

# **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 671 (which corresponds to Litir 975). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodgy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodgy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

*I was telling you about the Celtic kingdom – Rheged. Urien was the king at the end of the sixth century. He and other British kings worked together against the Angles. But Urien was killed by another Celt and that weakened the Celtic cause.*

*Urien's son, Owain map Urien, was alive only a few years. He was also killed, and by another Celt. Old Welsh manuscripts tell us about a battle between the Britons and the Angles at Catterick. The Angles won. In the sixth century, Rheged disappeared as a Celtic kingdom.*

*The language didn't disappear immediately, however. The Welsh talk about the Hen Ogledd – the old north – the area in which the Old Brythonic language was spoken. The language survived until around the twelfth century.*

*But what happened to the British kingdoms in the south of Scotland? Well, Lothian came under the influence of the Angles in the sixth century. But Strathclyde*

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun t-seann rìoghachd Cheiltich – Rheged. B' e Urien an rìgh aig deireadh an t-siathamh linn. Dh'obraich e fhèin agus rìghrean Breatannach eile còmhla an aghaidh nan Anglach. Ach bha Urien air a mharbhadh le Ceilteach eile agus lagaich sin cùis nan Ceilteach.

Bha mac Urien, Owain map Urien, beò dìreach beagan bhliadhnaichean. Bha esan air a mharbhadh cuideachd, agus le Ceilteach eile. Tha seann làmh-sgrìobhainnean Cuimreach ag innse dhuinn mu bhatail eadar na Breatannaich agus na h-Anglaich aig Catterick. Bhuannaich na h-Anglaich. Anns an t-seachdamh linn, chaidh Rheged à bith mar rìoghachd Cheilteach.

Cha do dh'fhalbh an cànan sa mhionaid, ge-tà. Bidh na Cuimrich a' bruidhinn mun *Hen Ogledd* – an seann cheann a tuath – an sgìre anns an robhar a' bruidhinn na Seann Bhreatannais. Bha an cànan beò gu timcheall an dàrna linn deug.

Ach dè thachair do na rìoghachdan Breatannach ann an ceann a deas na h-Alba? Uill, thàinig Lodainn fo bhuidh nan Anglach anns an t-siathamh linn. Ach lean Srath Chluaidh mar rìoghachd Bhreatannach airson ùine. Bha prìomh

*continued as a British kingdom for a period. The headquarters of the Britons in Strathclyde was in Dumbarton.*

*At the end of the ninth century, the Vikings laid siege to Dumbarton. After four months the Britons surrendered. The Vikings took hundreds of people to Ireland.*

*The Gaels and the Picts – who were now united – were influencing Strathclyde around this time. Some of the Britons left for Wales. The last British king of Strathclyde was killed at the Battle of Carham in the Borders in the year 1018. He was fighting for Scotland against the Northumbrian English.*

*Finally, there were just two places where the P-Celts were strong – Cornwall and Wales. Through the middle ages the people of Cornwall were still very Celtic. Cornwall came under the control of England, but the language and culture continued, and they had strong connections to Brittany.*

*Then the Tudors came to the English throne. In spite of the fact that their roots were in Wales, they were not well-disposed to the Cornish, as we shall see next week.*

àros nam Breatannach ann an Srath Chluaidh aig Dùn Breatann.

Aig deireadh an naoidheamh linn, chuir na Lochlannaich Dùn Breatann fo shèist. An dèidh ceithir mìosan ghèill na Breatannaich. Thug na Lochlannaich na ceudan dhaoine air falbh a dh'Èirinn.

Bha na Gàidheil agus Cruithnich – a bha a-nise aonaichte – a' toirt buaidh air Srath Chluaidh mun aon àm. Dh'fhalbh cuid de na Breatannaich don Cuimrigh. Bha an rìgh Breatannach mu dheireadh aig Srath Chluaidh air a mharbhadh aig Blàr Charham anns na Crìochan anns a' bhliadhna mìle 's ochd-deug (1018). Bha e a' sabaid às leth Alba an aghaidh Sasannaich Northumbria.

Mu dheireadh, bha dìreach dà àite far an robh na P-Ceiltich làidir – a' Chòrn agus a' Chuimrigh. Tro na meadhan-aoisean bha muinntir na Cùirn fhathast gu math Ceilteach. Thàinig a' Chòrn fo smachd Shasainn, ach lean an cànan 's an cultar, agus bha ceanglaichean làidir aca leis a' Bhreatainn Bhig.

An uair sin thàinig na Tudoraich gu rìgh-chathair Shasainn. A dh'aindeoin 's gun robh am freumhaichean anns a' Chuimrigh, cha robh iad bàigheil ris na Còrnaich, mar a chì sinn an-ath-sheachdain.