

Bòrd Stiùradh na h-AGOFR

Miosachan Oifigeal na h-AGOFR 2014

Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock 2014

Am Faoilleach / January 2014



2012 2013 2014 sees the 112th 113th 114th anniversary of justifiably neglected Stornoway poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer (C.O.V.E.) Macleod Nicolson. A major celebration of his life and work – originally planned for his birthday in 2000 but shelved due to his untimely demise – will finally go ahead this year, as Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR declare 2012-2013 2014 “Bliadhna a’ Chove”.

C.O.V.E was born in 1/1/1900 and died on 1/1/2000 (the only known fatality of the Millennium Bug) after an eventful life as a scholar, WWI soldier, pilot stowaway on the Titanic, adventurer, Home Guard officer, WWII spy, church elder in 7 different Presbyterian denominations, fomenter of ecclesiastical schisms, weaver, fisherman, poacher, gamekeeper, councillor, and 4-crown-drinking Stornoway worthy.

As a serious writer, C.O.V.E. had no time for “thon pope music” and in his later years was outraged by parallels between his poetry and the lyrics of AGOFR bands. However, his choice of parochial subject matter and the execrable quality of his writing had an undeniable influence on the industry, and Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR have always viewed him as a pioneer of the genre.

C.O.V.E's 100th birthday celebrations were rather dampened by the tragic computer explosion in which he met his end. The exact cause remains unconfirmed, but some say the poet was recklessly attempting to spellcheck “Airidhbhuach” in Word 3.0 at the very instant the millennium ticked over, against all expert advice.

In 2012 2013 2014 the Bòrd need to have some high profile events to justify their continued existence, and they couldn't be bothered thinking up anything new - so they've dusted off the unused “Bliadhna a’ Chove” plans from 2000. The Bòrd will be sponsoring a number of high-profile projects and events throughout the year to celebrate this forgotten poetic chenius, probably.

The Dun Ringles had intended to record a concept album based on a cycle of C.O.V.E's poems, (a bit like an even more ruppish version of thon thing the W**rb*y's did with WB Y****s), but they've since lost interest and can't be bothered finishing it. Nevertheless, the Bòrd hopes to release It in 2014 anyway, as a Deluxe Box Set featuring unfinished and unstarted rarities, gaps, music with no words, words with no music and bonus silences. There's no money for this at the moment but the Bòrd hopes that C.O.V.E's devotees will rally round and contribute up front, in a process known as Crowdfunding.

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

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Àm Faoilleach / January 2014 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadaoin Wed	Ìl-Àrdaoin Thu	Ìl-h-Àoine Fri	Ìl-Sathairne Sat
			1 Bliadhna Mhath Ur. Birth of the poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson (1900) Death of the poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson (2000)	2 1-year 2 years late, Bord Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR initiates "Bliadhna a' CHOVE", a year celebrating the 413 th 114 th anniversary of the birth of Stornoway poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson.	3	4 2002 – The Guireans write and record "Alasdair Mackay is God – Sorry, Bod" in an afternoon, and still have time to go home for their tea and go back up town for a pint.
5	6	7 Turfin' wars break out as the Point peat season begins; Assorted Rubhachs dash to the moor and fight each other for the best banks.	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 52nd Birthday. (His 103 rd for tax purposes).	29	30	31	Notes:

<http://www.wincalendar.com/2011-Word-Calendar.htm>

An Gearran / February 2014



U2, Gram Parsons and the Achmore Tree

Outside of the Castle Grounds, this lonesome, gnarled and sheep-chewed stump way out in the Achmore Desert was for many years the only tree in the whole of the Outer Hebrides.

It was therefore much visited and photographed by curious maws who wanted to see what a tree looked like, and over time it began to assume an iconic status, especially in Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock mythology.

In fact, this is the very tree that doesn't mark the spot where, back in September 1973, the body of Gram Parsons wasn't burnt after he hadn't died of a herring overdose in a Doune Braes motel room. Parsons' inspiration and collaborator Emmylou Hearach has often not told the story of how the burning was not carried out by his old drinking buddies, who didn't steal Parsons' coffin out of Al Cr*e's hearse in order to honour a pact they hadn't made with him at former Byrds guitarist Clarence White's funeral in Plasterfield, California. Or was that Bakersfield, California? Or the Bakery in Plasterfield?

