

BORD SCÉIREADH NA h-ACÓFR

# Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ACÓFR 2010

Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock 2010



# Am Faoilleach / January 2010



The latest magnum opus from AGOFR's Progressive Rock wing, the Dun Ringles' "Tales From The Minch" is a bit like Yus's "Tales from Tolstographic Oceans" except that it goes on for even longer.

*"pretentious... pompous... grandiose.. go out and get a copy of this album... You will... be disappointed"*

- Jori (Stornoway Gazette)

*"Ya theiveen bleigeards - see youse in court (squeak)"*

- J. Andersonroad (Yus)

If you didn't get "Tales" for everybody's Xmas, rush out to Ceòl (59-61 Cromwell Street, Stornoway HS1 2DD, formerly DD Morrison's) and buy it now. It's probably been marked down to fleek all in the January sale.

If you did, you've probably had to move to Inverness by now, friendless, ostracised by your family and barred for life from sailing on all Cal Mac ferries.

Tales from the Minch - On Sale in Ceòl Now

- Àm Faoilleach / January 2010 -						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
					<b>1</b> Obh Obh	<b>2</b> Obh
<b>3</b> Repent	<b>4</b> Làtha Rùsgadh na Rubha – Turfing Day : Public Holiday (Point Only)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Latha Tractair na Rubha – Peats Home Day : Public Holiday (Point Only)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Official Birthday of S*ndy M*thes*n Public Holiday (Newton)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Willie Burns Night : The songs and poems of Led Zeppelin are celebrated : Public Holiday (Newton)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Guireans Manager Coinneach's Birthday. Pay Up	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Another Official Birthday of S*ndy M*thes*n Public Holiday (Newton)	<b>Notes:</b>					



# An Gearran / February 2010



*“Well you started here on the lemonade  
But D\*v\*d Iain gave you fleek all pay  
Well you spent all day makin Zip-a-Cola  
But you’d have been better off on the Dole-a”*

*- “Parkend Industrial Estate”  
From “Margrave of the Mointeach : An  
AGOFR Tribute to John Peel”, 2005*

Following John Peel's unfortunate demise in 2004, the top acts of AGOFR came together to record a tribute EP featuring their versions of some of his favourite songs.

Things were confused slightly by the fact that most of the terminally unhip AGOFR “musicians” thought that Mr Peel was something to do with plant hire and chip shops.

Nevertheless, the Guireans contributed their interpretation of The Fall's 1977 classic “Industrial Estate”, on which guest vocalist Watt E Smith rants about some of the great businesses that this dynamic hub of free enterprise has given birth to since its inception in the mid 70s.

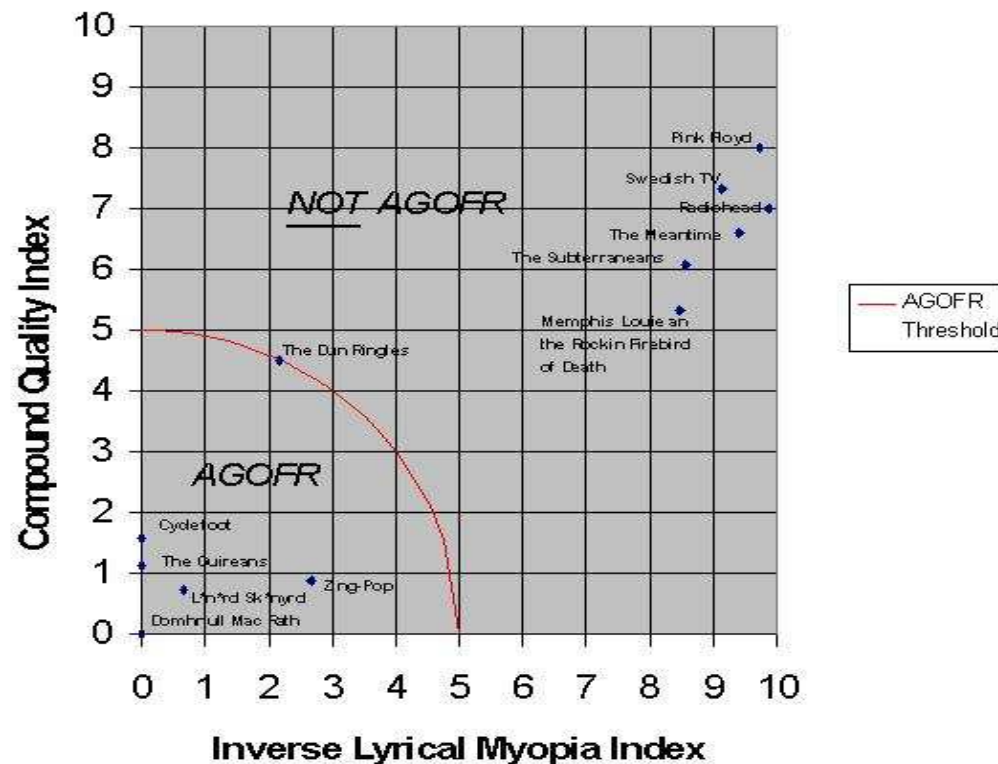
Especially the greatly missed lemonade factory.

