

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 226 (which corresponds to Litir 530). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleane@bbc.co.uk.

Ben Lawers is above Loch Tay. It is in Perthshire. The mountain is very high. It's covered with snow in the winter. And it's famous for plants.

Lawers is also the name of a small settlement and an area adjacent to Loch Tay. Gaelic was strong in that area at one time. There was a famous woman once living in Lawers. She had the second-sight. As Coinneach Odhar was famous in the north, this woman was famous in the south. She was predicting the future in Gaelic. Indeed, I don't know if she spoke English. She was the Lady of Lawers.

People think she grew up in Appin in Argyll. They think that she was a Stewart. She married a landlord in Lawers. Or perhaps she married a landlord's brother. People think she was alive in the seventeenth century.

Here's an example of her prophesying. The landlord was building a new church in Lawers.

Tha Beinn Labhair os cionn Loch Tatha. Tha i ann an Siorrachd Pheairt. Tha a' bheinn gu math àrd. Bidh i còmhdaichte le sneachd anns a' gheamhradh. Agus tha i ainmeil airson lusan.

'S e Labhair cuideachd ainm baile beag agus sgìre taobh Loch Tatha. Bha a' Ghàidhlig uaireigin làidir anns an sgìre sin. Bha boireannach ainmeil uaireigin a' fuireach ann an Labhair. Bha an dà-shealladh aice. Mar a bha Coinneach Odhar ainmeil anns a' cheann a tuath, bha am boireannach seo ainmeil anns a' cheann a deas. Bha i a' dèanamh fiosachd ann an Gàidhlig. Gu dearbh, chan eil fhios a'm an robh Beurla aice. B' ise Bantighearna Labhair, *The Lady of Lawers*.

Tha daoine a' smaoinichadh gun do thogadh i anns an Apainn ann an Earra-Ghàidheal. Tha iad a' smaoinichadh gur e ban-Stiùbhartach a bha innte. Phòs i uachdaran ann an Labhair. No 's dòcha gun do phòs i bràthair uachdarain. Tha daoine a' smaoinichadh gun robh i beò anns an t-seachdamh linn deug.

Seo eisimpleir dhen fhiosachd aice. Bha an t-uachdaran a' togail

The Lady was watching the matter. The builders were close to being finished. They took with them stones for the ridge of the church's roof. They left the stones on the shore of the loch.

The Lady said that the ridge-stones were never going to go on the church's roof. The workers were not happy. Next morning they were going to put the stones on the roof.

Well, that night, a storm arose. It was big and fearful. The stones were swept away. Next morning there was no sign of them. Thus, the Lady was correct.

She made another prophesy regarding that church. She planted a tree close to the church. She said that big things were going to happen when the tree was at different heights. For example, when it was at the height of the gables of the building, there was going to be disruption in the Church of Scotland. You'll know that there was a big disruption in the Church in 1843. And, according to oral tradition, that was the year that the tree reached the height of the gables!

eaglais ùr ann an Labhair. Bha a' Bhan-tighearna a' coimhead a' ghnòthaich. Bha an luchd-togail faisg air a bhith deiseil. Thug iad clachan leotha airson druim mullach na h-eaglaise. Dh'fhàg iad na clachan air cladach an locha.

Thuir a' Bhan-tighearna nach robh na clachan-droma a' dol a dhol air mullach na h-eaglaise a-chaoidh. Cha robh an luchd-obrach toilichte. An ath mhadainn bha iad a' dol a chur nan clachan air a' mhullach.

Uill, air an oidhche sin, dh'èirich stoirm. Bha i mòr is eagallach. Chaidh na clachan a sguabadh air falbh. An ath mhadainn cha robh sgeul orra. Mar sin, bha a' Bhan-tighearna ceart.

Bha fiosachd eile aice co-cheangailte ris an eaglais sin. Chuir i craobh faisg air an eaglais. Thuir i gun robh rudan mòra a' dol a thachairt nuair a bha a' chraobh aig diofar àirdean. Mar eisimpleir, nuair a bha i aig àirde stuaghan an togalaich, bha sgaradh a' dol a bhith ann ann an Eaglais na h-Alba. Bidh fios agaibh gun robh briseadh mòr anns an Eaglais ann an ochd ceud deug, ceathrad 's a trì (1843). Agus, a rèir beul-aithris, b' e sin a' bhliadhna a ràinig a' chraobh àirde nan stuaghan!