

Bòrd Stiùradh na h-ACÒR

Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ACÒR 2019

The Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock



Òa Fhichead Bliadhna de dh'ACÒR: 1979 - 2019

40th Anniversary of ACÒR Souvenir Edition

Am Faoilleach / January 2019



Uiceland in Stornoway – The AGOFR Connections

The opening rumoured closure of Stornoway's new Iceland store brings to mind both the numerous connections between the Outer Hebrides and Iceland, and those between the Iceland building and Avante-Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock.

The building that Stornoway's new Iceland occupies (though not for much longer if rumours at time of writing way back in 2018 are true) was formerly Templeton's, where Dead Olac Guirean Jr from the Guireans worked between 1980 and 83. Dead Olac's earnings helped pay for the "real" instruments that first appeared on the band's "Jazz Mucus for Funk People" EP (1982).

In keeping with this tradition, Robin Dun Ringle also worked in its later incarnation, Presto's, in the late 1980s and used his earnings to buy his first proper (second hand) keyboard, a Yamaha MX300 which is still in Knock Studios to this day.

Seonaidh Pluckan from Swedish TV used to work there as well, before moving on to run Fonn, the Bayhead music shop where another Guirean, Rod "Actorr" Morison, pretended to work. Which in turn inspired the Guireans to write their Kylie Minogue tribute 'I Could Be Like Pluckan'.

Iceland was settled by the Vikings, who feature on every album ever made by the Dun Ringles.

Iceland is noted for delicacies such as rotten skate, sheep's head and guga, which are also popular in the rural districts of Lewis, and feature extensively in AGOFR lyrics.

Fleek's Sake - Uiceland No Core? Attachedly

Àm Faoilleach / January 2019 ~

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.	2	3	4 16 th Anniversary of The Guireans writing and record "Alasdair Mackay is God – Sorry, Bod" in an afternoon, at Rod The Actorrr's house	5 D*vid Iain turns off the 2018 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.
6 D*vid Iain turns on the 2019 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	7	8	9	10	11	12 60 th birthday of legendary Soval music label Tormod Murdotown Records
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 40 years since the Dukes of Habost first aired on BBC Alba
27	28 Guireans Manager Coinneach's Birthday. All (cash) donations ungratefully received.	29	30	31		

An Gearran / February 2019



AGOFR Agus Na h-Òrduighean : Communion Holidays and the Early Townie AGOFR Bands

Back in the olden days, there were always two school holidays that felt like they appeared unexpectedly from out of nowhere (despite having been in the school calendar for decades). These were the Stornoway Òrduighean (Communion Holidays) - one occurring in mid February and one in late August - where you used to get a couple of days off school.

The idea was for everyone to go to church, but for many bleigeards they afforded a skive away from the Niccy and a chance to do something more creative.

So how did a young cove spend these holidays back in the far off 70's and 80's? If you were in Scouts (as several later Dun Ringles were) you'd most likely go to Valtos for a long weekend and engage in the usual slogs up Mealisval, canoeing in some freezing loch and other wholesome outdoor pursuits.

But the Communion Holidays also presented an opportunity for the nascent creative abilities of these coves to find form and substance through the formation of bands and the making of 'music'. The older coves, known as the 'Seniors' (from Senior Patrol Leader), would form a band (usually based on what ever musical genre was cool at that moment in time) and rehearse and write songs. The ultimate goal was to perform these songs at an end of camp gig.

Gigs were arranged in one of the big 'dorms' (renamed either the Hammersmith Odorm or the Royal Albert Dorm) with bunk beds transformed into a stage. The younger scouts were given various tasks (so that everyone had a chance to be involved) such as lighting technicians (waving a Woolies torch around as a spotlight), roadies (carrying the solitary acoustic guitar on to the stage) and bouncers (generally beating each other up).

Some of the very early Scout bands couldn't actually play any instruments (apart from chanter and accordions but these weren't cool) so they decided to mime to music (normally blasted out from a cheap mono cassette player) - pulling epic and impressive rock poses whilst holding brooms slung round their necks or beating the fleek out of upturned chairs and buckets in a manner worthy of Cozy Powell. These bands included Rust and Swinecult.

