

Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-ÀGOFR  
Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ÀGOFR 2026



The Official Calendar of  
Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock 2026

# Am Faoilleach / January 2026



## Xmas Decorations of Old SY

January is traditionally the month Xmas decorations are taken down, transferring the town into a gloomy collection of grey shops and houses. But it does give us an excuse to rehash a "Made Up History of Stornoway" article about the town festive decorations of old.

The first recorded "switching on" ceremony took place in early December 1786. The honour fell to Mac An t-Shrònaich, a notorious outlaw, murderer, and generally unpleasant individual, who became the first celebrity to illuminate the town.

However, this wasn't so much a "festive ceremony" as it was a "torching the town in an act of revenge" event, stemming from a disagreement over a protection racket Mac An t-Shrònaich was running. Nevertheless, the cheery glow of Stornoway's shops being set ablaze caught the public's imagination.

The townsfolk decided it would be lovely to replicate the event the following year—though preferably with less pillaging.

Needless to say, Mac An t-Shrònaich was not invited to the sequel. Upon discovering this snub, he sulked and decorated his secret hideout in a cave at the mouth of the Creed with his own festive lights. Unfortunately, the brightness betrayed his location, and he was swiftly apprehended by the authorities.

From that year onwards, the Christmas Lights Ceremony became a staple of Stornoway's civic calendar. Only twice more did the event result in the accidental incineration of the town.

The first occurred in 1812, when Napoleon (vacationing incognito) lost at a hoopla stall. In a fit of pique, he ordered a French Man-of-War—disguised as an "east coast boat" to confuse the locals—to fire into a cauldron of rum punch outside Engie's Horse-Fodder Shoppe.

The second incident followed in 1875. Prince Albert, the Prince Consort, allegedly knocked over an oil lamp at the Star Inn during a heated game of dominoes. The accident ignited the Christmas fireworks, which were unfortunately still stored in boxes beneath the bar.

Mac an t-Shrònaich Presides over The 1<sup>st</sup> Stornoway Xmas Illuminations in 1786.

Àm Faoilleach / January 2026 ~						
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 24th Anniversary of The Guireans writing and record "Alasdair Mackay is God – Sorry, Bod" in an afternoon, at Rod The Actorr's house	5	6 D*vid Iain turns off the 2025 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	7 D*vid Iain turns on the 2026 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Ronnie Van Zant's Birthday	16	17
18 Brue Sunday – Actual Most depressing day of the year... especially if you're in Brue.	19 Brue Monday – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Most depressing day of the year.	20 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Dòmhnall-Iain's inauguration (Washington DC). Expect a bigly large parade in Aird Tong to celebrate. Almost as bigly huge as last year's.	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 2026



## The Dun Ringles – 10 Years of “Stornoway Skyline”

Way back in 2016, prog rock dinosaurs (The) Dun Ringle(s) decided to go all commercial and wrote a semi catchy tune about several of the prominent buildings around the town. On top of that they decided to film a music video to go with it.

Froagy Beag, the band's resident film auteur, drove the project forward with all the intensity and drive of the 1930's Hollywood film moguls, whilst giving credence to the 'guerilla' film making approach of using low budgets, cheap and shoddy technology, and not asking permission to use public buildings or individual personages. For several days Froagy Beag could be seen striding around the town in jodphurs, black boots and a huge megaphone shouting 'Action' at the rest of the band and making them do things over and over again until they got it right.

Several roof top panoramas were included in the video, including one taken from the spire of Martin's Church, to whom Froagy Beag paid grateful thanks on the sleeve notes of the Dun Ringles 'Cove' album for not excommunicating him.

Bizarrely Facebook recorded over 28,000 views of Stornoway Skyline. The Dun Ringles deny all accusations that 27,995 views were from the band themselves.

Surprisingly, a 2025 cover of the song by robotic T\*yl\*r Sw\*ft-clone “Whaler's Shift” (or something) has so far failed to eclipse the original.

