

BORD STIÙREADH NA h-ÀGOFR

Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ÀGOFR 2012

Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock 2012

Am Faoilleach / January 2012



January 2012 sees the 50th Birthday of His Majesty Field Marshall Dr Ken "Don't Call Me Coinneach" Livingstone, BA, CA, VC, DSO, Iron Cross with Oak Leaves, Blue Max and self-proclaimed Last King of Skigersta.

Portly megalomaniac Humvee-driving *Motorhead* fan Coinneach is the manager of AGOFR superstars The Guireans, the CEO of their label Plook Records and the owner of a series of highly dubious facial hairstyles dating from 1969 to the present.

Since the late 70s Coinneach's pioneering AGOFR business model, based on the mantra "No Spend, No Quality, No Customers, No Bothered", has led Plook Records and its artists to explore ever-expanding horizons of failure and abject ruppishness.

In the early years of AGOFR, Coinneach battled for supremacy of the industry against fellow accountant CJ Mitchell (87), the equally unscrupulous and sinister MD of Tape Records and manager of Zing-Pop and the Dun Ringles.

Nowadays, however, Coinneach and CJ are content to carve the AGOFR business up between them and exploit the artists instead. Indeed they're known to collaborate when opportunities for a quick buck arise, such as on the joint Plook/Tape "Coinneach and CJ's Accountants of Rock" EP rush released in 2003 to cash in on the demises of Robert Palmer, Johnny Cash and Barry White. And 2011's disastrous "50 Great Mòd Anthems" project (See October).

If you would like to commemorate Coinneach's half century then please leave your best wishes in small denomination used notes in a brown envelope in the 3rd wheelie bin from the left round the back of Engie's.

Hail to the Cheiving Bleigeard - Coinneach with some of the assets he "received" from the US Government recently after "advising" them on their debt problems

Àm Faoilleach / January 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1 Bliadhna Mhath Ur. No celebrating, though, seeing it's the Sabbath. Birth of the poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson (1900) Death of the poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson (2000)	2 Bòrd Stiùradh na h-AGOFR initiates "Bliadhna a' CHOVE", a year celebrating the centiduodecentennial of the birth of Stornoway poet Calum Ossian Valltos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson. (It was supposed to start yesterday but they didn't feel very well).	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Ronnie Van Zant's Birthday	16	17	18 1 st Anniversary of the Cheneral Synod of the AGOFR Congregation of the Church of Horslips (Continuing)	19 Brit Awards. Will the Guireans' "J&E's Democracy" sweep the boards?	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Guireans Manager Coinneach's 50 th Birthday. Cheques or Cash Gratefully Accepted. Well, accepted anyway
29	30	31	Notes:			

<http://www.wincalendar.com/2011-Word-Calendar.htm>

An Gearran / February 2012



2012 sees the 112th anniversary of justifiably neglected Stornoway poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer (C.O.V.E.) Macleod Nicolson. A major celebration of his life and work – originally planned for his birthday in 2000 but shelved due to his untimely demise – will finally go ahead this year, as Bòrd Stiùradh na h-AGOFR declare 2012 “Bliadhna a' Chove”.

C.O.V.E was born in 1/1/1900 and died on 1/1/2000 (the only known fatality of the Millennium Bug) after an eventful life as a scholar, soldier (First World War when he was 16), pilot (when he joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1917), stowaway on the Titanic, adventurer, Home Guard officer, WWII spy, church elder, weaver, fisherman, councillor, and 4-crown-drinking Stornoway worthy.

As a serious writer, C.O.V.E. had no time for “thon pope music” and in his later years was outraged by parallels between his poetry and the lyrics of AGOFR bands. However, his choice of parochial subject matter and the execrable quality of his writing had an undeniable influence on the industry, and Bòrd Stiùradh na h-AGOFR have always viewed him as a pioneer of the genre.

C.O.V.E's 100th birthday celebrations were rather dampened by the tragic computer explosion in which he met his end. The exact cause remains unconfirmed, but some say the poet was recklessly attempting to spellcheck “Airidhbhruch” in Word 3.0 at the very instant the millennium ticked over, against all expert advice.

This year the Bòrd need to have some high profile events to justify their continued existence, and they can't be bothered thinking up anything new - so they've dusted off the unused “Bliadhna a' Chove” plans from 2000. The Bòrd will be sponsoring a number of high-profile projects and events throughout the year to celebrate this forgotten poetic chenius, probably.

This may include commissioning the Dun Ringles to record a concept album based on a cycle of C.O.V.E's poems, a bit like thon thing the W*t*rb*ys did with WB Y****s, but even more ruppish.