Gradually, the musical talent stretched to learning a few chords and actually owning a cheap guitar and basic keyboard. Bands such as 'Hieronymus Bosch' and 'Rab Kuartski and the Bohemian Crapsodies' made several appearances at Valtos and one or two of the songs written in this era, such as 'Mealisval' by 'Andromeda Crisis' made their way into modern day AGOFR.

Andromeda Crisis, featuring Robin Òun Ringle (Casio VL-tone and ironing board) Jason Òun Ringle (Real Geetar) and one-time Òun Ringles manager Grassy (vocals). 'Drums' by Big Womòle (above) and Rab Kuartski (below)

~ Àn Gearran/FEBRUARY 2019 ~

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 60 years since Buddy Holy's plane crash. Fleek's sake – was he flying on a Sunday? No wonder.	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'.	15	16
17	18 BBC Alba screen a programme that's not a repeat. With actual Gaelic in it.	19 BBC Alba screen a programme that's not a repeat. With actual Gaelic in it. Oh no, wait – it's a repeat of that one from yesterday,	20	21 Stornoway Orduighean begin Murdo Maclean's reopens for 1 day only hat sale.	22	23 Last day for Rubhachs to take their peats home.
24	25	26	27	28		

Am Màrt / March 2019



Brexit and the Border(s)

As we're always hearing in the news, there's great confusion about arrangements on the Northern Irish border if Brexit takes effect as planned in March 2019. But for some reason we hear a lot less about the difficulties that could ensue on the many internal borders within the Outer Hebrides.

When the UK leaves the EU in March 2019, for example, Scalpay will stay in Europe because it's actually in Spain (and has been since 1588, as any amadan familiar with the Dun Ringles' poorly spelt prog rock epic "Scalpoich Armada" will tell you). To maintain frictionless trade across the Scalpay bridge, the natural solution would be for the rest of Harris to follow EU regulations, but hardline Hearach seceders in the Democratic Urgha Party refuse to countenance such an arrangement.

For similar reasons, again based on Spanish territorial claims, border controls are likely to spring up the Goat Island causeway, and on all roads leading in and out of Tolsta Chaolais.

Tong, naturally, has used its Washington connections to secure a unilateral trade deal with the USA, but this does not extend to the neighbouring townships. So there'll have to be a wall at Coll and another on the road to Newmarket, with US customs guards on patrol to stop cheap steel imports from the scrapyard at the Blackwater.

North Tolsta has negotiated a peats-for-kimchi deal with North Korea, which will require a DMZ to be created between the Glen and Gress, which is joining Greece. Meanwhile the Niseachs, as part of Norway, are insisting on remaining in EFTA (The Eòropie Freechurch Tractor Association), so strict customs controls will be put in place on the A857 North of Fivepenny Borve.

Trade between Point and the rest of the Island is already difficult due to its worsening diplomatic relations with everybody. Sanctions are likely to intensify following Point's interference in the Tong Presidential elections, and the Rubhach Secret Service's attempts to assassinate defector Sergei Suardal in the Crit by lacing his Stewart's Cream of the Barley with water. Rubhach leader Vladimir Spùt-in's claims that his agents were mere tourists, visiting the town to see the world famous spire of Martin's Memorial, are generally disbelieved.

It's not all bad news, though. According to some writing in the dirt on the side of the Plasterfield bus, Brexit will leave the Health Board with an extra £350 million a day to spend on closing things down.

A Hard Border, Yusterday

~ Àm MÀRƧ / MARCH 2019 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Ɔ1-Luain Mon	Ɔ1-MÀIRƧ Tue	Ɔ1-Ciadaoin Wed	Ɔ1-Àrdaoin Thu	Ɔ1-h-Àoine Fri	Ɔ1-Sàthuirne Sat
					1	2
3 Lardi Gras 2018 – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFR festival (Dunky's House)	4 Lardi Gras 2018 – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFR festival (Dunky's House)	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 1830 – Original Lewis Chessmen unearthed in Harris (but nicked by some Uigeach)	15 Kinloch Orduighean – beware of celebratory gunfire (again)	16
17	18	19	20	21 Spring Equinox	22 End of 2017/18 Poaching Season (River Creed)	23 Start of 2018/19 Poaching Season (River Creed)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man.
31						

An Giblean / April 2019



The Brag Demos – 25 Years Since The Guireans Didn't Get On the Telly

Few would believe now that, 25 years ago, the Guireans had a brush with TV fame.