Fleek knows, Co dhiu, it's also the tree after which U2 didn't name their highly successful Daniel Lanois-produced fifth studio album, "The Joshua Tree", released in 1987.

The barren desert landscape didn't inspire Bono to write lyrics that juxtaposed an Irishman's vision of the freedom and open spaces of an idealised Achmore with a critique of the village's brutal foreign policies in Latin America (especially its infamous annexation of Patagonia using a CIA-backed force of bodachs and sheepdogs).

'What the fleek's that got to do with AGOFR?' we hear you ask? Well, that very same U2 album which wasn't about the Achmore Tree inspired the , the Guireans to write "I Still Haven't Found What a Guga's for" and "Where the Peats have no Name".

Spooky, eh?

Chust as well they never tried to burn Gram Parsons here - it's never dry enough to get a fire going.

~ An Cèarran / FEBRUARY 2014 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadam Wed	Ìl-Àrdain Thu	Ìl-h-Àoine Fri	Ìl-Sathairne Sat
						1 Groundhog Day (USA) The Guireans announce that their long awaited album "J&E's Democracy" is nearly ready. Again. (Sandwick)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Harris Tweed found in Harris	11	12	13	14 St Valentine's Day. Don't miss the sale on Ewe Rolls and Pedigree Tup Mix at the Crofters'.	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 New Stornoway/Ullapool Ferry "Loch Seaforth" launches today - subject to delays due to adverse weather conditions.	22
23	24	25	26	27 Last day for Rubhachs to take their peats home.	28	Notes:

Am Màrt / March 2014



Springtime in the East Street Grazings

Up on Sandwich Hill, come the blustery sunny days of March, the high plateau of the East Street common grazings erupts in a dazzling display of noise and colour.

This is mostly due to the wind coming up and flapping all the old plastic bags that are stuck on the fences up there

In recent years an increasing number of new age-y white settler weirdo fiasag types have begun to make pilgrimages to the grazings. This may not be unconnected to stories put around by an enterprising bodach down in the Park, claiming that Sandwich Hill is a sacred site in the East Street tradition of Mochreachsathanaigyana Reformed Presbyterian Buddhism (Continuing) and that the “prayer bags” blowing in the wind carry blessings to silage growers and fish food pellet suppliers across the world.

Needless to say a small donation of only a few hundred pounds is collected from each visitor, to placate the spirits and pay for more old bags to replace the ones that end up in Broad Bay.

You have to admire the East Streeters' entrepreneurial spirit, but still.... manky bleigeards. You wouldn't get this sort of mess on the North Street side of the fence, I'll tell you.

A profusion of prayer bags brings colour to the East Street Grazings in Springtime

~ Àm MÀRTE / MARCH 2014 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadam Wed	Òl-Àrdoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Lardi Gras – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFR festival (Dunky's House)	7 Scalpay Orduighean begin - Expect the poshest wine and wafers on the communion circuit.	8
9	10 End of 2013/14 Poaching Season (River Creed)	11 Start of 2014/5 Poaching Season (River Creed)	12	13 Scalpay Orduighean begin - Expect the poshest wine and wafers on the communion circuit.	14	15
16	17 1830 – Original Lewis Chessmen unearthed in Harris (but nicked by some Uigeach)	18	19	20 Kinloch Orduighean begin – beware of celebratory gunfire (again)	21	22
23 British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward. One less hour in bed, for fleeek's sake.	24	25	26	27 Bac Orduighean begin - Public appearance by Take Vat(isker) in the Fr** Ch*rch Car Park, 3pm, miming to a tape of their hit "Bac for G*d".	28	29
30 Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man. Agree vigorously with everything J*e Ell**t says about him if you want to keep all your teeth until the 31st.	31	Notes:				

An Giblean / April 2014



Mehags agus Fuidheags - 30th Anniversary

Fleekeen Heng. Where does the time go? It's 30 years this month since the Guireans recorded "Mehags Agus Fuidheags" and released it as a limited edition of 1 C-12 cassette EP.

Some say that this unusual format was chosen because Guireans manager Coinneach was convinced that cassette EPs were destined to be the music delivery medium of the 21st Century.

