

Bòrd Stiùradh na h-ÀGOFR

Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ÀGOFR 2013

Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock 2013

Am Faoilleach / January 2013



2012 2013 sees the 112th 113th 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 2013 “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 “Airidhbhuach” in Word 3.0 at the very instant the millennium ticked over, against all expert advice.

In 2012 2013 the Bòrd need to have some high profile events to justify their continued existence, and they couldn'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 genius, 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***ts, but even more ruppish. (They were supposed to release it in 2012 but there's no sgeul of it yet).

Keep an eye on the Gazette for other big C.O.V.E events as 2012 2013 progresses.

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

Àm Faoilleach / January 2013 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadaoin Wed	Ìl-Àrdaoin Thu	Ìl-h-Àoine Fri	Ìl-Sathairne Sat
		<p>1 Bliadhna Mhath Ur.</p> <p>Birth of the poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson (1900)</p> <p>Death of the poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson (2000)</p>	<p>2 1 year late, Bord Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR initiates "Bliadhna a' CHOVE", a year celebrating the 113th anniversary of the birth of Stornoway poet Calum Ossian Valltos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson.</p>	3	<p>4 2002 – The Guireans write and record "Alasdair Mackay is God – Sorry, Bod" in an afternoon, and still have time to go home for their tea and go back up town for a pint.</p>	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	<p>15 Ronnie Van Zant's Birthday</p>	16	17	18	19
20	<p>21 First wind turbine in P*ntland R**d Wind Farm commissioned.</p>	22	23	24	<p>25 Willie Burns night – Address the R*b*rt Plant , toast the J*mmy P*ge and recite "Stairway to Heaven"</p>	26
28	<p>28 Guireans Manager Coinneach's 51st Birthday. Cheques or Cash Gratefully Accepted. Well, accepted anyway</p>	29	30	31	Notes:	

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

An Gearran / February 2013



Cathie Ghall's Shop

It's February, and with Valentine's Day approaching, where better to buy your true love a quarter bottle of Trawler Rum and 10 Woodbines than Cathie Ghall's? Sadly you can't any more, because Inaclete Road's top off-licence ceased trading a couple of years ago.

In its heyday, Cathie Ghall's was a beacon of joy in the dark streets of the town's industrial district, flogging booze and fags to the gasping workers of the mills, kippering sheds, coal yard, gasworks, slaughterhouse and gut factory.

But with the demise of the area's traditional industries, and the influx of poncy arts and media businesses that replaced them, Cathie's began to struggle. If they had just pandered a bit more - changed their sign from "Licensed Grocer" to "Artisan Vinotheque", ditched the Sweetheart Stout and 4-Crown, and started flogging Bollinger, Chateauneuf du Pape and premium absinthe - they might still be with us today. (Come to think of it, with the Rangers club next door, the Chateauneuf might have been a bit hard to shift. Like the single bottle of Blue Nun that occupied the same spot on the shelves throughout the entire 70s, 80s and 90s).

Cathie's also provided inspiration to generations of under-drinking-age AGOFR musicians, who would select the oldest-looking one from among their number and send them in to buy the carry-out, while everyone else hid at a safe distance in case the wegs appeared. If the mission was successful they'd knock back their 2 cans of Taunton Special Vat in the alley behind the Seaforth, be sick and then write a song about it.

The vital part that Cathie Ghall's played in Stoarnowaywegian youth culture was celebrated by the Guireans in their Ramones- inspired "Cathie Ghall's Shop" (1987)

*Hee ho ro – C*inneach G*bha (x4)*

Headin' down the Battery / Tryin' to get some cider

I've only got 50p / Cathaidh Ghall's Shop

Goin to the Braighe Disco / Drinkin it alfresco

Can't get served in Presto / Cathie Ghall's Shop... etc

Cathie Ghall's Shop & the Rangers Club as Seen in a State of Intoxication from Inaclete Road

~ Àn Gearran / FEBRUARY 2013 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadam Wed	Ìl-Àrdainn Thu	Ìl-h-Aoine Fri	Ìl-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	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 St Valentine's Day. Make sure you've got a Hen supper, a packet of Woodbines & a bottle of 4 Crown.on uyce.	15	16
17	18 St*rn*way Tr*st let slip amount of dosh due to come in from P*ntl*nd R*ad Wind Farm.	19 North Lochs Community submit Planning Application for Wind Farm	20 Achmore Community Council submit Planning Application for Wind Farm	21 Barvas Community Council submit Etc etc	22	23
24	25	26	27 Last day for Rubhachs to take their peats home.	28	Notes:	

Am Màrt / March 2013



Won't You Take Me to Fanky Town?

Here are 2 things that AGOFR musicians always get mixed up:

(A) **Fank** : A heavily groove-oriented style of African-American music that combines soul, jazz and R&B.

and

(B) **Funk** : A place (and event) where township communally rounds up its sheep for dipping, shearing or dosing .

