

Bòrd Stiùradh na h-ÀCOER
Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ÀCOER 2020
The Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock



Am Faoilleach / January 2020



Brexit and the Border(s) (Again)

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~~ ~~October 2019~~ January 2020. 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, 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 "Scalpoch 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 scrapyards 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 Faoilleach / January 2020 ~						
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 18 th Anniversary of The Guireans writing and record "Alasdair Mackay is God – Sorry, Bod" in an afternoon, at Rod The Actorr's house
5 D*vid Iain turns off the 2019 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	6 D*vid Iain turns on the 2020 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	7	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.
27	27	28 Guireans Manager Coinneach's Birthday. All (cash) donations ungratefully received.	29	30	31 Brexit Day (Again)	

An Gearran / February 2020



Siar Wars

In Feb 2020 the new Star Wars movie hits the multiplexes of Stornoway. But did you know that George Lucas's entire Star Wars saga is based on a lesser-known series of movies conceived and filmed right here in Lewis?

In 1967, while young George Lucas was swanning around California making ruppish experimental films, his older brother Bill moved to Stornoway and took a job as a reporter at the Gazette. In between sheriff court reports and death notices, he put together the screenplay for the expansive movie trilogy that would go on to delight dozens of Hebridean filmgoers: Siar Wars.

Originally conceived as a nine part series, Lucas penned treatments for the first three movies, The Phantom Menace, Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the Sith, but eventually decided to start with Part 4 since he couldn't be bothered with setting the scene.

"Siar Wars Episode IV: A New Hope" focuses on the exploits of a young Scottish fisherman, Luke Skywalker, and his companions Obi-Wan Kenobi, Princess Leia Organa, Han Solo and his faithful collie companion, Chewbacca, as they battle the evil Galactic Empire and its sinister enforcer Darth Vader. As with the later Hollywood remakes, things went downhill through the sequels and got really ruppish in the prequels that followed.

The whole idea was nicked by George in 1976 when he was home from Hollywood visiting his brother for the August communion weekend, and the rest is cinematic history.

For the full story, check out the Made Up History if Stornoway's highly misinformative article at

<https://www.facebook.com/208938445842196/videos/893363077399726/> or <https://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2015/12/13/siar-wars/>.

A Long Time Ago, in a Galaxy Far Away...

~ An Gearran / February 2020 ~						
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.	4	5	6	7	8
9 Harris Tweed found in Harris	10	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 Last day for Rubhachs to take their peats home.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Am Màrt / March 2020



1200 Years of Norse Occupation and 15 of "Oh Flick"

2020 marks the 1200 anniversary of the first Norse invasion of the Outer Hebrides, which took place on Thursday 25 March 820 AD at 3.15pm. No doubt spurred on by rumours of the lucrative guga market and the proto-Harris Tweed industry, the Norse arrived with a mighty fleet of Maersk container longships, ready to strip the islands bear. (The bear had advanced notice and fled to Benbecula, where he started a dynasty of performing bears).

This event was famously marked in song by the Dun Ringles on their 1994 'Flang Your Doodles' concept album. But it was more famously covered, and updated for the kids, by MC Skigersta agus DJ Ossian vs Bjork Gugasdottir in 2005.

This ancient Norse/Gaelic epic tells the, very probably, true story of how the Western Isles came to be. It originated in the 8th Century and was passed down through the ages in the oral tradition of bardic storytelling. This version of the epic was originally recorded for BBC Radio Stornoway in 1938 by renowned Norwegian Celtic scholar Skigersta Kornerunitsen, (1885-1969) who had Ness connections.

The master reels of the recording were subsequently lost and did not come to light until recent renovations started behind the Lews Hotel in Stornoway. The reel was found wrapped in a 1939 edition of the Stornoway Gazette in an old Liptons Tea-chest hidden in the corner of the old stables.

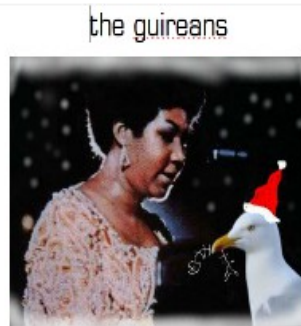
The reel was passed on to the Stornoway Historical Society, who asked local record producer Ossian Stormwatch III to digitally clean up the sound quality. Whilst doing this, Ossian discovered that the monotone chant of the saga meshed well with a groovy dance beat. The rest as they say is history.

