

Bòrd Stiùradh na h-ÀGOFR

Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ÀGOFR 2017

Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock 2017

Am Faoilleach / January 2017



C.O.V.E. – The Album

Since 2012 the January page in this calendar has been promising the imminent release of the next Dun Ringles album. Well, in 2016, after several years of fleekeen around, the Dun Ringles finally managed to release “COVE” - their concept epic about justifiably neglected Stornoway Poet Calum Ossian Valtos Ebenezer Macleod Nicolson (1900-2000).

A major celebration of his life and work – originally planned for his birthday in 2000 but shelved due to his untimely demise – finally went ahead last year, as Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR were at last able to declare 2016 “Bliadhna a’ Chove” following the very very very tardy release of the Dun Ringles’ album.

As you’re probably sick of hearing in this Calendar 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.

The Dun Ringles’ “COVE” album was based on a cycle of C.O.V.E.’s poems, (a bit like an even more ruppish version of thon thing the W*t*rb*ys did with WB Y***ts) and released upon the world in October 2016. The levels of media and public interest generated by the album were in keeping with Cove’s public profile, and if anything decreased his popularity from ‘gutter-scraping’ level to a newly created ‘the bottom of a muddy ditch running alongside an ancient medieval pathways’. It’s what Cove would have wanted. (PS There’s still plenty copies of the CD and it’s available for download as well. Check out www.dunringle.com for full details.

About Fleekeen Time - The Cover of the Dun Ringles' long-awaited "COVE" album

Àm Faoilleach / January 2017 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
1 Bliadhna Mhath Ur.	2	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 D*vid Iain turns off the 2016 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	7 D*vid Iain formally turns on the 2017 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Ronnie Van Zant's Birthday	16	17 Some fleekeen amadan from Tong gets crowned king of America. The Guireans play the inauguration because nobody else will and their manager Coinneach wants the money	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 55th Birthday. (His 123 rd for tax purposes).
29	30	31				
31						

An Gearran / February 2017



Huggan's House

Guireans and sometime Cyclefoot frontman Roddy Huggan's kitchen was a hive of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock activity in the 1980s.

By the mid-80s, Guireans manager Coinneach had decided that the band should become tax exiles from Sandwick (by hiding from K*nnny St*y when he came round to collect for the Free Church Sustentation fund) Coinneach decided that the best place to avoid being found would be the chet-setting enclave of Goathill, with its palatial mansions, casinos, yachts and liberal tax regime.

So it was that large swathes of classic 80s Guireans albums such as "B*gie Goes to Bennadrove" (1985) and "Hey Hey We're Gordon Macleod's Guireans (1986/7) were recorded in Huggan's Goathill kitchen. The big 80s drum sound that features on these albums was mostly the work of Roddy's ma's Victoria biscuit tin, at least up to the point on "Hey Hey..." where Rod "Actorrrr" Morrison appeared with a real drum machine... the lechendary Dr Rhythm, which is still going strong today.

Cyclefoot probably did loads of practicing and recording in there too. And so too possibly did Swedish TV, in which both Huggan brothers served at various times. But we weren't there and we couldn't be bothered sending Roddy or Neil a message to ask..

The debauched rock 'n'roll parties that usually followed recording sessions at the Huggans' were on a par with the ones the Stones used to have when they were in the South of France doing "Exile on Main Street". Except for the bit where Mr & Mrs Huggan would chuck everybody out for making a racket. Obviously Mick n Keef and Anita Pallenberg never used to get thrown out of their fleekken chateau and have to go to the Castle Grounds to keep dry. And if they had done, they'd have had a limo to get them there. And a lackey to get the hen supper and the carry-out. Still, happy days.

Huggan's House.

~ An Gearran / FEBRUARY 2017 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadam Wed	Ìl-Àrdoin 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	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Harris Tweed found in Harris	11
12	13	14 St Valentine's Day. Don't miss yesterday's sale on Ewe Rolls and Pedigree Tup Mix at the Crofters'. If you did, you're too fleekkeen late now.	15 Hat Sale in Murdo Maclean's (if it's still there)	16 Stormway Orduighean begin.	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Last day for Rubhachs to take their peats home.	24	25
26	27	28				

Am Màrt / March 2017

Breascsit



Breasclete's vote to leave the Eòropiean Union in 2016 came as a shock to politicians all over the island. But by March 2017, we'll no doubt have sorted out this Breascsit carry-on, and we'll be able to have a good laugh about it all. Oh yus.

