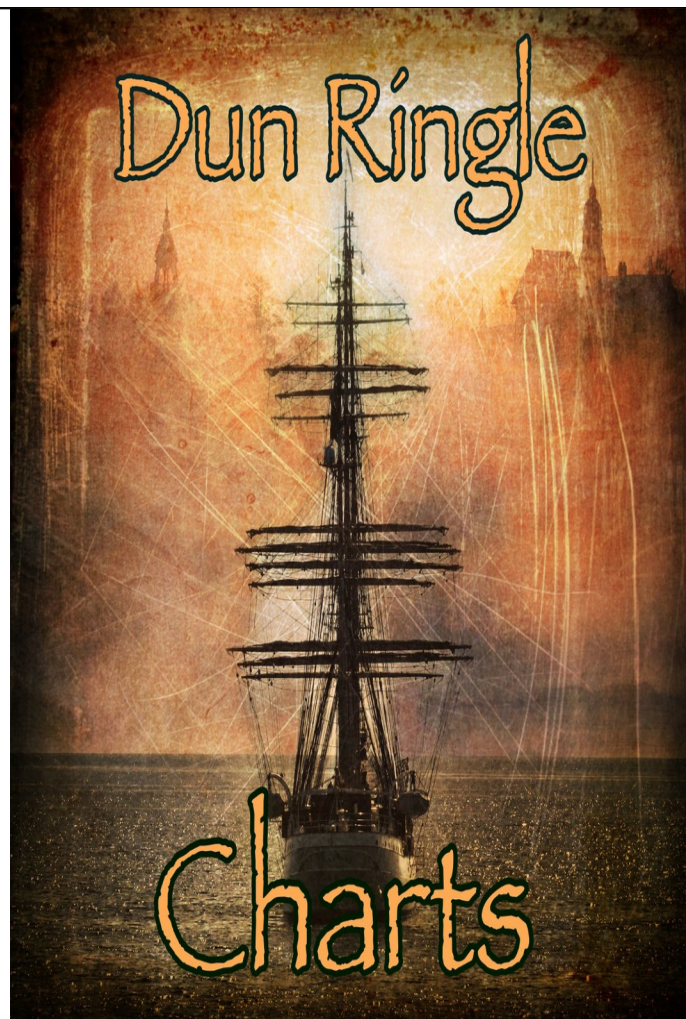


Bòrd Stiùradh na h-AGOFR
Miosachan Oifigeal na h-AGOFR 2023



The Official Calendar of Avante Gaeilic Obscurist Folk Rock 2023

Am Faoilleach / January 2023



"Charts" - The New Dun Ringles LP

January 2023 sees the release of the Dun Ringles' long awaited 'Charts' album. Six years in the making, this prog rock epic concept album about maps (or something) celebrates the band (somehow) managing to survive for 30 years. This is what Charles Shaader Murray from the Newvalley Musical Express had to say about it:

"As Dun Ringles conceptual masterworks go, the Knock/Manor Park/Trondheim/Reykjavik prog rock tyrannosaurs' latest release is a bit less "prog" than your average Dun Ringles album. The songs are short(ish), some of them have tunes, and there's a distinct lack of gratuitous time signature changes, jazz excursions, 20-minute mellotron solos or concertos with the Leurbost Symphony Orchestra.

In fact, not since 2003's "Giraffic Park" - the band's 30-years-too-late bid to conquer 1970s American AOR FM radio by taking on them Styx, Journey, Foreigner, Kansas and REO Speedwagon bleigeards at their own game - have the Dun Ringles come up with an album of such pop-tastic commerciality.

This time, Dun Ringles manager and Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (86) is said to have forced the band down a 1980s "old proggers sell out" route, citing the massive singles chart success achieved in that decade by such uncool prog rock has-beens as Genesis, Rush, Yes and Asia. "Fleek's sake, coves - the worse they were in the 70s, the better they sold in the 80s", arsa Mitchell, exhorting the band to commercialise. "It even worked for fleeked Jefferson Starinn, and they were nearly as ruppish as youse".

So in summary, if this album went out for the evening it'd be wearing Joan Collins shoulder pads, dodgy Iron Maiden spandex trousers held up by Gordon Gekko braces, a mullet and (opviously) a suit chacket with the sleeves rolled up. It would be driving a Porsche 924, shouting "buy! sell!" into a giant mobile phone and carrying its filofax in a Chanel handbag.

But it would bring along a pair of flares, giant platform boots and a wizard's cape to change into later on, and it would probably go home in 3 huge equipment trucks with "Emerson, "Lochs", and "Bragar" written on the roofs."

