

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 335 (which corresponds to Litir 639). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclea@bbc.co.uk.

Shortly after the Battle of Culloden, two vessels appeared in Loch Ewe. They were going to meet a messenger. The messenger had French gold. The gold was for the Prince who was hiding in the Highlands. But the messenger didn't appear. The vessels sailed away.

Shortly after that, a local man, Hector Cross, was at his shieling near Letterewe. A young Highlander with yellow hair came to his shieling bothy. Hector and his family gave him shelter. The yellow-haired lad gave them gold. The news spread that he had gold.

The lad stayed a night with Hector and his family. He left next morning. Shortly after that, there was a gunshot. The lad's body was found. There was no sign of the gold.

It came out that the yellow-haired lad was working for Bonnie Prince Charlie. He was on the way to Loch Ewe with the gold. He was going to meet the vessels that put into the loch. But he was late.

The Prince still needed gold, however. And a man from the area got part of the French gold for him.

Beagan às dèidh Blàr Chùil Lodair, nochd dà shoitheach ann an Loch Iùbh. Bha iad a' dol a choinneachadh ri teachdaire. Bha òr Frangach aig an teachdaire. Bha an t-òr airson a' Phrionnsa, a bha am falach air a' Ghàidhealtachd. Ach cha do nochd an teachdaire. Sheòl na soithichean air falbh.

Goirid às dèidh sin, bha fear de mhuintir an àite, Eachann Cross, aig àirigh faisg air Leitir Iùbh. Thàinig Gàidheal òg le falt buidhe don bhothan-àirigh aige. Thug Eachann agus a theaghlach fasnadh dha. Thug an gille buidhe òr dhaibh. Sgaoil an naidheachd gun robh òr aige.

Dh'fhuirich an gille oidhche còmhla ri Eachann 's a theaghlach. Dh'fhalbh e an ath mhadainn. Goirid às dèidh sin, bha brag gunna ann. Chaidh corp a' ghille a lorg. Cha robh sgeul air an òr.

Thàinig e a-mach gun robh an gille buidhe ag obair do Theàrlach Òg Stiùbhart. Bha e air an rathad a Loch Iùbh leis an òr. Bha e a' dol a choinneachadh ris na soithichean a chuir a-steach don loch. Ach bha e fadalach.

Bha am Prionnsa fhathast feumach air òr, ge-tà. Agus fhuair fear às an sgìre sin pàirt dhen òr Fhrangach air a

He was Duncan MacRae of Isle Ewe. Duncan was loyal to the Prince. He was with him at Culloden. After the battle, he helped the Prince to escape. Duncan was going to give him the gold when he had an opportunity.

It was dangerous for him to have gold, however. The British [red] army was in pursuit of the Prince across the Highlands. Duncan and two others took a pot full of gold across Loch Ewe from Mellon Charles to Cove. From there, they took the pot to Locha Druing. They hid it there in a hollow behind the loch, which is called Am Feadan Mòr.

They didn't need to put the pot deep below the ground. Duncan had the power of charms. He made the pot invisible. But that also created a difficulty. Because how would the Jacobites find it? We'll see what happened next week.

shon. B' esan Donnchadh MacRath à Eilean Iùbh. Bha Donnchadh dìleas don Phrionnsa. Bha e còmhla ris aig Cùil Lodair. Às dèidh a' bhatail, thug e taic don Phrionnsa faighinn air falbh. Bha Donnchadh a' dol a thoirt an òir dha nuair a bha cothrom aige.

Bha e cunnartach an t-òr a bhith aige, ge-tà. Bha an t-arm dearg an tòir air a' Phrionnsa air feadh na Gàidhealtachd. Thug Donnchadh is dithis eile poit làn òir tarsainn Loch Iùbh bho Mheallan Theàrlaich gu ruige an Uamhghaidh, no Cove. Às a sin, thug iad a' phoit gu Locha Druing. Chuir iad am falach i ann an sloc air cùl an locha, ris an canar *Am Feadan Mòr*.

Cha leigeadh iad a leas a' phoit a chur gu domhainn fon talamh. Bha an seun aig Donnchadh. Rinn esan a' phoit do-fhaicsinneach. Ach bha sin na dhuilgheadas cuideachd. Oir ciamar a bhiodh na Seumasaich ga lorg? Chì sinn dè thachair an-ath-sheachdain.