At this stage, however, there's a lot to figure out, especially when it comes to the complex web of trade agreements that will be fleeked up between villages all over the island. How, for example, are all them fatty acids from the Breasclete factory going to get to Kenny Froggan's once the neighbouring states of Callanish and Carloway are in a different customs zone? And what if Garynahine or Barvas decide to apply punitive tariffs en route? And when the òrduighean are on, how are ministers, elders, cailleachs and soup going to move around the island freely?

Eòro-sceptic politicians in other parts of the island are already starting to gain ground too. Mairi-Anna Le Peninsula is pushing for Point to break away (a policy which, while not popular anns a' Rubha itself, has earned her vast support everywhere else in the island). Meanwhile populist Fidigarian leader Viktor Orbmark is putting up a fence on the border with Crossbost and intends to break away from the HTA and set up his own "Ranish Tweed" zone.

Most of those who campaigned for Breascsit have fleeked off sharpish so that they don't have to deal with the consequences of their victory. Liòbag-faced backstabber Michael Govig is on the run in his native Harris. Former Ewekipper chief Nigel Marage has evaporated, leaving his party scrapping outside the Lewis, and retired home to Ness to open a "proper British bothan with smoking, screwtops, guga scratchings, and plenty of bodachs spitting everywhere. None of thon continental 'toilet' ruppish either. And it'll all be legal, chust like in the good old days"

Post-Breascsit Trade Barriers Between North St and East St, Yusterday.

~ Àm MÀRTE/MARCH 2017 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-MÀRTE Tue	Òl-Ciadam Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sachurne Sat
			1	2	3	4 Lardi Gras – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFR festival (Dunky's House)
5	6	7	8	9	10 End of 2014/15 Poaching Season (River Creed)	11 Start of 2017/5 Poaching Season (River Creed)
12	13	14 1830 – Original Lewis Chessmen unearthed in Harris (but nicked by some Uigeach)	15	16 Kinloch Orduighean – beware of celebratory gunfire (again)	17	18
19 British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward. One less hour in bed, for fleek's sake	20	21 Spring Equinox	22	23	24	25
26 Easter (Western Christianity)	27	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 Bac Orduighean	

An Giblean / April 2017



Cathy Ghall's Shop Again : 30 Years of The Cac Album & 41 Years of The Ramones

41 years ago, in April 1976, the Ramones released their self-titled debut album.

The band's early days in New York and the years they spent playing low-life bars like CBGB's are well documented, but few are aware of the brief visit they paid to Lewis in 1975, nor of the influence that one particular Stornoway licenced grocer had on their early work.

In the Summer of 1975 the Ramones came to Stornoway to play a week's residency at APCFP's, a seedy dive in the Battery frequented by the town's nihilistic black-clad predestination-obsessed cuireamach subculture. APCFP's owner, firebrand elder Hell E. Christian, wouldn't allow the bands playing his club to drink, so the Ramones often had to nip down to Cathy Ghall's for a carry-out when all their counting made them thirsty. It was while loading up on Tennents in the famous off-licence that the band were spotted by Siar Records boss Seymour Steinish, who signed them up to record their first album at Tong Studios. After the band returned to America, some of the lyrics had to be changed and the vocals re-recorded, as Steinish felt they were a bit too parochially Leodhasach. This may have been due to producer No*I E*die's persistent attempts to make them sound more like Na h-Òganaich.

Track 1, "Blitzkreig Bop" became one of their best known hits, and 30 years ago this year the Guireans did a famous cover of it on The Cac Album (1987) – using the original lyrics that the Ramones had written and recorded at Tong Studios. Back then, of course, "Blitzkreig Bop" was called "Cathy Ghall's Shop".

*Hee ho ro – Coinneach Gobha (x4)
Running down the Battery - Trying to get some cider
I've only got 50p – Cathy Ghall's Shop
Going to the Braighe Disco – Drinking it al fresco
I better get to Presto - Or Cathy Dhall's shop
Oh hee yus... All dressed up an nowhere to go
Cos I can't afford to get into the Seaforth... Hee ho ro etc.*

"Hee-Ho-Ro, Coinneach Gobha" - The Ramones visit Cathaidh Ghall's in 1975 before heading back to the Battery to play another gig at APCFP's

