

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 191 (which corresponds to Litir 495). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Last week, we were looking at the Galatians. They appear in the Bible. We were looking at their country, Galatia. The Galatians were Celts. Galatia was a Celtic kingdom/state in Asia Minor – where Turkey is today. There was no Celtic people further east than that.

When the Apostle Paul was preaching to the Galatians, they spoke a Celtic language. The Bible doesn't tell us what language Paul was speaking to them.

Ankara is the capital of Turkey. When the Galatians were there Ancyra was the name of the town. Some people in Ankara say that the Galatians gave the name to the town. Here is their story. There was a battle at sea between the Galatians and the Egyptians. The Galatians won.

They took home anchors from the Egyptian ships. They put the anchors in their temples. Ancora is the Latin word for an anchor. Perhaps there was a similar word in Galatian. It is from the Norsemen, rather than our Celtic ancestors, that we got our own

An t-seachdain sa chaidh, bha sinn a' toirt sùil air na Galatianaich. Tha iad a' nochdadh anns a' Bhìoball. Bha sinn a' toirt sùil air an dùthaich aca, Galatia. 'S e Ceiltich a bha anns na Galatianaich. B' e Galatia rìoghachd Cheilteach ann an Asia Minor – far a bheil an Tuirc an-diugh. Cha robh sluagh Ceilteach sam bith na b' fhaide sear na sin.

Nuair a bha an t-Abstol Pòl a' searmonachadh do na Galatianaich, bha cànan Ceilteach aca. Chan eil am Bìoball ag innse dhuinn dè an cànan a bha Pòl a' bruidhinn riutha.

'S e Ankara prìomh bhaile na Tuirc. Nuair a bha na Galatianaich ann, 's e Ancyra an t-ainm a bha air a' bhaile. Tha cuid ann an Ankara ag ràdh gun tug na Galatianaich an t-ainm don bhaile. Seo an stòiridh a tha aca. Bha batail ann aig muir eadar na Galatianaich agus na h-Èiphitich. Rinn na Galatianaich a' chùis.

Thug iad dhachaigh acraichean bho na longan Èiphiteach. Chuir iad na h-acraichean anns na teampaill aca. 'S e ancora am facal Laidinn airson acair. 'S dòcha gun robh facal coltach ri sin ann an Galatianais. 'S ann bho na Lochlannaich, seach ar sinnsirean Ceilteach, a fhuair sinne ar facal fhèin

word – acair. Anyway, that’s the story – Ankara – “the place of the anchors”.

The Galatians appeared in Asia Minor in the third century before Christ. There was a king near where Istanbul is today. The king’s name was Nicomedes. He was struggling with his brother for leadership. He invited the Celts to come to his country. He was wanting help from the Celts. There were twenty thousand people. They got land in the middle of Asia Minor. They had a druidical religion.

But that didn’t last. Perhaps the Galatians were the first Celtic people that heard the Christian message. And the letter that Paul wrote to the Galatians had an effect on other Christian Celts through the centuries.

– acair. Co-dhiù, sin an stòiridh – Ankara – “the place of the anchors”.

Nochd na Galatianaich ann an Asia Minor anns an treas linn ro Chrìosd. Bha rìgh faisg air far a bheil Istanbul an-diugh. ’S e Nicomedes an t-ainm a bha air an rìgh. Bha e a’ strì le a bhràthair airson ceannas. Thug e cuireadh do na Ceiltich thighinn don dùthaich aige. Bha e ag iarraidh taic bho na Ceiltich. Bha fichead mìle duine ann. Fhuair iad fearann ann am meadhan Asia Minor. Bha creideamh draoidheil aca.

Ach cha do mhair sin. ’S dòcha gum b’ iad na Galatianaich a’ chiad shluagh Ceilteach a chuala an teachd-aireachd Chrìosdail. Agus thug an litir a sgrìobh Pòl do na Galatianaich buaidh air Ceiltich Chrìosdail eile tro na linntean.