

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 311 (which corresponds to Litir 615). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.macleam@bbc.co.uk.

There is a town in Fife called Cill Rìmhinn. It's not a big town. But it's famous. It was important in the history of Scotland. And it's still important to golf and golfers. It has a link to the patron saint of Scotland – St Andrew. The English for Cill Rìmhinn is St Andrews. In the two languages we talk about St Andrews University and Oilthigh Chill Rìmhinn. But how did the town get those two names which are so different from each other?

The Gaelic name is older than the English name. It wasn't Cill Rìmhinn, however, but Cinn Rìmhinn, or something like that. It appears first in the eighth century AD. That's in the Annals of Ulster. They tell us about mors Tuathalain abbatis Cinrigh Monai (the death of Tuathalan, the abbot of Cinrigh Monai).

The scholar, Simon Taylor, looked at the place names of Fife. He says that the Gaelic name was perhaps a translation of a Pictish name. Perhaps it was called Penrimonid in Pictish. Or something like that. But the Gaelic name is the first to appear in history.

Tha baile ann am Fìobh air a bheil *Cill Rìmhinn* mar ainm. Chan e baile mòr a tha ann. Ach tha e ainmeil. Bha e cudromach ann an eachdraidh na h-Alba. Agus tha e cudromach fhathast do gholf agus do gholfairean. Tha ceangal aige do naomh-taice nàiseanta na h-Alba – an Naomh Anndra. 'S e a' Bheurla air Cill Rìmhinn – *St Andrews*. Anns an dà chànan, bidh sinn a' bruidh-inn air *St Andrews University* agus *Oilthigh Chill Rìmhinn*. Ach ciamar a fhuair am baile an dà ainm sin, agus iad cho eadar-dhealaichte bho chèile?

Tha an t-ainm Gàidhlig nas sine na tha an t-ainm Beurla. Chan e *Cill Rìmhinn* a bha ann, ge-tà, ach *Cinn Rìmhinn*, no rudeigin coltach ri sin. Tha e a' nochdadh an toiseach anns an ochdamh linn AC. Tha sin ann an *Annala Uladh*. Tha iad ag innse dhuinn mu *mors Tuathalain abbatis Cinrigh Monai* (bàs Tuathalain, aba Cinrigh Monai).

Thug an sgoilear, Sìm Mac an Tàilleir, sùil air ainmean-àite Fìobha. Tha e ag ràdh gur dòcha gun robh an t-ainm Gàidhlig na eadar-theangachadh air ainm Cruithneach. 'S dòcha gur e *Penrimonid* a bha air ann an Cruithnis. No rudeigin coltach ri sin. Ach 's e an t-ainm Gàidhlig a' chiad fhear a

The name in Gaelic was Ceann Rìghmonadh. That translates as “royal or king’s muir, upland, rough grazing”. The upland country in the area still carries the name Kingsmuir.

Rìghmonadh in Gaelic changed to Rymont in English. And around the twelfth century, Kin- changed to Kil. Kilrymont. Cill Rìmhinn. It appears that the change occurred because the place was important as a church site.

Simon Taylor tells us that the Gaels kept the old name Cill Rìmhinn, but that Kilrymont went out of use in English. In the last few years people [have] started to use Kilrymont again. Now, in St Andrews, there are Kilrymont Road, Kilrymont Crescent, Kilrymont Place and Kilrymont School. And the name St Andrews? We’ll look at that next week.

nochdas ann an eachdraidh.

B’ e an t-ainm ann an Gàidhlig *Ceann Rìghmonadh*. ’S e an t-eadar-theangachadh air “royal or king’s muir, upland, rough grazing”. Tha an talamh àrd anns an sgìre fhathast a’ giùlain an ainm *Kingsmuir*.

Dh’atharraich *Rìghmonadh* ann an Gàidhlig gu *Rymont* ann am Beurla. Agus timcheall air an dàrna linn deug, dh’atharraich *Kin-* gu *Kil. Kilrymont. Cill Rìmhinn*. Tha e coltach gun robh an t-atharrachadh ann leis gun robh an t-àite cudromach mar làrach eaglaise.

Tha Sìm Mac an Tàilleir ag innse dhuinn gun do ghlèidh na Gàidheil an seann ainm *Cill Rìmhinn*, ach gun deach *Kilrymont* à bith ann am Beurla. Anns na beagan bliadhnaichean a dh’fhalbh, ge-tà, thòisich daoine air *Kilrymont* a chleachadh a-rithist. Anise, ann an Cill Rìmhinn, tha *Kilrymont Road, Kilrymont Crescent, Kilrymont Place* agus *Kilrymont School*. Agus an t-ainm *St Andrews*? Bheir sinn sùil air sin an-ath-sheachdain.