

# **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 621 (which corresponds to Litir 925). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.macleam@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.macleam@bbc.co.uk).

*I was telling you about how the famous whirlpool, Corryvreckan, got its name. But how was it created? Well, here is a wee story about it.*

*A long long time ago, the crab was incredibly large. At that time, its carapace was round. It wasn't flat as it is today. The crab was strong and confident. She said she was willing to carry the globe on her back. The other animals were pleased. But the globe was too heavy for her. The crab was compressed by the weight of the world. Her carapace became flat and wide as it is today.*

*Before her carapace flattened, the globe would fall off her. That forced the crab to walk sideways when she is walking. She got tired of the affair. She went to seek help from the King of the Fish.*

*'I'll help you,' said the King of the Fish. At that time, the acorn barnacles were freely swimming. The King of the Fish asked them not to continue swimming. They were anchored. Some of them were living on the rocks. Some of them were living on the crab's shell.*

*The barnacles on the crab's shell*

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu mar a fhuair an cuairt-shruth ainmeil, Coire Bhreacain, ainm. Ach ciamar a chaidh a chruthachadh? Uill, seo agaibh sgeulachd bheag mu dheidhinn.

O chionn fhad an t-saoghail, bha a' chrùbag cianail mòr. Aig an àm sin, bha a slige cruinn. Cha robh i rèidh mar a tha i an-diugh. Bha a' chrùbag làidir agus misneachail. Thuirt i gun robh i deònach an cruinne a ghiùlan air a druim. Bha na creutairean eile toilichte. Ach bha an cruinne ro throm dhi. Chaidh a' chrùbag fhàsgadh le cuideam na cruinne. Dh'fhàs a slige rèidh is leathann mar a tha i an-diugh.

Mus do dh'fhàs a slige rèidh, bhiodh an cruinne a' tuiteam dhith. Thug sin air a' chrùbaig a bhith a' fiaradh nuair a tha i a' coiseachd. Dh'fhàs i sgìth dhen ghnothach. Chaidh i a dh'iarraidh taic aig Rìgh nan Iasg.

'Bheir mi taic dhut,' thuirt Rìgh nan Iasg. Aig an àm sin, bha na sgreigeagan a' snàmh gu saor. Dh'iarr Rìgh nan Iasg orra gun a bhith a' snàmh tuilleadh. Bha iad air an acrachadh. Bha cuid dhiubh a' fuireach air na creagan. Bha cuid dhiubh a' fuireach air slige na crùbaig.

Chuir na sgreigeagan air slige na

*prevented the globe from sliding off. The crab was not pleased, however. The globe was still too heavy for her. She went to the King of the Fishes again and she complained.*

*'What's upsetting you this time?' said the King of the Fish. He was getting tired of the crab's complaining and he beat the seabed with his tail. 'OK,' he said. 'We'll get rid of the globe entirely.' He threw the globe up to the heavens. He wasn't having anything to do with it anymore. But he forgot about the barnacles. They were left as they were.. And they are anchored to the rocks today.*

*The crab got smaller. She wasn't worthy of a large size. When the King of the Fish beat the seabed with his tail, Corryvreckan was created. It's centuries later that a Scandinavian prince was drowned there.*

crùbaig stad air a' chruinne bho bhith a' sleamhnadh dhith. Cha robh a' chrùbag toilichte, ge-tà. Bha an cruinne fhathast ro throm dhi. Chaidh i gu Rìgh nan Iasg a-rithist agus rinn i gearan.

'Dè tha a' cur ort an turas seo?' arsa Rìgh nan Iasg. Bha e a' fàs sgìth de ghearan na crùbaig agus bhuail e grunn na mara le earball. 'Ceart gu leòr,' thuirt e. 'Gheibh sinn cuidhteas an cruinne uile-gu-lèir.' Thilg e an cruinne suas chun na h-iarmailt. Cha robh e a' gabhail gnothach ris tuilleadh. Ach dhìochuimhnich e mu na sgreigeagan. Chaidh am fàgail mar a bha iad. Agus tha iad ceangailte ris na creagan an-diugh.

Chaidh a' chrùbag an lughad. Cha robh i airidh air meudachd mhòr. Nuair a bhuail Rìgh nan Iasg grunn na mara le earball, chaidh Coire Bhreacain a chruthachadh. 'S ann linntean an dèidh sin a chaidh prionnsa Lochlannach a bhàthadh ann.