"Charts" Album Sleeve: Another Failure To Agree the Whole Fleeked Dun Ringle/Dun Ringles/Dun Ringhills Thing.

Àm Faoilleach / January 2023 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Ardaoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1 Bliadhna Mhath Ur. No New Year celebrations this year, though, as it is the Sabbath.	2	3	4 20th 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 2021 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	6 D*vid Iain turns on the 2023 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.	26	27	28 Guireans Manager Coinneach's Birthday. All (cash) donations ungratefully received.
29	30	31				

An Gearran / February 2023



40 Years Of "Olacs Volume 79"

The Guireans' "Olacs Volume 79" actually celebrated its 40th birthday in January, but our celebration of it has been bumped out to February in response (allegedly) to demands from Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (83) (allegedly) to turn over January's page to the media blitz for the new Dun Ringles album.

Mitchell (76) (allegedly) lobbied each Bòrd member with dire threats of violence and a sheep's head delivered to their home in the dead of night. "Bribery will get you everywhere" said an 'outraged' Bòrd vice-chair yesterday, while stirring a big pan of brot ceann caorach with the horns sticking out the top.

Co dhiù, "Olacs" was recorded in January 1983 in the Dead Olacs' front bedroom using top-end 80s studio technology (a stereo ghetto blaster that Dead Olac Guirean Jr had got for Xmas).

Tracks included "**B Mucus For Bop People**", (the "music" performed by fictional French jazz ponces "Les Arts Farts" in Stornoway-based French arthouse film "Les Mauvaises Jeunes") Adam and the Ants indictment "**Bodach Eat Marag**", disco dancefloor emptier "**Last Night a DM Saved My Life**", and the Fall-based "**New Face in Dell**" (with a chanter instead of a kazoo, and Mark E Smith replaced by Roddy Huggan reading the lyrics from the Ness column of the Gazette).

Read the full story of the making of this classic Guireans album at: http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/olacs_vol_79_1983.htm

The Guireans Couldn't be Bothered Doing a Sleeve for 1983's "Olacs Volume 79"

~ An Gearran / February 2023 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadain Wed	Ìl-Ardainn Thu	Ìl-h-Aoine Fri	Ìl-Sathairne Sat
			1	2 Groundhog Day (USA) The Guireans announce that their long awaited album "J&E's Democracy" is nearly ready. Again. (Sandwick)	3 64 years since Buddy Holy's plane crash.	4
5	6	7	8	9 Harris Tweed found in Harris	10	11
12	13 Brue Monday – Most depressing day of the year.	14 St Valentine's Day. Don't miss yesterday's sale on Ewe Rolls and Pedigree Tup Mix at the Crofters'.	15	16	17 BBC Alba screen a programme that's not a repeat. With actual Gaelic in it.	18 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,
19	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 Lardi Gras 2023 – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFR festival (Dunky's House)				

Am Màrt / March 2023



40th Anniversary of BBC Alba's "Cac Adder"

Back in 1983, Broadbay alternative comedian Beinn L Tong and scriptwriter Richard Ceard-is had a bright idea for a new Gaelic sitcom set in Stornoway Castle in the 1480's. Starring Bothan Atkinson as the scheming Lord Edmund Cac-Adder, the series featured his failed attempts to advance in the Court, aided and abetted by his incompetent henchmen Bald-Derek and Lord Percevalroad. The show was a success, attracting nearly 6 BBC Alba viewers and was commissioned for a second series.

Series 2 was set in Eliza-bothan times, where Cac-Adder tried to ingratiate himself with Goot Queen Bessag despite the efforts of his bitter rival, the conniving chancellor Lord Melbost.

The third series was set in Regency Stornoway, with Cac-Adder having fallen on hard times and now employed as a butler to dimwitted Prince Seoras (a bravura comedic performance delivered by H*ghson's Lorry).

The final series was set during the First Wool War, when the empires of Balallan and Marvig engaged in ferocious trench warfare for four years over the question of where Kenny Stigidh's tweed van should stop first. (The war was of course triggered by the assassination of Archduke Fank Ferdinand of Austro-Hungarryvard during a visit to Kershaderjevo). Cac-adder would come up with various schemes to get away from the front but they'd usually be foiled accidentally by the whims of his incompetent commander, General Melbost, or the General's henchman, the obsequious Captain Silverdarling.

At that point Bald Derek would invariably propose a harebrained scheme to get out of the situation, prefixed with his catchphrase: "My lord, I have a cunning Planaskerschool". Fleek's sake.