The confusion is not surprising - there are very close parallels between the two. Both are enterprises that depend on getting a bunch of virtually uncontrollable, egotistical and mob-minded creatures to work as a tightly synchronised unit.

James Brown, for example, ran his show just like an experienced Common Grazings Clerk. His band could be thought of as a mixture of know-it-all crofters who thought all their neighbours were idiots, highly strung sheepdogs looking for something to bite, hormone-crazed rams ready to stick the head into anything that moved, and psychotic ewes desperate for any excuse to stampede and trample everyone.

JB had to keep them all in line with fines, force of personality and a collection of guttural commands that he'd drilled them relentlessly to follow : "On the one!" "Take it to the Bridge!", "Huh!", "Gyut down!" "Come bye!" "Laidh sios!" and "Daam ya, get back here ya &*^in' dog!"

Also, "Funk" derives from a word in the West African Kikongo language meaning a bad smell, which is something you usually find at a fank too.

And funk and fanks both involve horns.

From the Guireans' "Fanky Town" to the Dun Ringles' "Funky Peatstack" to the Guireans' (again) "Jazz Mucus for Fank People", the funk and the fank are essential elements of the AGOFR groove thang.

North Street fank on a busy Saturday morning. (Just after some amadan left the gate open, the sheep flecked off and all the people and dogs ran away after them).

~ Àm MÀRTE/MARCH 2013 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-MÀRTE Tue	Òl-Ciadam Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sachurne Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Lardi Gras – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFR festival (Dunky's House)	7 Scalpay Orduighean begin - Expect the poshest wine and wafers on the communion circuit.	8 70th Anniversary of the first time B*g*y got barred from Macs Imperial. Also on that date Macs Imperial broke the world record for the most nips of Trawler Rum sold to one individual.	9 70th Anniversary of the first time B*g*y sneaked into Macs Imperial disguised as Sn**ie
10 50th Anniversary of B*g*y breaking into Macs Imperial for the first time because it was the Sabbath and he'd forgotten where he'd stashed the carry out from the night before	11	12 End of 2012/13aching Season (River Creed)	13 Start of 2013/14 Poaching Season (River Creed)	14 Kinloch Orduighean begin – beware of celebratory gunfire (again).	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 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".	22	23
24 British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward. One less hour in bed, for fleeek's sake.	25 Achmore Wind Turbine due to be sawn down under cover of darkness. Possibly by North Lochs. Or maybe Barvas.	26	27	28	29	30 Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man. Agree vigorously with everything J*e Ell**t says about him if you want to keep all your teeth until the 31st.
31	Notes:					

An Giblean / April 2013



Toilet on the Sea – AGOFR & The Minch

Crossing the Minch is an unpleasant but unavoidable experience for most Outer Hebrideans. But on the plus side the rough weather, grim ferries, seasickness, homesickness, rotten food, delays and interminable boredom – to say nothing of the horrors of being stranded in Ullapool or Inverness - have provided endless inspiration to AGOFR's top songwriters.

In fact a distinct subgenre of AGOFR has developed, based entirely around Minch-crossing themes. Marked by nauseous swelling rhythms, guitars that sound like that noise the Isle of Lewis makes when it hits a trough in the waves, and lyrics that dwell microscopically on the details of spewing over the side of the boat, this style of music is known as Ferry Metal. Ferry Metal should not, of course, be confused with other AGOFR subgenres such as Herring Metal, Dradhars Metal, Cac Metal, or Tweed Metal.

The most Minch-obsessed AGOFR band is probably the Dun Ringles, who've got nearly as many songs and concept albums about ferries as they have about the Castle Grounds.

However, the Guireans' "Toilet on the Sea" (1979) was probably the first AGOFR song to address these themes: *"I went on to a ship – It was the Ullapool Ferry. I went into the bar – I drank too much sherry – For a toilet – I used the sea (x4).*