Parkend Industrial Estate at Twilight

~ An Gearran / FEBRUARY 2010 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luan Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 St Valentine's Day – but not this year because it's on the Sabbath.	15	16 Marag Day	17 Murdo Maclean's Big Cailleachs' Hat Sale	18 Stornoway Orduighean Begin	19 Anniversary of Bon Scott's demise : National Day of Mourning (The Clachan)	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	<b>Notes:</b>					

# Am Màrt / Màrch 2010

## AGOFRness Indicators



### What Does The Bòrd do for You?

Tuning up, learning chords, recording properly, the actual sale of multiple tapes & CDs – these things are the scourge of AGOFR and must be prevented. They are the musical equivalent of the motor connected to the loom.

**Bòrd Stiùreachd na h-AGOFR** was established in 2003 as a self-appointed quango to regulate the AGOFR industry and put a stop to that sort of thing. The Bòrd established the "AGOFR Standard", a trade mark which would allow the customer to recognise genuinely poor quality music produced, using only the worst technology, by the most incapable native craftspeople in the Outer Hebrides.

The AGOFR Standard is based on a set of key indices that measure how crap a band is and how little the scope of their subject matter extends beyond the daily concerns of Leodhasach life. These key measurements were developed by top C\*mhairle statisticians, working through their lunchbreak in the Crit and using the latest available metrics analysis tools - a broken pencil and the back of a discarded and beer-drenched IACS form.

[The Bòrd's AGOFRness mode!](#) can be used to measure any band against these key indices, and a series of graphs can be generated indicating how far they go to meet the criteria.

Bòrd Stiùreachd na h-AGOFR's "AGOFRness Model"

~ ÀmMàirt/Màrch 2010 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Tolsta orduighean begin : Beware of low flying witches	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> The Ides of March : Julius Siarach assassinated at the Arnol Fank, this day in 44 BC	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man : Public Holiday (J*e Ell*ot's House)	<b>31</b> Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day (Got ya!)	<b>Notes:</b>		

# An Giblean / April 2010



Chust like Paris, Sandwick is at its loveliest in early Spring, as the mud and rain of Winter give way to the rain and mud of Summer.

Sandwick is known as the home of AGOFR and the birthplace of the Guireans – and even a casual visitor can see the influence of its landscape and buildings in their music.

For the student of architecture, Golidy's "House for a Careful Bachelor" (1969) with its artfully collapsed garden wall, and Dead Olac's "Rusty Sheep Shelter" in 'found' corrugated iron (1978) provide fine examples of the decaying rural vernacular, at their most decrepit after the long Winter.