Co dhiù, the AGOFR connections here are admittedly tenuous, but some say that an early Dun Ringles line-up submitted a (failed) bid to do the music for Series II, as they were going through a self-indulgent prog rock Elizabethan madrigal phase at the time.

The First Episode of BBC Alba's "Cac Adder" - 1983

~ Àm MÀRƒ/MARCH 2023 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Ɔ1-Luain Mon	Ɔ1-MÀIRƒ Tue	Ɔ1-Ciadaim Wed	Ɔ1-Àrdaoin Thu	Ɔ1-h-Àoine Fri	Ɔ1-Sathuirne Sat
			1	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 2022/23 Poaching Season (River Creed)	24 Start of 2023/24 Poaching Season (River Creed)	25
26 Clocks go forward (everybody except the Seceders).	27 Clocks go forward (Seceders)	28	29	30 Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man.	31	

An Giblean / April 2023



40 Years Of “One More From The Trading Post”

This month sees the joyous celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the launch of seminal AGOFR album '**One More From The Trading Post**' by the much missed Stornoway band **Cyclefoot**. Cyclefoot were first formed in 1982 by Eddie, Rev and Seoras in the Scout Hall one night - the band's name a very bad pun on popular beat combo 'Motörhead'.

Eddie and Seoras left to join equally bad AGOFR band Black Stan, but Rev retaliated by recruiting three of Black Stan, namely Wilbur, Pennies and Eedjit. This second Cyclefoot line-up appeared as headliners at the 1982 Midges of Rock, where they performed such classics as 'Not Quite Smoke on the Water' and 'Conceited'. Roddy Huggan & Bod from the Guireans, and C.J. and Wattie from Zing Pop 'helped' on several sessions.

Trouble set in when Cyclefoot performed at the 1982 Winter Feis in the Scout Hall; Wilbur and Rev left, leaving Eedjit and Pennies to carry on. However they decided to give up and gave the name back to Wilbur and Rev. Roddy Huggan then joined full-time. As they recorded their first album Wilbur got fired (or left depending on who you spoke to), but all three featured on the album '**One More from the Trading Post**'. The band also had two bootlegs, namely '**Ossian at the Controls**' and '**Careful with that Pneumatic Drill.**'

'Trading Post' was a semi conceptual album about the now defunct Bayhead shop & off-licence that served the local community for many years. The Trading Post's proximity to the densely wooded Castle Grounds offered plenty of cover for AGOFR stars heading off for a Bush Walk to Gallows Hill with their refreshments.

Roddy Huggan reformed “Roddy Huggan's Original Cyclefoot” in 2003 for an appearance at the Midges of Rock Festival, but only Wattie from the original members could be bribed to appear.

In 2004 Cyclefoot contributed a Smiths cover (“Heaven Knows I'm M*sery Now”) to the AGOFR John Peel tribute EP “Margrave of the Moineach”, but this lineup was just Wattie backed by a bunch of anonymous session musos that he'd borrowed from the Dun Ringles and the Guireans.

Cyclefoot: More Disputes and Schisms than Fleetwood Mac, Deep Purple and the Fr**Ch*rch (Continuing) All Put Together.

~ An Giblean / April 2023 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Ardaoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
						1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. (National Holiday of Airidhbhruach)
2 April Fool's Day again (Airidhbhruach - cos one day's never enough to go round)	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Easter (Western Christianity)	10 Easter (Fee Presbyterian)	11	12	13	14 Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Feast of St George - Patron Saint of...	24	25	26 Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)	27 Easter (Continuing)	28	29 Easter (APC)
30						

An Céitean / May 2023



40 Years Since the Venture Scouts Moved to the Boatshed on Newton

May 2023 (give or take a month or two) sees the 40th anniversary of the Stornoway Venture Scouts moving into their secret Newton Street headquarters. This former Boatshed, (which commanded outstanding views and smells of the Prawn Factory at Goat Island) had been used by the Sea Cadets for many years and was located just behind the infamous Sea Cadet Hall on Inaclete Rd.

The Venture Scout Leader at the time, Rev Emsl^e N^{mm}^{*}, had discovered that the Boatshed came along with St P^{ter}s Ch^{rch}. Emsl^e felt that the Boatshed would make a good base for the Ventures and would also give them a place to have 'sessions' rather than imposing themselves on a regular basis on St P^{ter}'s Manse.

The Boatshed had laid empty and unused for many years but the more technical coves in the Ventures were able to turn it into a snazzy wee place, complete with pool table, a bar and a large storage room.

