



Bòrd Stiùireadh na h-ÀGOFR  
Miosachan Oifigeal na h-ÀGOFR 2021

*The Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock 2021*

# Am Faoilleach / January 2021



## Brexit and the Border(s) (Again)

The best thing about Brexit is the fact that the whole carry-on has dragged on for so long that we get to use this calendar page again for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running. It's especially relevant as the new post-Brexit trading arrangements kick in in Jan 2021. At time of writing, nobody has a fleeked scooby how it's going to work between the UK and the EU, but fortunately we are able to explain how trade will operate across internal borders within the Outer Hebrides.

When the UK left the EU, for example, Scalpay didn't, because it's actually in Spain (and has been since 1588, as any amadan familiar with the Dun Ringles' poorly spelt prog rock epic "Scalpoche Armada" will tell you). To maintain frictionless trade across the Scalpay bridge, the natural solution would be for the rest of Harris to follow EU regulations, but hardline Hearach seceders in the Democratic Urgha Party refuse to countenance such an arrangement.

For similar reasons, again based on Spanish territorial claims, border controls are likely to spring up the Goat Island causeway, and on all roads leading in and out of Tolsta Chaolais.

Tong, naturally, has used its Washington connections to secure a unilateral trade deal with the USA, but this does not extend to the neighbouring townships. So there'll have to be a wall at Coll and another on the road to Newmarket, with US customs guards on patrol to stop cheap steel imports from the scrapyards at the Blackwater. This applies until 20<sup>th</sup> January, when the new cove takes over in America and starts applying sanctions.

North Tolsta has negotiated a peats-for-kimchi deal with North Korea, which will require a DMZ to be created between the Glen and Gress, which is joining Greece. Meanwhile the Niseachs, as part of Norway, are insisting on remaining in EFTA (The Eòropie Freechurch Tractor Association), so strict customs controls will be put in place on the A857 North of Fivepenny Borve.

Trade between Point and the rest of the Island is already difficult due to its worsening diplomatic relations with everybody. Sanctions are likely to intensify following Point's interference in the Tong Presidential elections, and the Rubhach Secret Service's attempts to assassinate defector Sergei Suardal in the Crit by lacing his Stewart's Cream o' the Barley with water. Rubhach leader Vladimir Spùt-in's claims that his agents were mere tourists, visiting the town to see the world famous spire of Martin's Memorial, are generally disbelieved.

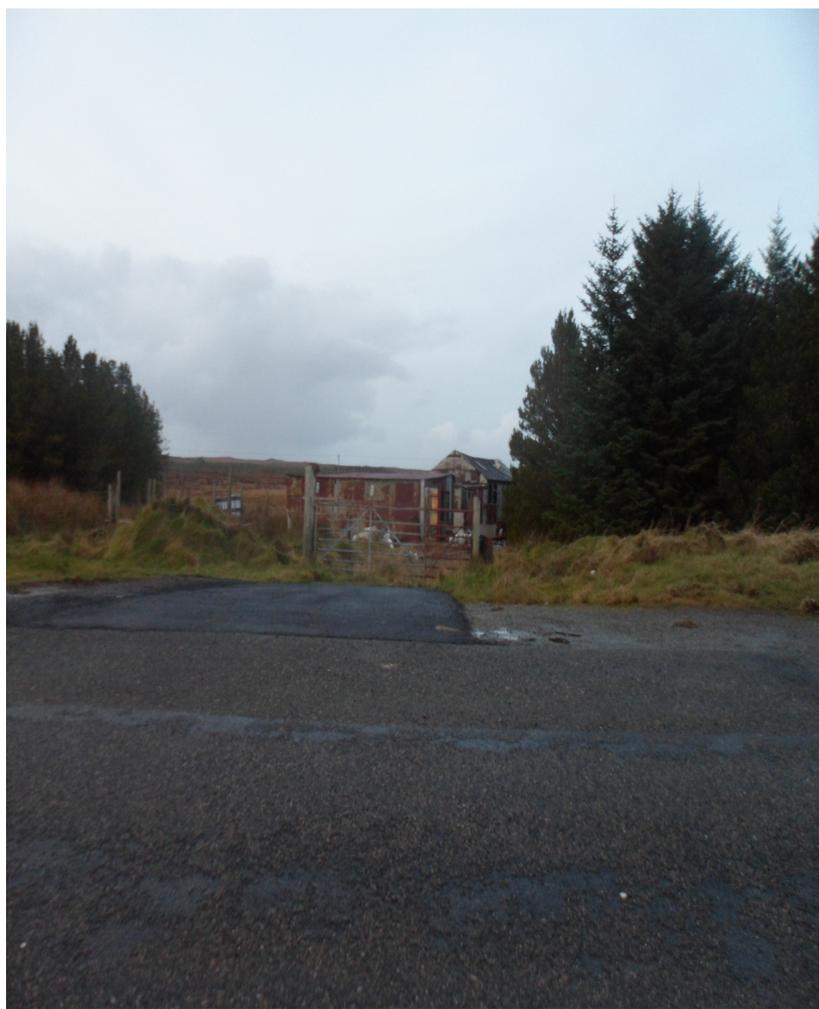
It's not all bad news, though. According to some writing in the dirt on the side of the Plasterfield bus, Brexit will leave the Health Board with an extra £350 million a day to spend on closing things down.

