

Bòrd Stiùradh na h-ÀGOFR

Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ÀGOFR 2016

Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock 2016

Am Faoilleach / January 2016



2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 sees the 112th 113th 114th 115th 116th 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 Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR declare 2012-2013 2014- 2015 2016 “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, WWI soldier, pilot, stowaway on the Titanic, adventurer, Home Guard officer, WWII spy, church elder in 7 different Presbyterian denominations, fomenter of ecclesiastical schisms, weaver, fisherman, poacher, gamekeeper, 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 Stiùreadh 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 2014 2015 2016 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.

The Dun Ringles had intended to record a concept album based on a cycle of C.O.V.E.'s poems, (a bit like an even more ruppish version of thon thing the W*t*r*b*y's did with WB Y****s), but they've since lost interest and can't be bothered finishing it. Nevertheless, the Bòrd hopes to release it in 2016 anyway, as a Deluxe Box Set featuring unfinished and unstarted rarities, gaps, music with no words, words with no music and bonus silences. There's no money for this at the moment but the Bòrd hopes that C.O.V.E.'s devotees will rally round and contribute up front, in a process known as Crowdfunding.

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

Àm Faoilleach / January 2016 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
					1 Bliadhna Mhath Ur.	2
3	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.	5	6 D*vid Iain turns off the 2015 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	7 D*vid Iain formally turns on the 2016 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Ronnie Van Zant's Birthday	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Willie Burns night – inhabitants of Newton toast J*hn H*nry B*nham with Jack Daniels and perform the Address to the Ford Mustang.	26	27	28 Guireans Manager Coinneach's 54th Birthday. (His 123 rd for tax purposes).	29	30
31						

An Gearran / February 2016



30 Years of “Hey Hey We’re Gordon Macleod’s Guireans

It was 30 years ago today(ish) that the Guireans recorded perhaps their most underrated album, which is in itself quite an achievement.

“Hey Hey We’re Gordon Macleod’s Guireans” was the Guireans at their most inconsistent, with a lot of real dross and one or two er... slightly less dross numbers.

“Hey Hey..” marked the debut appearance in the Guireans line-up of deathly pale Bowie obsessive Roddy (“The Thin White Plook”) Morrison, with his battery of serious muso technology... a portastudio and a drum machine, no less. This resulted in a couple of tracks (“Wah! Mucus for Heng People” and “REM Mucus for Ram people (S*ndy M*thes*n)”) of almost passable recording quality.

This was a first for the Guireans and very nearly led to accusations of selling out. Only the fact that nobody had ever heard any Guireans songs (still) prevented a schism as momentous as that which occurred when Bob Dylan was sold out by Judas for weaving with a motor on his loom at the Newton Folk Festival in Manchester Free Church Hall, or something.

Morrison, of course, went on to become famous Actorrr Rod Morison, star of TV’s “Katie Morag”, “The Muppet Show” and “Thon Incontinence Stairlift PPI Mis-selling Advert That’s Only On Channel 5 In The Afternoons”. Like fellow thespians Keanu Reeves, Russell Crowe and John McEnroe, Rod likes to make a little music when he’s “resting”, which means he’s permanently out on the road whether it’s as himself, with the Open Day Rotation, or in the occasionally resurrected Kroftwerk.

“Hey Hey...” is also the only Guireans album to feature Plasterfield axe lechend James “Kyle” Kyle, who plays guitar almost competently on “Led Mucus for Zeppelin People” and the Neil Young tribute “You Wear Donny Murchaidhs” Kyle’s performance was deemed to be far too good, and he was immediately thrown out of the band for not being enough of a butcher. Even although that was what he did or a living.

For the full story on this classic AGOFR album, go to:

http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/hey_hey_were_gordon_macleods_guireans_1986.htm

“Hey Hey We’re Gordon Macleod’s Guireans” - Possibly the least effort applied to an AGOFR album sleeve, ever, and that’s fleeked well saying something.