In fact, it was chosen because the Dead Olag brothers' mammy had got a new Sanyo radio/cassette and immediately chucked out the 12-minute 'demonstration' tape of terrible Japanese muzak that came with it. The Guireans found the tape in the bin and decided to sellotape over the protection thingies and re-use it instead of wasting a whole side of a good C90.

The fact that they only had 1 tape to 'release' in this format turned out not to be a handicap - for predictably, this was 1 more copy than they could ever sell or give away.

Among the ruppish on "Mehags" were attacks on Big Country and mash-ups of Simple Minds vs Status Quo and, err.. Phil Collins vs Bogie (his Stornoway lookalike). Highlights included "Sunday Mucus for Curam People" (a barely recognisable travesty of the Velvet Underground's "Sunday Morning), "Mehags in the Sky with Fuidheags", and "Rock Mucus for Roll People" - a tribute to Dead Olag Guirean Jr's hero Eddie Cochran's "Somethin' Else" which went something like this:

Hey Lookee there – across the street

There's a tractor made chust for me – to own that tractor would be a luxury

*But right now I can't afford the diesel – cos the man at the pumps is a crooked weasel
But that can't stop me from thinkin' to myself*

That Massey Ferguson's fine lookin', man – it's somethin' else.... etc

Mehags agus Fuidheags - Complete with ruppish tounic spelling. (Since when was there's a "Y" in gaelic?)

~ An Cìoblean/ April 2014 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùi-Luain Mon	Ùi-Màirt Tue	Ùi-Ciadaoin Wed	Ùi-Àrdaoin Thu	Ùi-h-Àoine Fri	Ùi-Sathairne Sat
		1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. (National Holiday of Airdhbhruach)	2	3	4	5
6 No Housework Day (USA and Ge*rdie Golidy's)	7 Easter (Western Christianity)	8	9	10	11	12 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch Continuing)
13 Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)	14 Easter (Eastern Christianity)	15	16	17 Easter (Fr*e Pr*sbyteri*n)	18	19
20	21 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch)	22	23 Feast of St George – Patron Saint of having a fiasag and talking your way into a big job in the Comhairle well beyond your true abilities	24	25 Easter (APC)	26
27	28 Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)	29	30	Notes:		

An Céitean / May 2014



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 certainly the case in 2012 when Engebret Fillingstation got fleek all votes for his song "Love Will Set You Free (Pr*sbyterian)".

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 Buggy Fizzags, visit:

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

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

~ An Céitean/ May 2014 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
				1 May Day. 95th Congress of the People's Soviet (Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost)	2	3
4	5	6 Paleoarchaeologists discover a circle of Stone Age cattle grids surrounding Stornoway, to keep the maw cavemen from grazing their mammoths in the townie cavemen's gardens.	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Norway National Day. Public Holiday (Port of Ness, Skigersta, Adabroc, Eorpoie, Sula Sgeir)
18	19 Birthday of Gordon "Mod" Macleod from the Guireans. The customary scooter rally and pitched battle with the rockers will take place at the Braighe car park and toilets	20	21	22 Morrisey's Birthday : (Day of Vague Dissatisfaction and Yearning - Innes the Post's House)	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 John F Kennedy's Birthday. His twin brother was born 4 days later, due to a long waiting list at the Lewis Hospital (See June 2)	30	31 NY2SY – Today (or thereabout) Niall Iain rows out of New York (or thereabouts) heading for Stornoway (or thereabouts) Hope he remembers the spare oar.

An t-Ogmhios / June 2014



The Dun Ringles – 20 Years of Flang Your Doodle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~ An t-Ogmhios/June 2014 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ì-Ìuain Mon	Ì-Ìairt Tue	Ì-Ìiadin Wed	Ì-Ìardaoin Thu	Ì-Ì-Ìoine Fri	Ì-Ìathuirne Sat
1	2 Calum Kennedy's birthday, 4 days after his twin (See 29 May). Public Holiday (South Lochs and Iain Shaw's house)	3 Anniversary of Franz Kafka's Death. National Day of Gloom (Inaclete Road)	4	5 Another Hat Sale (Murdo Maclean's)	6 More Orduighean (Stornoway)	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 1 st batch of Lewis's Ab*ainn D**rg malt whisky reaches maturity. AGOFR Lechends' offer to record an advertising chingle to the tune of "Airdhbhruach" is ignored.	18	19	20 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	21
22	23	24 1314 – Battle of Bannockburn.. 1964- Battle of Beannagburn (Stornoway's 1 st Cailleachs' Lib protest of the 60s).	25	26	27	28
29	30	Notes:				