A HARD BORDER, YESTERDAY

Àm Faoilleach / January 2021 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
					<b>1</b> Bliadhna Mhath Ur. Brexit Day (Again)	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Guireans writing and record "Alasdair Mackay is God – Sorry, Bod" in an afternoon, at Rod The Actorr's house	<b>5</b> D*vid Iain turns off the 2020 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	<b>6</b> D*vid Iain turns on the 2021 Xmas Lights at M*yb*ry Garden.	<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> Ronnie Van Zant's Birthday	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Willie Burns night – inhabitants of Newton toast J*hn H*nry B*nham with Jack Daniels and perform the Address to the Ford Mustang.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Guireans Manager Coinneach's Birthday. All (cash) donations ungratefully received.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

# An Gearran / February 2021



## Domhnall Iain's Retirement

Due to the re-use of our Brexit page, there was no room in January to cover Tong Man Dòmhnall Iain Trump's retirement from the post of first (and possibly last) Avante-Gaelic President of the USA.

By February 2021, however, we fully expect that Dòmhnall Iain will have retired back to his ancestral village in an effort to evade those pursuing him in the States with criminal charges, lawsuits and assorted massive debts.

To cushion him financially against the hardships of crofting life, we predict that he'll have fleeked off with Air Force One (and as much of the contents of Fort Knox as it could carry) while everybody else was busy at Joe Biden's inauguration. Immediately on arrival, our sources tell us that Dòmhnall Iain plans to cover his tracks by selling the Presidential plane for scrap to a neighbour with a bit of storage space and a big tarpaulin.

His next problem will be to find a secure location to stash a large quantity of stolen Federal Reserve gold bars; for this he'll need a big building that nobody ever goes near, and our prediction is that he'll either:

1. Buy the Community Centre and close it down or:
2. Start going to a local church, stir up trouble, form his own breakaway sect, get the members to pay for a new building, then foment another ecclesiastical schism so that they all fleek off and leave him with the only set of keys.

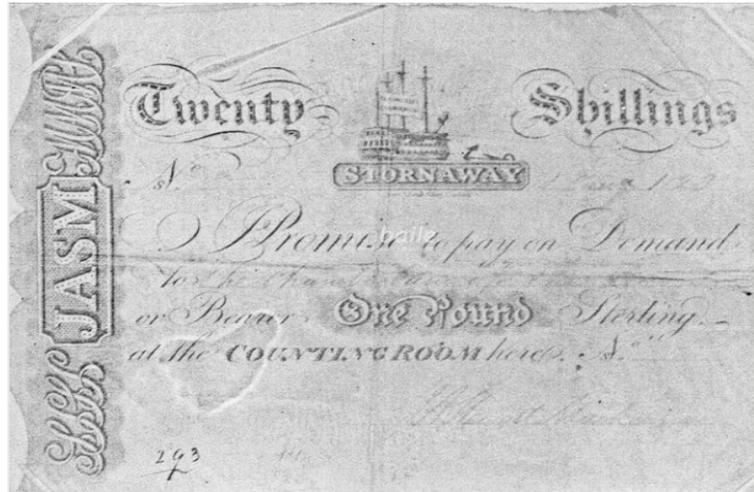
Once he's settled, Tungachs can look forward to Dòmhnall Iain taking an active interest in local politics. He'll no doubt stand for the Grazings Committee (again), but it'll just be a ploy to turn the whole fleeked thing into a golf course. And he'll carry on writing his business books - look out for 'The Art of the Diobhal' coming soon.