What A Load of Arnish Light - The Dun Ringles' 2016 “Stornoway Skyline”



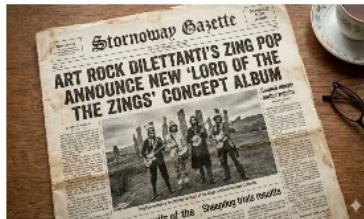
~ An Gearran / February 2025 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
					1	2 Groundhog Day (USA) The Guireans announce that their long awaited album "J&E's Democracy" is nearly ready. Again. (Sandwick)
1	2 Groundhog Day (USA) The Guireans announce that their long awaited album "J&E's Democracy" is nearly ready. Again. (Sandwick)	3 67 years since Buddy Holy's plane crash.	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Stornoway Orduighean begin Murdo Maclean's reopens for 1 day only hat sale.	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 Lardi Gras 2026 – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFr festival (Dunky's House). Extra charges apply for coach parties from cruise ships.	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

# Am Màrt / March 2026

Stornoway, 1973..



Stornoway, 1982...



## 'Lord of the Zings' 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary... Or Is It Really the 53<sup>rd</sup>?

Zing Pop's "ground breaking" concept album 'Lord of the Zings' (a re-telling of "Lord of the Rings" in vernacular Stornowaywegian) has always been considered one of the defining original works of AGOFR.

This notion was cruelly shattered recently when it was discovered that Zing Pop had shamelessly ripped off the idea from obscure early 70s Keith Street prog rock ensemble "Amadan". Amadan embraced the whole progressive genre of the day, with influences from Yes, Gentle Giant, Genesis, King Crimson, Henry Cow, the Third Ear Band and Calum Kennedy.

By 1973. Amadan were at the peak of their fame, selling out the Town Hall with their elaborate "Lord of the Zings" stage show. Amongst the throng that night were four eager but mischievous young Scouts, supposedly selling programmes. Armed with a clunky, illicit reel-to-reel recorder, they attempted to bootleg the performance, hoping to capture the magic of Amadan for posterity. Their mission, however, was swiftly intercepted by the band's no-nonsense road crew and they were unceremoniously ejected from the venue. Their leader, a preternaturally scheming future rock mogul named CJ Mitchell (11), vowed retribution.

"We're Going to Get Revenge by Ripping Off Amadan's LOTZ Album and Saying It's Ours, Say Angry Scouts," read a full-page ad that mysteriously appeared in the Stornoway Gazette sometime later. At the time, it was dismissed as a childish prank, a quirky local oddity. Little did anyone know the prophetic nature of that audacious declaration.

Fast forward to 1982. The music world had shifted, embracing the angular rhythms of New Wave and the minimalist aesthetics of early art rock. It was then that a band called Zing Pop, fronted by an older, more refined CJ Mitchell (18), and featuring the same four Scouts, burst onto the scene with their debut album, also titled "Lord of the Zings." The album was praised by critics for its "ironic lo-fi aesthetic" and "post-punk deconstruction of classic rock tropes." Zing Pop, it seemed, were poised for StarInn-dom.

The truth, however, was far more shocking. Mitchell, it turned out, had somehow – perhaps through a combination of youthful cunning and sheer luck – gained access to Amadan's original master tapes. Zing Pop hadn't deconstructed "Lord of the Zings"; they had simply attempted to re-record it, note for note, often "deliberately" adding a "lo-fi" veneer (either to disguise their blatant plagiarism or because they were too ruppish to copy it properly). The original melodies, the intricate arrangements, even the lyrical themes – all were meticulously lifted from Amadan's work (albeit played on ukeleles, waste paper bins and stylophones instead of Hammond organs, mellotrons, triple-necked guitars and huge drumkits with gongs).

However, no one noticed until last week as it's thought nobody could be bothered to listen to either of the albums. The original 1973 Amadan album can be heard here;

<https://zingpop.bandcamp.com/album/amadans-lord-of-the-zings>

And the 1982 Zing Pop version here;

<https://dunringle.bandcamp.com/album/the-lord-of-the-zings>

"Lord of the Zings" 1973-style.... And again in 1982

~ Àm MÀRƧ/MARCH 2026 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ɔ1-Luain Mon	Ɔ1-MÀRƧ Tue	Ɔ1-Ciadaìn Wed	Ɔ1-Àrdaoin Thu	Ɔ1-h-Àoine Fri	Ɔ1-Sàthuirne Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 1830 – Original Lewis Chessmen unearthed in Harris (but nicked by some Uigeach)
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> End of 2025/26 Poaching Season (Airidhbhruach)	<b>21</b> Spring Equinox Start of 2026/27 Poaching Season (Airidhbhruach)
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Clocks go forwards (Mainland & Stornoway Tesco's)	<b>30</b> Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man.  Clocks go forward (rest of Lewis except the Seceders).	<b>31</b> Clocks go backward (Seceders).				