~ An Gearran / FEBRUARY 2016 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadam Wed	Òl-Àrdoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine 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
7	8	9	10 Harris Tweed found in Harris	11	12	13
14 St Valentine's Day. Don't miss yesterday's sale on Ewe Rolls and Pedigree Tup Mix at the Crofters'. If you did, you're too fleekkeen late now.	15	16	17 Hat Sale in Murdo Maclean's (if it's still there)	18 Stornoway Orduighean begin.	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Last day for Rubhachs to take their peats home.	26	27
28						

Am Màrt / March 2016



“Field of the Plasterer” for Fleek’s Sake – Townie Gaelic and the Plasterfield Sign

Once upon a time, not so long ago, there was a place called “*Buaile a’ Chreadha*” – the field of clay (or plaster). There were many such places around the Gaeltachd, where people went to get clay for all sorts of purposes: making cnagans, mixing into upmarket beauty products for Kenny Froggan’s (mawsturiser?), plastering townies’ black houses so they looked white, and so on. When the mapmakers came in the 19th century, these placenames were anglicised in a variety of ways – Claypark, Claylands, Clayfield, Plasterpark etc etc. One particular “*Buaile a’ Chreadha*” just outside Stornoway became “Plasterfield”.

The years passed, and “Plasterfield” went from being a farm and a clay pit to a postwar housing scheme populated by Prefabs, Plastics, and purloined tyres. Then, one day, the Plastics decided to get a big sign at their city limits so that outsiders could immediately see whose turf they were on and fleek right off.

Many of the Plastics’ ancestors had been maws from beyond the Cattle Grid, so they rightly decided their big fleek-off sign should be in Gaelic. Unfortunately, years of proximity to the big city of Stornoway had taken a toll on the once-pure language of the Plastics’ rural ancestors, and there were no old maps handy when the Grand Plasterfield Fleek Off Sign Design Committee met to discuss how to translate “Plasterfield” back into Gaelic.

Standard Townie Gaelic rules were therefore applied. This involved using one Gaelic word (not necessarily the right one) and one English word, pronounced and spelt a wee bit Gaelic-ish, then sequencing them in an approximately Gaelic manner. Under Townie Gaelic rules, it is strictly forbidden to check if the result makes sense – eg by asking a maw, or looking at a dictionary.

And that’s why the original “*Buaile a’ Chreadha*” has come back from English as “*Achadh a’ Phlaidair*” or, er... “Field of the Plasterer”.

“*Nach eil sin dìreach turribal? Fìor symptom dhan a’ deterioration of ar cànan!*”, commented a distinguished Townie Gaelic scholar yesterday. “*Ge tà, a’ bhalaich*”, he went on “*it could have been tòrr nas miosa – s’ iontach nach d’thanaig iad a mach le* “Field of the Plastered”.

Plasterfield Does its bit “*gus a’ chànan againn a’ cumail pure*”

~ Àm MÀRTE/MARCH 2016 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-MÀIRTE Tue	Òl-Ciadam Wed	Òl-ÀRDAOIN Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-SACHURNE Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Lardi Gras – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFR festival (Dunky's House)
6	7	8	9	10 End of 2014/15 Poaching Season (River Creed)	11 Start of 2016/5 Poaching Season (River Creed)	12
13	14	15	16	17 1830 – Original Lewis Chessmen unearthed in Harris (but nicked by some Uigeach)	18 Kinloch Orduighean – beware of celebratory gunfire (again)	19
20 British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward. One less hour in bed, for fleek's sake	21 Spring Equinox	22	23	24	25	26
27 Easter (Western Christianity)	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 Bac Orduighean		

An Giblean / April 2016



AGOFR and the Cruise Liner Business

The Generation Gap isn't what it was. As the average age and affluence of rock fans increases, it's increasingly common for elderly pursuits and rock 'n' roll to cross over. Thus we see the increasing popularity of cruise-based holidays such as the recent "Rock Legends IV", where fans of Peter Frampton, Greg Allman and many more can join their classic rock heroes in a luxurious Caribbean voyage aboard a magnificent liner.

In 2016 we can expect to see attempts by money-grabbing AGOFR moguls Coinneach "Hello, Sailor" Livingstone and CJ "Titanic" Mitchell (74) to latch onto this trend. "Mitchells Of Rock I" is still at the hush-hush planning stage, but the word is that Coinneach and CJ will be raising the Suilven from the bottom of the Pacific, pumping it out and bringing it back as their flagship.