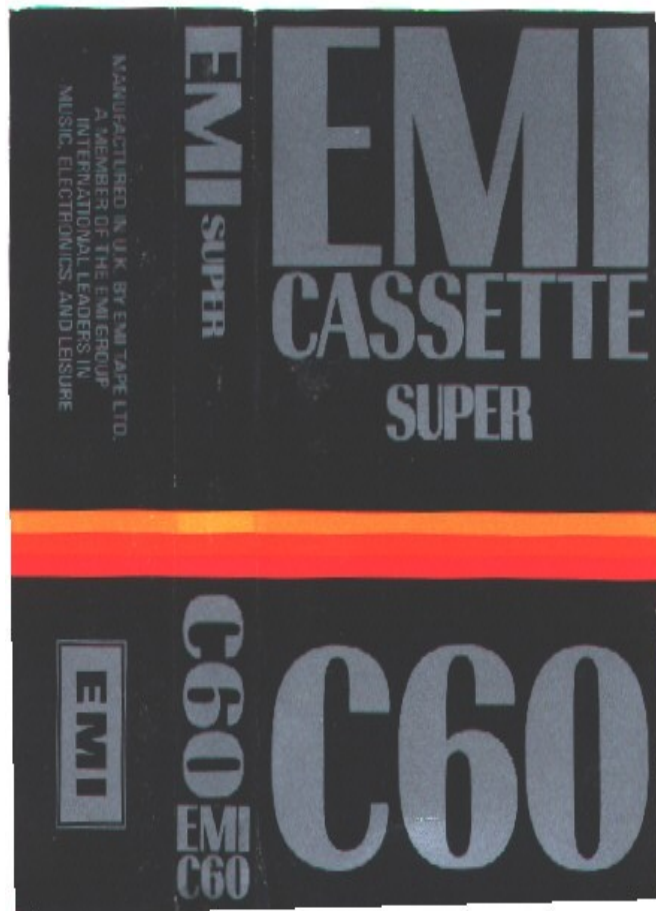
It's said that when notorious punk rock hardmen Hugh Cornwell and Jean-Jacques Burnel of The Stranglers heard about this travesty of their masterpiece, they set out for Stornoway to give the Guireans a fleekkeen battering.

Luckily they turned back at Ullapool in terror when confronted with the prospect of actually having to get aboard the Suilven.

Crossing the Minch (Clockwise from top left): The Muirneag (which mostly doesn't), The Condemned Leodhasach's last sight of Stornoway, Innes Morrison's Dirty Mainland. The Suilven in calmer seas following its retirement to New Zealand.

~ An Giblean/ April 2013 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Mairt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. Expect pranks and japes gu leor in the sermon today.	1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. Expect pranks and japes gu leor in the sermon today.	2	3	4	5	6 No Housework Day (USA and Ge'rdie Golidy's)
7 Easter (Western Christianity)	8 Easter (Western Christianity)	9	10	11	12 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch Continuing)	13 Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)
14 Easter (Eastern Christianity)	15 Easter (Eastern Christianity)	16	17 Easter (Fr*e Pr*sbyteri*n)	18	19	20
21 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch)	22 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch)	23 Feast of St George – Patron Saint of getting a big job in the Comhairle well beyond your real competency	24	25 Easter (APC)	26	27
28 Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)	29	30	Notes:			

An Céitean / May 2013



The Guireans - EMI Super C60 and the Assassination of Jimmy Petrie

In 1980 the Guireans, released their difficult 2nd album on EMI. Not on EMI records as such, but on an old EMI cassette which had previously been used - and re-used, and re-re-used - for taping bits of “Top of the Pops” off the telly.

An unlistenable mix of the band's own ruppish punctuated with bleed-through of Boney M, Baccarat and, er, J*immy S*v*le, “EMI Super C60” saw the Guireans failing to meet even the abysmally low standards of their 1979 debut “Pronounced Goo-thans”. Shocked and embarrassed by the steaming heap of musical todhar they'd created, everybody in the band fled. Only Dead Olac Guirean Jr – remedial bass player and Matchbox fan – was idiotic enough to stay and carry the can.

Guitarist/manager Coinneach “Mr 150%” Livingstone disappeared with the money he'd collected from everybody as “administration fees” for fulfilling his promise to “get the Guireans on EMI”.

John Allan changed his name and enjoyed some success as the frontman of greasy doo-wop merchants R*cky Sh*rpe & the R*plays.

Frontman Gordon Macleod, who had entertained hopes of moody NME cover shots and instant blonde magnetism like his heroes Sylvian, McCullough, Cope and (ahem) Le Bon, retired from music forever (until 1981).

But of all the band, drum botcher Jimmy “Chames” Petrie took the most radical approach to salvaging his rock 'n' roll credibility.

In December 1980, the world was stunned to hear that Petrie had been assassinated by a marag-wielding JD Williams obsessive outside his exclusive North Street apartment block. Tributes poured in from all corners of the globe (or at least Plasterfield), and even the Gazette apologised for saying Petrie was ruppish when he was alive.

But Petrie, of course, hadn't been assassinated at all – he was hiding in Benbecula, watching gleefully as he became the “cool one” while the rest of the band were increasingly reviled.

“Jimmy Petrie's a fleekeen cult!”, said Guireans Manager Coinneach. “How did he do that”?.

Find out more at: http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/EMI_super_c60_1980.htm

The Guireans' Difficult 2nd Album : EMI Cassette Super C60 (1980)

~ An Céitean/ May 2013 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
			1 May Day. 94 th Congress of the People's Soviet (Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost)	2	3	4
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 2013



Aye Aye Caramba - The Spanish Discovery of Goat Island

If you were ever forced to queue for hours at the Guardia Civil checkpoint on the causeway at Newton - or delayed on the Suilven while it was stopped and searched by Generalissimo Francisco Franco's patrol boats off Arnish in the 70s - you'll be aware that the Spanish government feels very strongly about maintaining its historic claim to Goat Island.