# Am Giblean / April 2026



## AGOFR's 1<sup>st</sup> “Professional” “Musician” – 1 Year On

This month we celebrate the passing of a year since Wattie Dun Ringle became AGOFR's first ever professional musician.

By “professional” we mean, of course, that he no longer has a proper chob. And doesn't play music that isn't AGOFR. Obviously we don't mean that he actually spends much time doing AGOFR things or makes a living out of it - fleek's sake, are you wuise?

Co dhiù, like a lot of natural born rock 'n' rollers, Wattie only needed a brief stint in a conventional workplace (58 years in the Comhairle) to realise that office work was for squares, man. So 1 year ago today, Wattie told the boss to shove it, handed in his badge and hit the highway with nothing but a guitar, a tank of gas and a no bad Comhairle pension.

There are of course other AGOFR stars out there who've escaped the treadmill of wage slavery, like Roddy Huggan Guirean (also ret'd), Jason Dun Ringle (self-employed) or Rod the Actorr (resting). But they've been known to dabble in non-AGOFR music on the side occasionally, so they don't count

Wattie's retirement draws to a close the long running, (and little known - to the Comhairle), sponsorship deal that was in place between the Dun Ringles and the Comhairle for the supply of paper, printing and photocopying services, for use in the creation of Tour Programmes, lyric books and stage banners. Notably, this included the first ever Dun Ringles banner printed out over a two hour period on a noisy and temperamental dot matrix printer. This banner was used as the backdrop to the first ever Dun Ringles gig, in the Scout Hall.

Wattie Dun Ringle Hard At Work in his former Role as the Comhairle's (Secret) AGOFR Liaison Officer



~ An Giblean/April 2026 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
			<b>1</b> Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. (National Holiday of Airidhbhruch)	<b>2</b> April Fool's Day again (Airidhbhruch - cos one day's never enough to go round)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Easter (Western Christianity)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Easter (Eastern Orthodox)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Easter (Free Church, APC)	<b>20</b> Easter (Free Church Continuing)	<b>21</b> Easter (Seceders)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Feast of St George - Patron Saint of starting a "residents' association" in "our village" 5 minutes after getting off the boat, and declaring yourself the chairperson.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 3rd Anniversary of Johnny Fean (Horslips)'s Passing.  National Day of Mourning (Ireland and Wattie's House).	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)		

# An Céitean / May 2026



## The Eoropievision Song Contest

If the builders of the simple yet spiritually inspiring 12th-century Teampull Mholuaidh in Eoropie were around today, they'd be greatly relieved that it's not the venue of the Hebrides' annual monster festival of bad taste and worse singing - the Eoropievision Song Contest.

For copyright reasons we are unable to show you any images from the competition itself (or a decent picture of the Teampull). Suffice it to say that once a year, the villages of the Outer Hebrides set aside their seething resentments over sheeps' earmarks, grazing rights and the right Gaelic for 'rabbit', and come together in what is very loosely termed "song".

Sadly, however, the contest serves only to magnify intervillage politics and centuries-old hatreds, with voting invariably occurring in blocs based on old enmities or intimidation by larger neighbours.

Garrabost, for example, always sends its tanks out on exercise the week before the competition and duly receives "Douze Points" from all its former client states in the old Rubhach Pact. And every year without fail the maws all gang up and give 'Nul Points' to the Stornoway entry. This was most notoriously the case in 2012 when Engebret Fillingstation got fleek all votes for his song "Love Will Set You Free (Pr\*sbyterian)".

And this year, sadly, several villages have felt the need to boycott in response to Isliving being allowed to compete despite its conduct of the war in Garynahine.

To find out more about the Eoropievision Song Contest and some of the stars who've won it over the years – from H\*bba to The Brotherhood of Manish to Bussy Fizzags, visit:

<http://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2013/05/17/the-eoropievision-song-contest/>

Eoropie's Teampull Mholuaidh - Fortunately Properly Not Where the Eoropievision Song Contest Takes Place

~ An Céitean/May 2026 ~						
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. 109th Congress of the People's Soviet of Point (Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost). Followed by usual parade of tanks and missile launchers past Knock School.	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). And Robin Dun Ringle's house.	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 2026



## AGOFR and the 2026 World Cup

With this year's World Cup scheduled to be hosted in the USA, Canada and Mexico, it's a racing certainty that some of the matches due to be played at venues in Dòmhnall-lain Land will have to be shifted at the last minute due to incompetence, immigration issues, the outbreak of civil war, Dòmhnall-lain turning the pitches into golf courses or whateffer.