Once on board, passengers will be entertained by classic AGOFR acts such as Zing-Pop and Cyclefoot as the vessel embarks on a 3-day cruise around Point and Broad Bay, with stops at exotic ports such as Holm, Portnaguran, Brevig and Steinish. In the de luxe restaurant, as the guests dine on gourmet aged and diesel-fried fish, they'll be serenaded by themed AGOFR performances – the Guireans repeatedly playing their 1979 Suilven tribute "Toilet on the Sea":

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 (boke) / for a toilet – I used the sea...etc

...or the Dun Ringles doing their epic prog anthem to ferry-based nausea "See The Land"

When ashore, surviving passengers will be offered premium excursions to sites of AGOFR interest aboard a vintage Mitchell's bus, and the opportunity to purchase extortionately-priced AGOFR memorabilia such as Jason Dun Ringle plectrums, Gordon "Mod" Macleod hair care sets (a hastily re-badged tin of Mr Sheen and a duster) and - to see them through the remainder of the journey - Guireans Manager Coinneach Sick Bags.

Luxury Liner "The Suilven": All Set for 2016's PREMIERE AGOFR Theme Cruise

~ An Cìoblean / April 2016 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Mairt Tue	Ìl-Ciadaoin Wed	Ìl-Ardaoin Thu	Ìl-h-Aoine Fri	Ìl-Sathuirne Sat
					1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. (National Holiday of Airidhbhruach)	2 April Fool's Day again (Airidhbhruach – cos one day's not enough)
3 Easter (Western Christianity)	4 No Housework Day (USA and Ge*rdie Golidy's)	5	6	7	8	9
10 Easter (Orthodox)	11	12 Easter (Orthodox)	13 Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)	14 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch Continuing)	15 Easter (Fr*e Pr*sbyteri*n)	16
17 Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)	18	19	20	21 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch)	22	23 Feast of St George – Patron Saint of having a beard, a digeridoo and a fleekeen stupid Peruvian hat and driving around in an old ambulance.
24 Easter (APC)	25	26	27	28	29	30

An Céitean / May 2016



Red Rubha– The Workers' Republic of Point and The Fall of the Braighe Wall

Since the Aiginish Riot of 1888, the Point district has been a seething cauldron of hard left politics. But when the Peninsula accidentally joined the Warsaw Pact in 1945, the Rubhachs really went to town.

Or rather they didn't – because the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Workers' Republic of Point built a wall across the Braighe to protect their socialist utopia from the corrupting influence of the West. By which they meant the capitalist running dogs of Branahue, the bourgeois degenerates of Holm and, of course, the decadent fascist lickspittles of Stornoway.

From 1960 until its collapse in 1975, the Braighe Wall kept the Rubhachs isolated from the rest of Lewis, with access strictly controlled through Checkpoint Chrissie – preserved for posterity as the red-painted toilet/rubbish bins/bus shelter we know today. Checkpoint Chrissie saw its fair share of intrigue and drama during the days of the Cold War – daring escape attempts, dawn spy exchanges, smuggling of blue jeans from Nazir Brothers and all thon sort of carry-on.

When the Braighe wall finally came down in 1975, most of the inhabitants of the Peninsula were ecstatic that they could once again travel freely into town, get the papers in Tommy Nicolson's and have a pint in the Crit.

But of course there were those who didn't do so well after the wall came down. Looking back through rose-tinted glasses at life under the old regime, they yearn for a relentless diet of pickled ceann cropaig, old state TV programmes such as "Se Ur Dictatorship of the Proletariat", holidays in the dissident labour camps of Portvoller and a 20-year waiting list for one of them Trabant tractors.

This well documented psychological phenomenon is known as GarrabOstalgie.

For the full story, see: <https://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2009/11/15/the-fall-of-the-braighe-wall/>

Checkpoint Chrissie - The Only Way In and Out of the Red Peninsula

~ An Céitean/ May 2016 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
1	2 May Day. 95th Congress of the People's Soviet (Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost)	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				

An τ-Ogmhios / June 2016



R*chie Bl*ckm*re, Rainbow and AGOFR

In June 2016, the economy of The Outer Hebrides will grind to a halt as men of a certain age make their way to Birmingham to see Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow, who are getting back together for a few gigs.

Liking hard rockers Rainbow was compulsory in Stornoway in the late 70's and lead guitarist Ritchie was held in the kind of esteem normally reserved for Ministers, the cove in your gang who collected the most tyres for the gelly or the grocery van drivers who delivered the messages.

The gig is having to be held in Birmingham as both An Lanntair and the Woodlands are busy that night.