Keep an eye on the Gazette for other big C.O.V.E events as 2012 progresses.

An early Gazette Photo of C.O.V.E. Macleod Nicolson Writing Poems in his Loomshed, c1932

~ An Gearran / FEBRUARY 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
			1	2 Groundhog Day (USA) The Guireans announce that their long awaited album "J&E's Democracy" is nearly ready. Again. (Sandwick)	3	4
5	6 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Guireans might get around to releasing "Queen Save The Cod", which was meant to be out for her 50 th .	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 10 th Anniversary of the death of Waylon Chennings. Day of Mourning (The Dukes of Habost's house, Habost)	14 St Valentine's Day.	15 Cailleachs' Hat Sale (Murdo Maclean's)	16 Start of the Orduighean (Stornoway)	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Last day for Rubhachs to skin their peats.	25 Last day for Rubhachs to cut their peats
26	27 Last day for Rubhachs to take their peats home.	28	29	Notes:		

Am Màrt / March 2012



If you're one of them NIMBY white settler bleigeards that objects to everything by default, then you'd better flip forward to April straight away. This month's picture will already be making your blood boil and a strongly worded letter to the Gazette will be forming in the small part of your brain that's not permanently devoted to worrying about when the wegs Down South are going to catch up with you for whatever it was you did down there, before you moved up here.

Any amadan with half an ounce of sense knows that wind turbines are great. Not only will they keep Arnish and Tawse's Quarry busy. Not only is there documented evidence of their effect in reversing global warming (like this picture, which shows how they've brought permafrost back to the Arnish Moor on a scale not seen since the Ice Age). But more importantly they're also mentioned by the Guireans in their expletive-laden 2003 masterpiece "Pairclife":

*And in the evening I go to microwave my Safeway Best Boil in the Bag Sgarbh/
And find that there's a considerable lack of electricity/
So I stick up a windmill at the top of the croft, which causes the Pairc Protection Committee no end of consternation/
Mrs Ponsonby-Smythe, a native local resident of Pairc (Lane, WC1 that is)/
Says in her best Maw accent - "Eow, we Lochies strongly object to such blights on our landscape, young fellow me cove"/
Ars mise "No Engleesh, my lady, and you can stick thon windmill *** @*^& your *&%\$£ ***"/
Ars ise "Eow falbh 's **** ya *** bleigeard" - wot abaht that, then?*

Oh yus. You can always rely on AGOFR lyricists to provide a thoughtful and balanced commentary on the issues of the day.

The Grimshader Road is safe from Global Warming, thanks to these Windmills

~ Àm MÀRƧ / MÀrch 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	ƆÌ-Luain MOn	ƆÌ-MÀIRƧ Tue	ƆÌ-Ciadaìn Wed	ƆÌ-Àrdaoin Thu	ƆÌ-h-Àoine Fri	ƆÌ-Sachuirne Sat
				1 Tolsta Orduighean begin – beware of broomsticks, wicker men and sacrificing.	2	3
4	5	6 Lardi Gras – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFR festival (Dunky's House)	7	8 Scalpay Orduighean begin - Expect the poshest wine and wafers on the communion circuit.	9	10
11	12	13 End of 2011/12 Poaching Season (River Creed)	14 Start of 2012/13 Poaching Season (River Creed)	15 Kinloch Orduighean begin – beware of celebratory gunfire (again).	16	17 40th Anniversary of Horslips going professional (it says here). Public Holiday (Knock and Grimersta)
18	19	20	21	22 Bac Orduighean begin - Public appearance by Take Vat(isker) in the Fr** Ch*rch Car Park, 3pm, miming to a tape of their hit "Bac for G*d".	23	24
25 British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward. One less hour in bed, for fleeek's sake.	26	27	28	29	30 Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man.	31

An Giblean / April 2012



In April 2012 it'll be 43 years since thon Pink Floyd recorded the live sets for "Ummagumma". On Storm Thorgerson's iconic album sleeve, beloved of rock anoraks everywhere, the Floyd posed proudly with several truckloads of top quality state-of-the-art guitars, amps, keyboards, drums, recording equipment and a fleekeen big gong.

Also in 2012, it'll be 30 years since Zing-Pop played the Scout Hall. In an attempt to emulate their prog rock heroes, Zing-Pop sat for this photo, displaying the feeble collection of cheap and broken ruppish that passed for their "gear" and "studio".

That said, Zing-Pop's cheap acoustic guitars, ukelele, stylophone and casio VL-tone keyboard were as top-of-the-range as it got in the AGOFR business. They were certainly a lot better than the Guireans' equipment – a pathetic assemblage of reedless chanters, stringless £4 kids' guitars and peat buckets.