This 'banging' choon soon had the dance floors of Stornoway chumping, as the kids got down and boogied to the hot disco-Gaelic sounds. It was also available as a trance mix, but this was eventually banned as it put everyone to sleep.

An Oh Flick Picture. (Nobody Could find the Sleeve of the 2005 MC Skigersta vs Bjork Gugasdottir Remix)

~ Àm MÀRƒ / MÀrch 2020 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ɔ1-Luain MOn	Ɔ1-MÀIRƒ Tue	Ɔ1-CiadaIn Wed	Ɔ1-Àrdaoin Thu	Ɔ1-h-Àoine Fri	Ɔ1-Sàchuirne Sat
1 .Lardi Gras 2018 – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFr festival (Dunky's House)	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 1830 – Original Lewis Chessmen unearthed in Harris (but nicked by some Uigeach)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Spring Equinox
22	23 End of 2019/20 Poaching Season (River Creed)	24 Start of 2020/21 Poaching Season (River Creed)	25	26	27	28
29	30 Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man.	31				

An Giblean / April 2020



athighearna fanklin's spealtrag scratch ep

A Xmas Tribute to The Queen of Choels (and Peat Chalkstreet)



Famously Delayed Releases in Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock

In April, as the financial year ends, it's customary for the tycoons of the AGOFR industry (Guireans Manager Coinneach "Peat-er Grànnda" Livingstone, and the Dun Ringles' sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (87)) to go into their annual apoplectic rage about all the albums their lazy coma-co-dhiù artistes haven't got around to making yet.

Most AGOFR releases end up being late due to the sloth and apathy of the bands (even Guireans albums that only take an afternoon to record), but there are some particularly extreme examples:

The Dun Ringles' "C.O.V.E." concept album was several years in the works before finally appearing in 2016. The lazy bleigards' previous album had come out in 2009.

The Guireans' "Spealtrag Scratch" EP (due for release at Xmas 2018 as a tribute to recently deceased popstars Ar*tha Fr*nkl*n and P*t* Sh*ll*y) is also a bit behind, since (at time of writing at the end of 2019) it's still not out.

In the popular imagination the record for AGOFR lateness probably goes to the Guireans' "J&E's Democracy" which has been "in work" since 2002 and still shows no sign of appearing.

But in actual fact the most delayed AGOFR release ever is Zing Pop's lost 3rd album "What is Live Art?", which still hasn't come out despite being launched in a massive CJ-orchestrated media hype campaign in 1984... I

In 2011, this calendar predicted that *"What Is Live Art?" will be released to coincide with the Guireans' "J&E's Democracy", a Teedees' Cow winning the Nobel Prize for literature, H*ll freezing over and Rod the Actorr buying Billy Mac a' Noo Noo a pint.* So it's still a while off...

Some Album Covers of Delayed AGOFR Releases: The Dun Ringles' "COVE"/The Guireans' "J & E's Democracy" and "Spealtrag Scratch"/Zing Pop's "What Is Live Art?" (so "live" it doesn't exist yet)

~ An Giblean/April 2020 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardainn Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
			1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. (National Holiday of Airdhbhruach) Easter (Western Christianity)	2 April Fool's Day again (Airdhbhruach - cos one day's never enough)	3	4
5	6	7	8 Easter (Orthodox)	9	10	11 Easter (Continuing)
12	13	14 Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)	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 fleekken cushy job in it.	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

An Céitean / May 2020



39 Years of AGOFR Videos

Forget your Bohemian Rhapsodies and your trendy 1980's megabuck pop productions, the real groundbreaking video (or dodgy Super-8 film) of the age was The Guireans 'Fireball'. If only MTV had existed back in 1981, then the musical map of the world could have been so very different.

Guireans Manager Coinneach "Russell" Livingstone had just got his very first sound cine camera, and decided to teach himself to sync up a soundtrack with the visuals on Super-8 film by making a pop video. Not knowing any proper bands he chose to get the Guireans to mime to Deep Purple's "Fireball" in Gordon's back garden.

There was one minor snag; everyone had already left the band in the wake of the disastrous lost second album "EMI Cassette Super C60". James ("Awright, Yoko") Petrie had even gone as far as staging his own assassination in order to dissociate himself from the band and regain some semblance of credibility, so by this stage he was supposed to be dead.