An Iuchar / July 2014

The Coma Co Dhiù Games



Having failed so narrowly to be chosen to host the 2012 Olympic Games, Sport Parkend, the governing body for international athletics in the Holm and Parkend area, immediately applied to take on the 2014 Commonwealth Games instead. Sadly their bid was inexplicably rejected once again, and the games have gone to Glasgow.

“Well fleek them”, said Sport Parkend supremo Sebastian Gobha (A 3rd cousin of undefeated marathon sitting-in- the-library-all-day legend Coinneach). “If we can’t have the Commonwealth Games we’ll stage our own”.

And so in July 2014, Parkend will play host to the Coma Co Dhiù Games, an international celebration of sporting apathy, mediocrity (if you’re lucky) and can’t-be-a**sed-ness .

Key events will include the Maragthon, the 100m Standing Around Doing Fleek All Except Saying “Aye” Occasionally, the 24-hour Leaning On A Fence Endurance Challenge, and the much-anticipated Fleeking Off Up Town for “More Nails” And Not Coming Back Sprint. Top International wasters such as Maw Farah and Uisdean Molt will propably not bother to turn up.

As you can see from this picture, however, preparation of the Coma Co Dhiù facilities is well underway, with the abandonment and overgrowth of the main track and field stadium progressing nicely, and the boat racing facilities already in an advanced state of decay.



Parkend's Coma Co Dhiù Games Stadium - Well Underway for July 2014

~ An t-Iuchar/July 2014~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadam Wed	Òl-Àrdain Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
		1	2	3	4 50th Anniversary of B*gey getting slaughtered in Macs Imperial to celebrate the Yanks not having to pay any more tax to the Scalpay Common Grazings Committee.	5
6	7 B*b Dyl*n traces his roots to Ballantrushal	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Heb Celt Festival Begins. Organisers announce they've dropped the "Celt" bit of the name. And the "Heb" bit.	17	18	19 4 th Anniversary of 1 st Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.
20 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	21	22 Don Henley's Birthday. Public Holiday (Eyeballs' House)	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Notes:	

An Lunasdal / August 2014



Unfinished AGOFR Rock Operas

Many(*) people ask us : “Huidh, Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR. Why has there never been an Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock Opera?”.

It ought to be an obvious choice, given the domination of AGOFR by money-grabbing showbiz impresarios Coinneach “Cameron Mac an-t-Shronaich” Livingstone and CJ “Andrew Leod Weaver” Mitchell. And the grandiose pomp theatrics of some of the artists' stage shows (notably Zing-Pop and the Dun Ringles). And Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR's tendency to fund only projects that are huge, elaborate, and doomed (See January),

One reason it's never happened is the Bòrd's fear of ending up like Stornoway's Playhouse cinema - cursed in the 70s by the Seceders for showing “J*s*s Chr*s*t S*perst*r”. Whether the curse was placed for reasons of religion or good taste was never entirely clear – either would have been quite valid – but it did the trick; the cinema closed soon afterwards.

But the main reason we don't have an AGOFR Rock Opera is that nobody can be bothered finishing one. Since the late 70s, the Dun Ringles' Wattie has begun over 450 such projects, and they've all come to nothing. The “Peatman” concept of the 90s, for example, had all the makings of the next “Evita”. But when Madonna turned down the lead part, Wattie lost interest and moved on.

In the early 2000s, Wattie went all Wagnerian and began collaborating with the Guireans on a libretto based around the premise of “AGOFR stars versus Nazi zombies guarding their gold in a sunken U-boat in Kinlochresort”. There wasn't actually a script but somebody drew a picture (left). A couple of songs were even written and demoed for this project but turned out to be ruppish, and predictably nobody could be a**ed writing any more after that. You neffer, know though – it's bound to happen eventually if the money's right.