~ An Cìoblean / April 2017 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùi-Luain Mon	Ùi-Màirt Tue	Ùi-Ciadaoin Wed	Ùi-Ardaoin Thu	Ùi-h-Aoine Fri	Ùi-Sathairne Sat
						1 Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. (National Holiday of Airidhbhruch)
2 April Fool's Day again (Airidhbhruch – cos one day's not enough)	3	4 No Housework Day (USA and Ge*rdie Golidy's)	5	6	7	8
9 Easter (Orthodox)	10	11	12 Easter (Orthodox)	13 Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)	14 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch Continuing)	15
16 Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)	17	18	19	20	21 Easter (Fr*e Ch*rch)	22
23 Feast of St George – Patron Saint of continually mispronouncing “An Lanntair” despite having a fleekeen cushy job in it.	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

An Céitean / May 2017



Camp Àiridh – President Tr*mp's Lewis Retreat

Every US President has a rural retreat where they can entertain foreign leaders and make big international deals away from the prying eyes of the media.

America's new President, aka “thon fleekéen Amadan Domhnall-Iain from Tong”, is no exception. But being a mega-billionaire and a past candidate (failed) for Clerk of the Aird Tong Grazings Committee, Mr Tr*mp is not satisfied with the usual Presidential facilities at Camp David in Maryland. Oh no. The day he won the US election, The Donald demanded the construction of a bespoke state-of-the-art new retreat on his ancestral island.

Before the election, Tr*mp had displayed outline plans for the complex - a 200-storey gold skyscraper with a runway for Air Force One on the roof and a glow-in-the-dark statue of himself beside it that was going to be even bigger than the inflatable Santa at M*yb*ry G*rdens (See next month's page).

However following the immediate and total collapse of the US economy the day after Tr*mp's inauguration, the design was quickly revamped to fit the available budget.

The result is a subtly understated rustic hideaway in a secret location somewhere out on the Pentland Road. Inspired by the traditional island shielings of times gone by, this is Camp Àiridh.

From 2017 through to 2020 we can expect the back road out of Marybank to be cham packed with convoys of blacked-out SUVs and stretch Cadillacs, carrying world leaders out to the moor for a spot of diplomacy mixed with outdoor pursuits.

Traditionally, a few days in the outdoors is chust the thing to calm down high-powered politicians, enabling them to see their adversaries as human, and promoting compromise.

But Trump has failed to realise that the grim climate and limited pastimes on offer at Camp Àiridh could have the opposite effect. Savaged by midgies while out lifting Trump's peats, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping could end up going to war over who used the last spooch of the Avon Skin-So-Soft. Benjamin Netanyahu and Mahmud Abbas will inevitably have a huge falling-out over sheep's earmarks at the fank. A tick will most likely get down Kim Jong-Un's wellies and inside his bobban sock, annoying him enough to trigger nuclear armageddon. And while Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei and King Salman of Saudi Arabia may well end up chatting amicably on their Sabbath walk across the moor to church in Achmore, they'll probably get embroiled in some local ecclesiastical schism as soon as they get there. At which point it's almost certain that they'll start supplying the opposing factions with heavy weapons.

Camp Àiridh - Where America's Big Deals of 2017 Will Be Done (Probably)

~ Àn Céitean/ May 2017 ~						
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
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			

An t-Ogmhios / June 2017



D*vid Iain's Blow-Up Santa

Fleek's sake! June Already? That only leaves 120-ish shopping days to Xmas. Time to get the decorations up (if you ever took them down in the first place).

One place where they don't believe in taking the decorations down at all at all is Sandwick's premiere horticultural centre, M*yb*ry G*rdens, where the Abominable Inflatable Glow-in-the-Dark Snowman who used to terrorise the neighbourhood has recently been replaced by a giant Santa and reindeer.

When not interviewed by the (Crom)Wall Street Journal after the Santa investment was announced, swashbuckling M*yb*ry co-founder and former Zip-a-Cola tycoon D*vid Iain "Alan Saccharine" Sm*th probably didn't say:

"I fired the snowman after he blew away to Steinish once too often. No fleek commitment, that guy. He was all mouth and no trousers (although come to think of it, he didn't have a mouth *or* trousers).

Co dhiù, after what I paid for this pair I'm going to get my money's worth out of them. Nobody in my organisation gets away with working a couple of weeks a year. If you're in my team, you're in 24/6 and 365 days a year (minus the Sabbaths, however the fleek many days a year that fleek comes to)."

