

## Litir do luchd-ionnsachaidh le Ruairidh MacIleathain

### Taigh Bhoth Fhleisginn (2)

Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh's 'Letter to Gaelic Learners' on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 10pm on Sunday, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'Beag air Bheag', with a repeat at 10.30pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,130. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 4.03pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 826 corresponds to Litir 1,130. The Litir is also available at [bbc.co.uk/litir](http://bbc.co.uk/litir) and [learnghaelic.scot/litir](http://learnghaelic.scot/litir).

B' e Gilleasbaig Caimbeul Friseal fear de na gillean aig an t-Seann Mhadadh, am Morair MacShimidh. Nuair a chaochail a bhràthair Sim gun chlann ann an seachd ceud deug, ochdad 's a dhà (1782), fhuair Gilleasbaig smachd air oighreachd nam Frisealach. Chaidh e an àite a bhràthair mar bhall-parlaimaid Siorrachd Inbhir Nis.

Mar a bha mi ag innse dhuibh an t-seachdain sa chaidh, 's e Gilleasbaig a thog Taigh Bhoth Fhleisginn, faisg air Foidhir, taobh Loch Nis. Bha an taigh deiseil ann an ochd ceud deug 's a naoi (1809). Chaochail Gilleasbaig sia bliadhna an dèidh sin. Leis gun robh a h-uile duine dhen **chòignear mhac aige** air bàsachadh roimhe, chaidh an taigh gu fear eile a bha càirdeach dha.

Bha an taigh coltach ri loidse-sheilg seach taigh-mòr oighreachd. Cha robh ann ach aon ùrlar – ach a-mhàin gun robh na searbhantan a' fuireach ann an seòmair-mullaich os cionn a' chidsin. Bha ceithir seòmraichean cadail ann, dà sheòmair-shuidhe agus leabharlann. A rèir choltais bha tunail ann a bha a' ceangal an taigh ris a' chladh.

Aig deireadh an naoidheamh linn deug, cheannaich Aleister Crowley an taigh. Tha Crowley ainmeil airson a bhith an sàs ann am 'buidseachd' – 'draoidheachd dhubh' is rudan dhen t-seòrsa sin. Cheannaich e an taigh a chionn 's gun robh e ann an àite car iomallach agus freagarrach airson nan deas-ghnàthan 'draoidheil' aige.

'S fheàrr dhomh rud beag innse dhuibh mu bheatha Crowley. Rugadh e mar Edward Alexander Crowley ann an Leamington Spa ann an Sasainn ann an ochd ceud deug, seachdad 's a còig (1875). Bha athair gu math math beartach. Mar sin, cha robh Eideard – no 'Alick' mar a bha a mhàthair a' gabhail air – a' beachdachadh air dreuchd a lorg. Bhiodh e beò air an airgead a fhuair e bho athair.

Ge-tà, cha robh e fhèin is athair air an aon ràmh a thaobh creideamh. Bha athair na Chrìosdaidh làidir a bha na shoisgeulach airson nam Plymouth Brethren. Chaidh Eideard a chur gu sgoil Chrìosdail airson greis. An ceann ùine, chuir e a chùil ris a' chreideamh. Nuair a bha e aig Oilthigh Chambridge, dh'atharraich e ainm gu Aleister – air a litreachadh A-L-E-I-S-T-E-R. Cha do cheumnaich e bhon oilthigh, ach choisinn e cliù dha fhèin mar chluicheadair tàileis air leth sgileil.

Bha e sgileil cuideachd mar sgrìobhadair bàrdachd agus mar neach-sreap nam beann. Bhiodh e gu tric a' falbh gu na beanntan Ailpeach. Nuair a bha Taigh Bhoth Fhleisginn leis, bha Crowley thall thairis gu math tric. Tràth san fhicheamh linn, rinn e oidhirp air K2 agus Kanchenjunga, an dàrna agus trasg beinn as àirde san t-saoghal. Cha robh e soirbheachail, agus chaill ceathrar dhen sgioba am beatha ann am

maoim-sneachda air Kanchenjunga. Bha cuid a' cumail a-mach nach do chuidich Crowley iad mar bu chòir.