In the late 70's Rainbow performed in Stornoway on many occasions as singer Ronnie Chames Diathad's mother was from Laxdale.

Their epic 1978 Hebridean tour remains part of local rock legend. It culminated in a sell-out show at Guireans Manager Coinneach's sheep shelter (pictured), a corrugated iron shack not unlike the Birmingham arena where the band will play in 2016. The main difference was that Coinneach's sheep shelter was only 3'9" from floor to ceiling. While this presented a bit of a headroom problem for the human members of the audience and the band, it was no bother at all for the sheep, nor for Ronnie James Diathad.

Many of Rainbow's hits were written in Stornoway, such as "Kill The King Cole", "StarInngazer", "Since You Been Maw", "I Seceder" and "Man on the Iron Well Fountain".

It's rumoured that the band were originally called Ritchie Blackmore's CalanBow, in tribute to the legendary Stornoway worthy, a frequent drinking buddy of Blackmore's in the Mac's.

Vintage Rainbow Poster - The Band's famous Outer Hebrides Tour 1978

~ Àn τ-Ogmhios/June 2016 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùi-Luain Mon	Ùi-Màirt Tue	Ùi-Ciadaoin Wed	Ùi-Àrdaoin Thu	Ùi-h-Àoine Fri	Ùi-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 Another Hat Sale (Murdo Maclean's)
5 More Orduighean (Stornoway)	6 Ramadan begins. Fleek's sake – it only gets dark here for about an hour.	7 More Orduighean (Stornoway)	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Summer Solstice. Watch out for fleekes beardies from Away (Callanish)	21	22 Kontrast Day. All Citizens of SY aged 40-65 must report to the Caber car park at 11:55pm and sing "I Recall A Gypsy Woman" slightly out of tune in a dodgy fake American accent	23	24 1314 – Battle of Bannockburn.. 1964- Battle of Beannagburn (Stornoway's 1 st Cailleachs' Lib protest of the 60s).	25
26	27	28	29	30		

An Iuchar / July 2016

Avante-Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock vs The Hebridean Celtic Festival



This month, fiasags and crusties of every stripe will be flocking to Stornoway from all corners of Aaway, and gathering on the Castle Green to see a host of other fiasags and crusties from Aaway playing in a tent. What they won't see is any bands playing the Island's only truly authentic and indigenous form of Celtic Rock – AGOFR.

There has been much speculation over the decades as to why no AGOFR band – such as, ahem... Hebridean Prog Celtic Rock dinosaurs legends the **Dun Ringles**, with such a deeply rooted prog-rock Celtic strand to their sound... has ever been asked to play at the HebCelt Fest. To many the answer is a simple 'cos they're crap'. But to the Dun Ringles' legions of fans (or that might be 'the fan of the Dun Ringles in the Legion Public Bar (RIP)'), a number of burning questions arise each year.

- Are the headliners scared that the DRs' impressive stage setup (several A3 sheets, badly sellotaped together and printed with "The Dun Rngiles" - usually spelt wrong) might overshadow their fancy schmancy backdrops and lighting display?
- Are Mainland bands worried that they'll be upstaged by the coves' spectacular prog rock stage attire – whether it's fetching blue boilersuits (worn when trying to kid on that they, and not the Guireans, are the true Lechends of AGOFR), goot padded shirts from the Crofters' (worn when trying to keep warm in the July blizzards) or turned down wellies (worn all the time, but chust the thing for all that festival mud)?
- Will the Dun Ringles' backstage rider blow the whole festival budget - four hen suppers which nobody will order, a case of empty Super Lager cans (contents already scoffed by C*p*rc**llie), and a tray of Guga nibbles?
- Will Jason's guitars all fit on the stage?

The questions linger. But sources close to the band have said that they refuse to play unless they can support fellow Celtic Rock titans Horslips, on a bill that includes Alan Stivell, Jethro Tull, Steeleye Span, Rainbow, Rush, Mike Oldfield, Donnie Dotaman, Fuzzy Duck, 101, AND Gentle Giant. And not forgetting Lynyrd Skynyrd (classic 1973 line-up).

That may indeed make a Dun Ringles HebCelt appearance tricky to negotiate, but doesn't explain why the Guireans have never been offered the gig, and them with a chanter as well.