That's why, from the Butt to Barra (nearly) Dòmhnall-lain's ancestral archipelago stands ready to step in and host any of the matches that get bumped from across the Pond. Goathill Park, thon lumpy pitch in Eriskay and (naturally) Tong Recreation Association's playing field are all set to host the big games.

And the top quality international Sandwich pitch will be available too, unless it's been dug up for houses by then.

The AGOFR connection? Well, according to showbiz insiders, the Guireans and the Dun Ringles are both bidding to supply the Scotland squad's official song for the tournament. And both bands' managers desperately need the contract in order to cover the losses they made betting that Scotland wouldn't get there in the first place.

The Outer Hebrides' Top Sporting Venues - All Ready for the 2026 World Cup Overspill



~ Àn τ-Ogmhios/June 2026 ~						
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	8	9	10	11	12	13 Dr Moon's latest EP of Electronica wins the 1982 Smash Hits single of the year.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Kontrast Day. All Citizens of SY aged 45-70 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
22	22 Summer Solstice. Watch out for fleekeen beardies from Away. And Dunkie. (Callanish)	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

# An Iuchar / July 2026



## 250 Years of American Independence – The Lewis Connection

Is it really 250 years since the USA gained its independence from the fiendish British Empire? "Dang tootin' pard'ner", as they say across the Pond.

It is a fact frequently omitted from the history books that the Isle of Lewis was actually the 14th American colony, tentatively named "New Geansaidh" by a confused cartographer who mistook the Minch for the Atlantic during a particularly heavy haar.

The islanders were initially fervent supporters of the revolution, rallied by the rousing theological slogan of "No Taxation Without Predestination," and they promptly elected their finest statesman, a crofter from Garrabost named Benjamin Fanklin, to carry their demands to Philadelphia.

However, the diplomatic mission stalled at the harbour; CalMac's 1776 summer timetable was notoriously sparse, and the ticket office steadfastly refused to accept that a transatlantic crossing to the Delaware River was covered by the RET scheme, forcing Fanklin to wait indefinitely for a "service update" that never came.

Matters were made worse on the eve of the signing, when Fanklin engaged in a "quiet pint" that tragically escalated into a twelve-hour session in a bothan. He famously slept in until well past noon on the Fourth of July, missing the boat—both metaphorically and literally—because he was too hung over to negotiate the gangplank.



While Jefferson was busy inking the rights of man, the Lewis delegate was back in bed, muttering that the only unalienable rights he cared about were "lythe, gibearnach and the pursuit of halibut." Consequently, the signature space for Lewis was left blank, and the United States was robbed of a constitutional amendment requiring all shops to close on a Sunday.

And the AGOFR connection? Well, Guireans Manager Coinneach is always going to Florida to visit Dòmhnall-Iain. And Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (87) ran the mob in Chicago for a while before he decided that the business wasn't on a large enough scale to interest him and decided to manage the Dun Ringles instead.

1776: How The US Declaration of Independence Might Have Been Signed if the Ruðach Representative Had Turned Up

~ An t-Iuchar/July 2026~						
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 58th 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 13th Anniversary of 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.	10 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	11
12	13	14	15 Heb Celt Festival Begins, Covid Permitting. Probably no AGOFR bands on the bill (again). Except maybe P*t and D*s*I.	16	17	18 Final Day of Heb Celt Festival 2026 to be drowned out by Midge of Rock 2026 Festival on nearby Gallows Hill
19	20	21	22 BBC Alba screen highlights of Heb Celt Festival (2007)	23	24	25 BBC Alba screen highlights of Heb Celt Festival (2007) again.
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# An Lunasdal / August 2026