The Guireans seethed with envy and tried to conceal their jealousy by accusing Zing-Pop of reactionary musical tendencies. "Zing-Pop? Ha! It's like punk neffer happened" said Alasdair "Bod" Mackay at the time.

CJ, Wattie & Stumpy Display Zing Pop's Massive Tour Inventory (1982)

~ An Cìoblean/ April 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Ardaoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. Expect pranks and japes gu leor in the sermon today.	2	3	4	5	6	7 No Housework Day (USA and Ge'rdie Golidy's)
8 Easter (Western Christianity)	9	10	11	12 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch Continuing)	13	14 Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)
15 Easter (Eastern Christianity)	16	17 Easter (Fr*e Pr*sbyteri*n)	18	19	20	21
22 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch)	23 Feast of St George – Patron Saint of Realising It Was All A Big Mistake After That Winter We Just Had But Not Being Able To Afford to Go Back Down South.	24 (Late) Start of Local Government Election Campaign. Delayed in Western Isles by number of C*mhairle execs who took St George's Day off.	25 Easter (APC)	26	27	28
29 Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)	30	Notes:				

An Céitean / May 2012



May could well be when Stornoway's top rock 'n' roll festival Sounds In The Grounds 2012 is on.... Fleek knows, since this calendar is written way in advance and we couldn't be bothered asking anybody that might know.

SITG is always much better than than other festival that happens in the Castle Grounds in July (the one that's always full of strange bearded people from away). It's cheaper as well.

SITG remains a quality event despite the introduction of AGOFR acts onto the bill, beginning with the infamous "Lechends of AGOFR" debacle in 2009. The AGOFR industry (mostly) stayed away in 2010 to let the dust settle, but in 2011, an assortment of random AGOFR bleigeards calling themselves "The Dun Ringles" had the cheek to headline in the acoustic tent.

Knowing that the audience might be out for blood after the 2009 fiasco, the coves craftily decided to wear good padded shirts from the Crofters instead of boiler suits, so that nobody would realise that they were almost exactly the same line-up playing almost exactly the same set as the Lechends in 2009. And they think they got away with it.

Will AGOFR be allowed back at SITG 2012? Perhaps a Zing-Pop reunion? Who knows? Who cares?

Sounds in the Grounds 2011 and Niall Iain (left) Insults The, ahem, "Dun Ringles" - L-R: Jason, Frogaigh Beag, Roddy Duggan Cuirean, Wattie Dun Ringle and The Boy Who Didn't Know What He Was Letting Himself In For (again).

~ An Céitean/May 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Mairt Tue	Òl-Ciadin Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
		1 May Day. 93 rd Congress of the People's Soviet (Ionad Stoodie,, Garrabost)	2	3 Local Government Elections (Scotland)	4 AGOFR Candidates demand recounts (Sandwick, Knock, Grimersta, Matheson Road)	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Norway National Day. Public Holiday (Port of Ness, Skigersta, Adabroc, Eorpoie, Sula Sgeir)	18	19 Birthday of Gordon "Mod" Macleod from the Guireans. The customary scooter rally and pitched battle with the rockers will take place at the Braighe car park and toilets.
20	21	22 Morrisey's Birthday : (Day of Vague Dissatisfaction and Yearning - Innes the Post's House)	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 John F Kennedy's Birthday. His twin brother was born 4 days later, due to a long waiting list at the Lewis Hospital (See June 2)	30	31 NY2SY – Today (or thereabout) Niall Iain rows out of New York (or thereabouts) heading for Stornoway (or thereabouts) Hope he remembers the spare oar.	Notes:	

An t-Ogmhios / June 2012



June marks the anniversary of the death of pointy-eared Prague gloom merchant Franz Kafka, beloved of raincoat-wearing indie poseurs in the early 80s and popular with the trendier members of the AGOFR movement, (They neffer actually read his books but carried them around conspicuously in a vain attempt to make blones think they were cool).

Kafka is inextricably associated with his home city, but few today are aware of his associations with Stornoway. In fact, he was haunted all his life by a crucial interlude he spent here in 1911. The landscape that truly shaped Kafka's *weltenschaung* and whose bleakness suffused every aspect of his *oeuvre* was not that of Staromeste Namesti, Wenceslas Square or the Charles Bridge, but the Star Inn, Perceval Square and Charlie Morrison's.

To this day, Kafka's spectre looms over Inaclete Road, where he lived for some time in a disused fish offal boiler.