ARTISTS' IMPRESSION OF THE BORD STIUREADH NA h-AGOFR TENT PROPOSED FOR HEB CELT FESTIVAL 2016

~ An t-Iuchar/July 2016 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
					1	2
3	4 52nd ^l 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 B*b Dyl*n traces his roots to Ballantrushal	8	9
10	11	12	13 Heb Celt Festival Begins. Propably no AGOFR bands on the bill.	14	15	16
17 6th Anniversary of 1 st Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.	18 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	19	20	21	22 Don Henley's Birthday. Public Holiday (Eyeballs' House)	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

An Lunasdal / August 2016

IAIN MACKINNON best seat in the house



Frogaidh Beag's AGOFR Conversion

Iain "Frogaidh Beag" Mackinnon - occasional Dun Ringle, Lechend of AGOFR, Guirean and solo exponent of hits such as "I Wanna Buy Your Ram" - is so ubiquitous as an AGOFR megastar these days that it's hard to believe he once had a career as a proper pop star.

FB's conversion may have been brewing ever since the release of his "Best Seat in the House" album in the early 2000s. The experience of working on the record with constant interference from veteran pop svengali Mike Batt - only to discover afterwards that said svengali wasn't Mike Batt at all, had no previous svengali-ing experience, and - worst of all - had no connection whatsoever to the Wombles - may have been enough to put Frogaidh Beag off the proper music biz for life.

But it was only around 2009 that Frogaidh Beag finally admitted to himself that he was a fleekeen maw and that AGOFR was the only way for him. Around that time, he released "The Man In Bac" and "I Wanna Buy Your Ram", then proceeded to appear with the Lechends of AGOFR twice in the space of a few months.

That was him committed - with Gazette and P&J reviews of his appearances, and his mug all over EweTube doing the "Fragile Chuff Beckley" vocals on the Lechends' "Airidhbhruch", there would be no prospect of Frogaidh Beag salvaging any kind of future in music.

But perhaps there was a method to Frogaidh Beag's apparent musical madness; As the youngest AGOFR artiste(*) by many years, he's now the Chustin Biobull of the AGOFR movement, the one who'll be left carrying the burning peat of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock into the future alone, once all his fellow artistes (and money-grabbing managers Coinneach and CJ) have grown old and been put under by Al Cr*e.

Not only that, but he's now appeared with pretty much every current AGOFR band, so when everybody else is dead he'll be the one collecting the royalties for everything. By the time he's 95 he could be raking in as much as 56p a year before tax, the crafty wee bleigeard.

(*) We're not counting Colin in the Dun Ringles. While we have hope that his dabblings in AGOFR may one day lead him to see the light, he's still mixed up with far too much of this proper music nonsense for his own good.

Frogaidh Beag's AGOFR Conversion - Before and After

~ An Lùnasdal / August 2016 ~

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 Mick Flavin's Birthday (or is it?) . Public Holiday (top end of Plasterfield).	4	5	6 Stornoway Carnival (probably). Sleet, thunder lightning a Force 9 gale and one of them Stornados anticipated. 32 nd Anniversary of Midges of Rock 1983.
7	8 Rocky Sh*rpe 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	26	27
28	29	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 2016



The Dun Ringles : 25 Years of “Funky Peatstack”

September 2016 sees the 25th anniversary of the ill-fated Funky Peatstack rock opera. This was to have been a multi media extravaganza about Peats, written, recorded, produced, performed and acted by an early incarnation of the Dun Ringles. Work began in summer 1991 but came to an abrupt halt in September of that year when everyone fleeked off to the mainland for work or student life.

The concept behind the rock opera was a celebration of peats, told in the medium of song. It featured a crofter who was proud of his award winning Funky Peatstack, and his nemesis, a sinister and shadowy figure called Peatman who roamed the island stealing peats. Early demos also includes a tune about a high tech Funky Tractor and also a hunt across the moors called Off The Beaten Track, For The Lost Peatstack. Several songs were written and a few made it to demo stage, but the rock opera itself never saw the light of day.

The elaborate stage show would have featured various members of the Stornoway Venture Scouts and Ranger Guides and would have been performed in the Scout Hall. The demo tracks were recorded in the Venture Room in the Scout Hall, using a four track portastudio hired from Fonn, Stornoway's much missed music shop.

Several of the demos eventually made it to actual songs on the Dun Ringles' debut 1992 album Vom Your Sproggans, namely Peatman and Funky Peatstack (which the band still perform live to this day). It is rumoured that Funky Peatstack was also first publicly performed on Ardrol Beach in 1992 by Rampant Thrust, but no one can remember if it was or not.