For the nature lover, the East Street common grazings are magnificent in April. The short grass, chewed to the roots by ill-fed mehhags, reveals a diverse ecosystem of abandoned cars, torn plastic and rusting agricultural machinery. If you're prepared to take some time and look carefully among the thriving bullrushes, you might even spot the burnt bits and dud fireworks from the preceding November's gelly.

Springtime for Sandwick and Dusterfield



- An Giblean/April 2010 -						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
				<b>1</b> Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day	<b>2</b> Latha na figuring out yesterday was Latha na Gogaireachd : (Airdhbhruach)	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Time to start spreading the Todhar. Beware of Bodachs sniffing appreciatively in a connoisseur-type manner. (Feannags Everywhere)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Stornoway (the band) might play the Woodland Centre in Stornoway (the town). TBC.	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Feast of St George (Patron Saint of White Settlers) : Public Holiday (Harris, Uig, Leurbost, South Lochs.. fleekeen everywhere these days, in fact).	<b>24</b> Feast of St Jeremy of Ponsonby-Smythe (Patron Saint of objecting to wind farms, streetlamps, houses.. fleekeen everything, in fact).
<b>25</b> Feast of St Justin of Godalming-which-shall- hence-be-called-Gravir (Patron Saint of claiming to be "from" where you're not. Especially when objecting to things)	<b>26</b> Feast of St Penelope of Barking (Patron saint of former social workers who have lost the plot, bought a shack in Balallan on the internet for megabucks, and live alone in squalor with loads of cats)	<b>27</b> Feast of St Wayne of Darnsarf (Patron Saint of applying to WIE for big grants while being decidedly vague about exactly where you came from and how you ended up here)	<b>28</b> Feast of St Murdag of the Twitching Curtain (Patron Saint of phoning the wegs in England and telling them the bleigeards they're after have moved up here).	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Notes:</b>

# An Céitean / May 2010



Until it was forced to close by clean air legislation, the miasma of decaying fish offal exuded by Stornoway's Herring Byproducts plant (also known as "Tigh nan Guts" or "The Gut Factory", gave the town a distinctive and inspiring character (see the Dun Ringles' "Fish and Education").

The Guireans' 1984 classic "Industry (Gut Factory)" relocated the ultra-pretentious early-80s genre of "industrial" music (as personified by Einsturzende Neubaten, Test Department, SPK etc) to the now defunct plant.

Performed via the medium of zinc peat bucket, tongs, poker and fireguard, "I(GF)" simultaneously condemned and glorified the inexorable dehumanisation of the worker by the relentless and repetitive application of industrial processes. And complained about the smell.

SUNRISE OVER TIGH NAN GUTS, FROM THE CANNERY ROAD ENTRANCE

- An Céitean/ May 2010 -						
La na Sábaid Sun	Ói-Luain Mon	Ói-Mairt Tue	Ói-Ciadam Wed	Ói-Árdaoin Thu	Ói-h-Aoine Fri	Ói-Sathúirne Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> May Day : Glorious Parade of the People's Revolutionary Forces and Salute by the Politburo (Garrabost)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Fank (North Street)
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Fank (North Street) – because nobody turned up last week.
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Morrissey's Birthday : National Day of Moping (Innes the Post's House)
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Le Sgadan Nouveau est arrivée : Public Holiday (Scott's Fish Shop & Cailean Neillie's)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Fank (North Street) – third attempt.
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>				

# An t-Ogmhios / June 2010



## The Dun Ringles in Tarbert, June 1995

...As Jason was living in Tarbert, the band decided to have a foray into uncharted territory. Jason told the others that the Hearachs were desperate for entertainment of any sort and would come in their tens to see the band from the big city.

Manager Grassy arranged for a disco to support the evening and a local Harris band, Cane Toad, asked to play too. A lot of folk from Stornoway came down to see the gig including the Bus From Hell, a double decker of Clachan regulars which Grassy had told to come.

A lot of people paid to get in but as the Tarbert Hall had a 'No Drink' policy, most folk stayed outside drinking. However, they had paid to get in so the band actually made a lot of money that night.