The basis of the Spanish claim dates back to 1588, when the man o' war *Las Maracas Negras* limped into Stornoway harbour, commanded by El Gran Admiral Carlos Menendez de Barli. On the run from the Armada debacle and seasick after crossing from Ullapool, De Barli hadn't a clue where he was. Looking through his telescope towards South Beach, he spotted the Stornoway Balti House and concluded that he'd discovered a short cut to India. Then he saw the Island Star and decided he must be in China. But when he spotted the Star Inn he knew he couldn't be in any civilized country. From the barbarous demeanour of the savages around it he concluded that this must be an undiscovered cannibal island – probably in the Pacific somewhere – and thus ripe for Spanish conquest.

Stornoway itself looked like it might be tough to crack, but De Barli's eye was drawn to Goat Island. Easily defensible and - best of all from a Spanish perspective – it had a prawn factory.

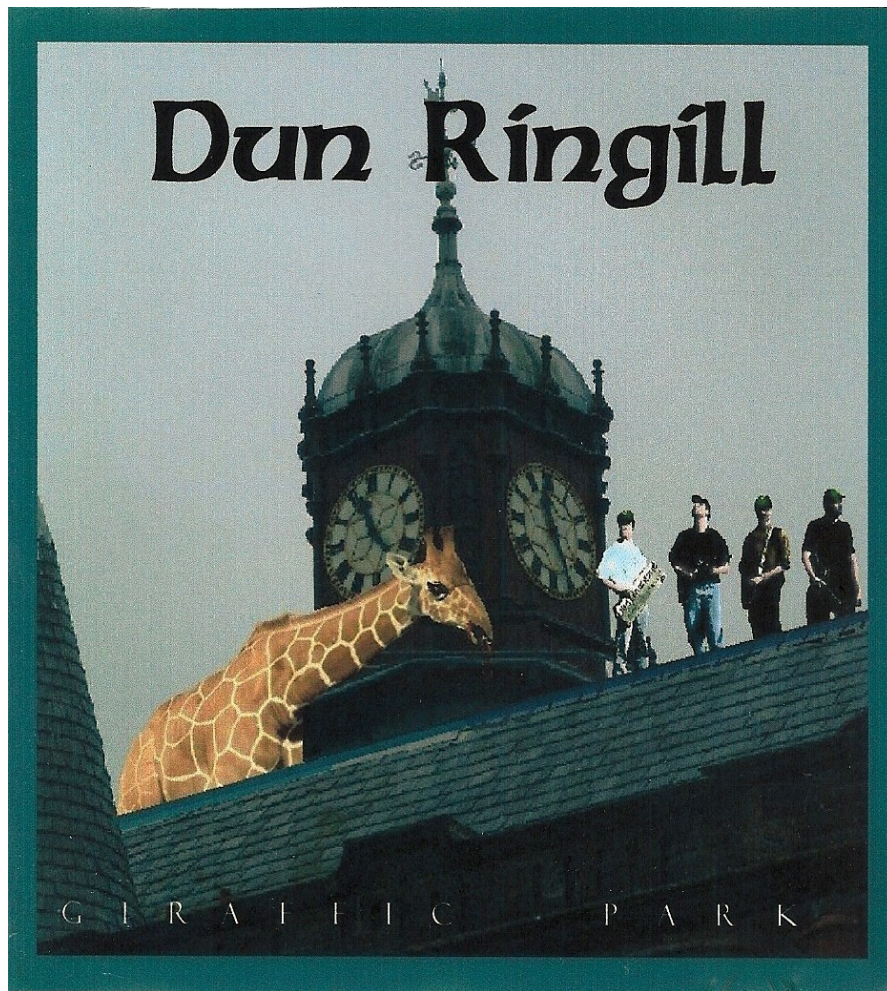
De Barli put ashore in Newton and inquired among the savages until he found their chieftain, sitting regally in a hut with a large totem pole or "lamp post" outside. "What's that? Sell you Goat Island? But it's not mine... err.. I mean, certainly - no bother cove" said the chief. And thus the island was sold to Spain for a few coloured glass beads. (Plus a large sum in cash and gold, deposited in a discreet numbered Hearach bank account).

The legality of the deal has been in question ever since. To find out more, go to: <http://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2008/12/23/why-is-goat-island-reputed-to-be-spanish-territory/>

Isla de las Caobras, Claimed by the Spanish to this Day

~ Æn τ-Ogmhios/June 2013 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Mairt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathuirne Sat
						1
3 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
10	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	17	18	19	20 Winter conditions in the Minch resume. Freight ferry M**neag's last regular Sailing of the Year (Ullapool/ Lochboisdale/ Dunvegan/The Shiants/...	21 Winter conditions in the Minch resume. Freight ferry M**neag's last regular Sailing of the Year (Ullapool/ Lochboisdale/ Dunvegan/The Shiants/..	22 ...Kinlochbervie/Reykjavik/ Torshavn/...
24 ...Rockall/ Murmansk/ Tristan da Cunha/...	24 ...Azores/ Reykjavik (again)/ Skigersta/ Portnaguran/ Stornoway)	25	26	27	28	29
30	Notes:					

An Iuchar / July 2013



Giraffic Park – The Dun Ringles Go Pop?