1996: Peatman terrorises the (old) Lannfair as the Dun Ringles perform bits of the unfinished-and-propably-never-will-be Rock Opera “Funky Peatstack”

~ Àn τ-Sultain/September 2016 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Mairt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
				1 Boxcar Willie's Birthday. Public Holiday (Leurbost)	2	3
6	7	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 David Coverdale's Birthday. A' ghiadh mhor.	22 Autumn Equinox	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

An Dámhair / October 2016



It's Royal National Mod time in Stornoway.

Massed gangs of Gaelic Choirs from all over the world are descending on the Hebridean capital to fight it out to see who will be the last choir standing. The Mod has come to Stornoway on many occasions over the centuries and so a brief recap of some of the more memorable visits is given here.

In 1989, the Mod was tarnished by the undignified spat that developed when Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan were disqualified from the Mixed Doubles Competition. Although riding high in the Pop Charts at the time, the Aussie pair failed to impress the Judges with their version of 'Ibhi Ada' and a Gaelic version of the theme from Neighbours ('Tha Neighbours, a h-uile duine needs math Neighbours'). Kylie and Jason stormed out of the Town Hall after receiving only 5 votes and headed straight to the Clachan. After a few swift halves, the pair started to smash up the toilets and were only removed after a barman convinced them that a passing collie was in fact Bouncer, and they sped off in hot pursuit.

In 1979, another unexpected pairing in the Mixed Doubles led to unsightly scenes on the stage in the Garry Room. Newly elected Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher surprised political pundits by agreeing to sing 'Oran Calum Sgaire' with Labour Leader Micheal Foot. Despite Foot getting lessons from his cousin, a local Professor, Thatcher's constant drive for perfection meant poor Foot was constantly slagged off by the Iron Lady. Foot made several attempts to get the song in the right key, but as Thatcher famously said 'The Lady's Not For Tuning.' It's also a little known fact that Thatcher joined Runrig on stage to play the chanter at their career defining performance in the Seaforth Hotel.

In the early 60's, a spot of confusion led to gangs of parka wearing/scooter riding Mods arriving on the Loch Seaforth expecting to cause trouble in the town, only to find that it was music of a totally different sort that was on offer. In the spirit of helping out, the local Dockers agreed to take on the Mods in a fight down on the Braighe Beach. Afterwards Roger Daltrey of The Who almost won the Gold Medal with his version of 'Canan Nan Gaidheal' but was disqualified for hitting the Judges as he spun his microphone around his head. The Who's award winning rock opera 'Tommy' was inspired by the band watching Tommy Darkie playing the box at the after Mod cellidh in The Crit.

In 1580, Sir Walter Raleigh stumbled upon the Mod by accident when he sailed into Stornoway Harbour thinking it was El Dorado. Instead of gold doubloons he found Gold Medals instead. Walter was a dab hand at the fiddle and impressed An Comunn Gaidhealach enough to let him play in several competitions which he won easily. To this day the Fiddlers Raleigh is held in honour of the brave explorer.

Mod Nan Citean 1964 - Point and Back Gaelic Choirs consult on a minor scoring disagreement

~ Àn Dàmhair/October 2016 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Do you think the fleeken spuds are going to lift themselves, you lazy bleigeard? You were chust as bad this time last year.	12 Thon Kipper	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 Smiths Shoe Shop found under ruins of Viking parliament.
23 Clocks go back. Extra hour in church.	24 United Nations Day	25	26	27	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?.					

An τ-Samhain / November 2016

US Presidential Elections – The Island Connection(s).

November 2016 sees the Presidential Elections in the good old US of A.

Fleek knows who'll be in the running by then, but as the year begins, it looks like the Republicans still haven't rumbled bobban-haired Tong crofter Dòmhnall-Iain "Donald" Trump and his ridiculous claims to be American. Dòmhnall-Iain's success to date comes as a surprise to his fellow Tungachs. "Thon cove's the biggest fleekeen maw in Tong, and hardly a words of English in his head", said a neighbour yesterday. "It's the black house he belongs in, no the White House. And even then, I'd keep him down the far end with the cows".