By far the band's most drunken performance and probably one of the most enjoyable.

*Unattractively de-pasaged and inconsistently spelt, the Dun Ringles play to a packed hall - Tarbert 1995*



~ Àn τ-Ogmhios/June 2010 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Àrdaoim Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathuirne Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Calum Kennedy's birthday. Public Holiday (South Lochs)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Time to go to the Àiridh. Beware of care assistants dragging you back to the home.	<b>15</b> Time to go to the East Coast fishing. These sgadan won't gut themselves. Beware of care assistants dragging you back to the home.	<b>16</b> Àiridh Time Again. Beware of care assistants dragging you back to the home.	<b>17</b> Great Yarmouth Here We Come. Beware of care assistants dragging you back to the home.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Sounds in The Grounds (The Castle Grounds)
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Summer Solstice. Beware of druids, crusties, wiccans and weird people from away in general. Even more than usual. (Callanish)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Traditional carry-out/bushwalk expedition to Gallows Hill. Beware of falling 6 <sup>th</sup> Year pupils (High incidence forecast for 2010 due to increasing childhood obesity and cheap foreign rhododendrons)	<b>26</b> Not Sounds in the Grounds (it was last week).
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Notes:</b>		

## An Iuchar / July 2010



In 1981 Guireans manager and aspiring film director Ken "Coinneach Russell" Livingstone decided the time was right for the group to make a video.

Unfortunately everyone had already left the band in the wake of the disastrous "EMI Cassette Super C60" album of 1980. James ("Chaymuss") Petrie had even gone as far as staging his own assassination in order to dissociate himself from the band and regain some semblance of credibility.

Through a combination of vanity, gullibility and crass stupidity, however, Coinneach managed to persuade the original line-up to get together one last time. This included the late Mr Petrie – who looked remarkably well under the circumstances.

As the band's own songs were all rubbish, Coinneach got them to mime to one of his own favourites - Deep Purple's "Fireball".

Trendy "singer" Gordon ("Le Bon") Macleod lobbied in favour of something more contemporary, but luckily it proved impossible to rustle up 5 pastel coloured suits, a yacht and a tasty blone in time.

*Dodgy Miming from The Guireans, July 1981*

~ An t-Iuchar/July 2010 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùi-Luain Mon	Ùi-Màirt Tue	Ùi-Ciadam Wed	Ùi-Ardaoin Thu	Ùi-h-Aoine Fri	Ùi-Sathairne Sat
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day : Public Holiday (Unites States of Airidhbhruaich)	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Heb Celt Fest Begins : Crusty Alert (Slightly Rank)	15 Heb Celt Fest Day 2 : Crusty Alert (Getting Riper)	16 Heb Celt Fest Day 3 : Crusty Alert (A' Ghiadh mhor!)	17 Heb Celt Fest Day 4 : Crusty Alert ( Tigh nan guts in human form)
18 Glasgow Fair people come off the boat. Lock everything up and dust off arguments re why the croft was left to you and not them. Expect Rain for 2 weeks.	19 Anniversary of 1st Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : Beware of Fire, Brimstone, Locusts, Boils & Stornados.	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Glasgow Fair people fleek off again. Check valuables and title deeds.

# An Lunasdal / August 2010



To celebrate 30 years since the invention of AGOFR in 1979, top AGOFR acts such as the Dun Ringles, the Guireans, Froagaidh Beag, Cyclefoot, Zing-Pop, Sheep Purple, Coinneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock and many more buried their seething differences and formed an AGOFR Supergroup in the hope of getting a big grant from the Bòrd Stiùradh to go on tour.

Unfortunately their performance of "Airidhbhuach" at Stornoway's prestigious Sounds In The Grounds festival became an overnight phenomenon on Ewetube, with over 3000 hits and a mention in the Press & Journal.

Due to this unfortunate success, the Bòrd Stiùradh were obliged to withdraw all funding and the tour folded after one date.