However, Coinneach did a bit of fast talking and, through a combination of vanity, gullibility and crass stupidity (his and theirs), managed to get the original line-up to relent and get together one last time. Including the late Mr Petrie.

Nevertheless, there were musical differences as Ken and Gordon fought bitterly over the choice of a backing track. Gordon was strongly in favour of a more contemporary song that would showcase his latest sartorial acquisition. But luckily, nobody else in the band owned a pastel-coloured Duran Duran suit and no yachts were available, so Gordon's choice was abandoned in favour of the marginally less embarrassing Deep Purple number.

The Guireans on Location Round The Back of Gordon's House - 1981

~ An Céitean/ May 2020 ~						
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	4 May Day. 96th Congress of the People's Soviet (Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost)	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Finals of the Eoropievision Song Contest (Ness). Garrabost will win again after threatening to invade everyone if they don't
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 t-Ogmhios / June 2020



35 Years of "B*gie Goes to Bennadrove"

2020 sees the 35th anniversary of the Guireans' legendary C-30 cassette "Bogie Goes to Bennadrove" (1985), which featured classic covers such as Culture Club's popular Cailleach an Dèacoin tribute "Cailleach Comedienne", Bowie's "Iain Stardust and the Peatcutters from Borge", the Velvet Underground's "Waitin' for the Bus" and ZZ Top's "Gimme All Your Bog Roll".

The album's title was, of course, a cynical and belated attempt to emulate the success of overhyped undertalented scousers Frankie Goes to Hollywood. Older readers may remember that Frankie's PR guru Paul Morley famously employed the strategy of getting their single "Relax" banned from the airwaves so that nobody could hear how ruppish it was without buying it.

Ironically the Frankie publicity stunt was modelled entirely on an earlier AGOFR campaign of media manipulation masterminded by Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (74). In 1981, Mitchell (86), had propelled sales of Zing-Pop's inferior "Lord of the Zings" to an incredible 3 by cleverly not sending it to Radio Nan Eilean and cunningly forgetting to ask Maciver and Dart to put a copy on the shelf. On "Bogie Goes to Bennadrove", extreme AGOFR anoraks will recognise an allusion to this episode in the use of ukeleles on "Zing Frankie Mix".

Co dhiù, "Bogie" was recorded in 3 different locations over a few months between December 84 and Summer 85, and featured a wide selection of Guireans old and new. First timers included bemused American visitor and Velvet Underground freak Martin "Hank the Yank" Strell (vocals on "Waitin' for the Bus") and Neil "Hippy" Shaw, while Guireans Manager Coinneach (not seen with the band since his Midge of Rock 1983 appearance on toilet pan 'drums') unwisely re-appeared shouting along behind Neil Hippy on "Gimme All Your Bog Roll".

For the full story of "B*gie" and its making, see the Guireans' website:

http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/bogie_goes_to_bennadrove_1985.htm

Cassette Cover for the Guireans' "Bogie Goes to Bennadrove" (1985) - By Bod

~ Àn τ-Ogmhios/June 2020 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
	1 Calum Kennedy's birthday, 4 days after his twin (See 29 May). Public Holiday (South Lochs and Iain Shaw's house)	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Rod the Actorr's latest EP of Electronica wins the Smash Hits single of the year (1982).	15	16	17	18 Local Story appears in Stornoway Gazette	19	20
21 Summer Solstice. Watch out for fleekkeen 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 2020



35th Anniversary of Livener Aid

After the success of Bàrd Aid in Dec 1984 (raising funds for the Stornoway Opera House with hit single 'Do They Know It's Chucking Out Time'), it didn't take much persuasion from Midge Ewe-er and Tob Gelding to convince the cream of Lewis musicians to agree to perform at Goathill Stadium in Livener Aid.

The stellar lineup included most of the teeny pin-up pop stars of the early-to-mid 80s, such as Boy Seoras, Guirean Guirean, Ram! and Spàgan Ballet,

But the show was stolen by a couple of the veteran acts whose day was thought to be past - Steinish Quo got the stadium going with "Flockin' All Over The World" and Queen(slandroad) frontman Freddy Mehhrucuiream had the crowd eating out of his trough like hungry molts during a bravura performance of "Radio Guga".