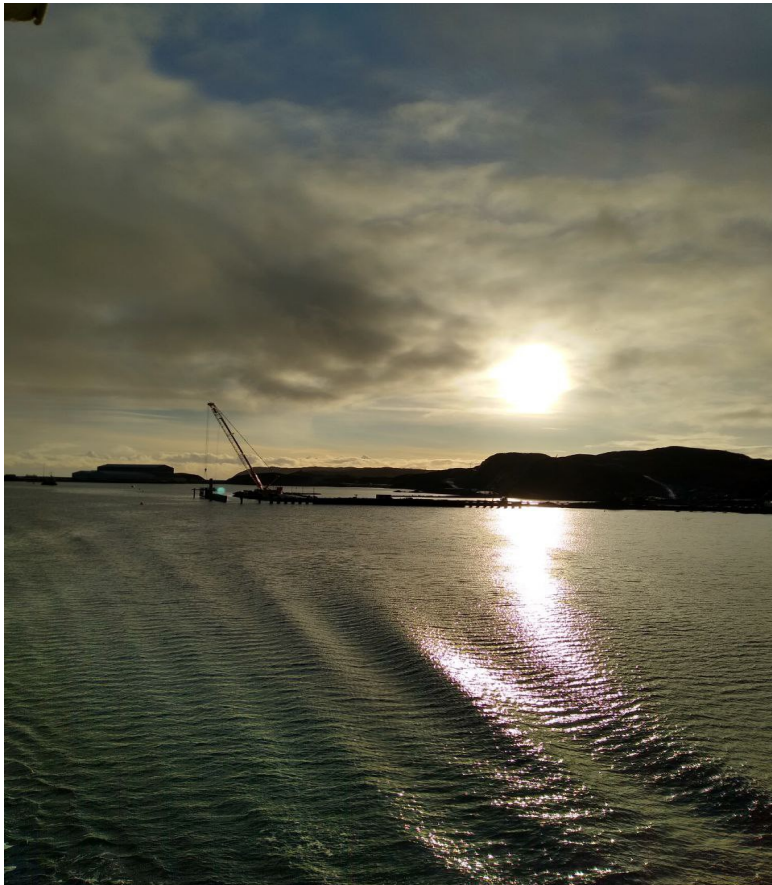
In terms of AGOFR, the Boatshed played host to a few rehearsals from 'Girnur', a folk rock band formed by the Ventures and Ranger Guides. This short lived band only managed to get as far as rehearsing one song - a version of 'Trouble (with a capital T)' by Horslips. However, the keyboard player (from the Ranger Guides) could only play a bit of 'The Campbells Are Coming' so halfway through 'Trouble..', it would come to a halt for a brief excerpt of 'The Campbells...'

Girnur (which was Runrig backwards - very apt) - didn't progress further than that.

Cluð Tropicana Inaclete Road Style: The Exclusive Boatshed, 1983. The Monaco Yacht Club Were Said to be Jealous as Fleek, and Despite Numerous Attempts (Claiming They Knew Wattie and All Sorts), The Never-ending Queue of Wannabe Boat-related Celebs like Thon Simon Le Bon Never Got Past the Door.

~ An Céitean/May 2023 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Ardaoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
	1 May Day. 105th Congress of the People's Soviet (Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost)	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Finals of the Eoropievision Song Contest (Ness). Garrabost will win again after threatening to invade everyone if they don't
14	15	16	17 Norway National Day. Public Holiday (Port of Ness, Skigersta, Adabroc, Eorpoie, Sula Sgeir).	18	19 Birthday of the late great Gordon "Mod" Macleod from the Guireans. The memorial 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 2023



AGOFR Opportunities at the Deep Water Port

June 2023 (well, or sometime after that) sees the new Deep Water Port in Stornoway reaching an important milestone when the cruise liners will come flocking in and tenders for 'Passenger Entertainment' will become available for bids and suggestions. It's rumored that the whole AGOFR community are keen to provide musical entertainment to the thousands for foreign visitors to Arnish.

Dun Ringles manager and Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (83) has already approached Yes for permission to run a local franchise of the popular "Cruise to the Edge" trips that every year feature great names from progressive rock, sailing from Miami round the sun-kissed islands of the Caribbean aboard a palatial top-end luxury liner. CJ's local version will be very similar except that instead of a soulless modern vessel, the "luxury liner" will be the more authentically prog-rock-era Suilven (once it's been dredged up from the bottom of the Pacific).