The AGOFR Supergroup aka "The Lechends of AGOFR 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour"  
Sounds in the Grounds, August 2009



- An Lùnasdal / August 2010 -						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Trials of Glasgow Fair Stragglers (Stormoway Sheriff Court).  Expect Weather to improve. Briefly	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Lewis Carnival : Force 9 Gales and torrential downpours guaranteed
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Murdo Maclean's Big Cailleachs' Hat Sale Again	<b>26</b> More Stormoway Orduighean Begin	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>			

# An Sultain / September 2010



*"Murchadh an I were having tea,  
When Murchadh said – 'it's a girlie's life for me'  
Shaved his eyebrows, plucked his legs,  
Changed his vest and he was a sheep  
He said 'huidh, cove – take a walk on the West Side'  
Ars esan 'huidh cove – gabh cuart air an Taobh Siar"  
"Waulk on the West Side"*

After their failed World Tour, the AGOFR Supergroup came out of retirement briefly, to support the excellent **Murderers of Love** in their secret debut performance at Stornoway's Woodland Centre on 12 September 2009

Here, chanter virtuosos Wattie Dun Ringle & Roddy Huggan Guirean are plagued by a dose of the Loose Reeds, which renders their attempted chazz improvisation at the end of "Walk on the West Side" completely silent.

The AGOFR Supergroup support the Murderers of Love at the Woodland Centre, September 2009

- An t-Sultain/September 2010 -						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
			<b>1</b> Guga hunting season begins (Ness)	<b>2</b> Sgarbh hunting season begins (Lochs)	<b>3</b> Turrrrrrnag hunting season begins (Point)	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Lochies begin boiling 1 <sup>st</sup> sgarbh of the season	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Guga Boat Comes In : Riot Gear and NBC Suits Required (Ness)	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Lochies check 1 <sup>st</sup> sgarbh of the season to see if it's ready and decide to give it another day or two	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Lochies stop boiling 1 <sup>st</sup> sgarbh of the season and eat it although it's still a bit al dente.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Fleekeen Springsteen's Birthday : Public Holiday (Thon MK II Escort in Perceval Square Car Park)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Notes:</b>	

# An Damhair / October 2010



The incorrectly spelt “Calan Bow Gets Run Over (1984)” was one of AGOFR’s defining albums. Or cassettes. Or, in fact, cassette, since there was only one copy of it.

Alasdair “Bod” Mackay’s iconic sleeve was clearly an influence on Ed “Big Daddy” Roth’s design for the Birthday Party’s slightly more successful “Junkyard”, which went on to come out two years earlier.

Containing top Guireans tracks such as “Walk on The West Side”, “The Sound of Shawbost”, “The Dukes of Habost”, “Love of Back” and Hi-NRG disco classic “Village Mucus for People People”, CBGRO is perhaps one of the 100 best AGOFR albums of the third week of July 1984.

Classic Steve for the Guireans' 1984 Cassette "Calan Bow Gets Run Over"



- An Dàmhair/ October 2010 -						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùi-Luan Mon	Ùi-Màirt Tue	Ùi-Ciadam Wed	Ùi-Àrdaoim Thu	Ùi-h-Aoine Fri	Ùi-Sathairne Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> October holidays start (probably). All children to be sent to the feannags to lift the buntàta. They're not off school to fleekeen well enjoy themselves, you know.	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Low Level Guy Fawkes Skirmishes Begin (Battery, Plasterfield, Parkend, Columbia Place, Cearns, Sandwick, Melbost)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Plasterfield Gang's Traditional "Raid of a Thousand Big Coves" on Sandwick's Tyre Stash (Plasterfield & Sandwick)	<b>15</b> Sandwick Gang's Traditional "Limp of a Half Dozen Wee Coves" to Casualty (Sandwick & Macaulay Road, carefully avoiding Plasterfield en route)	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Anniversary of Skynynrd's Plane Crash. Fleekeen heavy, man. National day of Mourning (All Outer Hebrides)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Sermons denouncing pagan evils of Halloween. (All churches except Martin's)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Halloween. None of that trick or treat nonsense or you'll get the back of my hand. And why do you need a fleekeen pumpkin when there's plenty snèaps in the Teedees' field?	<b>Notes:</b>					

# An t-Samhain / November 2010



In November 2010 the Guireans will be celebrating their 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, but once again they'll be offering their limited edition(\*) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary TShirt for sale. Mainly because they failed to sell it when it came out in 2004, or in any year since.