Meanwhile the AGOFR movement's attempts to jump on the Band Aid Wagon proved even less successful. The Guireans' single "Feed The Sheep" was 7 months too late for xmas, and too libellous about the state of a certain neighbour's livestock to be released, ever.

Ecstatic Hordes at Livener Aid, 1985

~ Àn τ-luchar/July 2020~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadin Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
			1	2	3 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 ^t 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 Heb Celt Festival Begins. Probably no AGOFR bands on the bill (again). Except maybe P**t and D**s*I.	10 BBC Alba screen highlights of Heb Celt Festival (2007)	11
12 9th Anniversary of 1 st Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.	13 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	14	15	16	17	18
19 2 nd attempt at a Sports Centre trials Sunday opening. Weather - Fire & Brimstone all week	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 2 nd Sports Centre Sunday opening trial abandoned. Comhairle re-hires G**rdie G*Iidy to chain up the swings on Saturday nights.	27	28	29	30	31	

An Lunasdal / August 2020



Primary School Music Lessons

This month reflects on a tenuous link with the 51st anniversary of the Stornoway Primary opening. (We forgot to 'do' the 50th last year). The AGOFR movement had its roots in two Primary Schools; Stornoway Primary and Sandwickhill Primary School. The education beaten into the reluctant pupils no doubt shaped the nascent AGOFR movement, as it was in these fine institutions that chanter and ukulele lessons first opened up the prospect of making a lucrative musical career out of, as Bono said, 'three (ukulele) chords and the truth and a vague knowledge of where to put your fingers on the chanter to play Tha Mi Sgith'

Sandwickhill was first opened in 948 AD as a posh private school for the kids of rampaging Norsemen. It had a luxurious outside toilet suite and a shared playground (well, a shared field with Teedee's cows is possibly a more accurate description).

The new Stornoway Primary opened its doors in 1969, bringing with it proper toilets, blackboards that weren't made from old herring boxes, desks that weren't 100 years old, and chalk that wasn't made from asbestos. The teachers also had a staff room, meaning they no longer had to use the Carlton for 'playtime'. Prior to that, the Primary school was located in Matheson Hall and the Clock School.

But it also had an actual music room where pupils were ~~forced~~ encouraged to learn to play the chanter and ukulele (often at the same time). Music teachers and tutors would beat out a rhythm on an unfortunate child's head, and the class would give it their all until ukulele strings snapped or lungs burst. Surprisingly, from the wreckage of the music room, a semblance of a song occasionally came together in order to help fill the programme at the Xmas Concert. If you listen very closely to any AGOFR songs you can hear the strains of 'Merrily We Roll Along' and 'Father John MacMillan of Barra' trying to get out.

AGOFR Fame Academy (for Townies) - Stornoway Primary at 51.

~ An Lùnasdal / August 2020 ~						
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.
11	12	11	12	13	14	15 50 th Anniversary of Woodstock. 36 and a bit ^{hh} Anniversary of Midge 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 2020



Bright Luights and the Lure of the Gaming Tables

It's September and the nights are drawing in, so the Xmas lights at Maybury Garden will no doubt be on by now. Between that and the lamppost decorations, the Guireans' home town of North Street is looking more and more like Las Vegas, Nevada. Guireans Manager Coinneach "Bugsy Seagull" Livingstone is already planning to open a massively rigged casino in the Dead Olacs' sheep shelter, with backing from a number of underworld figures with ties to the Gaelic Mafia.

"Yeah. maybe the rusty corrugated iron walls, 3 foot ceiling and sheep's cac floor might not pull in too many human customers", said Coinneach yesterday, "but that ain't my target market, see? I got sources on the street, and the word I hear is that there's a load of lambs up there on *Cùl a' Lot* that spends all day gambling"

Of course this isn't the first time the island has seen an unprepossessing "àite dorch" transformed into a garish neon-lit den of iniquity given over to sordid games of chance. Oh no. We refer you to a recent(*) scholarly article from The Made Up History of Stornoway about how, back in the 1930s, townie gangsters turned an abandoned fank near Bridge Cottages into the world's gambling capital... the infamous desert metropolis we know today as Lax Vegas

(*)Not written yut.