Fleekeen heng. Can it really be 10 years since the Dun Ringles (or Dun Ringill) released “Giraffic Park”? Yus it can. “Giraffic Park” was the 6th Dun Ringles (or Dun Ringill) album and the first to be recorded on a computer instead of a cassette Portastudio.

The band's natural inclination would have been to use all this fancy new technology to get even more prog, but their manager Grassy had other ideas. “Do a G*n*sis!” he demanded, instructing the band to abandon their prog rock roots in favour of overproduced radio-friendly anthems that would conquer American FM radio, get them on MTV and make lots of money for him.

He didn't specify which of the band had to be Ph*I C*llins, but nevertheless he had his way. There are none of the usual 20-minute epics here - the longest song on “Giraffic Park” is only 4:27.

Even more astonishingly, the obligatory prog rock “concept” is entirely absent from “Giraffic Park”. The lyrical subject matter varies from historic rail disasters in Uig (Glen Valtos by Train) to the iniquities of anti-Maw discrimination (Beyond the Cattle Grid) to monster Giraffes on top of the Town Hall, to the Guireans (Dead, Roddy & Roddy) and beyond.

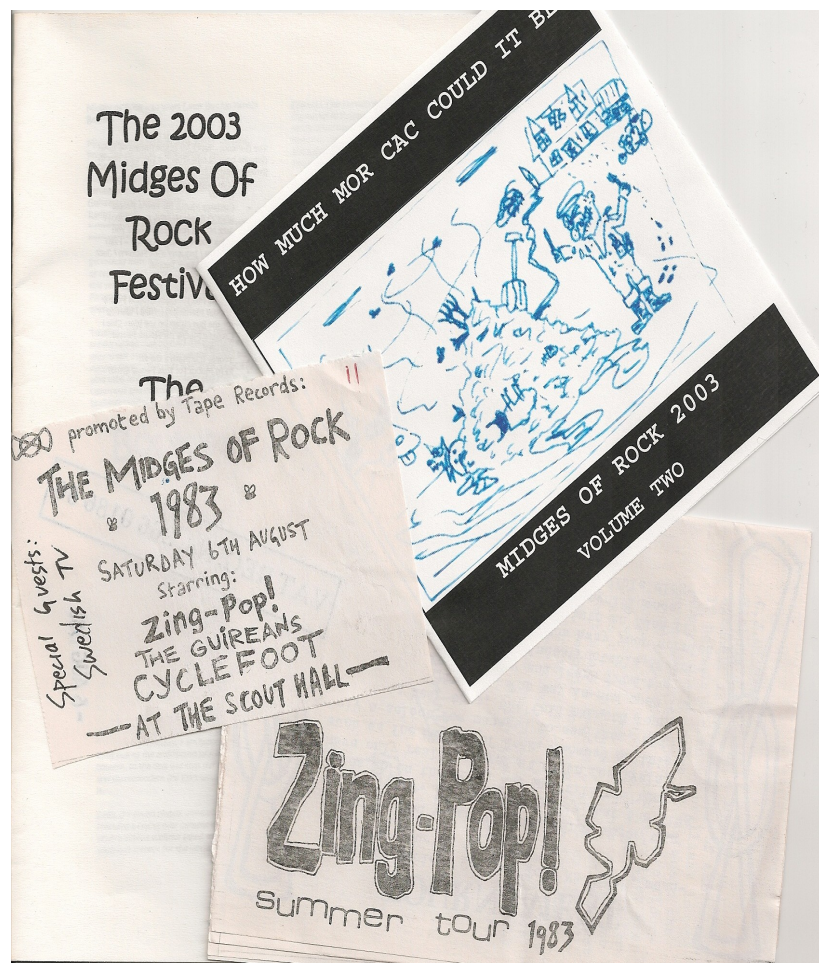
Sadly for Grassy, it soon became clear that you can only sell out if somebody wants to buy. Despite an unprecedented saturation marketing campaign (placing copies in Soundtracks (RIP) and the Lanntair), sales remained at typical AGOFR levels of chust about fleek all.

Concluding that there was no point in all this pop ruppish, the Dun Ringles went back to long-winded instrumental self-indulgence and spurious half-***ed concepts on their subsequent albums. And it wasn't long before Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (81) deposed the unfortunate Grassy in a ruthless Tape Records boardroom coup.

The Dun Ringles - Giraffic Park.