Even better, the host of prog rock legends served up for the delectation of the fans will include The Dun Ringles, Dun Ringle AND the Dun Ringhills.

And neffer mind the Bahamas - CJ promises an epic voyage from Arnish that will take in exotic tropical destinations from Battery Point to Holm Island and even Loch Grimshader.

Also keep a look out for a range of tacky AGOFR merchandise (er, we mean genuine culturally significant gifts to be cherished by all the family) such as the Genuine Guireans Go-L*dy Tobacco Tin, a half empty can of Pale Ale from Cathy Dhalls, and the must-have Sec*d*r Tea Towel (in black extra coarse bobbán; available with a range of Old Testament Gaelic texts all promising eternal damnation to the lucky recipient)

The Deep Water Port - Not Ready Yet But When It Is We'll See An Arnish-driven AGOFR Bonanza Unparalleled Since Guireans Manager Coinneach Used to Peel the Spuds on the Drilmaster Accommodation Ship

~ An t-Ogmhios/June 2023 ~						
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 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	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Dr Moon's latest EP of Electronica wins the Smash Hits single of the year (1982).	15	16	17
18	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 2023



35 Years of "Live at the Cross Inn"

July 2023 sees the 35th anniversary of the Guireans' 1988 classic "Live at the Cross Inn" - which was neither "Live" nor "At The Cross Inn".

A fake Niseach concept album recorded in Dead Olac Guirean's garage in Sandwick, LATCI did have a few songs specific to the island's most Northerly and barbarous district - such as U2's "I Still Haven't Found What A Guga's For" or Suzanne Vega's "Guga". However in most songs there was fleek all that was Niseach in the lyrics, so the band resorted to shouting "Guga" at random, like they imagined people propably did all the time in the real Cross Inn.

In a desperate attempt to keep up with late 80s musical trends, the album included "Cac Mix 88", cashing in on the House music genre of the day. The Guireans took the bassline from 1982's "Jazz Mucus for Funk People", stuck in some scratchy noises and shouted bits of choruses from a variety of their old disco covers over the top of it.

Also in the ruppish dance music vein was "Crofter Who (Guga Anns an Tigh)", a take on the KLF's "Doctorin' the Tardis".

KLF supremo and ex Bunnymen producer Bill Drummond was generally reckoned to be a master of the publicity stunt, gaining infamy in later years for allegedly burning a million pounds in cash on the Isle of Jura. But it's now thought that Drummond was merely a frontman, recruited by infamous pop puppetmaster CJ "(I've identified a tax loophole that can turn this to our advantage)" Mitchell (83) who got him hooked on Charlie Barley white marags at the Bunnymen's 1983 Caberfeidh Hotel gig. Industry Insiders reckoned Mitchell's hand could clearly be seen behind this event, and suggested that a bag of highly inflammable fuidheags from Kenny Sticky's had been substituted for the cash at the last moment.

For the full story of "Live At The Cross Inn", go to the Guireans' website at:

http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/live_at_the_cross_inn_5_7_198_8.htm

The Cross Inn (Above), Where "Live At The Cross Inn" (Below) Wasn't Recorded At All At All.

~ Àn τ-luchar/July 2023~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadin Wed	Òi-Ardain Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-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 56th 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 11th Anniversary of 1 st Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.	10 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	11	12 Heb Celt Festival Begins, Covid Permitting. Probably no AGOFR bands on the bill (again). Except maybe P*t and D**s*I.	13	14	15 Final Day of Heb Celt Festival 2023 to be drowned out by Midges of Rock 2023 Festival on nearby Gallows Hill
16	17 BBC Alba screen highlights of Heb Celt Festival (2007)	18	19	20	21	22
23 / 30	24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29

An Lunasdal / August 2023



AGOFR And Its Influence on the Velvet Underground

August 2023 marks (nearly) 10 years since the passing of Lou Reed, and a similar amount of time since the Guireans cashed in on it with their "Paddy Reed & The Bobban Underground" EP (featuring "Ramme Fatale").

That wasn't the first time the Guireans had paid tribute to Reed's work, whether solo or during his time with the Velvet Underground. From "Waulk on the West Side" to "Herring" to "Waitin' For The Bus", the band had amassed a sizeable back catalogue of Reed and Velvets "covers" stretching back to the early 80s.

And yet an unaccountably ungrateful Reed was said to have sabotaged the Guireans' TV career (before it started) by withholding permission for them to play "Cuart Air An Taobh Siar" on the BBC's groundbreaking Gaelic youth TV show "Brag" in 1988. (Obviously they would be even bigger than P**t & D**s*I today if Laughing Lou hadn't put that particular spanner in the works).

