

## 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 164 (which corresponds to Litir 468). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk).

<p><i>I'm going to do a strange thing in the Litir this week. The entire Litir will be in verse. Not normal verse but verse made of Gaelic similes. What's a "samhladh"? It's a simile. "As cold as the poison" and things like that. We have a tremendous number of similes in Gaelic.</i></p> <p><i>This verse appeared in print in eighteen hundred and seventy six (1876). Here it is. I hope you enjoy it. Remember it is written in the Litir Bheag, number one hundred and sixty four (164) on the BBC's Gaelic website.</i></p> <p><i>As wet as a fish, as dry as a hide, As live as a bird, as dead as a stone; As brittle as glass, as enduring as a [harp] string, As slow as a snail, as fast as a steed; As strong as a horse, as weak as St John's wort, As sweet as sugar, as ill-tasting as skate; As white as a lily, as black as soot, As playful as a kitten, as sick as a dog; As bulky as a storm petrel(or puffin?), as unbulky (easily packed) as a herring, As fat as a pig, as poor as a rat;</i></p>	<p>Tha mi a' dol a dhèanamh rudeigin annasach anns an Litir an t-seachdain seo. Bidh an Litir air fad na rann. Chan e rann àbhaisteach, ach rann air a dhèanamh de shamhlaidhean Gàidhlig. Dè tha ann an samhladh? Tha "simile". <i>Cho fuar ris a' phuinnsean</i> is rudan mar sin. Tha an t-uabhas shamhlaidhean againn ann an Gàidhlig.</p> <p>Nochd an rann seo ann an clò ann an ochd ceud deug, seachdad 's a sia (1876). Seo e. Tha mi an dòchas gun còrd e ribh. Cuimhnich gu bheil e sgrìobhte anns an Litir Bhig – àireamh ceud, seasgad 's a ceithir (164) air làrach-lìn Ghàidhlig a' BhBC.</p> <p>Cho fliuch ri iasg, cho tioram ri seich, Cho beò ri eun, cho marbh ri cloich; Cho brisg ri glainne, cho rìghinn ri teud,  Cho mall ri seilcheag, cho luath ri steud; Cho làidir ri each, cho lag ri caod,  Cho milis ri siùcar, cho neo-bhlast' ri sgaot; Cho geal ri lili, cho dubh ri sùith, Cho mear ri piseag, cho tinn ri cù;  Cho dòmhail ri peatraid, cho sùmhail ri sgadan,  Cho reamhar ri muc, cho bochd ri radan;</p>
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<p><i>As straight as an arrow, as curved as a bow,</i>  <i>As white as a shirt, as black as a smith;</i>  <i>As rocky as a crag, as bare as a table,</i>  <i>As sharp as a knife, as blunt as a hammer;</i>  <i>As hard as flint, as soft as butter,</i>  <i>As fluctuating as weather, as certain as time;</i>  <i>As true as the gospel, as mendacious as [the] man</i>  <i>As fickle as a wife, as certain as a gun;</i>  <i>As hot as an oven, as cold as snow,</i>  <i>As weak as a fly, as strong as seven [people];</i>  <i>As light as a feather, as heavy as lead,</i>  <i>As green as grass, as russet as dust;</i>  <i>As slow as an ass, as fast as a torrent</i>  <i>As bright as day, as red as blood;</i>  <i>As coarse as a rook, as melodious as a poet</i>  <i>With a thousand other similes related to these</i></p>	<p>Cho dìreach ri saighead, cho cam ri bogha,  Cho bànn ri lèine, cho dubh ri gobha;  Cho carrach ri creag, cho lom ri bòrd,  Cho geur ri sgian, cho maol ri òrd;  Cho cruaidh ri spor, cho bog ri ìm,  Cho luaineach ri sìd', cho cinnteach ri tìm;  Cho fìor ris an t-soisgeul, cho fealls' ris an duine,  Cho caochlach ri bean, cho deimhinn ri gunna;  Cho teth ri àmhainn, cho fuar ri sneachd,  Cho lag ri cuileag, cho làidir ri seachd;  Cho aotrom ri ite, cho trom ri luaidh,  Cho glas ri feur, cho ruadh ri luaith;  Cho mall ri as, cho bras ri tuil,  Cho geal ri latha, cho dearg ri fuil;  Cho garbh ri ròcas, cho binn ri bàrd,  Le mìle samhla' eile riuth' seo ann an càird.</p>
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