~ An t-Iuchar/July 2013~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùr-Luain Mon	Ùr-Màirt Tue	Ùr-Ciadaoin Wed	Ùr-Ardaoin Thu	Ùr-h-Aoine Fri	Ùr-Sathairne Sat
	1	2	3	4 50th Anniversary of B*gey getting slaughtered in Macs Imperial to celebrate the Yanks not having to pay any more tax to the Scalpay Common Grazings Committee.	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 Don Henley's Birthday. Public Holiday (Eyeballs' House)	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 2013



32 Years of The Midgets of Rock

AGOFR's elusive Midgets of Rock festival is something that doesn't happen very often - 1981, 82, 83 and 2003 so far.

The original MOR 81 festival was a Townie-only affair featuring Zing-Pop, Black Stan and The Props, but August 2013 marks the 30th anniversary of MOR 1983, the landmark festival that brought the Townie and Maw strands of AGOFR together for the first time.

2013 also marks 10 years since the most recent Midgets of Rock festival, the legendary MOR 2003, where the number of bands (8) was considerably more than the number of 'musicians' involved (5), which was in turn a lot more than the number of people in the audience (none, most of the time).

Since its inception, MOR has been dogged by crowd trouble (there isn't one), drink and drug problems (there's fleek all of either) and financial mismanagement (there aren't any finances, but CJ and Coinneach always contrive to mismanage them anyway).

MOR festivals in the early years were held in the Scout Hall, in the naive hope that an audience might turn up. More recently the trend has been to stage them in Wattie's house and not tell anybody until afterwards, specifically so that nobody **could** turn up even if they wanted to. Fleek's sake, it would be embarrassing if people you didn't know saw you playing this stuff.

Given the significance of the anniversary, will there be a Midgets Of Rock Festival in 2013? Well, maybe – but if there is, you'll either be playing at it or you won't find out about it until afterwards. Or both.

Here's some MOR links:

http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/documents/Dun_Ringle_Documents/scout.htm#mor

http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/midgets_of_rock_1983.htm

http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/MOR2003/MOR2003.htm

Midgets of Rock Memorabilia from 1983

~ An Lùnasda/ August 2013 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Ì-Ìuain Mon	Ì-Ìairt Tue	Ì-Ìiadin Wed	Ì-Ìardaoin Thu	Ì-Ì-Ìoine Fri	Ì-Ìathuirne Sat
				1	2	3 Stornoway Carnival (probably). Sleet, thunder lightning a Force 9 gale and one of them Stornados anticipated.
4	5	6 30 th Anniversary of Midges of Rock 1983.	7	8 Rocky Sh*rppe from R*cky Sharpe & The Replays' Birthday (maybe). Big Session at John Allan's House.	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.... And it's Sunday.	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.

An Sultain / September 2013



The Man Who Fell to Urgha? D*v*d B*wie's Secret 70s Holidays

In the early 70s, it was said that chimerical glam rock alien D*v*d B*wie would occasionally tire of the workaday treadmill of cosmic megastar debauchery in London, LA or Berlin, and hit the road to the Isles for a wee break.

Some say his visits inspired The Guireans' "Iain Stardust & the Peatcutters from Borve". In it, "Iain Stardust" becomes a superstar in peat-cutting circles, but fame goes to his head and eventually - having been caught cutting peats on a Sunday - he crashes down from the dizzy heights of tairsgearstardom and becomes a tinker in Harris.

But was "Iain Stardust" really "D*v*d B*wie on his Holidays"? Perhaps it's a coincidence, but out on the moor in these days there was often seen a mysterious peely-wally looking cove in a spangly boiler suit and 8-inch platform wellies who'd appear from nowhere and help people out with their peats.

Not only did he play a mean tairsgear and cut the peats faster than anybody else, he also had a glittery space tractor which could get a full load home at several times the speed of light.

Being immensely rich and having no need of money, the stranger would take no payment other than a wee livener when the job was done – normally a can of Piper Export and a nip of Stewart's Cream of the Barley. His only stipulation was that it had always to be in his favourite Stornoway pub, an insalubrious "traditional" watering hole on South Beach.

"Fleek's sake, cove, are you wuise? his clients would say. Thon place is a fleekeen duive. Do you no fancy going along to the Neptune for a change?"

"No", the stranger would reply. "I'm a Star Man"

The Mysterious "Iain Stardust" Helps the Guireans out the peats in 1973.

But who was this Thin White Plook? O*vid B*wie OR chust thon Rod "ACTORRR" MORISON ?

~ An t-Sultain / September 2013 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1 Boxcar Willie's Birthday. Public Holiday (Leurbost)	2	3 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.	4	5	6 10 th Anniversary of Midge's of Rock 2003	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	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 Dámhair / October 2013

Not AGOFR – Swedish TV & Les Mauvaises Jeunes



2013 could be the year that sees the re-appearance of a long-lost movie with AGOFR connections.