Here, portly Guireans Manager and Plook Records CEO Coinneach "Balallan Klein" Livingstone models the exclusive shirt, which comes in a super-comfort XXXL fit. It was originally just XL but now that Coinneach's worn it, it's stretched a bit.

Included for a small additional cost is Coinneach's de luxe "customisation kit" – a bottle of tippex and a marker pen so that you can update it yourself.

(\*) There's just the one. Tha sin pretty fleekien exclusive, nach eil?

Coinneach Models an unsold 2004 vintage GUIREANS' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-SHIRT

- An t-Samhain/November 2010 -						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
	<b>1</b> 4 Days Till Guy Fawkes : Martial Law to be Declared (Plasterfield)	<b>2</b> 3 Days Till GuyFawkes: War to be Declared (Plasterfield & Park End)	<b>3</b> 2 Days Till Guy Fawkes: The Battery's gelly to be lit by Columbia Place gang while the Battery Boys are having their tea.	<b>4</b> 1 Day Till Guy Fawkes: Columbia Place to be lit by the Battery Boys.	<b>5</b> Guy Fawkes' Day : Public Holiday (Battery, Plasterfield, Parkend, Columbia Place, Cearns, Sandwick, Melbost)	<b>6</b> Cessation of Guy Fawkes Hostilities (until next year)
<b>7</b> 363 Days Till Guy Fawkes : Plasterfield gang start collecting tyres.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> White Settlers migrate South for Winter. Beware of overloaded Range Rovers on ferry.
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Murdo Maclean's Big Cailleach Hat Sale Again Again.	<b>25</b> Stornoway Thanksgiving Services Begin (maybe): 31 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Guireans' "Pronounced Goo-thans" (possibly)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Final day for deciding you can't be bothered taking the peats home so you'll chust go for a bag at a time through the Winter (Laxdale)	<b>Notes:</b>			

# An Duhlachd / December 2010



The spectacular Xmas Lights at David Iain's are one of Sandwick's seasonal wonders, with goggle-eyed motorists from as far as Branahue and Plasterfield braving the chicanes and speed humps of North Street especially to see them.

Not shown here is the famous 9ft inflatable luminous snowman. It's traditional for him to be blown away every year by a Force 10 Southwesterly, and when the picture was taken he was probably stuck on a barbed wire fence down in the Steinish common grazing.

To the natives of Sandwick, his miraculous return every year heralds the coming of spring, or the chance to say "oh, for fleek's sake, will you look at that?" Or something.

Xmas Lights on David Iain's barn, as seen after a deoch or two

- An Dùbhlachd/December 2010 -						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Suas an Fheamainn Day – Children send to the Braighe and made to fill and carry home large sacks of seaweed to compost “for Rudolph”. Otherwise no presents...	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Winter solstice. Despite its astrological significance, expect hardly any weirdos from away because unlike the Summer it's too fleekkeen cold. (Callanish)	23	24	25 Xmas Day – For Heathens and Idolators only. A look at an orange and a sgeilp round the ear was all I got and it neffer did me any harm.
26 Boxing Day : Children are sent to Lower Sandwick to collect washed up Fishboxes, which will be used for keeping spuds in and never ever Returned To Lochinver	27 Sandwick Annual Monopoly Championships.	28	29	30	31 Oidche Challuinn (Hogmanay) : Fleek Highland Hospitality - Lock doors and turn lights off by 8:30 in case thon drungaire <insert name of neighbour / relative> comes round.	<b>Notes:</b>