* “Many” = “No”



The Dun Ringles Perform “Peatman” 1996/Scene from the unfinished “AGOFR Nazi Gold” U-Boat Rock Opera 2004

~ An Lùnasdal / August 2014 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ì-Ìuain Mon	Ì-Ìairt Tue	Ì-Ìiadin Wed	Ì-Ìardaoin Thu	Ì-Ì-Ìoine Fri	Ì-Ìathuirne Sat
					1	2 Stornoway Carnival (probably). Sleet, thunder lightning a Force 9 gale and one of them Stornados anticipated.
3	4	5	6 30 th Anniversary of Midge's of Rock 1983.	7	8 Rocky Sharpe from Rocky Sharpe & The Replays' Birthday (maybe). Big Session at John Allan's House.	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Phil Lynott's Birthday. Stornoway bye-laws declaring "Whiskey in the Jar" compulsory for all bands playing inside the cattle grid passed on this day in 1974.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Vern 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.	Notes:					

An Sultain / September 2014



The Independence Referendum(s)

Across the Minch, the debate on Scottish independence will reach fever pitch this month in the run-up to the referendum. To capitalise on patriotic sentiment, SNP leader Alex Salmond has timed the referendum to coincide with the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, when some Scottish posh French coves gave some English posh French coves a battering and sent them homeward tae fleek off.

Coincidentally, on the same day, the Outer Hebrides will be voting on whether to declare independence from Scotland and resume their pre-1263 status as part of Norway. This less well-known referendum was supposed to coincide with the 750th anniversary of the Battle of Largs, but is running a wee bit behind due to general ruppishness.

Largs was an inconclusive Scotland/Norway 0-0 draw, but it ultimately led to a peace deal in which Salmond's predecessor Alexander III bought the Outer Hebrides off Norway's Magnus Hakonarson for a half bottle of Grouse and 4 cans of McEwan's Export. Alexander thought he was being crafty by exploiting the Norwegians' inability to resist the prospect of cheap booze when abroad; But what he didn't know was that Norway was very glad to be rid of the Hebrides, populated as they were by the Gall-Gael, an ungovernable mix of disobedient Free Vikings (Continuing) and fractious aboriginal maws, Hearachs, Uibhisteachs and Barrachs.

For the next few hundred years, Edinburgh failed miserably to exert any control over its island domains, enduring disrespect, treachery, piracy and all sorts of other bleigeardry from the local chiefs.

According to campaigners at B*tter T*gether Western Isles (Continuing), Alex Salmond is determined that an independent Scotland will have its revenge for this disobedience of yore, and his main post-independence 'development plan' for the Islands picks up exactly where the last Scottish Government left off in 1609. A private security firm from Kirkcaldy has therefore been granted the original Fife Adventurers' charter to civilise the islands by "slaughter, mutilation, fyre-raifing, or utheris inconvenieties".

Faced with a choice between unrelenting Tory domination in the UK, "slaughter and mutilation" in an independent Scotland or an even more terrifying £9 a pint if we join Norway, the populace are understandably undecided. Fleek knows which way it'll go.

Scotland or Norway? An Undecided Outer Hebridean Voter, Yusterday

~ An t-Sultain / September 2014 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadam Wed	Òl-Àrdoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathurne Sat
	1 Boxcar Willie's Birthday. Public Holiday (Leurbost)	2	3	4	5 1924- Lord Leverhulme leaves Lewis never to return. His wife looks at Back and turns into a pillar of soap.	6 10 th Anniversary of Midges of Rock 2003
7 NY2SY – Niall Iain due to row into Stornoway, completing his 3-month solo crossing from New York. But seeing it's a Sunday he'll have to turn back.	8	9	10	11	12	13 Scooby Doo's Birthday. National Holiday (Dead Olac Guirean JR's House)
14	15	16	17	18 Independence Referendum (Scotland decides whether to leave the UK)	19 Independence Referendum (Outer Hebrides decide whether to leave Scotland and rejoin Norway)	20 Independence Referendum (Scalpay decides whether to leave the Outer Hebrides and set up as an offshore tax haven)
21 David Coverdale's Birthday. A' ghiadh mhor.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Notes:			

An Dámhair / October 2014



Isl*nd Expr*ss? – The Trans-Island Pop Festival 1970

The 1970 Trans-Island Pop Festival was one of the more spectacular failures in Leodhasach Rock history, doomed almost from its inception by the combination of mismanagement, corruption and general idiocy that became the template for the island's Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock (AGOFR) movement -and some allegedly 'proper' bands – as the 70s rolled on.