It all came about because their pal, Tolsta Beat Poet and former Subterraneans frontman B*ll "W*lbur" Macle*d, got a job with the BBC. One of Wilbur's first career coups was when he "talent" scouted the Guireans to appear in BBC2's Young Trendy Maws' Magazine Programme "Brag".

Bod and Dead Olac Guirean Jr went to meet top producer Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn at the BBC in Glasgow and explained what the Guireans did, citing "Walk On the West Side" and "Todhar" as examples of the genre. Iain was transported with enthusiasm for the idea: "Todhar?", ars esan, "Fantastic! And the great thing about it is – it's about sh**e!". All fired up, the Guireans rushed home, knocked off Gaelic versions of a couple of standards, and sent the demo back to Queen Margaret Drive (with a first class stamp, for fleek's sake) within a couple of days.

Presumably the Beeb's enthusiasm for the concept evaporated instantly on actually hearing the Guireans' execution of it, for all went quiet. On enquiring a few weeks later how the plan to turn them into superstars was going, the Guireans were told that it was all off because, er... " We couldn't secure copyright permission from Lou Reed. Or something. It's not because youse are fleekkeen ruppish, honest!"

In a self-deceiving attempt to circumvent the mythical Lou Reed ban, the Guireans dashed off a few more numbers - "Tir an Airgead", slagging Runrig for the decreasing number of Gaelic tracks on their recent albums, "Mucus Dubh 'son Muinntir an t--Shabain" a Gaelic version of 1983's Black Mucus for Sabbath People, "Gobharb*g**rs", the anti white settler rant from 1985's "Bogie Goes to Bennadrove" and "Rudeigin Eile", a Gaelic version of "Rock Mucus for Roll People" from 1984's "Mehags agus Fuidheags EP", which in turn was indebted to Eddie Cochrane's "Somethin' Else".

None of this did any good, and the Guireans never got on the telly.

Poor Wilbur's career in the Beeb was irretrievably damaged by this episode. A Black Marag (it was the Gaelic department, remember) was placed on his file for the next 25 years, and has prevented him from achieving his rightful place as Director Cheneral ever since.

Not quite the Guireans on "Brag": The 101 Band, featuring Rod "Actorrr" Morison (who is a Guirean) and Sandie, Pluckan and Bessie (who weren't, but were nearly from Sandwick), mime to 'Soraidh Slain', 1989.

~ An Cìoblean/ April 2019 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
	1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. (National Holiday of Airidhbhruach) Easter (Western Christianity)	2 April Fool's Day again (Airidhbhruach – cos one day's never enough)	3	4	5	6
7	8 Easter (Orthodox)	9	10	11	12 Easter (Continuing)	13 Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)
14	15	16 Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)	17	18	19	20
21	22 Easter (APC)	23 Feast of St George – Patron Saint of continually mispronouncing "An Lanntair" and adding a superfluous "Thee" at the front, despite having a fleekeen cushy job in it.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Emperor Akihito of Japan abdicates, so that he can move home to the croft his great auntie left him in Balallan				

An Céitean / May 2019



Maggie Thatcher and AGOFR

May 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of Maggie Thatcher winning the general election, and perhaps it's no coincidence that Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock started the same year.

Thatcher's unbridled free market economics certainly chimed with the rapacious unprincipled capitalism of AGOFR's top 'entrepreneurs'. Guireans Manager Coinneach 'Phillip Grianandaycarecentre' Livingstone operated a union-busting tax-dodging regime at Plook Records, while Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (73) was notorious for running Tape Records on a shoestring and tying the members of Zing-Pop up in contracts so dodgy that to this day the money they send him for every unsold copy of "Lord of the Zings" pays for the upkeep of the collection of gold-plated vintage Bedford busses that he maintains in the Cayman Islands.