Viva Las North Street - Guireans Manager Coinneach Welcomes Youse to The Bright Luights of Sin City

~ Æn τ-Sultain/September 2020 ~						
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	4	5
6	7	8 Country and Westren fans mourn the 2 nd 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 Thon Kipper - Day of Atonement for excessive fish smoking (Free Presbyterian)	28	29	30			

An Dámhair / October 2020



25 Years of Dances with Lobsters

Although not released until 1996, the Dun Ringles' penultimate pre-digital cassette-based album was recorded 25 years ago this month.

Marking a radical change with convention, and risking their AGOFR certification yet again, the Dun Ringills (Or Dun Ringhills, or whatever the fleek they were called at the time) decided to record their fourth tape in the big city of Edinburgh, and in October 1995 Jason and Wattie came down from Stornoway and Robin came across from Glasgow and all crashed with Jon Dun Ringle and Trina.

Jon's father in law owned a video making company and Jon managed to scrounge some time in their proper professional type studio. The band still ended up recording the songs on their old MR300 4-track portastudio, but it was perched on top of some genuine high tech equipment, so it felt like the real deal.

By day, the band beavered away in the studio and at night ate lots of large meals in Jon's house. After several days a work of art was in the bag and ready for release. However, Jon took ages getting the tapes copied and it wasn't actually released until May 1996.

The tape's name came about as a tribute to Jason's career as captain of a lobster boat in Harris. Jason also produced yet another stunning cover.

Life at the lobsters must have had a calming effect on Jason. This is probably the Dun Ringles' most mellow and laid-back album, with little of the usual shredding, riffage or geetar histrionics.

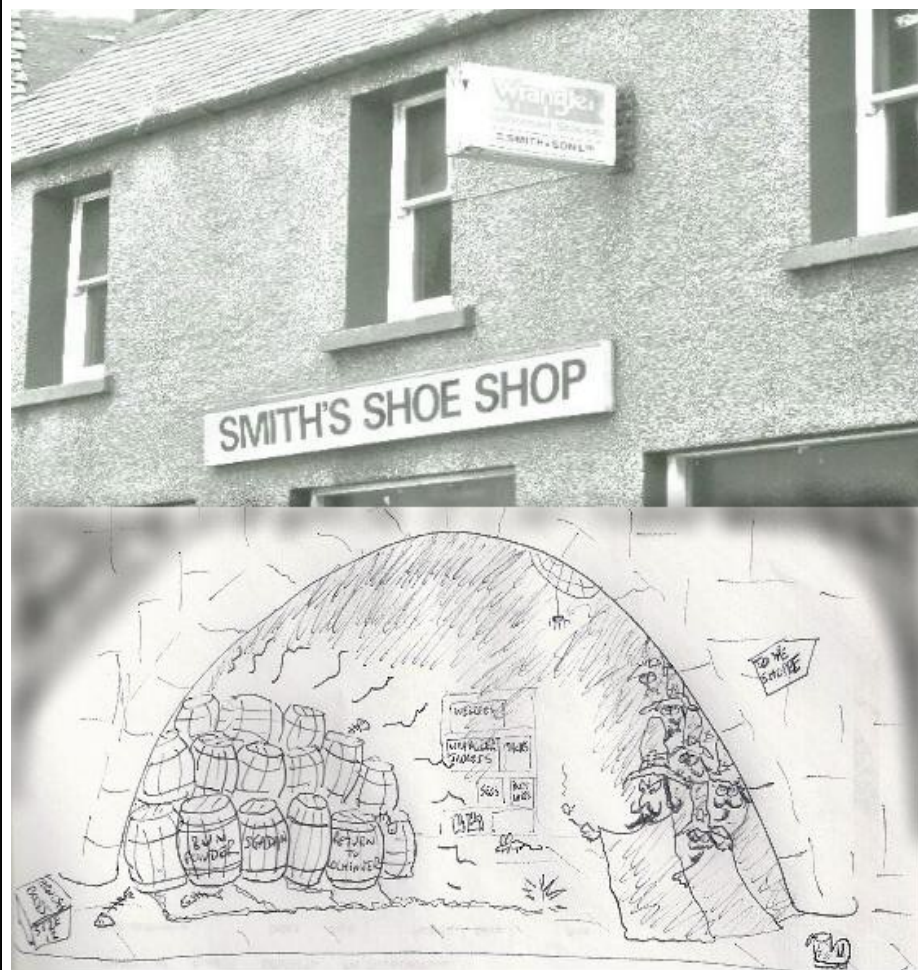
Serious record collectors will know that a very small number of copies of "Lobsters" were er.. pressed with "Sailing On the Suilven" and "Environ-mental" the wrong way round. If like us you're lucky enough to have one of these, you'll be excited to know that its market value is around 1000 times that of a 'correct' copy.

