

## 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 215 (which corresponds to Litir 519). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

*A little book came out recently. It gives information about a dialect in the Highlands. There are only two people who speak the dialect today. It is not a Gaelic dialect, however, but a Scots dialect.*

*It's the "Cromarty Fisherfolk Dialect" that people call this speech. The two who are fluent are the brothers Bobby and Gordon Hogg. They live in Cromarty. Their ancestry in Cromarty goes back as far as 1698.*

*There were three different dialects of Scots in the Cromarty area. Those were the fisherfolk dialect, the townsfolk dialect and the farmers' dialect. The farmers belonged to the Highlands. They or their ancestors spoke Gaelic. The townsfolk belonged to the Highlands and Moray. They were involved in trade or worked at sea. They spoke a different dialect from the farmers and fishermen. But it's the fisherfolk dialect that is still alive today – only just [however].*

*Where did the fisherfolk's ancestors come from? It is not*

Thàinig leabhar beag a-mach o chionn goirid. Tha e a' toirt fiosrachadh mu dhualchainnt air a' Ghàidhealtachd. Tha dìreach dithis aig a bheil an dualchainnt an-diugh. Chan e dualchainnt na Gàidhlig a tha innte, ge-tà, ach dualchainnt na h-Albais.

'S e "Dualchainnt Iasgairean Chrombaidh" a chanas daoine ris a' chainnt sin. Is iad an dithis a tha fileanta na bràithrean Bobby agus Gordon Hogg. Tha iad a' fuireach ann an Cromba. Tha an sinnsireachd ann an Cromba a' dol air ais cho fada ri sia ceud deug, naochad 's a h-ochd (1698).

Bha trì dualchainntean eadar-dhealaichte de dh'Albais ann an sgìre Chrombaidh. B' iad sin dualchainnt nan iasgairean, dualchainnt muinntir a' bhaile agus dualchainnt nan tuathanach. Bhuineadh na tuathanaich don Ghàidhealtachd. Bha Gàidhlig aca no bha Gàidhlig aig an sinnsirean. Bhuineadh muinntir a' bhaile don Ghàidhealtachd agus do Mhoireibh. Bha iadsan an sàs ann am malairt no bha iad ag obair aig muir. Bha cainnt eadar-dhealaichte acasan bho na tuathanaich is na h-iasgairean. Ach 's e cainnt nan iasgairean a tha fhathast beò an-diugh – air èiginn.

Cò às a thàinig sinnsirean nan

*known for certain. According to tradition, they came from the Firth of Forth. That was when Seumas IV was king – at the end of the 15th or the start of the 16th Century.*

*How is the fisherfolk dialect different from other dialects? Well, often, they put an “h” in, or leave it out, in contradistinction to “standard” usage[s]. They say “oos” for hoose and “am” for ham. They say “haypel” for apple and “heggs” for eggs.*

*For How are you?, they say Oo thee keepan? They use old-fashioned words like thou, thee and thy. They say that’s the influence of the Bible. They were very religious.*

*They were surrounded by Gaelic. Thus, do they have words that came from Gaelic? We’ll look at that next week.*

iasgairean? Chan eil fios le cinnt. A rèir beul-aithris, thàinig iad à Linne Foirthe. Bha sin nuair a bha Seumas IV na rìgh – aig deireadh a’ chòigeamh no toiseach an t-siathamh linn deug.

Ciamar a tha dualchainnt nan iasgairean eadar-dhealaichte bho dhualchainntean eile? Uill, gu tric, bidh iad a’ cur “h” ann, no ga fàgail às, an aghaidh chleachdaidhean “àbhaisteach”. Canaidh iad “oos” airson *hoose* agus “am” airson *ham*. Canaidh iad “haypel” airson *apple* agus “heggs” airson *eggs*.

Airson *Ciamar a tha thu?*, canaidh iad *Oo thee keepan?* Tha iad a’ cleachdadh fhaclan sean-fhasanta mar *thou*, *thee* agus *thy*. Tha iad ag ràdh gur e sin buaidh a’ Bhìobaill. Bha iad gu math cràbhach.

Bha iad air an cuairteachadh leis a’ Ghàidhlig. Mar sin, a bheil faclan aca a thàinig bhon Ghàidhlig? Bheir sinn sùil air sin an ath-sheachdain.