But Thatcher had other local connections as well. Not only was her 1979 campaign trip to Stornoway legendary, but some say she was a Rubhach, born and brought up in Portvoller. It's hardly suprising, of course, that this is little publicised. Neither Thatcher herself, nor the Politburo of the secretive communist peninsula's ruling Rubhach Workers' Revolutionary Front (Continuing), would want such an association to be revealed. More on these conspiracy theories in the the following learned articles from the Made Up History of Stornoway:

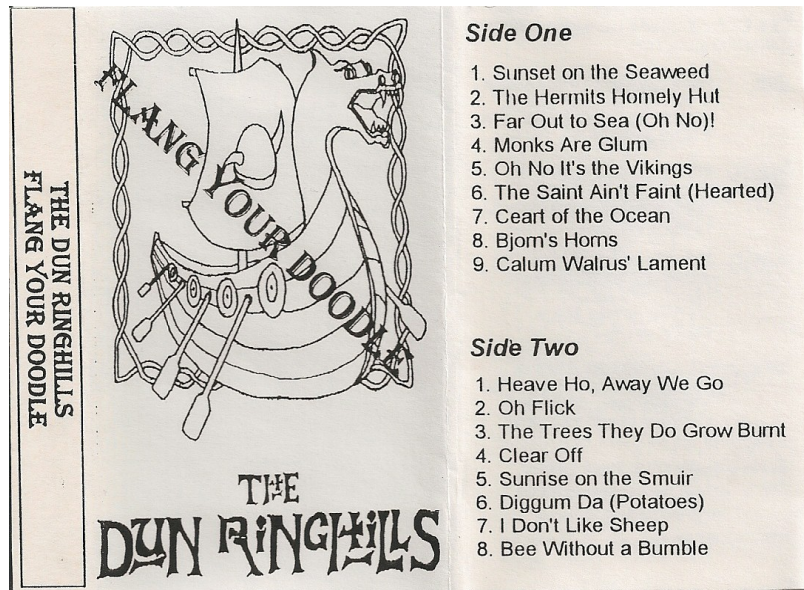
<https://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2010/04/21/maggie-thatcher-marag-snatcher/>

<https://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2013/04/13/maggie-thatcher-the-portvoller-years/>

Propapty Not the Remains of the Portvoller Blackhouse In Which Maggie Thatcher Propapty Wasn't Born

~ An Céitean/May 2019 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadin Wed	Òl-Ardaoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
			1	2	3	4 40 th Anniversary of Maggie Thatcher becoming PM.
5 Ramadan begins (Rest of World)	6 Ramadan begins (Outer Hebrides). May Day. 95th Congress of the People's Soviet (Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost)	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 Finals of the Eoropievision Song Contest (Ness). Garrabost will win again after threatening to invade everyone if they don't
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 t-Ogmhios / June 2019



The Dun Ringles – 25 Years of Flang Your Doodle

Hard to believe it's 25 years since the Dun Ringles released their classic Viking-themed concept album *Flang Your Doodle*, but fleek's sake, it is. This warrants a double celebration at Bord Stiureadh na h-AGOFR - not only is it the silver anniversary of a landmark album in Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock, but even better, we already did a page in the 2014 calendar for the 20th anniversary, so we can chust recycle it....

20 25 Years ago the Dun Ringles released an album which would have been genuinely groundbreaking and highly innovative if it had been recorded about 27 years before that.

Recorded in Knock Studios between October 1993, Easter 1994 and Summer 1994, "*Flang Your Doodle*" saw the band indulging their J*thro T*ull and H*rslips obsessions big time, with the deployment of more folky instruments than you could shake a bodhran at.

"*Flang...*" is a historical epic concept album centring on the ancient sagas in which the Vikings are said to have:

- a) Burned down all the trees in Lewis.
- b) Broken the single island that was the Outer Hebrides up into the archipelago we see today.
- c) Caused lots of other bother as well

The album features real characters from the period who really existed, probably, maybe. Like St Murdo, the reclusive hermit monk who is stirred into action by the Norse invasion, and his arch-enemy Bjorn, chief of the Vikings.

Dun Ringles manager CJ Mitchell (68) is said to have sold over 400 30% shares in a forthcoming production of "*Flang... the Musical!*" which probably won't be hitting the stage in the West End imminently. But this wouldn't be the first outing for the songs; the album was toured extensively in Scandinavia in 2002*

* "Toured extensively in Scandinavia" means "there was a copy of the tape in the glove compartment of Dead Olac Guirean Jr's car when he went to Norway on his holidays". It never got played or anything, because he only noticed it was there after he got back home. But neffertheless it is not factually incorrect to state that the album was toured.

