, thuirt iad, "Chunnaic sinn rudeigin mòr. Bha e bàn. Bha e coltach ri gobhar."

Ach chan e gobhar a bha ann. 'S e *dathas* a bha ann. Dathas. 'S e dathas a' Ghàidhlig air *fallow deer*. 'S e sin fiadh a bhuineas do cheann a deas na Roinn Eòrpa. A-nise, ge-tà, tha iad pailt ann an Sasainn agus sa Chuimrigh. Thug na Ròmanaich a-steach iad, a rèir choltais.

Ach ciamar a fhuair na dathais gu eileanan ann an Loch Laomainn? Uill, a rèir beul-aithris, 's e Raibeart Brus, Rìgh na h-Alba, a thug a-steach iad. Bha am Brusach a' lorg àite airson dathais a shealg. Bha eileanan Loch Laomainn freagarrach. Bha iad saor bho mhadaidhean-allaidh. Tha na dathais ann fhathast.

Mar as trice tha dathais breac ruadh. Ach 's e beathach bàn a chunnaic an teaghlach agam. Uill, ann an Loch Laomainn, tha mòran dhiubh bàn, seach ruadh.

Tha beathach annasach eile a' fuireach air eileanan Loch Laomainn. Bha mi ag iarraidh am beathach sin fhaicinn. Dh'fhàg sinn Innis Caillich air a' bhàta is chaidh sinn gu eilean eile – Innis Chonachain. Coltach ri Innis Caillich tha e còmhdaichte le coille. Tha fraoch agus lusan dearc gu leòr ann fo na craobhan. Agus tha beathach annasach a' fuireach ann. Chan e dathas a tha ann, agus chan eil e bàn.

Bha uachdaran ann a bha measail air ualabaithean. 'S e ualabai beathach Astràilianach coltach ri cangarù beag. Thug an t-uachdaran sin ualabaithean a-steach do dh'Innis Chonachain. Fhuair cuid dhiubh ma sgaoil. Tha iad fhathast anns an eilean. Rugadh a' bhean agam ann an Astràilia. Mar sin, bha mi airson ualabai Albannach a shealltainn dhi! Ach bha iad gan cumail fhèin am falach. Chan fhaca sinn gin.

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Faclan is abairtean: Innis Caillich ann an Loch Laomainn: *Inhcailloch on Loch Lomond*; bha an teaghlach agam còmhla rium: *my family was with me*; chùm mise sùil air a' bhàta: *I kept an eye on the boat*; air chuairt: *for a walk*; nuair a thill iad: *when they returned*; chunnaic sinn rudeigin mòr: *we saw something big*; bha e

coltach ri gobhar: *it was like a goat*; chan e gobhar a bha ann: *it wasn't a goat*;
dathas: *fallow deer*; fiadh a bhuineas do cheann a deas na Roinn Eòrpa: *a deer that
belongs to southern Europe*; tha iad pailt ann an Sasainn agus sa Chuimrigh: *they
are plentiful in England and Wales*; thug na Ròmanaich a-steach iad, a rèir
choltais: *the Romans introduced them, apparently*; Raibeart Brus: *Robert [the]
Bruce*; bha am Brusach a' lorg àite airson dathais a shealg: *[the] Bruce was
looking for a place to hunt fallow deer*; freagarrach: *suitable*; saor bho
mhadaidhean-allaidh: *free from wolves*; breac ruadh: *red-brown and
speckled/spotted*; tha mòran dhiubh bàn, seach ruadh: *many of them are fair
(white), rather than red-brown*; beathach annasach eile: *another unusual animal*;
bha mi ag iarraidh am beathach sin fhaicinn: *I was wanting to see that animal*;
Innis Chonachain: *Inchconnachan*; còmhdach le coille: *covered by forest*; tha
fraoch agus lusan dearc gu leòr ann fo na craobhan: *there is plenty of heather and
blaeberry below the trees*; uachdaran: *landowner*; 's e ualabai beathach
Astràilianach coltach ri cangarù beag: *a wallaby is an Australian animal like a
small kangaroo*; fhuair cuid dhiubh ma sgaoil: *some of them got loose*; rugadh a'
bhean agam ann an Astràilia: *my wife was born in Australia*; bha mi airson ualabai
Albannach a shealltainn dhi: *I wanted to show her a Scottish wallaby*; bha iad gan
cumail fhèin am falach: *they were keeping themselves hidden*; chan fhaca sinn gin:
we didn't see any.

ends