In Joyful Expectation of his Return, Dòmhnall Iain's Hometown Spruces Itself Up.

~ Àn Gearran / FEBRUARY 2021 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadam Wed	Òl-Àrdainn Thu	Òl-h-Aoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day (USA) The Guireans announce that their long awaited album "J&E's Democracy" is nearly ready. Again. (Sandwick)	<b>3</b> 62 years since Buddy Holy's plane crash.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Harris Tweed found in Harris	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> St Valentine's Day. Don't miss yesterday's sale on Ewe Rolls and Pedigree Tup Mix at the Crofters'.	<b>15</b> Brue Monday – Most depressing day of the year.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> BBC Alba screen a programme that's not a repeat. With actual Gaelic in it.	<b>19</b> BBC Alba screen a programme that's not a repeat. With actual Gaelic in it. Oh no, wait - it's a repeat of that one from yesterday,	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Stornoway Orduighean begin Murdo Maclean's reopens for 1 day only hat sale.	<b>22</b> Last day for Rubhachs to take their peats home.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>						

# Am Màrt / March 2021



## 50 Years of Decimalisation

Can it really be 50 years since they did away with 'the old money'? Older readers will probably remember the national uproar, panic and confusion that arose across the nation when the decimal coins appeared. Out went the 'bob' and sixpence; in came the swanky 'New Pence' of various denominations (not Churches) and shapes and sizes. The new coins were of course a lot easier to use, and goods could be purchased without the need for logarithmic tables and a degree in Advanced Mathematics. But many people hankered after the 'old money' for many years, wistfully recalling having to walk lopsidedly due to having a pocketful of ha'pennys, thrupenny bits, sixpennies and the odd Florin.

Most of the country got the hang of the new money fairly quickly, but in some parts of Lewis (and in a few back streets of the town) it was still acceptable to use the old Imperial coinage of Pounds, Shillings and Pence up until the 1980's.

The (decimal) slot machines on the Suilven used to eat up any loose change belonging to returning holiday makers, so very little decimal coinage actually reached circulation in Lewis until the mid 90's when the Suilven was replaced by the Isle of Lewis.

In Scalpay, the Spanish Doubloon (left over from several ill fated Spanish Armada vessels) was the main currency until the Kyles Scalpay Bridge was built in the late 1990's.. (Incidentally, residents of Scalpay have been under the misapprehension that the bridge is a Toll Bridge, so have been slotting gold Doubloons down a crack in the tarmac for over 20 years now).

Remember...

- There are 18 farthings to the penny
- Six thrupenny bits to the ha'penny
- Half a Crown is equivalent to a spondoolac
- Four fourpennys to the ounce (tobacco measurements only)
- There are 20 shillings to the stone (Callanish only)

What has any of this got to do with AGOFR, you may ask? Fleek all really, except that Guireans Manager Coinneach and sinister Dun Ringles pop svengali CJ Mitchell (87) are happy to relieve you of your hard earned cash in all the currencies above and a few more besides.



A Pictur to go with Decima(isation) (???)

~ Àm Màrt/March 2021 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadam Wed	Òl-Àrdoin Thu	Òl-h-Àoine Fri	Òl-Sathairne Sat
	<b>1</b> Lardi Gras 2021 – The Legendary Non-existent AGOFR festival (Dunky's House)	<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>
<b>21</b> Spring Equinox	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> End of 2020/21 Poaching Season (River Creed)	<b>24</b> Start of 2021/22 Poaching Season (River Creed)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Clocks go forward (everybody except the Seceders).	<b>29</b> Clocks go forward (Seceders)	<b>30</b> Fleekeen Clapton's Birthday, man.	<b>31</b>			

# An Giblean / April 2021

## Zing Pop

Wattie=keys; C.J.=voc; Gonze=drums; Stampy=uitar

Formed in the Sports Centre cafe in the summer of 1981, as a protest against all the crap bands which were becoming famous. First rehearsal held in the Venture Room (which became known as the 'Venture Beach') and later in C.J.'s attic. It was in this attic that the legendary Zing Pop album was recorded. They put music to poems by Honkas, Wattie and C.J. during their exams, and before they knew it they had a classic album. Became the first group to actually make a tape, complete with cover. Held a gig in the Scour Hall in August 1981, which became known as the Midges of Rock. Split up briefly between Xmas 1981 and June 1983, when they reformed for the 1983 MOR. Encouraged by this, they recorded 'Lord of the Zings', a concept album about Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. Performed over at Ardrinloch Beach once, the Winter Feis and the MOR83 too. Split up soon after. Also famous for only ever managing to get a maximum of three of the band to perform at any one time.