The "*Flang Your Doodle*" album cover gives thon R*g*r De*n cove a run for his money
+ The 2002 *Flang Your Doodle* Scandinavian Tour hits Sandvik

~ An τ-Ogmhios/June 2019 ~						
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	4	5	6	7 More Orduighean (Stornoway)	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Rod the Actorr's latest EP of Electronica wins the Smash Hits single of the year (1982).	17	18 Local Story appears in Stornoway Gazette	19	20	21 Summer Solstice. Watch out for fleekeen beardies from Away (Callanish)	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	25	26	27	28	29
30						

An Iuchar / July 2019



The Moon Landings and AGOFR

Fleek sakes, it's 50 years since man landed on the Moon.

Or was it all a big hoax filmed in the BBC Alba Studios? I guess we'll never know, although there's an old thresher on Mossend Farm that looks suspiciously like a Lunar Module.

And ask yourself this - if you look closely enough at the famous pictures of an astronaut's footprint on the moon, why can you see the 'Arnish Boot' logo in the moon dust? It's also suspicious that the Stornoway Thespians reported two spacesuits (from their 1969 adaptation of Star Trek) missing from the Town Hall shortly before the 'moon landing'. This theft was never properly investigated by the Police and the two space suits were later mysteriously found behind a gorse bush on the Mossend Road. Come to think of it, in certain light all the shots of the Saturn V rocket seemed remarkably like an upended Mitchell's Bus, with badly applied silver spray paint.

And what about the astronauts' names?!? Neil Mossendfarmstrong and Bus Aldredsroad?

The Mossend Farm theory seems to have persisted for longer than the original idea that it was all filmed in Harris. The lifeless landscape of bare rock (in Harris) is far too barren to be a convincing stand-in for the Moon. And in them days, with the state of the road over the Clisham, the Moon was a lot easier to get to.

Real or fake, the moon landings have provided the launchpad (and splashdown) for several top rock star careers.

David Bowie, for example, had famously been struggling to make a name for himself for years until "Space Oddity" came out.

Conversely, any prospect of the Guireans ever having a career at all was killed forever by the cover of the Police's "Walking On the Moon" on their 1st album...

The Guireans Walking On The Moon, 1979

~ Àn τ-luchar/July 2019~						
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 1969 - Brian Jones drowns in his swimming pool. The same day, Guireans manager Coinneach drives his pedal car into a bog at the peats, but tragically survives.	4 52nd 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. Probably no AGOFR bands on the bill (again). Except maybe P**t and D**s*l.	12 BBC Alba screen highlights of Heb Celt Festival (2007)	13
14	15 8th Anniversary of 1 st Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.	16 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	17	18	19	20
21 2 nd attempt at a Sports Centre trials Sunday opening. Weather – Fire & Brimstone all week	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 2 nd Sports Centre Sunday opening trial abandoned. Comhairle re-hires G**rdie G*lidy to chain up the swings on Saturday nights.	29	30	31			

An Lunasdal / August 2019



10 Years Of 'Airidhbhruach' on EweTube

In August 2009, after 30 years of AGOFR acts being refused a gig at proper musical events, Sounds In The Grounds 2009 organisers (and Honcho Records moguls) Innes and Jori unwisely broke the embargo*.

"The Lechends of AGOFR", a hastily-assembled supergroup composed of assorted members of the Guireans, Dun Ringles, Zing-Pop, Sheep Purple, Lyn*rd Skyn*rd and Cyclefoot – who'd only had one practice in Dead Olac Guirean Jr's garage - were given a spot playing in the SITG beer tent on the Castle Green, while the proper bands were tuning up next door.

Inexplicably, the shoogly video of their closing number – a version of the Guireans' version of Leonard Cohen's "Airidhbhruach", shot from a low vantage point by Wattie Dun Ringle's wee cove Dougie while he was pushed around by big drunk people - became a viral phenomenon on Ewetube. The world's media picked up on it and suddenly there was global press coverage - the Lochs Column of the Gazette, Events and even Iain X in the Press & Journal.

The sniff of success soon brought out the worst in the AGOFR industry's leading moguls, Guireans Manager Coinneach and Dun Ringles Manager CJ Mitchell (88). A turf war ensued over ownership of "Airidhbhruach", and of the band who performed it, with CJ claiming the "Lechends of AGOFR" were really the Dun Ringles and Coinneach counter-claiming that they were the Guireans. Given that most of them had played in all 3 bands at various times, Bord Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR dismissed the case and sentenced Coinneach and CJ to 6 months' exile in Parkend for wasting the tribunal's time.