The idea was to gather a selection of the “best” “artists” from Lewis’s late 60s counterculture and send them on a two-day tour across the island to delight the masses and rake in barrels of cash. However, rather than taking Mitchell’s bus or hiring one of Donnie Shoal’s lorries, cheapskate rock impresario Todhar Eaststreet decided to transport the artists to successive venues via the light railway that ran across the moor to cart fish from the West Side of the island to Stornoway and back again.

This meant that the proposed tour itinerary was somewhat less than salubrious and ran as follows: Friday 4/10/70 7pm: No. 1 Pier, Stornoway; Friday 4/10/70 10pm: Caberfeidh Public Bar; Saturday 5/10/70 8pm: An Abandoned Àiridh out the Pentland Road; Saturday 5/10/70 11pm: Carloway Community Centre

An impressive host of ‘like, heavy’ acts were assembled for the first night of the tour. Buddy Cove and his Blues Band, Jan “Aost” Joplin (Janis’ elderly mother who lived in Cromòr), The Grateful Dead (who were coerced into joining as they needed a lift to Breasclèite to visit relatives of lead guitarist Jerry Gar-Siar and drummer Mickey Ceàrd) and potato-wielding beatnik freaks The Flying Buntata Brothers. Other acts included little known duo ‘Delaney & Bogie’.

With a bill like that, and cheap ready-made transport between the venues, how could it possibly go wrong? Find out at the Made Up History of Stornoway website, where the full story of stoned hippy incompetence is revealed:

<http://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2013/11/02/the-trans-island-pop-festival-the-counter-culture-comes-to-lewis/>

The Trans-Island Pop Festival 1970

~ An Dàmhair/October 2014 ~						
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 Thon Kippur. Traditional day for SY fish curers to atone for paying low prices, using poor quality sgadan and spraying them with toxic chemical dyes (Newton)	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Do you think the fleekeen spuds are going to lift themselves, you lazy bleigeard? You were chust as bad this time last year.
12	13	14	15	16	17 Morrisey's Autobiography published this day in 2013, in Penguin Classics. 457 pages long : "me me me I'm so miserable me me..."	18 The Fabster's Autobiography published this day in 2014, in Guga Classics. 1 page long : "Ordered takeaway. Went to bed. The End."
19	20 Anniversary of Skynynrd's Plane Crash – National day of Mourning (Outer Hebrides) Philomena Begley's Birthday. National Day of Celebration (Top corner of Plasterfield)	21	22 Smiths Shoe Shop found under ruins of Viking parliament.	23	24	25
26 Clocks go back. Extra hour in church.	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween. Tell you something - If the wee brats come round here with a Pumpkin they're getting fleek all. Is a turnip not good enough for kids nowadays?.	Notes:

An t-Samhain / November 2014

35 Years of AGOFR - "Pronounced Goo-thans"

It's 35 Years this month since the Guireans simultaneously formed, recorded their lechendary 1st album "Pronounced Goo-thans", and invented AGOFR by accident.

The 4 chirpy bobbantops from North Street (and 1 from the Cearns) set out with the intention of being a real band and doing serious covers of the happening sounds of the late 70s (The Police, The Specials, Gary Numan, Joe Jackson etc). However, they soon discovered how crap they were, and attempted to cover their embarrassment by pretending that they'd meant to be ruppish all the time.

Thus was born Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock – and don't listen to any townie fleekers that tell you different. While it's true that Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (73) coined the actual term "AGOFR" later to describe the equally pathetic efforts of his own band Zing-Pop, the Guireans 1st album contains all the key ingredients of the genre, namely:

- Total Musical Incompetence
- Abysmal Production Values
- Myopically Parochial Subject Matter

Until recently, AGOFR historians believed that "Pronounced" was recorded during the Stornoway Orduighean. But recent research has confirmed that it was during the Latha Taingealachd holiday in November 1979. Either way, it would have been a lot better if the Guireans had used the days off school as intended and gone to church instead of wasting their time on such ruppish.