20 Years of The Guireans' "Mr Compostman" EP	
<p><b>Mr Com-postman</b></p> <p>Please Mr <u>Com-postman</u> look and see (<u>Oh Yeah</u>) If I can have a bin or 2 or maybe 3 (Please Please Mr <u>Compostman</u>) <u>Why's it takin</u> such a long time (Oh yeah) There's a queue half way to <u>Garrymahine</u></p> <p>My <u>scrach</u> is full of rats My <u>sootman</u> <u>gert</u> keeps getting dug up by the cat I need a <u>verminproof</u> <u>reposi-tory</u> To keep my <u>rodent</u> from going <u>insani-tary</u></p> <p>Mr <u>Com-postman</u> Mr <u>Com-postman</u> look and see (<u>Oh Yeah</u>) If I can have a bin or 2 or maybe 3 (<u>Oh hieeee Mr Compostman</u>) Your plastic buckets is <u>dust</u> what I need (<u>No chieach</u>) But I ain't even reached the Creed You can use them to salt your ling And keep your <u>gualtrage</u> or anything I think I'll use mine to stash my <u>lun-tata</u> Or take my <u>carraus</u> from the bank to the tractor</p>	<p><b>The Mighty Bin</b></p> <p>Compost without, Compost within, you ain't got a hope of getting a free bin</p> <p>Everybody's watching then coves at <u>Beedigrove</u> Sitting in watching Titchmarsh at the <u>Chicalsea</u> Flower Show No-one wants to go to Marybank 'less they're dumping stuff in <u>Benudigrove</u> But when the Scottish Office sends compost bins, Everybody's gonna want to go</p> <p>Compost without, Compost within, you ain't got a hope of getting a free bin</p> <p>The Chief Exec had a notion To keep the bins for himself He said "We'll say it's on then we'll shut it down on the grounds of public health. We'll drag them half way to <u>Leurbort</u> Where the road gets really thin and when the tailback reaches <u>Craggan's</u> Corner Everybody's gonna pack it in!" (<u>Haha!</u>)</p>
	
<p>Composting Before and After 2006</p>	



~ An Lùnasdal / August 2026 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> The Late Rocky Sh*rpe from R*cky Sharpe & The Replays' Birthday (maybe). Big Session at John Allan's House.
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 57th Anniversary of Woodstock.  43rd (ish) Anniversary of Midges of Rock 1983.
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 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.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 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 2026



## 50 Years of Punk Rock

Scholars of rock history often argue about when punk first appeared. The masses might think it was 1977 when they started seeing the likes of the Jam and the Stranglers on TOTP and people on Nationwide wearing bin liners; the elitists might say 1975, when Patti Smith's 'Horses' came out, or 1974 when the Ramones played their first gig, or go back to the 60s and the Stooges, MC5, Velvets or the many garage bands of the day.

In Stornoway, some would place it as late as 1984, when Nazir's and Smiths started selling Wranglers that *didn't* have 28-inch flares. (Mackenzie & Macsween held out for another couple of years).

However we'll go for 1976, seeing that gives us an anniversary to go on about this year. Yus, It's 50 years since The Ramones' 1st album, The Damned's "New Rose", the Pistols' "Anarchy in the UK" and so on.

Whatever they might claim nowadays, the future stars of AGOFR were blissfully unaware of these goings-on at the time - head down in their Jethro Tull collections, pining for the glory days of glam rock or (in the case of Guireans Manager Coinneach) telling the world "I have seen the future of rock 'n' roll, and it's James Last and his Orchestra".

However, within a mere 3 years the AGOFR industry had chumped well and truly onto the punk bandwagon. Indeed, the Guireans recorded "Is Mise Punk" long before most of the bands on lechendary SY punk compilation "Sad Day We Left The Croft" had even got their Donnie Murdos laced up.

Despite this, no AGOFR bands were asked to contribute to "Sad Day" when it did happen. That may be because the Seonaidh-Radan-come-latelies of the "Sad Day" scene didn't think AGOFR bands were "real punks" (and to be fair, Wattie Zing Pop's brown flared cords propably didn't help dispel that notion). And yet... Just like proper punks, nobody in any AGOFR bands could play their instruments. Just like punk, the quality of AGOFR recordings er...reflected a DIY aesthetic. And just like punk, all the bands were managed by shady "entrepreneurs" - sinister hype merchants and con-men determined to extract as much money for as little product as possible. How much more fleekien punk could you get than that?