June - Time to bring out the Xmas Decorations at M*yb*ry G*rdens

~ An τ-Ogmhios/June 2017 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùi-Luain Mon	Ùi-Màirt Tue	Ùi-Ciadaoin Wed	Ùi-Àrdaoin Thu	Ùi-h-Àoine Fri	Ùi-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 Anniversary of Franz Kafka's Death. National Day of Gloom (Inaclete Road)
4	5	6 Ramadan begins. Fleek's sake – it only gets dark here for about an hour.	7	8 More Orduighean (Stornoway)	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Summer Solstice. Watch out for fleekken 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 1314 – Battle of Bannockburn.. 1964- Battle of Beannagburn (Stornoway's 1 st Cailleachs' Lib protest of the 60s).
25	26	27	28	29	30	

An t-úchar / July 2017

34 Years Since The AGOFR Sounds Advert

Instead of moaning about the Heb Celt Fest not having any AGOFR content (as we usually do in July), we've decided to ignore the beardies for a change and celebrate instead the 34th anniversary of there being something about AGOFR in a proper music paper.

In the 70's and early 80's any respectable Stornowegian music lover's life would revolve around the arrival of 'the music press' on a Friday afternoon. After school and college, the townie music fans would eagerly descend on Roddy Smith's, Tommy Nicolson's or John Campbell's to purchase their weekly fix of album reviews, gig announcements, chart placings and in-depth interviews with their favourite rock stars (never pop stars of course). These music papers were the NME (punk and new wave), The Sounds (more rock and metal), the Melody Maker (trying hard to cover everything) and the Record Mirror (mostly poppy stuff).

In the days before the internet, these papers were the only way to expand your musical knowledge. Nowadays you can find out everything about your favourite band in seconds. Back then it took months if not years to find out a band's discography and history. The columns of the music papers also provided ammunition for the endless 'Punk Rules' 'No it fleekin doesn't' 'Blackmore's better than Page' debates that took place in the playgrounds of the land.

In 1983, two stalwarts of the AGOFR scene decided to write a rock opera about something or other. The actual subject matter is lost in the mists of time, but it was probably about the usual AGOFR ruppish. Wattie, the Casio VL-Tone-toting keyboard cove from Zing Pop, and Roddy Rev - Cyclefoot mainstay (and Westview Terrace's finest AGOFR musician), decided to place an advert in The Sounds, the premier paper, to draw attention to their rock opera and to seek out similar AGOFR "musicians".

The wee advert made reference to the most suitable musical influences being sought, and this (very short) list included Zing, The Guireans, Cyclefoot and Tractor. The advert singularly failed to provide any actual contact details (apart from 'contact Rev or Wattie % Tape Records Stornoway') and this is probably why no one, not even the coterie of AGOFR artistes in the town at that time, bothered to enquire.

Who knows what could have been, 34 years ago?



Wattie Advertises for "Musicians" in "Sounds" Magazine, 1983. "Musicians"? Some fleekin Hope.

~ An t-Iuchar/July 2017~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
						1
2	3	4 52nd ^l 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 Heb Celt Festival Begins. Probably no AGOFR bands on the bill.	13	14	15 The Waterboys' Heb Celt encore is "Growlee Popstar" by Memphis Louie an' the Rockin' Firebird of Death
16 7th Anniversary of 1 st Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.	17 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	18 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	19	20	21	22 Don Henley's Birthday. Public Holiday (Eyeballs' House)
23 Sports Centre trials Sunday opening. Weather – Fire & Brimstone all week.	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Sports Centre Sunday opening trial abandoned. Comhairle re-hires G**rdie G*lidy to chain up the swings on Saturday nights.	31					

An Lunasdal / August 2017



The Dun Ringles – 1 Year of “Stornoway Skyline”

Prog Rock dinosaurs (The) Dun Ringle(s) decided to go all commercial in 2016 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.

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

~ An Lùnasdal / August 2017 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùi-Luain Mon	Ùi-Màirt Tue	Ùi-Ciadaoin Wed	Ùi-Ardaoin Thu	Ùi-h-Aoine Fri	Ùi-Sathairne Sat
		1	2	3 Mick Flavin's Birthday (or is it?) . Public Holiday (top end of Plasterfield).	4	5 Stornoway Carnival (probably). Sleet, thunder lightning a Force 9 gale and one of them Stornados anticipated. 34 th Anniversary of Midges of Rock 1983.
6	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	27
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.		