You will however be less excited to know that 1000 times fleek all is still fleek all

The Dun Ringles' (or Dun Ringhills) Dances With Lobsters

~ An Dàmhair / October 2020 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadin Wed	Ìl-Ardain Thu	Ìl-h-Aoine Fri	Ìl-Sathairne Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Do you think the fleekes spuds are going to lift themselves, you lazy bleigeard? You were chust as bad this time last year.	10 National Mod opens in Inversneckie.
11	12	13	14	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"	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day
25	26	27	28	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 2020



Cove Fawkes – the 416th Anniversary

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 2013), 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 fleekkeen 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 Ue Ftoarnauaye Gazette)

-Samhain/November 2020 -						
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. And don't start it today because it's the Sabbath.	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: Oh fleek.	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 2021 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 7th 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 riribh.	20	21
22 41st 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. 41 Years since Pink Floyd released "The Wall". (Knocked up in a week after they heard "Pronounced Goo-thans")					

An Duibhlachd / December 2020



45 Years of Bohemian Rhapsody

December 2020 marks the 45th anniversary of Queen's epic "Bohemian Rhapsody" topping the singles charts. With its baroque complexity, operatic vocals, dazzling instrumental virtuosity, state-of-the-art production and pioneering video it might not be the obvious template for Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock.

But yus. AGOFR artistes in the early years of the genre had not yet realised how ruppish they were, and so their ambitions were limitless. Enthused with the multi-tracking possibilities afforded by 2 cassette recorders, they couldn't see why a fiendishly complicated and flawlessly produced mini rock opera couldn't be made with zero musical talent, a kazoo and a waste paper basket (or zero musical talent, a chanter and a peat bucket if you were a maw).

Guireans Manager Coinneach's pathetic attempts at Guireans videos (see previous month) owed much in ambition if not execution to "Bohemian Rhapsody", while Zing-Pop's conceptual early work and the hyperproduced pomp rock melodramas churned out by the Dun Ringles ever since they went digital are clearly indebted to Queen's magnum opus. And of course, the infamous Rab Kuartski's Bohemian Crapsodies might possibly have had it mind when they decided on their name.

Strangely, despite its influence, no AGOFR band to date has actually dared to attempt a cover of "Bohemian Rhapsody" itself. The Guireans only ever did a sneaky "Another One Shears the Sheep" (1987(?)). And the Dun Ringles did a whole bunch of Queen covers at a tribute night in Tarbert once, but "Rhapsody" wasn't among them.

So why the reticence? Well, the prevailing theory among AGOFR historians is that nobody could ever figure out a way to "Leodhasachise" the lyrics of "Bohemian Rhapsody" without getting a lifetime ban from the C*ffee P*t.

Bohemian Rhapsody - The Stornoway Connection?

~ An Dùbhlachd/December 2020 ~						
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 26 th Anniversary of Isles FM. For 24 hours, normal service will be replaced by a special celebratory show: "AJK's Top 1000 Voiceovers 1994-2020"	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 Taoðh Mugh a’ Chatte Grid, the pidgin dialect adopted by the natives of the interior when dealing with their urðan 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 Frogaith 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 EuTube success of the Lechends of AGOFR’s (not the fleekkeen Dun Ringles) “Àiridhòhruach” performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, AGOFR influences finally begin to seep into mainstream culture...

In 2016 the Dun Ringles had an even bigger EuTube smash with “Stornoway Skyline”, and the United States of America elected some fleekkeen amadan from Tong as its first ever AGOFR President. Then in 2018 rogue unlicensed AGOFR practitioners Peat and Diesel appeared and began their meteoric rise to chart-topping superstardom. 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 chart sensation Sia will be reverting to her full name (“Sia-rach”) and releasing her next big hit – “Sheep Thrills” – in early 2020. Oh yus, and apparently, Stornowaywegian substitute sweary-word “fleek” is still being used by trendy fashionable types on the mainland – as in “fleek’s sake – ‘fleek’ is really fleekkeen ‘on fleek’ again this fleekkeen 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 fleekkeen ferry.

www.cuireans.com.