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## About the Author

Subject	Messages	Started By	Last Reply
Welcome	1	MSN Groups	21/09/2001 11:11
Test	2	nelsonmacarsthorncat	05/10/2001 20:28
free as a church	1	memphis louie	26/10/2001 22:28
Feed The Sheep	1	GonzeCove!	24/10/2001 11:11
Midges Of Rock 1983	2	memphis louie	30/10/2001 00:00
Masochias Or Bards	1	Peatboy Funk	31/10/2001 12:12
The Guireans Christmas Song	1	memphis louie	26/11/2001 11:11
duran duran	5	memphis louie	26/11/2001 11:11
Red The Actor - It's No Job For A Nerd!	3	GonzeCove!	07/12/2001 11:11
Roddy Morrison's Got to Eat...	1	ToranogpFrim!	08/12/2001 11:11
The Bruce Brothers review	1	ToranogpFrim!	08/12/2001 21:21
than some about the chemist in most cove	4	memphis louie	16/12/2001 11:11
	1	memphis louie	16/12/2001 22:22
	1	ToranogpFrim!	13/12/2001 11:11
	2	zamal	22/12/2001 11:11
	1	nelsonmacarsthorncat	23/12/2001 11:11
	1	Peatboy Funk	24/12/2001 11:11

## 25 Years (ish) of AGOFR Online

The AGOFR movement has always been at the forefront of technology. In the mid 1990's, Robin Dun Ringle painstakingly set up a web page with details of all the known AGOFR bands that had come from the 'Scout side' of the AGOFR movement. All of 4 people were known to have accessed this informative web site, despite its complete lack of graphics, photographs or music and the 2 hour delay between page refreshes.

Sometime around 2001 The Guireans became the first AGOFR band to embrace modern telecommunications by setting up a MSN (Microsoft Network) community page. The Dun Ringles saw it and became jealous and immediately copied The Guireans' MSN site. MSN provided a chat page, room for photos to be posted and even some space for painstakingly uploading tiny snippets of mp3's. The chat element of the MSN sites allowed for the sharing of ideas, slagging each other off and occasional songwriting, but was painstakingly slow. The 2003 20th Anniversary Midges of Rock Festival had been over and done with for 4 months before all the chat postings relating to its planning had been received by all of the Community members. This might explain the bewildering absence of headliner 'Rab Kuartski and the Bohemian Crapsodys', the lack of an audience, and the lack of an actual venue.

Anyway, Bill Gates was going to charge for the use of MSN, so the AGOFR movement as a whole fleeked off over to My Space in the late 2000's. This soon caused everybody on myspace to fleek off to Facebook, prompting the platform's rapid decline and then poor "Tom" cove ending up on the dole.

Ever alert to social media trends, the AGOFR artists stuck with the deserted myspace for several more years until the "accident" in which all pictures and songs posted on the platform were lost. Recently a team of internet anoraks have retrieved much of the lost myspace material, but they've carefully avoided resurrecting anything by the Guireans, Zing-Pop or the Dun Ringles

The screenshot shows the AGOFR website. On the left is a navigation menu with links for Home, Language & Alphabet, The AGOFR Scene, Guireans on Film, I use the language?, Guireans Search, Contact, News, Documents, Links, Spreadsheets, Health Warning, Competition, Midges of Rock 2003, Live Releases, etc. The main content area features a large image of a document titled 'REQUIRED' with various text and signatures. Below the image is a section titled 'The Guireans' and 'AGOFR and the Guireans' with a brief history of the movement.