An Sultain / September 2017

AGOFR and the Oil Industry



Rogue oil rig Transocean Winner's unscheduled appearance on Dalmore Beach in 2016 was not the first time a large oil industry related monstrosity had graced the shores of Lewis. Older readers will no doubt recall the heady days of the 70s North Sea Oil boom and the bonanza it brought to the Highlands and Islands. Every second sea loch seemed to have an oil fabrication yard. Oil rigs, drilling platforms, big tall crane things and barges were as common as muck.

Stornoway benefited from this boom too in the shape of Lewis Off-Shore, an oil fabrication yard built over at Arnish Point. Amongst other things Arnish built a huge barge called the Lonka, welded together lots of pipes and most impressively of all, was the host to an oil rig called Drillmaster for a couple of years.

The Drillmaster was part of a unique experiment to drill in Glumaig harbour for liquid peat as a potential source of energy. The multi-national company behind it was B-Peat with their famous catchy slogan 'Put A Tairsgeir In Your Tank'. The rig drilled away for over a year, with special peat-tankers carrying the liquid peat away under cover of darkness. Alas, the Peat Sheiks of the Middle East(ern Sutherland) soon put a stop to these plans by flooding the market with cheap peatoil.

The rig towered over the town (and even had a Xmas Tree on top of the tower over the winter of 1978). The Drillmaster also indirectly funded the AGOFR movement by providing Guireans Manager Coinneach with ridiculously overpaid employment as a kitchen porter on the adjacent accommodation ship "Najla", along with Swedish TV's AJ Kennedy and various other culinary incompetents. Despite the occasional food poisoning outbreak, Coinneach and AJK made a fleekeen fortune - In the notorious Guireans video of 1981, the guitars "played" by the band (borrowed off AJK), the camera on which everything was filmed, and the band's Arnish boots, were all paid for with oil industry dollars from the Drillmaster bonanza.

More recently, the Dun Ringles were commissioned to write a song about the Transocean Winner for Isles FM's 2016 special "The Year of The Rig". The band's manager, Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali CJ Mitchell (74), refused to disclose how many dirty petrodollars had changed hands, or what his cut had been.

Visiting Oil Rigs Old and New (Drillmaster above, Transocean Winner below)

~ Æn τ-Sultain/September 2017 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Mairt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
					1 Boxcar Willie's Birthday. Public Holiday (Leurbost)	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 David Coverdale's Birthday. A' ghiadh mhor.	22 Autumn Equinox	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

An Dámhair / October 2017



“Uisdean We Have a Proplem” : The Space Race in Lewis

In October 2017 it'll be 60 years since the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik 1, marking the beginning of the Space Age.

Everybody will no doubt be banging on about that this month, and forgetting the vital part played by the Outer Hebrides in the early days of the space race.

Stornoway and the islands' various rural districts spent tens of pounds and engaged in all sorts of skulduggery to beat each other to the great early milestones of space exploration in the 50s and 60s. The fascinating tale of captured Nazi rocket scientists, dangerously volatile peat-fired propulsion technologies, sheepdogs in orbit and acrimonious Presbyterian church schisms en route to the Moon is told in “Uisdean, We Have A Problem: The Stornoway Space Race”, a thoroughly researched article* on the Made Up History of Stornoway's website at

<https://stornowayhistory.wordpress.com/2014/07/26/uisdean-we-have-a-problem-the-stornoway-space-race/>

* totally fictitious ruppish

The Back Space Agency's 1958 Blueprint for a Futuristic 60s Moonbase.
Note the designer's pioneering use of post-IT technology, years ahead of its time.

~ Àn Dàmhair / October 2017 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùi-Luain Mon	Ùi-Màirt Tue	Ùi-Ciadaoin Wed	Ùi-Àrdaoin Thu	Ùi-h-Àoine Fri	Ùi-Sathairne Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Do you think the fleek spuds are going to lift themselves, you lazy bleigeard? You were chust as bad this time last year.	12 Thon Kipper	13	14
15	16	17	18	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 Smiths Shoe Shop found under ruins of Viking parliament.
22 Clocks go back. Extra hour in church.	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26	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?.				

An τ-Samhain / November 2017

25 Years of the Dun Ringles

It's hard to believe that 2017 will be the Silver Anniversary of the Dun Ringles. Formed in late 1992, and unleashing their first album (cassette) "Vom Your Sproggans" that December, the Dun Ringles have taken obscurity to a new level, only bettered by The Guireans in that respect.