Apart from the Dun Ringles' brief success with their "Stornoway Skyline" video, AGOFR was not to reach such dizzy heights of success again until 2018, when Colin Dun Ringle got Robert Plant, Bruce Springsteen and Van Morrison to join himself and James Corden in a carpool karaoke rendition of "I Don't Like Sheep".

(*) Innes and Jori are currently on a short break from the music business.

"The Lechends of AGOFR" in the beer tent at Sounds In The Grounds, August 22 2009: L-R : Iain Froagaidh Beag, Iain Dead Olac Guirean Jr, Jason "Iain for Tonight" Dun Ringle, Iain Wattie Dun Ringle, Iain Bomber Beag. Hiding at the back somewhere is Colin Dun Ringle, safeguarding his future career as a proper musician.

~ An Lùnasdal/ August 2019 ~						
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	3
4	5	6	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 50 th Anniversary of Woodstock. 36 and a bit th Anniversary of Midges of Rock 1983.	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 2019



10 Years of "Tales From The Minch"

Fleek off Yes, and take your Topographic Oceans with you. In September 2019, the world will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Dun Ringles' titanic nautical prog rock magnum opus "Tales From The Minch".

To casual observers, Tales From the Minch seemed to be your typical prog rock album, but for the four listeners who bothered to explore it further, it held so much more than mere prog extravaganza.

Yes, it had prog rock cover artwork of a four headed mythical sea-beast; long songs, yes it had twiddly bits and yes it had impenetrable lyrics.

And yes, the songs were by and large held together with a nautical theme.

And yes, the Dun Ringles tried to do a 'Horslips' (Irish celtic rock demigods) by taking traditional songs and rocking (or in this case proggng) them up. On 'Carry Us Home Now (Cal-Mac)' could that be a hint of 'The D*rk Isl*nd'? And on 'I Am Tired (Stealing Cattle)' is that 'Tha Mi Sgith' underneath it all? And isn't 'The Docker's Lament' chust a rip off - we mean homage - to Horslip's 'The Clergy's Lament'? (Oh and yes, all the songs seemed to have brackets in the title - another sure fire Prog Rock giveaway). But was it really prog rock?

Ok, ok, it is fleeking prog then.

Tales From Topographic Minches

~ Àn τ-Sultain/September 2019 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Àrdain Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1 Boxcar Willie's Birthday. Public Holiday (Leurbost)	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Country and Westren fans mourn the 1 st Anniversary of Don Williams' Death. National Day of Mourning (Outside the Cattle Grid).	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 Dàmhair / October 2019



50 Years of Led Zeppelin – The Stornoway Connection

2019 sees the 50th anniversary of Led Zeppelin's first 2 albums, so it's time to take a look at the little known connections that existed between the mighty Zep and the Outer Hebrides, even before Colin Dun Ringle became R*b*rt Pl*nt's best pal.....

Stornoway was of course where Zeppelin first achieved large scale success, due to relentless plugging by the unstoppable chairman of their local fan club, Willie B*rns.

Despite being only 4 at the time, Willie went round the town with a Fordson Dexta starting handle, 'persuading' Maciver & Dart, DD Morrison's and Woolies to replace all their stock with Led Zeppelin records, and all the DJs at Radio Ranol to play "Dazed and Confused" on 24-hour rotation for the whole of 1969. The buzz eventually spread to other radio and TV stations on the Mainland, leading to Zeppelin's subsequent megastardom and cheneral rock god-ness.

Even T*mmy D*rkie changed his repertoire at Willie's 'suggestion' to feature a danns an t-shabhail set comprising "Whole Lotta Gaol"/"Cia Meud More Times" agus "Chan Urrain Dhomh Quit Ewes, Baby"....