Kafka had come to Stornoway in his capacity as an insurance investigator. A Tolsta Chaolais fish curer and Free Church precentor, John Angus "Psalmisa" Macgregor, had woken up one morning to find himself transformed into a giant kipper, and had made a claim on his policy with Kafka's firm.

Kafka developed chronic lung problems after being exposed to the fumes of a guga with which Macgregor attempted to bribe him.

Forced to remain on the island for his convalescence over the Winter of 1911, the previously happy-go-lucky Kafka was influenced by the darkness, bad weather and Free Presbyterianism. He burnt the draft of his first novel "*My Lovely Book of Sunny Stories*" and began to develop the dark and brooding works for which he is now famous, such as "*Mehhagmorphism*" and "*The (Sheepdog) Trial*".

The full story of Franz Kafka's life in Stornoway can be found on the **Made up History of Stornoway** website at <http://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2010/10/05/franz-kafka-in-stornoway/>

Inaclete Road - Home of Franz Kafka (Allegedly)

~ Àn τ-Ogmhios/June 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadain Wed	Òi-Ardain Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
					1	2 Calum Kennedy's birthday, 4 days after his twin (See 29 May). Public Holiday (South Lochs and Iain Shaw's house)
3 Anniversary of Franz Kafka's Death. National Day of Gloom (Inaclete Road)	4	5	6 Another Hat Sale (Murdo Maclean's)	7 More Orduighean (Stornoway)	8	9
10 It's the Sabbath. And Black Sabbath play their 1 st geeg after reforming (England, somewhere) Olympic Torch arrives in Lewis (but keeps it quiet because it's Sunday),	11 Black Sabbath de-form (probably) Olympic Torch extinguished in mid-Minch while heading back to mainland, due to the <i>Muirn**g</i> being smitten by divine wrath and sinking.	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Winter conditions in the Minch abate. Freight ferry <i>M**rneag's</i> 1 st regular Sailing of the Year (Stornoway/Ullapool).	22	23 Winter conditions in the Minch resume. Freight ferry <i>M**rneag's</i> last regular Sailing of the Year (Ullapool/Lochboisdale/ Dunvegan/The Shiants/...
24 ...Kinlochbervie/Reykjavik/ Torshavn/...	25 ...Rockall/ Murmansk/ Tristan da Cunha/...	26 ...Azores/ Reykjavik (again)/ Skigersta/ Portnaguran/ Stornoway)	27	28	29	30

An Iuchar / July 2012



2012 isn't just the year of Guireans Manager Coinneach's 50th birthday, or the end of the world. Even more significantly it's the 20th Anniversary of inconsistently spelt progressive AGOFR dinosaurs The Dun Ringles.

Their 1st album, the dreaded "Vom Your Sproggans" was recorded in December 1992. But here, we've put it in July because there's fleek all Christmassy about it and we didn't have anything else to put in this month.

"Vom" was recorded in December 1992 in the newly opened Knock Studios (upstairs in Wattie's spare room) using the band's newly acquired 4 track portastudio. The use of such "proper" equipment immediately left them open to accusations of non-AGOFRness, and the Bòrd Stiùreadh threatened to withdraw their Certification of Ruppishness forthwith. But after much painful research, the band managed to recreate the distinctive white noise hiss between all the tracks that has come to distinguish AGOFR songs the world over, and the Bòrd relented.

Using many half written songs from the long lost "Funky Peatstack" concept album as a starting point, the album soon took a life of its own. The band quickly rattled off 11 songs of varying quality (varying between crap and abysmal.)

A limited edition of 20 tapes were produced and released to the largely indifferent public which soon resulted in the band's first Double Ollack tape (2 x sales of 10 units). The cover featured the band's distinctive logo and a strange piece of artwork by Jason which he has consistently failed to explain.

The Dun Ringles and their 1st Album "Vom Your Sproggans" are 20 this year.

~ Àn τ-luchar/July 2012~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Ardaoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Heb Celt Festival Begins. Wonder if Horslips will play it this year?	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 2 nd Anniversary of 1 st Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.	20 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.+	21
22 Don Henley's Birthday. Public Holiday (Eyeballs' House)	23	24	25	26	27 The Olympics starts in London. Unless it's moved to Parkend as we predicted last year.	28
29	30	31	Notes:			

An Lunasdal / August 2012



Guga, The Olympics & “Live at the Cross Inn”

Despite intense lobbying of the IOC by Spòrs Nis, Guga hunting will not be included as a recognised sport in the 2012 London Olympics this month. Instead, as usual, a select band of Niseachs will go to Sula Sgeir alone to continue the centuries-old tradition of harvesting a load of noxious fishy-tasting flat rubber chicken dinosaur things.