Nuair a bha e ann an Alba, ghabhadh Crowley 'The Laird of Boleskine' air fhèin. Bha e **dèidheil air** dualchas na Gàidhealtachd, agus bhiodh e a' cur fèileadh-beag air gu tric. Ach am biodh na Gàidheil ag aithneachadh nan gnòthaichean 'draoidheil' aige? Cha chreid mi gum bitheadh. Cluinidh sinn tuilleadh an-ath-sheachdain.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Taigh Bhoth Fhleisginn: *Boleskine House*; Foidhir: *Foyers*; buidseachd: *witchcraft*; draoidheachd dhubh: *black magic*; deas-ghnàthan: *ceremonies*; beartach: *rich, wealthy*; soisgeulach: *evangelist*; neach-sreap nam beann: *climber*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** B' e Gilleasbaig Caimbeul Friseal fear de na gillean aig an t-Seann Mhadadh, am Morair MacShimidh: *Archibald Campbell Fraser was one of the sons of the Old Fox, Lord Lovat*; nuair a chaochail a bhràthair Sim gun chlann: *when his brother Simon died without children*; fhuair Gilleasbaig smachd air oighreachd nam Frisealach: *Archibald gained control of the Fraser estate*; fear eile a bha càirdeach dha: *another man who was related to him*; coltach ri loidse-sheilg seach taigh-mòr oighreachd: *like a hunting lodge rather than the big house of an estate*; seòmair-mullaich os cionn a' chidsin: *an attic room above the kitchen*; bha ceithir seòmraichean cadail ann, dà sheòmair-shuidhe agus leabharlann: *there were four bedrooms in it, two sitting rooms and a library*; tunail a bha a' ceangal an taigh ris a' chladh: *a tunnel that connected the house to the cemetery*; 's fheàrr dhomh rud beag innse dhuibh mu bheatha X: *I'd better tell you a little about X's life*; a' beachdachadh air dreuchd a lorg: *thinking about finding a profession*; cha robh e fhèin is athair air an aon ràmh a thaobh creideamh: *he and his father did not agree on religion*; chuir e a chùil ris a' chreideamh: *he turned his back on the religion*; cha do cheumnaich e bhon oilthigh: *he didn't graduate from the university*; choisinn e cliù dha fhèin mar chluicheadair tàileis air leth sgileil: *he won a reputation as an extremely skilful chess player*; rinn e oidhirp air: *he made an attempt on*; chaill ceathrar dhen sgioba am beatha ann am maoin-sneachda: *four of the team lost their lives in an avalanche*; am biodh na Gàidheil ag aithneachadh X?: *would the Gaels recognise X?*; cha chreid mi gum bitheadh: *I don't think so*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** Leis gun robh a h-uile duine dhen **chòignear mhac aige** air bàsachadh roimhe: *because all of his five sons had predeceased him. To talk about a particular number of people we commonly use numerical nouns – dithis, trìuir, ceathrar, còignear etc – rather than cardinal numerals. However, this requires any noun that is commanded by the numerical noun to be in the genitive (plural). Thus, for 'five sons' we might say còig mic (using the nominative plural of mac) or, more usually, còignear mhac (with the indefinite genitive plural of mac).*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** Bha e **dèidheil air** dualchas na Gàidhealtachd: *he was enthusiastic about the heritage of the Highlands.*

**Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoineachadh le MG Alba**



Chris Young and Beth Willis with Shannon Macdonald from Torabhaig Distillery, sponsors of the film residency

Photograph: WILLIE URQUHART

## Skye film school aiming to attract top industry talent

Following the success of the Young Films Foundation's screenwriting residencies on Skye, this year sees film and TV producer Chris Young take the scheme to the next level – offering participants the opportunity to work with UK broadcasters, professional mentors and industry experts on a year-long programme to take their ideas from pitch to commissioned script.

Launched as a pilot scheme in 2017, YFF's talent development scheme was set up to support, encourage and nurture new Scottish writing talent. In 2018 and 2019 YFF conducted two week-long intensive residencies for six novice Scottish film and TV writers on Skye.