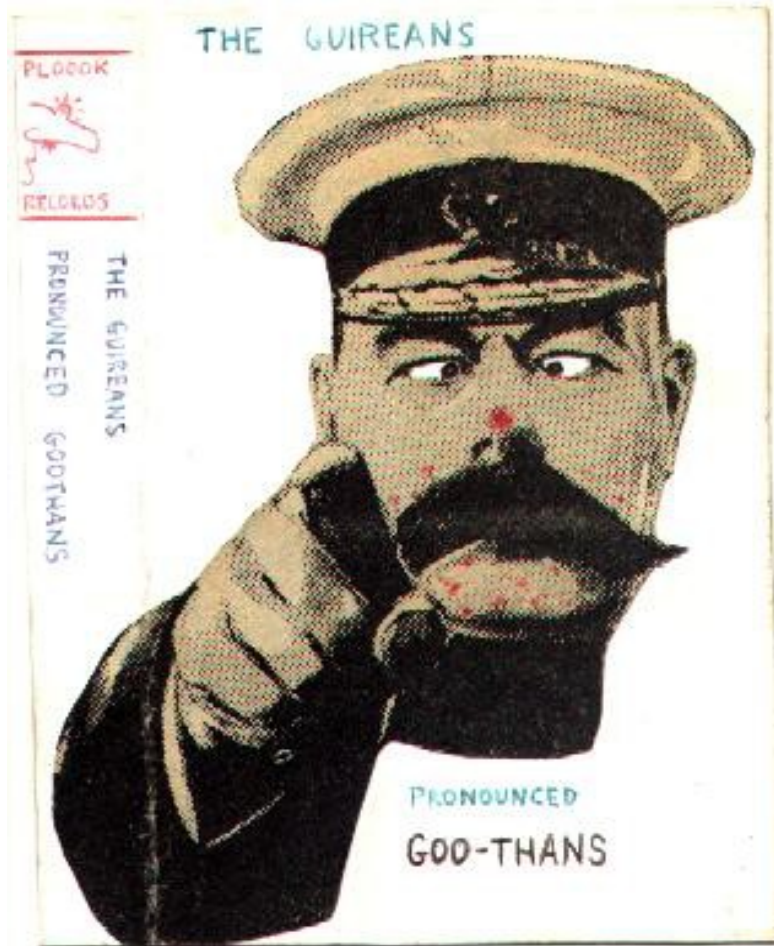
And who can forget Zeppelin's lechendary concert in Stornoway in 1975? Everybody, apparently, but fortunately the Made Up History of Stornoway have trawled the archives to bring the story back to life:

<https://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2009/02/09/more-on-led-zeppelins/>

"Och gus, Colin a' dhàlaich, and this was where we shot the original album cover for "Physical Graffiti" :
Pl*nt shows Colin Dun Ringle some of the memorable spots from Zeppelin's 1975 trip to Stornoway

~ Àn Dàmhair/ October 2019 ~						
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	8	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 Thon Kipper National Mod opens in Glasgow.
13	15	15	16	17	18	19
20 Anniversary of Skynynrd's Plane Crash – National day of Mourning (Outer Hebrides) National Mod closes with massed choirs singing "Freebird"	22	22	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26
28	29	29	30	31 Halloween. 47 th anniversary (propably) of Cailean B*W giving the North St kids 2p then setting the dog on Guireans Manager Coinneach for demanding more.		

An t-Samhain / November 2019



40 Years of AGOFR - "Pronounced Goo-thans"

Fleekeen Heng. Can it be that November 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of The Guireans getting together to record their 1st album "Pronounced Goo-thans" - and thus arguably inventing the thing that would become known as Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock?

With a holiday from school for the November 1979 Stornoway Free Church Latha Taingealachd services, 4 chirpy bobbantops from North Street (and one from the Cearns, but his uncle was Georgie Golidy so that was OK) decided to skive off from the day's holy business and form a band, record an album and become rock stars instead.

If ever proof was needed that dodging church leads to dire consequences, the Guireans, the dreadful piece of ruppish they recorded, and the unlistenable genre of "music" they invented that day were it.

"Pronounced Goo-thans" was recorded with a stellar line-up of the Dead Olac Brothers on £4 Polish guitar and chanter, James "The Hammer" Petrie on keyboards (a 50p reject toy organ from Woolies), Johnny B Allan on drums (a Chad Valley toy kit 'customised' with the addition of a peat bucket, a fireguard and a biscuit tin), and charismatic frontman Gordon "Mod" Macleod on posing duties and vocals.

Some say that the Guireans' 1st album is AGOFR gold, the band's greatest work, representing the peak of their career. Maybe, maybe not, but the one thing we can say for sure is that nothing they've done in the 40 years since has been any better.