The Dun Ringles are however making good progress on their 50 year business plan. They are well on track to achieve their long term goal of appearing on Top of The Pops, but have slipped somewhat on their short term goal of headlining the Hebridean Celtic Festival.

Starting out as a three piece, the band now sports six official members plus an assorted mix of friends and hangers-on who have appeared on stage with them at some point on their history.

The band has released 11 albums, performed in concert 45 times and have covered nearly every aspect of Stornowa/yHebridean life in song form in that time.

No doubt the band have a long list of special events lined up for 2017.



"Vom Your Sproggans" - The Classic 1st Dun Ringles Album Steeve from 25 Years Ago.

~ An t-Samhain/November 2017 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadan Wed	Òl-Àrdain Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
			1 4 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Plasterfield and Parkend declare war but decide they'll have it in Sandwick 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 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.	4 Guy Fawkes-1: 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.
5 Guy Fawkes – but no gellies to be lit or fireworks released cos it's the Sabbath.	6 Tyre collecting for 2017 begins... Oh no wait, it's fleekkeen Sunday.	7 Tyre collecting for 2017 begins... Oh no wait, it's fleekkeen Sunday.	8 Tyre collecting for 2017 begins now, definitely.	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Comhairle's Winter 2017/17 Ice Gritting Contract Starts	17 Comhairle's Winter 2017/17 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money	18 5 th Anniversary of Fr*e Ch*rch allowing hymns and musical instruments. Cl*ff R*chard & Frogaidh Beag to play a special rock n roll prayer meeting in the Seminary. Latha Dorch ga riribh.
19	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 Black Friday. Disturbances expected as cailleachs fighting over heavily discounted marags.	25
26	27	28	29	30 St Andrew's Day.		

An Oubhlachd / December 2017

Maw-Nopoly

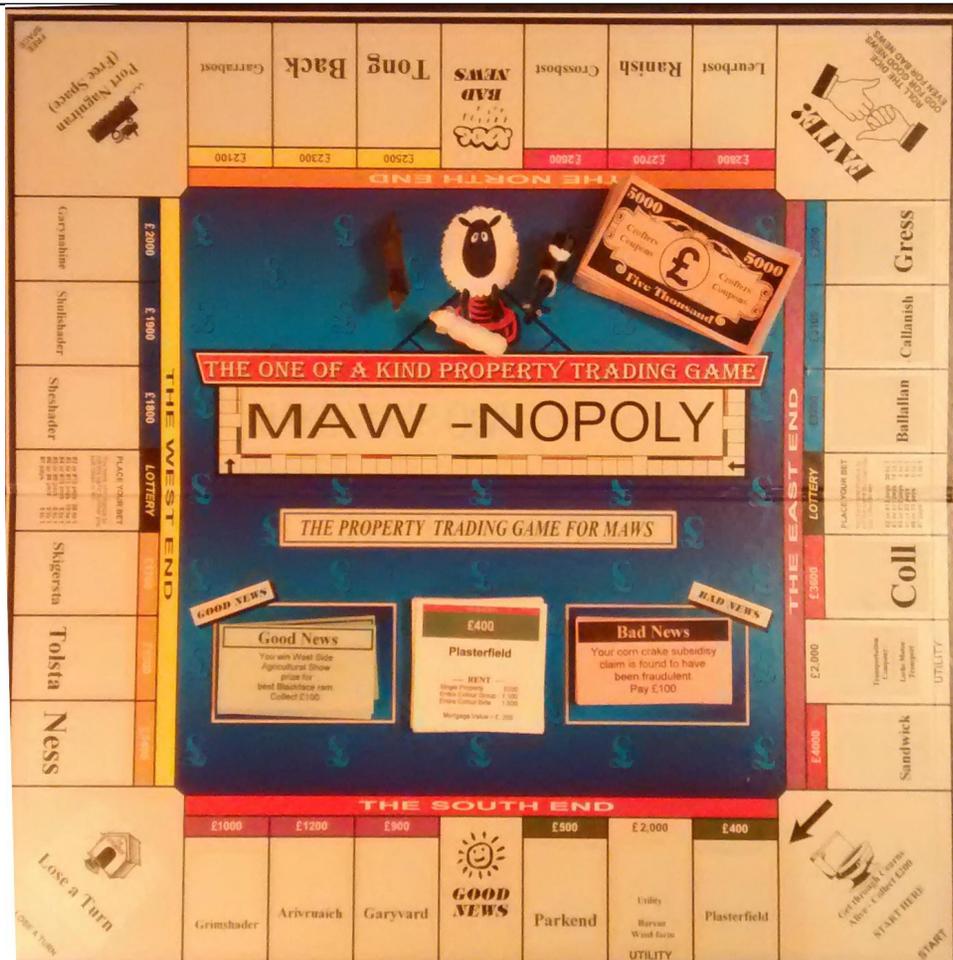
2016 saw attempts to get crowdfunding for “Stor-nopoly” - a Stornowegian version of the popular property trading game “Monopoly”.