Opinion on the Guga Hunt is divided in the AGOFR world. Many of the artistes think it's great; others – especially those of Lochie descent – consider the eating of young gannet chicks to be barbarous, and will only eat civilised modren cuisine such as brochan air sgarbh.

This all brings to mind the Guireans' 1988 opus “Live At The Cross Inn”, which is both a fake live album (It wasn't recorded live and it wasn't recorded at the Cross Inn) and a fake concept album (There were only a couple of songs on it that were actually about Niseachs or gugas, but the thematic consistency was artificially boosted after the recording by shouting “Guga!” randomly over the top of all the songs).

“Highlights” include S*z*nne V*ga's “Guga” and U2's “I Still Haven't Found What A Guga's For”).

“Live” also caused controversy at the offices of Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR; when the Bòrd saw that the album had been recorded on a fancy “Chrome” cassette, the Guireans were accused of having musical aspirations above their station, and almost had their AGOFR licence revoked.

Guireans manager Coinneach saved the day by sending a bribe of a dozen gugas to Bòrd Headquarters. To save money, the “gugas” in question were actually made of old wellies, Copydex glue and bits of a very dead seal washed up on the shore down in Lower Sandwich - all salted for a couple of days before delivery. Nobody noticed the difference.

“Live at the Cross Inn” – Neither Live nor at the Cross Inn

~ An LùnasdaU/ August 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathuirne Sat
			1	2	3	4 Stornoway Carnival (probably). Sleet, thunder lightning, a Force 9 gale and one of them Stornados anticipated.
5	6	7	8 Rocky Sh*rpe from R*cky Sharpe & The Replays' Birthday (maybe). Big Session at John Allan's House. Bring your own Brylcreem	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Phil Lynott's Birthday. Stornoway bye-laws declaring "Whiskey in the Jar" compulsory for all bands playing inside the cattle grid passed on this day in 1974.	21	22	23	24	25 Elvis Costello's birthday. Expect a souvenir reissue of his 1976 hit "Mast an Achadh Mhor" and a big night in the Lewis downstairs with Crazy Lemon. Oh, no – wrong Costello....
26	27	28	29 Anniversary of (the real) O'sis splitting up. The band's notoriously combative singer forms Beady Ey*b*lls, who later change their name to Uncle Eth'n.	30	31 V*n Morrison's Birthday. The usual Guga with candles in it is dispatched by his granny in Ness. You'd be a grumpy bleigeard too if you got one of these every year.	Notes:

An Sultain / September 2012



See Something You Like, Macs? : AGOFR and the Hi-NRG Scene

From its earliest beginnings, AGOFR has always tried to get funky and cash in on the dance music and clubbing trends of the moment.

In the early 80s Guireans' manager Coinneach "Giorgio Murdoder" Livingstone saw immense commercial possibilities in dance music, particularly in the Hi-NRG style that was then popular in nightclubs frequented primarily by extravagantly mustachioed gentlemen. Donna Summer, Village People, Sylvester and Divine were all raking it in, so Coinneach instructed the Guireans to make a record along similar lines and earn some pink pounds.

The Guireans were not familiar with the genre (they thought Divine was a minister and amyl nitrate was something you spread on the croft before you planted the potatoes). But after seeing "Can't Stop The Music" on the telly they reckoned they'd picked out the key elements of the style, and went on to release "You Think You're A Maw" (1984):

*You think you're a maw but you're only a ceard
You think you're a maw but you're only a tart
You think you're a maw but you're chust a turneep
You weren't maw enough to shear all my sheep.*

Sadly, back in 84, the record was not a hit with its target audience. Or anybody else. But Coinneach has recently identified new opportunities for "Maw", based on a detailed market analysis taking in Plook Records' corporate organisation, the geographical dispersal of its senior sales directorate and cultural norms in the affected territories. It went something like this: "Thon Templeton blone lives in San Francisco, doesn't she? Fleek's sake, thon place is full of coves with even more extravagant moustaches than mine. She should be able to flog a few million copies over there, surely."

DJ/producers Ossian Stormwatch & Calvin Hearach are said to be working on a 2012 Remix, and Lora Lee Templeton, Plook Records VP Marketing (Americas and Asia Pacific, including Ireland), now has some rather ambitious sales targets to meet in the Bay Area.