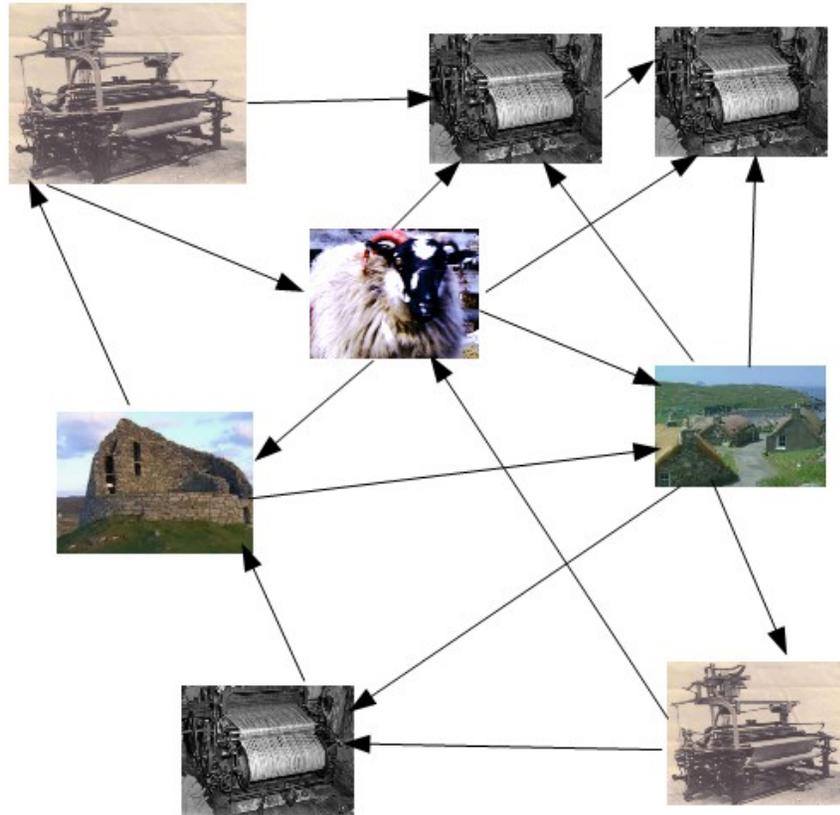
The screenshot shows a browser window with a 'This site can't be reached' error message. Below the error message is a music player interface for 'Dun Ringle'. The player shows a list of songs and albums, and a 'Sign up' button. The browser address bar shows 'so.com/dunringle/music/songs'.

AGOFR Web Stuff Of Yore: Robin Dun Ringles' 1995 'History of AGOFR'; Guireans MSN Message Board (2001); The Dun Ringles' (empty) Myspace Page; A page off the Guireans' MSN website

~ An Cìoblean / April 2021 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ùi-Luain Mon	Ùi-Màirt Tue	Ùi-Ciadaoin Wed	Ùi-Àrdaoin Thu	Ùi-h-Àoine Fri	Ùi-Sathairne Sat
				<b>1</b> Latha na Gogaireachd April Fool's Day. (National Holiday of Airdhbhruach)	<b>2</b> April Fool's Day again (Airdhbhruach - cos one day's never enough)	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Easter (Western Christianity)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Easter (Continuing)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Ramadan starts Calumdan's van doesn't	<b>14</b> Ritchie Blackmore's Birthday. Public Holiday (Wattie's House)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Easter (R*formed Pr*sbyt*rian)	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Easter (APC)	<b>23</b> Feast of St George - Patron Saint of buying houses off the internet without seeing them, moving up from Landan and realising immediately that it was all a terrible mistake... but being trapped here foreffer by rising property prices darn Sarf.	<b>24</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Easter (Orthodox)	

# An Céitean / May 2021

## 30 Years of the WWW



Continuing on the theme of technology, this month marks the 30 Anniversary of the invention of the World Wide Warp and Weft (WWWW). In the 80s, Tweed boffin Sir Timsgrarry Bernera Lee had been fleeked about with ideas to make the weaving of Harris Tweed more efficient. He had read about the success a very distant cousin had had with connecting up computers and was keen to find out if he could revolutionise weaving in a similar way. The World Wide Web (as his cousin's invention became known) connected up loads of computers in order to increase capacity and speed up processing times. Could the same be done in the weaving world?

Bernera Lee tried out his theory over in Carloway. His vision was for a mass array (20) of looms to be connected together to make use of the combined processing power. Twenty weavers peddling at the same time, thought Bernera Lee, could produce huge amounts of power. So much power that a single thread of wool should fly through the warp and weft part of the weaving process.