The widely held view in Tong is that Dòmhnall-Iain ended up in America by accident after getting lost en route to the sheep sales in Steinish. "He wanted to get there ahead of his competitors so he took the short-cut across the quicksands", said the neighbour, "but Dòmhnall-Iain bochd doesn't have a great sense of direction".

"The poor truaghan probably doesn't know where he is" said another neighbour, "it looks like he thinks he's campaigning to get on the Grazings Committee – no fleekeen chance of that, by the way".

But Trump isn't the only Presidential contender with Lewis connections, according to researchers at the Made Up History of Stornoway. Democratic front runner Hillary Clinton had an uncle in the Battery and spent a summer there in the early 70s filling iteagans after finishing her legal studies at Yale. On the same trip she met future husband Bill while topping up her Trawler Rum supplies at Cathy Ghall's.

Clinton's opponent Bernie Sandstreet comes from Coulegrein and the 3rd runner Martin O'Mealasta had parents from Uig and Airidhbhruach.

Back on the Republican side, Marco Rubha-bio comes from a family of exiles from the Communist regime in Point, Jeb Bushwalk's grandfather used to look after the rhododendrons in the Castle Grounds and Rick Sanitorium's old man was for many years the janny at the County Hospital.



Domhnall-Iain's House

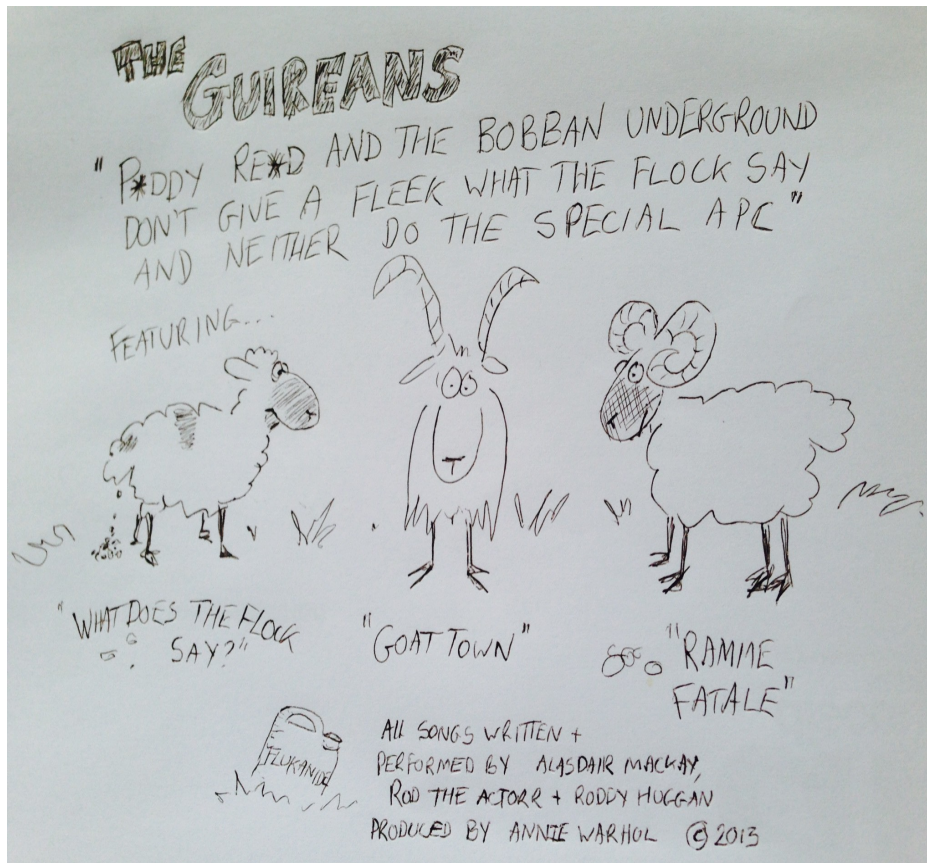


Top : Dòmhnall-Iain "Donald" Trump's "Black House 2 White House 2016" campaign.
Bottom - Dòmhnall-Iain's picturesque home village of Tong, Seen across the Quicksands from Steinish.