But influence in music can be a two way street, and many(*) great rock critics have speculated about how Reed and the Velvets properly used a time machine to nick all their best ideas from the world of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock. For example, "The Gift" from 1968's "White Light Heat" is clearly a Zing-Pop rip-off, with the supposedly "Welsh" accent voiced by "J*hn Cale" sounding suspiciously like some cove from Stornoway (Matheson Road, even). And the complete unlistenability of Reed's "Metal Machine Music" is a straight steal from that of the Guireans' 1st album.

As for the Velvets themselves, drummer Mo Tucker's proper name was Morag, guitarist St*rling M*rrierson named himself after 2 well known Stornoway streets (well, a Square and an Avenue, both spelt wrong), and "Teutonic" ice queen chanteuse Nico never let on that she was really from Parkend and her surname was "Lsoninstitute".

(*) No.

Lou & the Gang Not Impressed With The Guireans' "Paddy Reed and the Bobban Underground" EP, 1967

~ An Lùnasdal / August 2023 ~						
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 The Late Rocky Sharpe from R*cky Sharpe & The Replays' Birthday (maybe). Big Session at John Allan's House.	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 54th Anniversary of Woodstock. 40 th (ish) 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*nn 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 2023



Midges of Rock - 20th Anniversary of the 20th Anniversary

Fleek's sake. Who could believe that 40 years had passed since AGOFR's very own Woodstock – The Midges of Rock 1983? Or even that 20 years has passed since its nearly-as-massive follow-up festival, the Midges of Rock 2003?

By that measure there should probably be a Midges of Rock 2023, but fleek knows if there'll a weekend spare for it, between thon Midnight Sun festival, Heb Celt, Stramash, Sounds In The Grounds, Ceòl Airson Sith and the various òrduighean.

The AGOFR management (Coinneach and CJ) propose solving this problem by staging MOR 2023 on Gallows Hill on Saturday 15th July, kidding on it's an extra Heb Celt stage and stealing the more successful festival's audience.

The artistes themselves are less keen, preferring the AGOFR festival tradition of not telling anybody the location so that nobody turns up and embarrassment is avoided.

MOR 2003 was more of a “boutique” affair than 1983, held in Knock Studios (Wattie Dun Ringle's downstairs bedroom) rather than the cavernous, echoing, empty Scout Hall. Despite the smaller venue and the fact that there were twice as many bands on the bill in 2003, there was plenty room – mostly due to the fact that all 7 or 8 bands were made up of different combinations of the same 5 people, and there was nobody else there. Except when Mrs Wattie Dun Riungle came in to tell the er.. sound man to turn it down because she couldn't hear the telly.

Extrapolating these trends, Bord Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR statisticians predict that if MOR 2023 happens, it'll feature a massive bill of 20 bands and attract an audience of up to 3 people.

For more stories, reviews etc on MOR festivals of yore, see:

http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/midges_of_rock_1983.htm and

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

Stuff From COOR 1983 and 2003

~ Àn τ-Sultain/September 2023 ~						
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 4th 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 Dàmhair / October 2023



15 Years of The (Made Up) History of Stornoway

Unbelievably it's 15 years now since the first "(Made Up) History of Stornoway" WordPress blog appeared on the internet. "Unbelievably" is propably the right word in this case too, since very little that you read in or about the MUHOS is ever true.

The first ever article, all about Stornoway's (nonexistent) underground railway system, was 'published' on 15th October 2008, to widespread acclaim from the academic community (Zero likes and 4 comments correcting it, but one of them was from the boss of the real Stornoway Historical Society, thus lending the MUHOS an undeserved air of legitimacy).

At time of writing (December 2022), some 179 scholarly articles have now been published (nowadays appearing on Facebook as well as Wordpress) covering just about every aspect of Stornowegian and Lewis history. A series of moving obituaries have also appeared, for the suspiciously large number of deceased Hebridean actors, rock stars and celebrities who each happened to pass away on the same day as their slightly more famous cousin from Away. (At time of writing, recent subjects had included "Jerry Lee Leodhasach" and "Christine McFree (nee McPresbyterian)" from "Fleekwood Cac".

"But what's it got to do with AGOFR?", you may ask? Well, er, it's fleekin' obvious, isn't it? Also one or two of the rock star obituaries might possibly have appeared originally on the Guireans' MySpace page before it was destroyed.

