

# **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 514 (which corresponds to Litir 818). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

*One-eyed Paddy stole the money from Sandy, the dog that was taking tobacco home to Hugh. When Sandy reached his home, Hugh untied the kerchief. There was tobacco and a piece of paper in it. There was a note in pencil from the shopkeeper: 'Dear Hugh,' was written on it, 'the dog had no money. Here is your tobacco but you owe me a crown now.'*

*'Oh, lad,' said Hugh to Sandy, 'what happened? Did somebody steal the money?' The next Friday, Hugh put a crown in the kerchief around the dog's neck. He asked him to go to the shop. One-eyed Paddy was waiting for him. He gave the dog a biscuit and he took the money out. He tied the kerchief again.*

*Sandy reached the tobacconist in Dingwall. Again, he had no money. This time, the shopkeeper sent a letter to Hugh. 'I'm sorry,' he wrote, 'but you won't get tobacco from me until I get the money you owe me.'*

*Uisdean was angry. The next Friday, he and Sandy walked into Dingwall.*

*One-eyed Paddy was waiting.*

Ghoid Padaidh Cam an t-airgead bho Shandaidh, an cù a bha a' toirt tombaca dhachaigh do dh'Ùisdean. Nuair a ràinig Sandaidh a dhachaigh, dh'fhuasgail Ùisdean an nèapraigear. Bha tombaca agus pìos pàipeir ann. Bha brath ann am peansail bho fhear na bùtha: 'Ùisdein chòir,' bha sgrìobhte air, 'cha robh airgead aig a' chù. Seo dhut do thombaca ach tha crùn agam ort a-nise.'

'O, a laochain,' thuirt Ùisdean ri Sandaidh, 'dè thachair? An do ghoid cuideigin an t-airgead?' An ath Dhihaoine, chuir Ùisdean crùn anns an nèapraigear timcheall amhaich a' choin. Dh'iarr e air falbh don bhùth. Bha Padaidh Cam a' feitheamh ris. Thug e briosgaid don chù agus thug e an t-airgead a-mach. Cheangail e an nèapraigear a-rithist.

Ràinig Sandaidh bùth an tombaca ann an Inbhir Pheofharain. A-rithist, cha robh airgead aige. An turas seo, chuir fear na bùtha litir gu Ùisdean. 'Tha mi duilich,' sgrìobh e, 'ach chan fhaigh thu tombaca bhuan gus am faigh mi an t-airgead a tha agam ort.'

Bha Ùisdean fiadhaich. An ath Dhihaoine, choisich e fhèin is Sandaidh a-steach a dh'Inbhir Pheofharain.

Bha Padaidh Cam a' feitheamh.

*But he saw Hugh and he kept out of sight. Hugh didn't see him*

*Hugh reached the shop. 'I'll tell you what we'll do,' said the shopkeeper. 'Put a small scratch on the half-crown coin where the king's nose is. If the thief tries to spend that coin here, I'll know it's him.'*

*'But what if he is saving them up?' said Hugh. 'Perhaps he won't spend them for a while.'*

*'Do you have a better thought?' said the shopkeeper.*

*Hugh didn't have a better thought. The next Friday, he scratched the king's nose. If such a thing was against the law, he couldn't care. He put the coin in the kerchief.*

*One-eyed Paddy was waiting for Sandy. There was no sign of Hugh. Paddy went out with a biscuit. He took the money out of the kerchief and he tied it again. The dog went to the shop. And I'll you how the affair finished next week.*

Ach chunnaic e Ùisdean agus chùm e am falach. Chan fhaca Ùisdean e.

Ràinig Ùisdean a' bhùth. 'Innsidh mi dhut dè nì sinn,' thuirt fear na bùtha. 'Cuir sgrìob bheag air a' bhonn leth-chrùn far a bheil sròn an rìgh. Ma dh'fheuchas am mèirleach ris am bonn sin a chosg an seo, bidh fios agam gur e a tha ann.'

'Ach dè ma tha e a' dèanamh stòras?' thuirt Ùisdean. 'S dòcha nach bi e ga chosg airson ùine.'

'A bheil smuain nas fheàrr agad?' dh'fhaighnich fear na bùtha.

Cha robh smuain na b' fheàrr aig Ùisdean. An ath Dhihaoine, chuir e sgrìob air sròn an rìgh. Ma bha a leithid an aghaidh an lagh, bha e coma. Chuir e am bonn anns an nèapraigear.

Bha Padaidh Cam a' feitheamh ri Sandaidh. Cha robh sgeul air Ùisdean. Chaidh Padaidh a-mach le briosgaid. Thug e an t-airgead a-mach às an nèapraigear agus cheangail e a-rithist e. Dh'fhalbh an cù don bhùth. Agus innsidh mi dhuibh mar a thàinig an gnothach gu crìch an-ath-sheachdain.