What's less well known is that back in 2004, Guireans Manager Coinneach “Go Directly to Jail” Livingstone had already devised a more rural variant of the game - “Maw-nopoly”- and had actually constructed a complete set.

Naturally Sandwich took the place of “Mayfair” on the board, with a sale price of £4000, while Plasterfield stood in for “Old Kent Road” at a mere £400.

The “Chance” and “Community Chest” were replaced with “Good News” and “Bad News” cards more suited to players residing outside the Cattle Grid – sheep subsidies, poaching fines, arbitrary divine retribution and the like.

Maw-nopoly was actually played at the Sandwich Annual Monopoly Championships in 2004 and 2006 in place of the “real” game, Dead Olac Guirean Jr and Gordon “Mod” Macleod respectively won in these years, while Coinneach lost by fleekeen millions. As a consequence Coinneach went in the huff and hid the “Maw-nopoly” set in the loft. It was only when Coinneach heard about “Stor-nopoly” and sniffed the possibility of a lucrative copyright infringement lawsuit that it was dug out again.



Maw-Nopoly

- An Dúbh-lachd / December 2017 -						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ì-Ìuain Mon	Ì-Ìairc Tue	Ì-Ìiadin Wed	Ì-Ìardaoin Thu	Ì-Ì-Ìoine Fri	Ì-Ìachuirne 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 Stockholm : Wattie Dun Ringle doesn't show up to collect the Nobel Prize for literature for his lyrics. Chust as well, since the Nobel Committee have never heard of him.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 5 th Anniversary of the death of Kim Jong Il, Dear Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. National day of Mourning (Point)
17	18	19	20	21 Dec. Solstice	22 23rd Anniversary of Isles FM. For 24 hours, normal service will be replaced by a special celebratory show: "AJK's Top 1000 Voiceovers 1994-2017"	23
24	25 Xmas Day. Huidh! Them oranges is chust for show! Leave them alone, ya wee bleigeard.	26 Suas an Fheamainn Day. Off down the Braighe to collect your year's supply of rotten seaweed in the middle of a Force 10 gale.	27	28	29	30
31 Oidche Challuinn (Hogmanay) Yus! It's on the Sabbath again! Party time...						

ÀGOFR Agus am Bòrd Stiùreadh.

Avante Caelic 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 Gaelic, Stornowaywegian (the patois of the capital's street urchins) or in Beurla Taobh Muigh 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 Cuireans 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 Cuireans are still on the go today when they can be bothered. More recent ÀGOFR acts include the Òun Ringles, Sheep Purple, Coinneach & Cj's Accountants of Rock, The Lechends of ÀGOFR and Frogaidh Beag..

The industry has struggled on through the 80s, 90s, 00s and 10s in the face of general apathy and ignorance, both in the wider community and among its own practitioners. However, with the massive EuroTube success of the Lechends of ÀGOFR's "Àiridhòhruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, and the "Òun Ringles" even bigger smash with "Stornoway Skyline" in 2016 - the year ~~2010~~ ~~2011~~ ~~2012~~ ~~2013~~ ~~2014~~ ~~2015~~ ~~2016~~ 2017 could well see ÀGOFR influences begin to seep into mainstream culture. There are rumours that Calvin Harris has got the Cuiream and is about to relaunch himself as Calvinist Hearach. Bruno Marrs will be rebranded as Bruce-no Marrags, and 2016 chart sensation Sia will be reverting to her full name ("Sia-rach") and releasing her next big hit - "Sheep Thrills" - in early 2017. Oh yus, and apparently, Stornowaywegian substitute swear-word "fleck" is still being used by trendy fashionable types on the mainland - as in "fleck's sake - fleck' is really fleekeen 'on fleck' again this fleekeen 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 fleekeen ferry.

www.cuireans.com.

Front cover - Sunset over Plasterfield.