The MUHOS's vaults on Wordpress are open to the public at:

<https://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/>

And their facebook page is:

<https://m.facebook.com/The-Made-Up-History-of-Stornoway-208938445842196/>

A Scholarly Plan of "Mac In Stronich's (sic) Cave "Discovered" by the (Made Up) History of Stornoway in 2008

~ An Dàmhair / October 2023 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Di-Luain Mon	Di-Màirt Tue	Di-Ciadin Wed	Di-Ardain Thu	Di-h-Aoine Fri	Di-Sathairne Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Do you think the fleekeen spuds are going to lift themselves, you lazy bleigeard? You were chust as bad this time last year	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 46 th Anniversary of Skynynrd's Plane Crash - National day of Mourning (Outer Hebrides)	21
22	24	24 United (Denomi)nations Day. Local Presbyterian splinter groups briefly suspend hostilities	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween. 49 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 2023



50 Years of the Old Sports Centre

November 2023 sees the 50th anniversary of the Nicolson/Lewis Sports Centre opening (well, we think it was sometime in 1973). Before that no one on the island could swim and the only sport (apart from football) that anyone knew about was table tennis. This all changed when proper sporting facilities appeared on the site of the old Clock School (retaining the Clock Tower).

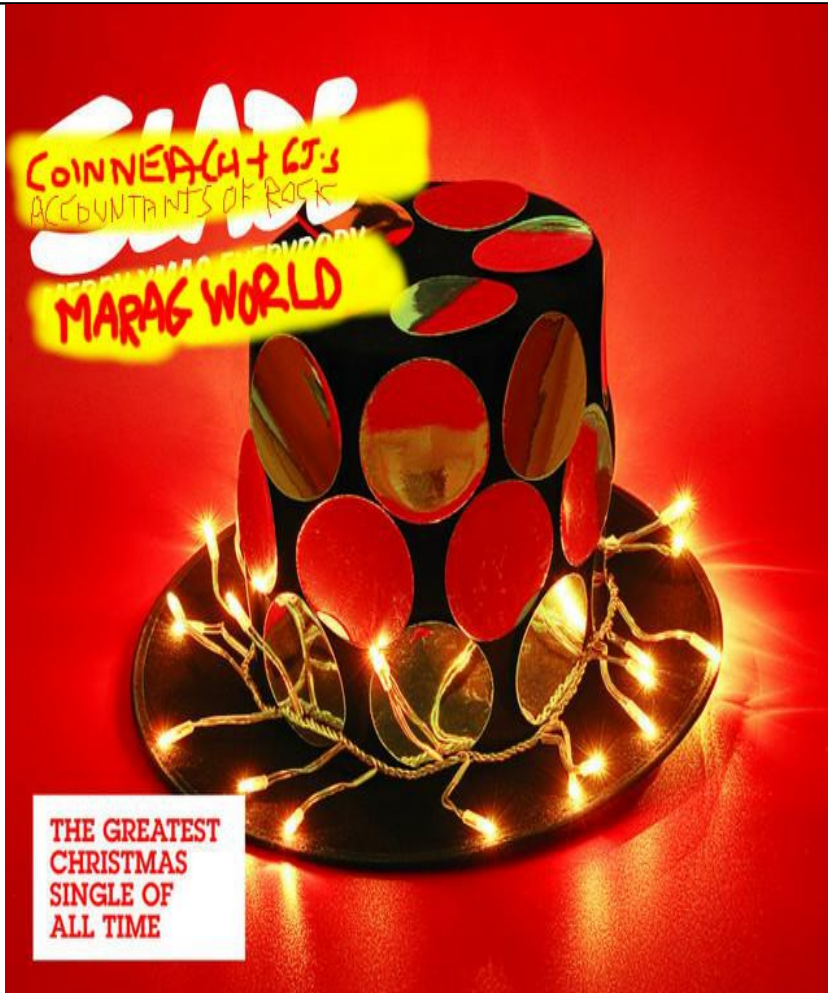
The NLSC, as it was never called, had an unseen influence on all AGOFR bands in the shape of orange plastic clothes boxes, shouty PE Teachers, getting thrashed by the Westway Girls Club in the annual Sports Festival and the widespread introduction of verrucas to the Hebrides.

The Sports Centre also featured a cafeteria for those less inclined towards actual sporting activities (like 98% of the AGOFR world) and it was here in 1981 that the very first threads of Zing Pop's existence were cultivated over a plastic cup of 'coffee' and a Texan chocolate bar.