Discarded Drug Paraphernalia from Sandwick's Debauched Early 1980s Club Scene

~ Àn τ-Sultain/September 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ò1-Luain Mon	Ò1-Maire Tue	Ò1-Ciadaoin Wed	Ò1-Àrdaoin Thu	Ò1-h-Aoine Fri	Ò1-Sathuirne Sat
						1 Boxcar Willie's Birthday. Public Holiday (Leurbost)
2 NY2SY – Niall Iain due to row into Stornoway, completing his 3-month solo crossing from New York. But seeing it's a Sunday he'll have to turn back.	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Scooby Doo's Birthday. National Holiday (Dead Olac Guirean JR's House)	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 David Coverdale's Birthday. A' ghiadh mhor.	22 The Boss's Birthday.
23	24	25 Thon Kippur. Traditional day for SY fish curers to atone for paying low prices, using poor quality sgadan and spraying them with toxic chemical dyes (Newton)	26	27	28	29
30	Notes:					

An Òamhair / October 2012



October is the month when An Comunn Gaidhealach holds the National Mòd, the annual festival of tartan, whisky and occasional Gaelic singing.

The Mòd is not to be confused with “Mod”, the similarly named English youth cult of the 1960s. They are completely different and have nothing in common apart from the dressing up and the fighting.

Nevertheless, mix-ups do occur, not least during the 2011 National Mòd in Stornoway, when Guireans manager Coinneach “Don Arduig” Livingstone attempted to cash in on the runaway success of the event by rush-releasing a commemorative AGOFR CD to sell to the tourists before they left on the Saturday ferry.

Coinneach envisaged an album featuring rousing choruses of “Suas Leis a' Ghaidhig”, “Canan nan Gaidheal” and the like, so he rounded up the top AGOFR acts of the day and told them to go and record “50 Great Mòd Anthems” ASAP.

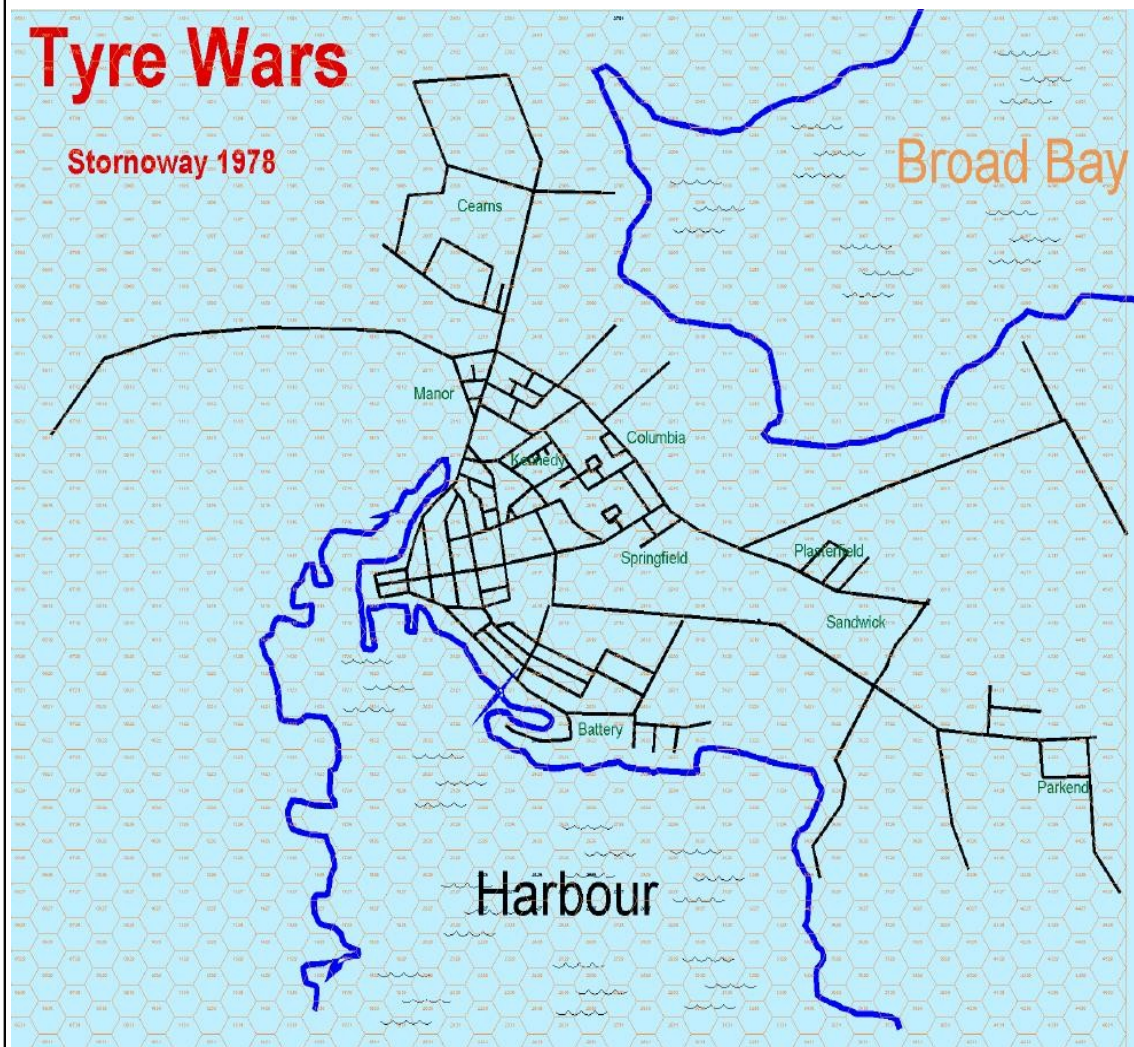
Unfortunately his instructions were misinterpreted, and the CD that resulted contained nothing but terrible AGOFR renditions of songs by the Small Faces (“Coll or Nothing”, “Sha La La La Sheep”, “Laxay Sunday Afternoon”), The Who (“My Sustentation”, “The Ceards are Alright”), the Lamb-brettas (“Peat Boys In The Chet Age”), Dobie Gray (“The (Star) Inn Crowd”), Martha & the Vandellas’ (“Cal Mack”). And of course (Good) Booker T and the FPs’ (“Green Ordhuigheans”).