Early 80s Newvalley art-rockers Swedish TV were a proper band, with proper songs and no AGOFR leanings whatsoever. In 1983 they decided to make a film to showcase their material, most notably their French-language masterpiece “Nous Sommes Merde”, inspired (possibly, a bit) by the Stranglers’ “La Folie”.

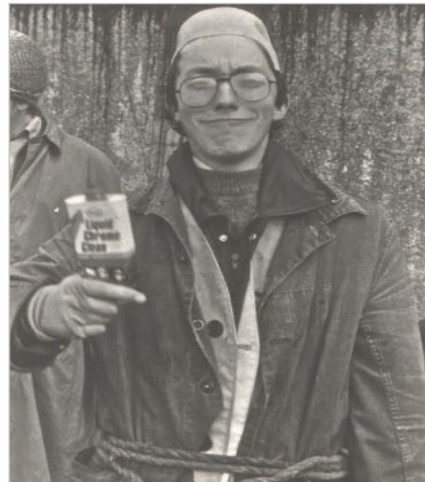
The only person they knew with a camera was Guireans manager Ken “Cecil B de Kenny Sticky’s Mill” Livingstone, and so they were forced to ask him to direct.

Thus was born “Les Mauvaises Jeunes”, Stornoway’s first (and last) French arthouse movie. In it, Swedish TV play disaffected French youth who flee their suffocating bourgeois homes to become bohemian anarchist philosopher-poets. The band undergo existential crises, starvation, pursuit by lunatics and attempted murder, punctuated with meaningless discourses on art and philosophy, before performing their hit song. The Guireans make a brief appearance as modern jazz buskers “Les Arts Farts”, but immediately get shot by “La Madwoman” who is on the run from Le Craigue du Nain.

The film was screened at the Lewis Film Society to general incomprehension, sent off to a couple of competitions where it failed miserably to make an impression, and then disappeared.

...But in 2012, the Super-8 cine reel turned up at the back of a cupboard in Swedish TV guitarist Alex John “Claude” Kennedy’s Seaforth Road residence, covered with 28 years’ worth of mould.

At time of writing Coinneach’s got the Domestos and the wire brush ready to go – but it remains to be seen whether “Les Mauvaises Jeunes” can be restored to a viewable condition. If it can, it’ll probably have a couple of Oscars, a few BAFTAs and a Palme d’Or by now.



Enigmatic Newvalley art rockers Swedish TV film “Les Mauvaises Jeunes” with top “French” auteur Coinneach “Alan Ranais” Livingstone

~ Àn Dàmhair/October 2013 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ì-Ìuan Mon	Ì-Ìairc Tue	Ì-Ìiadin Wed	Ì-Ìrdain Thu	Ì-h-Ìoine Fri	Ì-Sathuirne 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 Clocks go back. Extra hour in church.	28	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 2013



Cove Fawkes & the Stornoway Parliament

At this time of year when tyre wars, delinquent bangers and out-of-control Plasterfield gellies rage around us, people often wonder at the enthusiasm with which November the 5th is celebrated in the Stornoway area. After all, the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 took place in faraway London. What's it got to do with us up here?

The answer is of course, fleek all. The conflagrations that take place in Stornoway each year commemorate a completely different set of events that happened a year earlier, and much closer to home.

In 1604, disillusioned Goathill aristocrat Cove Fawkes decided to blow up the Stornoway Parliament.

His chief aim was to rid the town of its upstart new foreign ruler. Seumas VIth, the Stewart King of Marybank, had inherited the throne of Stornoway a year before. Seumas (now the 1st of Stornoway) had brought in a tight-knit clique of nobles from beyond the cattle grid and appointed them to all the top chobs in town. A keen follower of radical Point religious reformer John Knock, Seumas was also determined to convert the whole town from wimpy backsliding Free Churchism to proper hard-line Free Presbyterianism.

None of this went down well with the old Townie establishment and so, encouraged by the Spanish who saw it as a way to press their claims to Goat Island (see June), Cove Fawkes and his co-conspirators got a load of old herring barrels and concocted a plot to stuff them with gunpowder and set them off in the cellars under Smith's Shoe Shop when the King next opened the town's Parliament.

What happened next is described in a completely made up article on the subchect by Stornoway's most fleekken ruppish historians, which you can find at:

<http://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2012/11/09/cove-fawkes-and-the-fifth-of-november/>

A 17th-century engraving shows Cove Fawkes & his fellow plotters attempting to blow up the Stornoway Parliament (© 1604 Ye Stornoway Gazette)

~ An t-Samhain/November 2013 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
					1 4 Days Till Guy Fawkes : The Battery declares War on Columbia Place. But the're too far apart for anyone to bother.	2 3 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Plasterfield and Parkend declare war but decide they'll have it in Sandwick to avoid damage at home.
3 2 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Parkend begins air strikes on East Street, acting against alleged "Plasterfield mercenaries" in the area.	4 1 Day Till Guy Fawkes: Plasterfield forces cross the North Street border under the pretext of "liberating" tyres that have been "oppressed" by the Sandwick government.	5 Guy Fawkes: Parkend and Plasterfield have a big fight at Nan Rob's corner. While they're occupied, Sandwick nick all their tyres and have a record 800-tyre gelly. East St common grazings burnt to a crisp.	6 Tyre collecting for 2014 begins.	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 3 rd 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 riribh.	20	21	22 125 th 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 2013/14 Ice Gritting Contract Starts	26	27 Comhairle's Winter 2013/14 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money	28	29	30 St Andrew's Day. Nobody will notice, anywhere.