This year, Mr Young – whose credits include 'The Inbetweeners' and BBC Alba Gaelic-language drama series 'Bannan' – has teamed up with award-winning producer and former head of drama at Channel 4, Beth Willis, to expand the scope and ambition of the programme.

For the first time, each of the seven selected participants will receive a full TV drama, comedy or feature film script commission from either Channel 4 drama, Channel 4 comedy, BBC drama, MG Alba /BBC Alba, BBC Films, Film4 or Sky. Each participant will receive a full script fee from the broadcaster with which they're partnered, while each broadcaster has the first right of refusal over the script they have commissioned. Alongside Young Films, Screen Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Channel 4 Nations and Regions and Torabhaig Distillery are providing key financial support.

In a further development to the scheme, each participant will be assigned a leading industry mentor who will be available to give support and advice throughout the year-long programme.

As in previous years, inspirational experts come from the world of film and TV. This year they include Karen Gillan, Lenny Abrahamson, Neil Gaiman, Nicole Taylor, Daisy Haggard, Peter Straughan, Andrew Macdonald, Jackie Kay and John Yorke among many others. The experts will engage with the participants in online sessions throughout the year, and at a week-long residency on Skye in 2022, to share

ideas, advice and their own personal experiences of the industry.

The year will culminate with a week-long inspirational and immersive residency on Skye in May 2022, where participants, mentors and a number of the programme's experts will come together to discuss and further develop their work, ahead of script delivery to broadcasters two months later.

The scheme, which opened for applications on Monday, is open to all Scottish residents and this year is looking for writers from all backgrounds: from experienced screenwriters looking to write their first feature film; to novice screenwriters, authors and playwrights looking for a change in direction.

Chris Young said: "We're incredibly excited to be taking our new talent scheme to the next level. This is an extraordinary opportunity for new Scottish screenwriters at a time when there has never been a greater demand for high quality, authored and original film and TV scripts. Writing talent doesn't get enough opportunity in Scotland to realise its ambition and, by scaling up our programme, we hope it will be a powerful way to connect new Scottish screenwriters with the big business.

"We are very lucky to have this incredible vote of confidence in Scotland from these broadcasters, and

are delighted to be joined by such a high quality range of mentors and experts willing to share truthfully their wisdom and insight. Skye is such a unique and inspiring place, and we can't wait to welcome the participants, commissioners, mentors and experts at the culmination of the year-long programme. My advice to applicants is – think very hard about the project you want to bring, because it will be interrogated from every angle by some of the best minds in the UK Film and TV industry."

Beth Willis added: "The 2021 YFF scheme will give new Scottish talent the opportunity not just to be paid to write a script, with a wealth of incredible Film and Television talent at their side – but it will also give them invaluable experience of the industry. Feedback on ideas and drafts from commissioners, a rigorous development process and advice on everything from how to appeal to an agent, to how to write scripts that might sell – each part of the programme will give the participants a 360° map for their future career."

The scheme, created by Young Films, is supported by Film4, Channel 4, BBC Films, BBC, BBC Scotland, Sky TV, BFI, MG ALBA/ BBC Alba, Screen Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Torabhaig Distillery.

## Support for music sessions online

Isles community arts group Cabraich has been awarded funding to support musicians and audiences to upskill, to join a weekly Hebrides online music session.

Bayhead Sessions, the long running, weekly live event, was hit by the pandemic restrictions in March 2020. Now organisers aim to co-ordinate and support new technology skills, to reunite the thirty participants in a new online setting.

This support for Cabraich Community Arts from the Corra Foundation will provide one to one workshops, for people using their own device, and use Zoom and other online platforms.

Cabraich co-ordinator Magaidh Smith

said: "Many new friendships and community networks were created through the open door, weekly music nights at Bayhead Sessions in Stornoway. The pandemic has left many people isolated, and our new weekly online event is a chance to re-establish those links and create new experiences.

"Although we aim to reach out to the musicians who played together at Bayhead Sessions pre-Covid and their audience, we also welcome anybody interested in learning new technology skills and participating in a local music setting."

More information on technology support from [magaidsmith@gmail.com](mailto:magaidsmith@gmail.com) or 01851 860204.