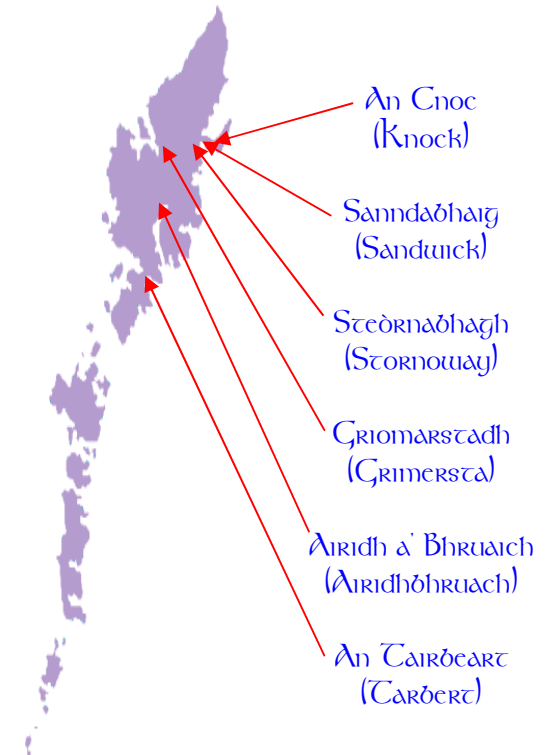
## ACOFER agus am Bòrd Stiùreadh.

**Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock (ACOFER):** An indigenous form of "music" unique to the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, and perhaps to the island of Lewis. ACOFER is characterised by its myopic and parochial lyrical subjects (sheep, peats, tractors, sgadan, getting the cuiream etc) and by its atrocious standards of performance and recording. It may be sung in Gaelic, Stoarnowaywegian (the patois of the island capital's street urchins) or in Beurla Taobh Mùigh a' Chaitle Grid, the pidgin dialect adopted by the natives of the interior when dealing with their betters.

ACOFER was first identified as a musical form around 1979, with seminal artistes such as Zing-Pop and The Cuireans appearing independently in town and country (well, Sandwick). Top ACOFER bands of today include the Òun Rìngles, Sheep Purple, Comneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock and Froghaidh Beag, as well as the still-surviving Cuireans.

The industry has struggled on through the 80s, 90s, and 00s in the face of general apathy and ignorance, both in the wider community and among its own practitioners. However, with the massive CueTube success of the ACOFER Supergroup's "Àiridhòhruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds this year, 2010 could well see ACOFER influences begin to seep into mainstream culture. There are rumours that Madonna is about to change her name to Madon\*id and abandon the Kàddalah for the Seceders. Iain "Froagy Beag" Mackinnon - with his well-known pop connections, reports that Br\*\*n Cn\* is steering U\* and C\*ld\*p\*y in an ACOFER direction, with future recordings to take place at Knock Studios and Dead Olac's garage in Sandwick. Sin\*p Ò\*gg\* Ò\*g has just bought himself an armour-plated gold 1955 Fordson Oexa and will be cutting his peats out the Grimshader road in 2010. O\*\*y O\*d\*\*ne was recently observed onstage biting the head off some nice ceann cropair, and G\*rls Al\*\*d - soon to be rebranded G\*rls Macleod - are packing in the singing and are all going to play chanters instead, which is bound to be an improvement.

**Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-ACOFER** exists to regulate the industry and make sure all this nonsense doesn't get out of hand. We take pride in ensuring that ACOFER "music" stays true to its roots by remaining poorly conceived and executed, meaningless to all but a few amadans on a rock in the Atlantic, and unlistenable even to those who make it. We are determined to promote links between ACOFER and other poor quality indigenous musical forms across the globe, and will spare no expense undertaking fact-finding missions for this purpose, provided they're to somewhere nice like the Bahamas or Marks & Sparks in Inverness.



[www.cuireans.com](http://www.cuireans.com), [www.myspace.com/dunringles](http://www.myspace.com/dunringles)