An Oubhlachd / December 2013



J*e Str*mmer – The AGOFR Connection

On 22 December 2013 it'll be 11 years since the death of Clash frontman J*e Str*mmer, and on 28 December 2013 it'll be 11 years since the stars of AGOFR attempted to cash in on it by forming supergroup Bod Strummer & The Dun Guireaneros and recording a tribute EP at Knock Studios.

To ensure they didn't alienate the local market they tacked on a version of "Freechurch" and made the EP a tribute to L*n*rd Sk*n*rd too. (It had only been 25 years since the plane crash, after all, so some people still might not have heard).

Produced in absentia by Alasdair "Bod" Mackay and Roddy Huggan, the all-star lineup included Wattie, Jason and Robin from the Dun Ringles, and Dead Olac Jr and Roddy "Actorr" Morrison from the Guireans.

There wasn't a lot of love for (or knowledge of) Strummer's material in the room that day. The Dun Ringles covers – on principle - never listened to anything except serious Prog Rock recorded between 1969 and 1974. Dead "The Ted" Olac knew the Clash mainly as "them punks that did a sh*te cover of "Brand New Cadillac"", and didn't rate their effort against Vince Taylor & His Playboys' 1959 version. And Rod the Actorrr only liked Dick Gaughan and AC/DC (though never both at the same time).

What's more, Knock Studios in 2002 had no broadband. And thus no youtube – so the coves couldn't even get a quick blast of the songs to remind themselves what they were supposed to sound like.

This becomes pretty obvious when you hear the results - "White Marag", "Rock the Ceards-baah" and "Should I Stay or Coinneach Gobha".

Fittingly it was later discovered that Mrs Dead Olac Guirean Jr was very distantly related to the Clash frontman, who despite being an upper-class English public school cove himself, had humbler ancestors from the same small gene pool in Raasay.

Fleekeen heng!



Should I Stay or Coinneach Gógha - The final (above) and rejected (below) covers for AGOFR's J*e Str*mmer Tribute EP

~ An Dùbhlachd / December 2013 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Mairt Tue	Òi-Ciadin Wed	Òi-Ardain Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-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 2 nd 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 E
22	23	24	25 Xmas Day. What do you mean that wasn't the kind of apple you wanted, ya ungrateful wee bleigeard? Less of your wailing or you'll get a clip round the ear.	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:			

ÀGOFR Agus am Bòrd Stiùreadh.

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

ÀGOFR was first identified as a musical form around 1979, with seminal artistes such as Zing-Dop and The Cuireans appearing independently in town and country. While Zing-Dop, Cyclefoot and most of the other groups of ÀGOFR's early period imploded in the early 80s, the Cuireans are still on the go today when they can be bothered. More recent ÀGOFR acts include the Dùn Rìngles, Sheep Purple, Comneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock, and Frogaìdh 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 ÀGOFR Supergroup's "Àiridhòhruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, the "Dùn Rìngles" SITC 2011 appearance, and Frogaìdh Beag's attempts to sneak ÀGOFR content into the Stornoway Primary Xmas Concert - the year ~~2010~~ ~~2011~~ ~~2012~~-2013 could well see ÀGOFR influences begin to seep into mainstream culture. There are (continuing) rumours that Adele is about to change her name to A. Dell and schedule a major tour of Ness and the West Side with fellow Brits winner Ed Siarach. Flamboyant Rapper Frank Ossian has just bought himself a £50,000 gold Cartier Carasgeir and will be cutting his peats out the Grimshader road in ~~2010~~ ~~2011~~ ~~2012~~-2013. The reunited Black Sabbath will finally be able to realise their long-held ambition of playing St*rn*uy Fr** Ch*rch now that the ban on musical instruments in worship has been lifted. And the R*uling St*nes probably won't be supporting Zing-Dop in the Acoustic Tent at Sounds in the Grounds 2013.

Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-ÀGOFR exists to regulate the industry and make sure all this nonsense doesn't get out of hand. We take pride in ensuring that the ÀGOFR '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 ÀGOFR 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.cuireans.com, www.myspace.com/dunringles

Front cover – Old cars and other ruppish in the East Street common grazings, as seen from the ÀGOFR Tourist Trail viewpoint on Sandwick Hill on an uncharacteristically nice day. North Street's grazings are a lot tidier, opvously