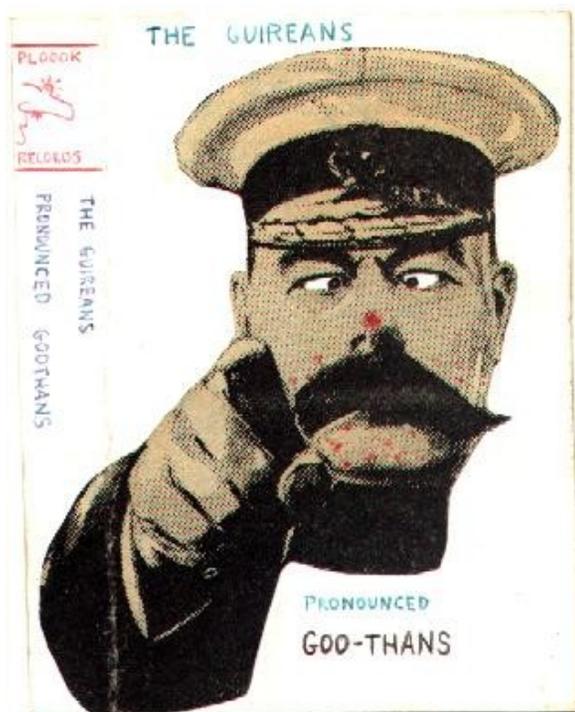
The album's title has long been ignored by the band's many⁽¹⁾ fans⁽²⁾ in Ireland, a benighted country where people refuse to talk proper Gaelic and insist on calling the band the "Goy-ree-yawnz", "Gwoy-reenz" or "Gee-yore-ee-yoyns" depending on the day of the week. Bleigeards.

Find out more on the Guireans' website at:

http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/tapeography/pronouced_goothans_1979.htm

(1) "Many" = "none"

(2) "Fans" = "people who've been forced to listen the Guireans by Plook Records' unstoppable Vice President of Marketing Americas & Asia/Pacific (including Ireland) Lora Lee Templeton"



Stornoway Codhar-gerson's Classic 70s Sleeve for "Pronounced Guireans".

~ An t-Samhain/November 2014 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadam Wed	Òi-Ardain Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
						1 4 Days Till Guy Fawkes : The Battery declares War on Columbia Place. But the're too far apart for anyone to bother.
2 3 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Plasterfield and Parkend declare war but decide they'll have it in Sandwick to avoid damage at home.	3 2 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Parkend begins air strikes on East Street, acting against alleged "Plasterfield mercenaries" in the area.	4 1 Day Till Guy Fawkes: Plasterfield forces cross the North Street border under the pretext of "liberating" tyres that have been "oppressed" by the Sandwick government.	5 Guy Fawkes: Parkend and Plasterfield have a big fight at Nan Rob's corner. While they're occupied, Sandwick nick all their tyres and have a record 800-tyre gelly. East St common grazings burnt to a crisp.	6 Tyre collecting for 2014 begins.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 4 th Anniversary of Fr*e Ch*rch allowing hymns and musical instruments. Cl*ff R*chard to play a special prayer meeting in the Seminary. Latha Dorch ga rìribh.	20	21	22 125 th Anniversary of the Pairc Deer Raid. Beware of Celebratory Gunfire (Balallan)
23 No special anniversary, but Beware of Gunfire (Balallan) anyway. Same goes for any other day.	24	25 Comhairle's Winter 2013/14 Ice Gritting Contract Starts	26	27 Comhairle's Winter 2013/14 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money	28	29
30 St Andrew's Day. Nobody will notice, anywhere.	Notes:					

An Dúblachd / December 2014



Coinneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock

After the massive sales of 2002's "[Bod Strummer & The Dun Guireaneros](#)" EP, The fat cat accountants who run AGOFR's top record labels decided that there was a huge potential market for Avante-Gaelic Dead Pop Star Xmas Tributes.

Sinister Tape Records supremo CJ Mitchell (86) and Ken "Coinneach" Livingstone - CJ's portly lucre-crazed opposite number at Plook Records - figured that with all these popular musicians turning into old bodachs and cailleachs there was bound to be an increasing number of high profile demises each year. More and more grieving fans would seek solace in tastefully marketed Xmas AGOFR tributes to their heroes.