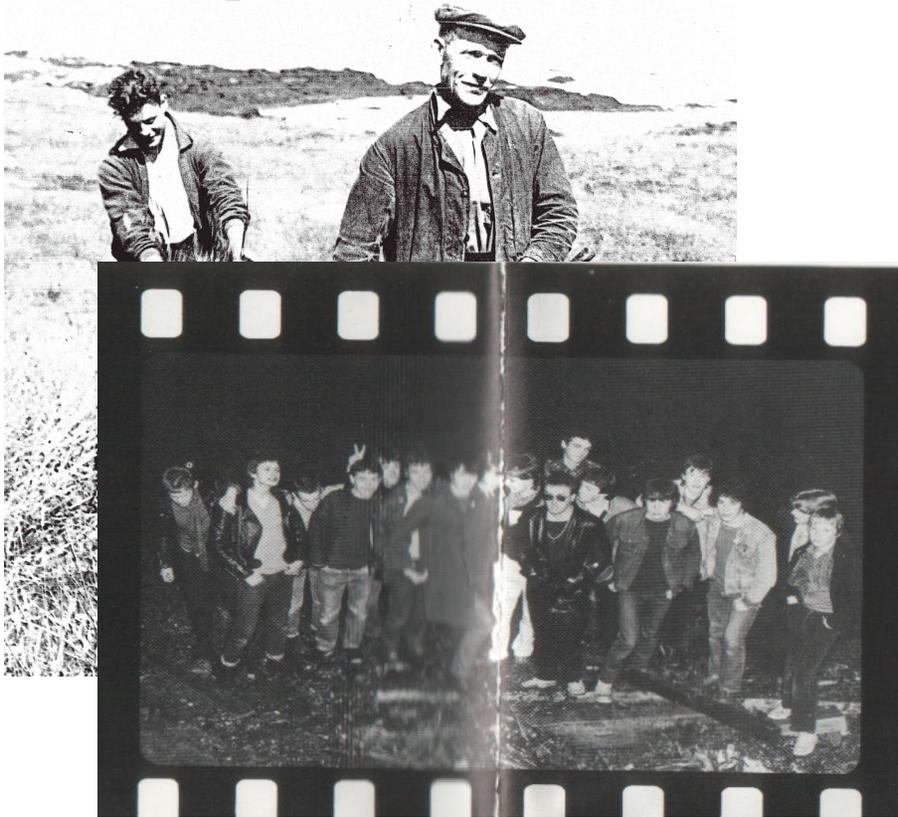
His idea might have worked if all 20 weavers were in the same location, but due to administrative difficulties, the weavers had to stay in their own loomsheds. The single strand of wool had to be pulled by bike through Carloway from one loomshed to another. This led to minor issues such as getting it caught in the bicycle spokes, being dragged through puddles and getting tangled in fishing nets (this is where the term 'Internet' first appeared). The strand of tweed was also often pulled through houses in order to reach the loomshed. This led to a number of unfortunate incidents in kitchens involving the wool strand being dipped in a pan of soup, thus making the wool too soggy. All weavers' wives were forbidden to make soup on weaving days, and that's where the term 'Brot Banned' came from.

Sir Timsgrarry Bernera Lee's Original WWW Network Diagram

~ An Céitean/ May 2021 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Àrdaoim Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> May Day. 104th Congress of the People's Soviet (Ionad Stoodie, Garrabost)	<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>	<b>15</b> Finals of the Eoropievision Song Contest (Ness). Garrabost will win again after threatening to invade everyone if they don't
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Norway National Day. Public Holiday (Port of Ness, Skigersta, Adabroc, Eorpoie, Sula Sgeir).	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 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	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Morrisey's Birthday : (Day of Vague Dissatisfaction and Yearning - Innes the Post's House)
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 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)
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

# An t-Ogmhios / June 2021

## Sad Day we left the Croft



### 40 Years of “Sad Day We Left The Croft”

2021 sees the 40th anniversary of legendary Lewis punk rock compilation “Sad Day We Left The Croft” featuring top local punk and post-punk acts like The Subjects, The Rong, The Bland, Noise Annoys and err... Dire Straits-soundalikes Addo with Mission.

But no AGOFR Bands at all at all.

Many(\*) rock historians have speculated as to why the likes of Zing-Pop or the Guireans weren't invited to contribute. Fleek's sake, didn't the Guireans record “Is Mise Punk” years before this came out?

True, the bands who were included – despite mostly being made up of untutored punks who were still in school – were all much better than any of the AGOFR acts.

And nobody knew actually knew about the AGOFR bands because they were too embarrassed to tell anyone about what they were up to.

Also, certain AGOFR coves still had brown cord flares and were into Jethro Tull, so the movement's punk credentials maybe weren't the greatest.