Pronounced Goo-thans : The iconic cassette sleeve that started the AGOFR revolution 40 years ago this month

-Samhain/November 2019 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadin Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
					1 4 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Plasterfield and Parkend declare war but decide they'll have it in Sandwich to avoid damage at home.	2 3 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Parkend begins air strikes on East Street, acting against alleged "Plasterfield mercenaries" in the area.
3 2 Days Till Guy Fawkes: No fighting on the Sabbath	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 Sandwich government.	5 Guy Fawkes – Parkend and Plasterfield in flames as usual.	6 Tyre collecting for 2018 begins	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Comhairle's Winter 2019/20 Ice Gritting Contract Starts
17 Comhairle's Winter 2019/20 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money	18	19 6 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 40 th Anniversary of the Guireans recording their 1 st album "Pronounced Goo- thans" and inventing AGOFr (maybe).	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 St Andrew's Day. 40 Years since Pink Floyd released "The Wall". (Knocked up in a week after they heard "Pronounced Goo-thans")

An Dúblachd / December 2019



10 Years of AGOFR Calendars

Would youse believe that this is the 10th Miosachan Oifigeal na h-AGOFR (That's "Official Calendar of Avante-Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock", for youse monoglots and Townies) in a row? Well, it is.

Every year, the c(r)ack team of designers and new media evangelists in Bord Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR's Directorate of e-Ruppish And i-Nonsense *chust about* fail to get the calendar out in time, distracted as they are by chronic under-resourcing, non-stop harassment from Coinneach and CJ banging on the door and demanding grants, continuous office moves among the town's derelict premises, and the very reasonable price of a half and half downstairs in the Lewis.

But despite all this, they've scraped through with something chust before the New Year every year since 2010, no matter how ruppish.

And what better excuse not to bother coming up with anything new for the December page this year? Instead, here's a lovely collage of the previous 9 years' worth of covers. Nollaig chridheil agus bliadhna mhàth ùr dhiubh uile!

AGOFR Calendar Covers 2010 - 2018

~ An Òbhlachd/December 2019 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardainn Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1	2	3 10 years since Horslips got back together. Public holiday (Wattie's house)	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 6 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 25 th Anniversary of Isles FM. For 24 hours, normal service will be replaced by a special celebratory show: "AJK's Top 1000 Voiceovers 1994- 2019"	23 6 th Anniversary of the death of Kim Jong Il, Dear Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. National day of Mourning (Point)	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)				

ACOFER Agus am Bòrd Stiùreadh.

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

ACOFER 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 ACOFER's early period imploded in the early 80s, the Guireans are still on the go today when they can be bothered. More recent ACOFER acts include the Dun Ringles, Sheep Purple, Coinneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock, The Lechends of ACOFER and Frogaigh Beag..

The industry has struggled on through the 80s, 90s, 00s and 10s in the face of general apathy and ignorance, both in the wider community and among its own practitioners. However, with the massive CueTube success of the Lechends of ACOFER's "Àiridhòthruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, and the "Dun Ringles" even bigger smash with "Stornoway Skyline" in 2016 - the year ~~2010~~ ~~2011~~ ~~2012~~ ~~2013~~ ~~2014~~ ~~2015~~ ~~2016~~ ~~2017~~ ~~2018~~ 2019 could well see ACOFER influences begin to seep into mainstream culture. There are rumours that Calvin Harris has got the Cuiream and is about to relaunch himself as Calvinist Hearach. Bruno Marrs will be rebranded as Brue-no Marrags, and 2016 chart sensation Sia will be reverting to her full name ("Sia-rach") and releasing her next big hit - "Sheep Thrills" - in early 2018. Oh yus, and apparently, Stornowaywegian substitute sweary-word "fleck" is still being used by trendy fashionable types on the mainland - as in "fleck's sake - 'fleck' is really fleckeen 'on fleck' again 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. One shock development in 2018 has been the meteoric rise of unlicensed ACOFER operators "Pe*t and Oi*s't". While fulfilling most of the criteria for an ACOFER licence, the Bòrd will have to decide in 2019 whether to grant them an official permit, or whether their massive success, by definition, disqualifies them entirely from the genre.

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

www.guireans.com,