~ An t-Samhain/November 2016 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
		1 4 Days Till Guy Fawkes : The Battery declares War on Columbia Place. But they'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 2016 begins... Oh no wait, it's fleekeen Sunday.	7 Tyre collecting for 2016 begins now, definitely.	8 US Presidential Elections. Fleek's sake. If a Tungach ends up running America, we're in big trouble. If Domhnall winds, wonder if he'll intervene in the tyre wars?	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Comhairle's Winter 2016/17 Ice Gritting Contract Starts	17 Comhairle's Winter 2016/17 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money	18	19 5 th Anniversary of Fr'e Ch*rch allowing hymns and musical instruments. Cl*ff R*chard & Frogaidh Beag to play a special rock n roll prayer meeting in the Seminary. Latha Dorch ga rìribh.
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 Black Friday. Disturbances expected as cailleachs fighting over heavily discounted marags.	26
27	28	29	30 St Andrew's Day.			

An Oubhlachd / December 2016

L** R**d and the V*lv*t Undergr**nd in AGOFR



OK, it's not very Christmassy, but December 2016 marks 3 years and 2 months since former V*lv*t Undergr**nd frontman L** R**d popped his clogs, which is an excellent excuse for re-examining his influence on Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock – or vice versa.

The Guireans in particular have attacked a variety of R**d's songs at various stages of their career, from "Sunday Mucus for Curam People" in the early 80s through to 1984's classic "Walk on the West Side" to 1985's "Waitin' For The Bus" and onwards to 2013's "Ramme Fatale".

AGOFR bands' fondness for L** R**d's songs is, of course, fleek all to do with the fact that they nearly all have the same chord progressions, so if you can play one, you can chust about manage any of them. Nor is it connected to the fact that you can be a terrible singer but still sing a L** R**d song better than himself, especially if you've chust had your tonsils out or accidentally got a clothespeg stuck on your nose.

No, no, it's not about that at all. It's about gritty realism. AGOFR bands appreciate the reportage inherent in R**d's best work, and strive to transplant his matter-of-fact approach to squalor and deviance into the medium of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock.

Hence the Guireans' "Herring" (1988), which "Leodhsachises" R**d's 1966 classic "Heroin", to examine dispassionately one man's abject dependence on the deadly sgadan:

*"Herr-i-ing – Be the death of me
Herr-i-ing – Gotta have it for my tea
And my breakfast and my dinner
Bring it to the boil and let it simmer...."*

Suil air ais - Lou Reed, the Velvet Underground and AGOFR

~ An Òbhlachd/December 2016 ~						
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 5 th 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 Dec. Solstice	22 22nd Anniversary of Isles FM. For 24 hours, normal service will be replaced by a special celebratory show: "AJK's Top 1000 Voiceovers 1994-2016"	23	24
25 Xmas Day. Huidh! Them oranges is chust for show! Leave them alone, ya wee bleigeard.	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	28	29	30	31 Oidche Challuinn (Hogmanay)

AGOFR Agus am Bòrd Stiùradh.

Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk 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, Stornowaywegian (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 Cuireans 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 Cuireans 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, The Lechends of AGOFR and Frogaidh 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 EucTube success of the Lechends of AGOFR's "Aridhòhruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, the "Dun Ringles" SITC 2011 appearance, and Frogaidh Beag's ongoing attempts to sneak AGOFR content into the Stornoway Primary Xmas Concert - the year ~~2010 2011 2012 2013 2014~~ 2015 2016 could well see AGOFR influences begin to seep into mainstream culture. There are rumours that One Direction have got the Cuiream and are about to split into One Direction (Continuing) and Not that Direction, This Direction. Pharrell Williams, anxious to avoid pigeonholing after the massive success of "Happy", is allegedly remixing his cover of "s fhada Leam an Oidhe Gheamhraidh" for release in early 2016. And portly crooner Sam Smith, knowing the hype can't last, is said to be planning to get his money out of showbiz, move to Parkend and re-establish his great-uncle's Zip-a-Cola factory. Oh yus, and apparently, Stornowaywegian substitute sweary-word "fleck" is now being used by trendy fashionable types on the mainland - as in "fleck' is really fleckeen 'on fleck' this fleckeen year". This follows on from the global adoption of "meh" in recent years, much to the disgust of several local sheep who are considering legal action for infringement of copyright.

Bòrd Stiùradh 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 somewhere nice and we don't have to go there on the fleckeen ferry.

www.cuireans.com.

Front cover – Checkpoint Chrissie – the former crossing point from the West into the Workers Republic of Point, during the cold war. Now the Braighe Toilets, but still decorated with a good dose of Socialist Rubhach red paint.

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