Some Definitely Not A.I. Deep Fake Pictyurs of Punk Rockers, Circa 1976, Give or Take a Few Years

~ Àn τ-Sultain/September 2025 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Àrdain Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
		<b>1</b> Boxcar Willie's Birthday. Public Holiday (Leurbost)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Country and Westren fans mourn the 7th Anniversary of Don Williams' Death. National Day of Mourning (Outside the Cattle Grid).	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> David Coverdale's Birthday. A' ghiadh mhor.  Thon Kipper - Day of Atonement for excessive fish smoking (Free Presbyterian)	<b>22</b> Autumn Equinox	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

# An Òamhair / October 2026



## 10 Years Since “Cove” Finally Finished

As readers will know, “Cove.” was the Dun Ringles' tribute to Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer (C.O.V.E) Macleod, Stornoway's greatest warrior- poet, explorer, Town Councillor, village idiot and Vietnam War Correspondent for the Gazette. A glorious concept album – 4 or 5 years in the making – that summarised Calum Ossian's life in 10 or so tunes.

But a mystery that has baffled leading musicologists in the 10 years since “C.o.v.e.”'s 2016 release is this: how has the Dun Ringles' seminal ~~auditory endurance test~~, err, progressive conceptual magnum opus managed to squat on global streaming platforms for a full decade since its 2016 release without triggering an automated purge?

The prevailing theory is that the album survives because the recording quality is so poor—captured, it is rumoured, via a single microphone taped to the kitchen ceiling of Portrona Studios, with the washing machine going in the background— The sophisticated quality control algorithms employed by Spotify et al do not recognize the files as music.

Instead, the AI has safely categorized the album as "Ambient White Noise: Industrial Machinery in Distress," a genre inexplicably popular among insomniacs and people from South Lochs.

To this day, the album remains unkillable, its stream count artificially inflated by confused tourists who think "Dun Ringles" is a type of shortbread biscuit, and a glitch in the wi-fi at the Stornoway ferry terminal that plays track four on a loop whenever the kettle boils.

10 Years of the Dun Ringles' Cove (Measured from release. 15 and a bit if you measure from when they started on it)



~ An Dàmhair / October 2026 ~						
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 Do you think the fleek spuds are going to lift themselves, you lazy bleigard? You were chust as bad this time last year	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 49 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Skynynrd's Plane Crash - National day of Mourning (Outer Hebrides)	21	22	23	24 United (Denomi)nations Day. Local Presbyterian splinter groups briefly suspend hostilities
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween. 54 <sup>th</sup> 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 2026



the guireans



athighearna fanklin's spealtrag scratch ep

A Xmas Tribute to The Queen of Shoals (and Peat Shellstreet)

## 1 Year Since the Guireans Didn't Release "Spealtrag Scratch" to Coincide with J\*hn M\*her's Appearance at Faclan

2018 saw the passing of 2 popular music lechends - A'thighearna Fanklin (the Queen of Soval) and Peat Shellstreet (frontman of Mangersta punk icons the Buzzgocs). Naturally the Guireans planned a tribute EP for Xmas of that year to ~~cash-in-on~~... er... sincerely commemorate the passing of two such significant figures.

But for complex legal and lochistical reasons explored elsewhere, the "Spealtrag Scratch" EP has yet to hit the record stores, even now, 8 and more years later...

A year ago this month, an event occurred that would have provided an ideal platform from which to release the long overdue "Spealtrag Scratch" on an unsuspecting world; Former B\*zzc\*cks drummer J\*hn M\*her was appearing at the Faclan book festival to present "Buzzcocks, Beatles and Cameras" - a fascinating talk about his time with the band and his later lives as a performance engine builder, photographer and trainee Hearach, with a bit of drumming thrown in.

Guireans Manager Coinneach formed an elaborate plan to sneak in the back door of the Lanntair (without paying) then storm the stage, hi-jack the occasion and re-purpose the evening as a launch party for "Spealtrag Scratch" - with a ready-made audience and a distinguished (if unwitting) guest.

Never ones to miss an opportunity to fail to miss an opportunity, however, the Guireans couldn't be bothered and told Coinneach to fleek off.

And so once again, "Spealtrag Scratch" remained unreleased. Neffer mind - one of these days, maybe.