Historical Note - (Good) Booker T and the FPs' reign as the top organ-driven instrumental combo of the early 60s was short-lived. This may have been due to their implacable religious objections to the use of musical instruments in general and organs in particular.

A Dispute over Adjudication in the Lovat and Tullibardine at the 1964 Brighton Mòd

~ Àn Dàmhair/October 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadin Wed	Ìl-Ardain Thu	Ìl-h-Aoine Fri	Ìl-Sathairne Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Do you think the fleekeen spuds are going to lift themselves, you lazy bleigeard? You were chust as bad this time last year.	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Anniversary of Skynynrd's Plane Crash – National day of Mourning (Outer Hebrides) Philomena Begley's Birthday. National Day of Celebration (Top corner of Plasterfield)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Clocks go back. Extra hour in church.	29	30	31 Halloween. Tell you something - If the wee brats come round here with a Pumpkin they're getting fleek all. Is a turnip not good enough for kids nowadays?.	Notes:		

An t-Samhain / November 2012



Tyre Wars – The Game

November is the season when rival gangs of yobs from the shanty towns around Stornoway traditionally engage in violent street warfare, in an effort to accumulate the biggest stash of tyres for their Guy Fawkes night “gelly”.

Nowadays the wee bleigeards are glued to their computers, though. They won't actually go outside to make trouble and kick the fleek out of each other like the older generation did; they can only do stuff like that in a multi-player virtual online gaming environment..

In the late 2000s, AGOFR label Tape Records decided to go multimedia and cash in on this trend by flogging an online “Tyre Wars” game. Each player would control a gang from one of the ghettos – Manor, Springfield, Columbia Place, Cearnas, Kennedy Terrace, The Battery, Plasterfield, Sandwich or Parkend. The gang's turf would have to be defended and raids conducted on the territory of rival gangs – the aim being to accumulate 100 tyres before anyone else.

The game flopped for several reasons. It progressed at the rate of 1 turn a week, which was a bit slow; the rules were immensely complicated and inherently biased in favour of Columbia Place because of the developer's past gang connections; Jason went in the huff because Melbost wasn't on the map so he had to be The Battery. Then finally, on Nov 4th, some big coves from Plasterfield with a van came round, gave all the players a sgelp, and fleeked off with all their virtual tyres.

Tyre Wars - the (Toume-centric) Map of the Game.

~ Àn τ-Samhain/November 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadin Wed	Òi-Ardain Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
				1 4 Days Till Guy Fawkes : Avoid Plasterfield - Roadblocks and Identity Checks In Force	2 3 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Parkend to Raid Plasterfield Tyre Stash (10pm)	3 2 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Avoid Parkend. Massive Counterattack by Plasterfield likely.
4 1 Day Till Guy Fawkes: Avoid Plasterfield. Massive Counter-counter-attack by Parkend likely.	5 Guy Fawkes: Parkend and Plasterfield burn themselves to the ground in a final attempt to outdo each other's gellies. - same as last year.	6 Plasterfield and Parkend start collecting tyres for 2013	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 2 nd Anniversary of Fr*e Ch*rch allowing hymns and musical instruments. Cl*ff R*chard to play a special prayer meeting in the Seminary. Latha Dorch ga rìribh.	20	21	22 124 rd Anniversary of the Pairc Deer Raid. Beware of Celebratory Gunfire (Balallan)	23 No special anniversary, but Beware of Gunfire (Balallan) anyway. Same goes for any other day.	24
25 Comhairle's Winter 2012/13 Ice Gritting Contract Starts	26	27 Comhairle's Winter 2012/13 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money	28	29	30 St Andrew's Day. Nobody will notice, anywhere.	Notes:

An Duòhlachd / December 2012



Everyone likes a good ghost story at Xmas, and in the Guireans' home town of Sandwich – renowned elsewhere in the island as a bit of an “àite dorch” - tales abound of gruesome figures and restless zombies roaming the village in the dead of winter. And ghosts as well.

Some of these stories are quite clearly nonsense; For example, somebody once claimed that the Ghost of Christmas Present had been seen near Ge*rdie G*lidy's house. Or maybe it was The Ghost of A Christmas Present. Not fleekeen likely either way.

But other accounts are harder to dismiss. For example, many climbers making the difficult Winter ascent of North Street from the Plasterfield end have reported encounters with the horrifying Abominable Snowman of Sandwich, (pictured left, waving to the camera).

In the dark months of December and January, this monstrous glowing white apparition terrorises unwary travellers, driving them to seek shelter in the nearest native hut, and a fortifying nioggan to steady their nerves.

Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ur Dhuibh Uile... but be careful out there.

Nightmare on North Street - The Abominable Snowman of Sandwich

~ An Òdhlachd/December 2012 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadin Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 1980 - Jimmy Petrie stages his own assassination to get out of the Guireans. Unfortunately nobody noticed due to events elsewhere.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 1 st Anniversary of the death of Kim Jong Il, Dear Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. National day of Mourning (Point)	18	19	20	21 End of the World, according to the ancient Mayan calendar (Plasterfield only)	22
23	24	25 Xmas Day	26 Suas an Fheamainn Day. Off down the Braighe to collect your year's supply of rotten seaweed in the middle of a Force 10 gale.	27 Sandwick Annual Monopoly Championship. To find out the results in advance, or to arrange a rigged bet, call Guireans Manager Coinneach on 0898 898999	28	29
30	31 Oidche Challuinn (Hogmanay)	Notes:				

AGOFR Agus am Bòrd Stiùreadh.

Avante Gaelic Obscurist Fork Rock (AGOFR): An indigenous form of "music" unique to the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, and perhaps to the island of Lewis. AGOFR 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 capital's street urchins) or in Beurla Taobh Muigh a' Chattle Grid, the pidgin dialect adopted by the natives of the interior when dealing with their urban betters.

AGOFR was first identified as a musical form around 1979, with seminal artistes such as Zing-Pop and The Guireans appearing independently in town and country. While Zing-Pop, Cyclefoot and most of the other groups of AGOFR's early period imploded in the early 80s, the Guireans are still on the go today when they can be bothered. More recent AGOFR acts include the Dun Ringles, Sheep Purple, Coinneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock, and Frogaith Beag..

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 EuroTube success of the AGOFR Supergroup's "Àiridhòhruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, the "Dun Ringles" SITC 2011 appearance, and Frogaith Beag's attempts to sneak AGOFR content into the Stornoway Primary Xmas Concert - the year ~~2010~~ ~~2011~~ 2012 could well see AGOFR influences begin to seep into mainstream culture. There are (continuing) rumours that Lady Gaga is about to change her name to Lady Guga and schedule a major tour of Sulasgeir.. T'ny T'npah has just bought himself a £50,000 gold CARTIER Tarasgeir and will be cutting his peats out the Grimshader road in ~~2010~~ ~~2011~~ 2012. The reunited Black Sabbath will finally be able to realise their long-held ambition of playing St'rin'u'y Fr** Ch'rch now that the ban on musical instruments in worship has been lifted. And the St'ne R'ses probably won't be supporting Zing-Pop in the Acoustic Tent at Sounds in the Grounds 2012.

Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR exists to regulate the industry and make sure all this nonsense doesn't get out of hand. We take pride in ensuring that the AGOFR '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 AGOFR 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 Las Vegas. Or anywhere on the mainland with a Marks & Spencers and cheap petrol.

www.guireans.com, www.myspace.com/dunringles

Front cover – the back of the Gut Factory and the Gasworks as seen from the AGOFR Tourist Trail viewpoint at Engie's on a dull day.