Coinneach and CJ drew up a contract obliging all their indentured 'musicians' to form a "Supergroup" and record an EP every year until 2068. At Xmas 2003, various Dun Ringles and Guireans were duly rounded up to form "**Coinneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock**" and forced to record a commemorative EP for the year's crop of recently departed popstars.

The result is the flawed masterpiece "**Roddy Morri\$on Ca\$hes In And Gets Evicted to Leodha\$**", featuring tributes to **R*bert "Accountant of Rock" P*Imer, J*hnny C*sh and B*rry M*nilow**. The record is spuriously constructed around the concept of **Roddy "Actorrr" Morrison's** hasty return from Glasgow in flight from his creditors, and his transition from 'resting' thespian to gainfully employed Co-op worker.

A still-living **Barry Manilow** was included in the tribute because everybody got him mixed up with **Barry White** (who wasn't). By the time somebody explained which Barry was which, it was too late because the tea was ready and then the band were off to the Legion for a pint. "There's no doubt which of them *should be* dead", said an unnamed Accountant of Rock at the time.

Find out the full story at http://www.guireans.com/Guireans_msn/spinoffs/spinoffs_accountantsofrock.htm

Roddy Morrison getting Evicted to Leodhas by Coinneach & CJ

~ An Dùbhlachd / December 2014 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ì-Ìuan Mon	Ì-Ìairc Tue	Ì-Ìiadin Wed	Ì-Ìrdain Thu	Ì-Ì-Ìoine Fri	Ì-Ìathuirne Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 1980 - Jimmy Petrie stages his own assassination to get out of the Guireans. Unfortunately nobody noticed due to events elsewhere.	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 3 rd 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	22 20 th Anniversary of Isles FM For 24 hours, normal service will be replaced by a special celebratory show: "AJK's Top 1000 Voiceovers 1994-2014"	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 Sandwick Annual Monopoly Championship. To find out the results in advance, or to arrange a rigged bet, call Guireans Manager Coinneach on 0898 898999
28	29	30	31 Oidche Challuinn (Hogmanay)	Notes:		

ÀGOFR Agus am Bòrd Stiùradh.

Avante Gaelic Obscurist Fork 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 Gaelic, Stornowaywegian (the patois of the capital's street urchins) or in Beurla Taobh Mùigh a' Chattle Grid, the pidgin dialect adopted by the natives of the interior when dealing with their urban betters.

ÀGOFR was first identified as a musical form around 1979, with seminal artistes such as Zing-Dop and The Guireans appearing independently in town and country. While Zing-Dop, 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 Dùn Rìngles, Sheep Purple, Comneach & CJ's Accountants of Rock, The Lechends of ÀGOFR and Frogaidh Beag..

The industry has struggled on through the 80s, 90s, and 00s in the face of general apathy and ignorance, both in the wider community and among its own practitioners. However, with the massive EuroTube success of the Lechends of ÀGOFR's "Àiridhòhruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, the "Dùn Rìngles" SITC 2011 appearance, and Frogaidh Beag's attempts to sneak ÀGOFR content into the Stornoway Primary Xmas Concert - the year ~~2010~~ ~~2011~~ ~~2012~~ ~~2013~~ 2014 could well see ÀGOFR influences begin to seep into mainstream culture. There are (continuing) rumours that Adele is about to change her name to A. Dell and schedule a major tour of Ness and the West Side with fellow Brits winner Ed Siarach. Flamboyant Rapper Frank Ossian has just bought himself a £50,000 gold Cartier Carasgeir and will be cutting his peats out the Grimshader road in ~~2010~~ ~~2011~~ ~~2012~~ ~~2013~~ 2014. The reunited Black Sabbath will finally be able to realise their long-held ambition of playing St*rn*w*y Fr** Ch*rch now that the ban on musical instruments in worship has been lifted. And the R*lling St*nes probably won't try to top their Glastonbury appearance by supporting Zing-Dop at the Midgees of Rock 2014.

Bòrd Stiùradh 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 to somewhere nice like Las Vegas. Or anywhere on the mainland with a Marks & Spencers and cheap petrol.

www.guireans.com,

Front cover – An airidh out the Beinn a' bhuna road. Taken long before the one thon cove from the B*zzcocks had exhibited in the Lanntair in 2013.