Tráinee Hearach / former Megastar J\*hn M\*her, & the Guireans' (Still Unreleased) "Spealtrag Scratch" EP

- Samhain / November 2026 -						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Mairt Tue	Òi-Ciadan Wed	Òi-Ardain Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 3 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Parkend begins air strikes on East Street, acting against alleged "Plasterfield mercenaries" in the area.	<b>3</b> 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.	<b>4</b> 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.	<b>5</b> Fleek's sake man, it's Guy Fawkes.	<b>6</b> Tyre collecting for Guy Fawkes 2027 begins	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Comhairle's Winter 2026/27 Ice Gritting Contract Starts	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Comhairle's Winter 2026/27 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money (and Salt)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 11th 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.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 45th Anniversary of the Guireans recording their 1 <sup>st</sup> album "Pronounced Goo-thans" and inventing AGOFR (maybe).	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> St Andrew's Day. 47 Years since Pink Floyd released "The Wall". (Knocked up in a week after they heard "Pronounced Goo-thans")					

# An Dúbhachd / December 2026



## 40 Years of "Hey Hey We're Gordon Macleod's Guireans"

Unbelievably, 1986 is fleekéen 40 years ago. And that was the year that the Guireans recorded most of "Hey hey..." although it stretched out a bit into 1987.

Late great and much-missed original Guireans frontman Gordon "Mod" Macleod hadn't recorded with the band since 1979, and was keen to disown any past association with the band in the interests of maintaing his cool. So inevitably the band decided to stick his name on the album title anyway for embarrassment value. It's not known if he ever noticed.

Although it featured debut appearances from young production genius Rod 'Phil Sked-todhar' Morison and actually-no-too-bad Plasterfield guitar god Jimmy "Page" Kyle, "Hey Hey..." is nevertheless mostly even more ruppish than your average Guireans album, which makes it quite an achievement.

For the full story, head over to the Guireans' wepsite at:

[http://guireans.com/Guireans\\_msn/tapeography/hey\\_hey\\_were\\_gordon\\_macleods\\_guireans\\_1986.htm](http://guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/hey_hey_were_gordon_macleods_guireans_1986.htm)

In fact, "Hey Hey..." was so ruppish that nobody could be bothered doing an album cover, or even writing the album title on the tape. So for this month's pictyur we've chust taken the cassette sleeve and asked our complex AI image manipulation tools to add some Xmas decorations to it.

Co dhiù, ruppish ann neo as, Nollaig chridheil agus bliadhna mhàth ùr dhuibh uile!

"Album Sleeve" for "Hey Hey We're Gordon Macleod's Guireans" (1986)



~ An Duúhlachd/December 2026 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadain Wed	Òl-Ardaoin Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 15 years since Horslips got back together. Public holiday (Wattie's house)	<b>4</b> 4 Years (and a couple of weeks) since (sort of Horslips played their last gig. National Day of Mourning (Wattie's House).	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 1980 - Jimmy Petrie stages his own assassination to get out of the Guireans. Unfortunately nobody noticed due to events elsewhere.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Kim Jong Il, Dear Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. National day of Mourning (Point)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Winter solstice. Callanish not quite as busy with hippies from Away as it was at the Summer solstice. Fleekeen fairweather freaks.	<b>22</b> 32 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Isles FM. For 24 hours, normal service will be replaced by a special celebratory show: "AJK's Top 1000 Voiceovers 1994-2026"	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Xmas.	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 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.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Oidche Challuinn (Hogmanay)		

## AGOFR Agus am Bòrd Stiùreadh.

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

AGOFR was first identified as a musical form around 1979, with seminal artistes such as Zing-Pop and The Guireans 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 Guireans 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, Frogaigh Beag and (honorary practitioners) Lynyrd Skynyrd.

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 EweTube success of the Lechends of AGOFR’s (not the fleeked Dun Ringles) “Àiridhòhruach” performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, AGOFR influences finally began to seep into mainstream culture...

In 2016 the Dun Ringles had an even bigger EweTube smash with “Stornoway Skyline”, and the United States of America elected some fleeked amadan from Cong as its first ever AGOFR President. Then in 2018 rogue unlicensed AGOFR practitioners Peat 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 chumping on the bandwagon. For example, in 2026, Trauter Sunft released her much anticipated new album “the Tortured Peats Department”, and in 2026 Beyonce will be moving on from Country & Western to “Country & Western”, releasing a new album “Texel Hold ‘Em” and playing a Boxcar Willie tribute night in the Sea Angling in June. 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. Between all this AND Òmhnaill-lan being back into the White House, ~~2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025~~ 2026 is almost certain to be the year that AGOFR finally breaks through into the mainstream, oh yus. Definitely.

Bòrd Stiùreadh 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 fleeked ferry.

[www.guireans.com](http://www.guireans.com).

Front cover – Genuine definitely not fake AI picture of Keith Street Prog Rock ensemble “Amadan” playing in Sandwick Hall, circa 1973... (See March for the full story)