The Old Nicolson/Lewis Sports Centre - Where Zing-Pop and Verrucas Began

- Samhain/November 2023 -						
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: Oh fleek. Sandwich discovers Parkend plans to seize North Street's agricultural shed as the forecast is for rain and they want to have their 200-tyre gelly inside.	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 Fleek's sake man, it's Guy Fawkes but it's a Sunday. Everything cancelled.	6 Tyre collecting for Guy Fawkes 2023 begins	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Comhairle's Winter 2023/24 Ice Gritting Contract Starts	17 Comhairle's Winter 2023/24 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money	18
19 9th 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 dha riribh.	20	21	22 44th 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. 44 Years since Pink Floyd released "The Wall". (Knocked up in a week after they heard "Pronounced Goo-thans")		

An Òubhlachd / December 2023



AGOFR Christmas Number 1 Singles

It's a disgrace - and indicative of the institutional AGOFRphobia that permeates the music industry like the "fleck off ya trusdar tourists - but leave your money" message in a stick of Hearach rock - that 50 Years after Slade topped the Xmas charts with "Merry Xmas Everybody", 40 Years after the Flying Pickets' "Only You", and 30 years after Mr Blobby and "The Blobby Song", we've still to see an AGOFR track securing the UK Christmas number 1 spot.

In fact, Coinneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock came close(*) in 2003 with "Marag World". It was nearly(**) selected by Ch*rly B*rl*y's as the soundtrack for their iconic annual Xmas ad, and we all know what that would have meant: Like "Heard it through the Grapevine" on thon Levi's ad - subliminal association with a premium brand and non-stop airplay on all the global media channels that matter (well, Isles FM) would have given it a new life and fast tracked it to the top spot.

Other AGOFR Xmas singles that were even less successful included the Dun Ringles' "Bell Your Jangles", which was beaten to the 1993 top spot by the aforementioned Mr Blobby, and the Guireans' "Feed the Sheep", a 1989 reworking of Band Aid's "Do They Know It's Xmas" that was only just pipped at the post(***) by Band Aid II's far inferior Stock/Aitken/Waterman-produced version.

(*)Did they fleek.

(**)Was it fleek

(***)"Pipped" by sales of 500,000+ versus Zero

An AGOFR Xmas Number 1 (Nearly)

~ An Dúshlachd/December 2023 ~						
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
3 12 years since Horslips got back together. Public holiday (Wattie's house)	4 1 Year (and a couple of weeks) since (sort of) Horslips played their last gig ever, definitely, oh yus. National Day of Mourning (Wattie's House).	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 12 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 Winter solstice. Callanish not quite as busy with hippies from Away as it was at the Summer solstice. Fleekeen fairweather freaks.	22 28 th Anniversary of Isles FM. For 24 hours, normal service will be replaced by a special celebratory show: "AJK's Top 1000 Voiceovers 1994-2023"	23
24	25 Xmas. Off to a slow start due to Santa not having been allowed to hitch up the Reindeer until after midnight on Sunday.	26 Suas an Fheamainn Day Get down the Braighe to collect your year's supply of rotten seaweed in the middle of a Force 10 gale today.	27	28	29	30
31 Oidche Challuinn (Hogmanay) All festivities to cease at 11:59pm, in time for the Sabbath						

ÀGOFR Agus am Bòrd Stiùreadh.

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

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

The industry has struggled on through the 80s, 90s, 00s, 10s and 20s 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 ÀGOFR's (not the fleeked Dun Ringles) "Àiridhòhruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, ÀGOFR 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 fleeked amadan from Tong as its first ever ÀGOFR President. Then in 2018 rogue unlicensed ÀGOFR practitioners Deat and Diesel appeared and began their meteoric and continuing (but not in that way) rise to chart-topping superstardom. Now all the top popstars are clumping on the bandwagon. For example, 2022 Chart phenomenon Gress Animals are said to be planning to call their next single "Deat Waves". And Gaitan/Costello/Adabroc/Feliz's "We Don't Talk About Brue. No" looks likely to be one of the big hits of early 2023. 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 fleeked 'on fleek' again this fleeked 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 Stiùreadh na h-ÀGOFR exists to regulate the industry and make sure all this nonsense doesn't get out of hand. We take pride in ensuring that the ÀGOFR 'music' stays true to its roots by remaining poorly conceived and executed, meaningless to all but a few amadans on a rock in the Atlantic, and unlistenable even to those who make it. We are determined to promote links between ÀGOFR and other poor quality indigenous musical forms across the globe, and will spare no expense undertaking fact finding missions for this purpose, provided they're somewhere nice and we don't have to go there on the fleeked ferry.

www.guireans.com,