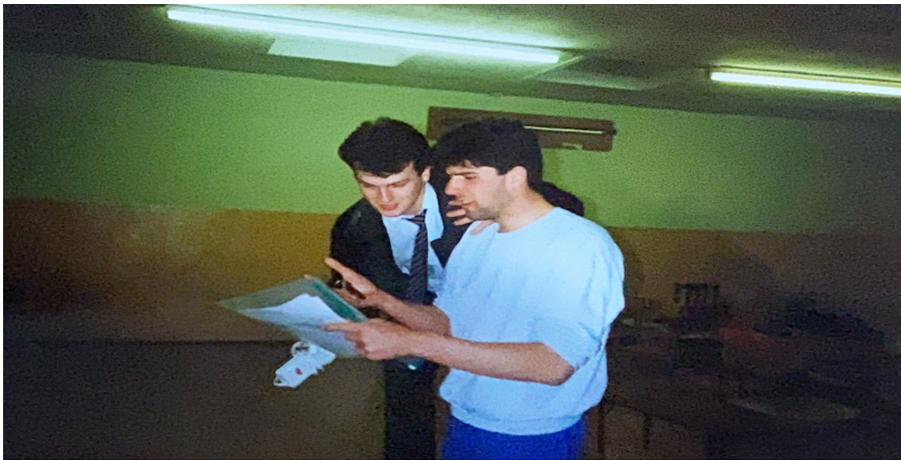
But still an' all – to this day the omission of any AGOFR acts from “Sad Day” smacks of the institutional bias against the genre that has infected the music scene in Lewis since it was invented, and has receded only since thon P\*\*t & D\*\*sel came along. Even P&D have sometimes had to kid on not to be AGOFR in order to succeed, although efferybody knows they are, really.

(Post script: Despite the tacit AGOFR ban, a heavily disguised Deadollac Jnr, hiding his chanter up his sleeve, managed to sneak in to the line up photo of all the bands and hangers-on that graced Sad Day's inner sleeve).

Sad Day Cover + Band Members and Hangers-on (1981)

~ Æn τ-Ogmhios/June 2021 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Ciadaoin Wed	Òi-Àrdaoin Thu	Òi-h-Àoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
		<b>1</b> Calum Kennedy's birthday, 4 days after his twin (See 29 May). Public Holiday (South Lochs and Iain Shaw's house)	<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> Some Random Guy's latest EP of Electronica wins the Smash Hits single of the year (1982).	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Local Story appears in Stornoway Gazette	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Summer Solstice. Watch out for fleekkeen beardies from Away (Callanish)	<b>22</b> 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	<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 Iuchar / July 2021



## Funky Peatstack: 30th Anniversary of a Dun Ringles Classic

This month is roughly the 30th anniversary of the proposed 'Funky Peatstack' Concept Album and Stage Show, which was to be the AGOFR world's version of 'Cats', 'War of the Worlds', 'Phantom of the Opera' and 'Evita' all rolled into one. (*More like Les fleekeen Miserables - Ed*)

Various coves from the Townie/Scout wing of the AGOFR movement got together to produce this ambitious concept album about the fiendish Peatman - a nasty character who would 'steal all your peats away' - and the plucky Crofters who banded together to foil his evil plans.

The idea was to write the songs, then perform them live in the Scout Hall (and then most likely move on to the SECC or Madison Square Gardens).

Several songs were written and recorded, including 'Funky Peatstack', 'Peatman' and 'Off The Beaten Track (For the Lost Peatstack)'. The tracks were recorded in the Scout Hall on a Tascam 4 track portastudio borrowed from Fonn, Stornoway's premier music shop of the day.

Fiendish pop svengali and Zing Pop manager CJ Mitchell (79) got wind of the plan and decided there would be more money (for him) in a Prog Rock concept album, rather than a stage show, so he coerced those involved to form The Dun Ringles and to re-use the rough songs as the basis for their first album 'Vom Your Sproggans'.

Funky Peatstack is still performed live to this day.

Grassy Manages Wattie & Jason at the Funky Peatstack Sessions, 1991

~ An t-Iuchar/July 2021~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadam Wed	Ìl-Ardain Thu	Ìl-h-Aoine Fri	Ìl-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 54th 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	10
11 10th Anniversary of 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Sailing to Stornoway : High likelihood of it being Judgement Day too.	12 If it wasn't Judgement Day yesterday, carry on.	13	14 Heb Celt Festival Begins, Covid Permitting. Probably no AGOFR bands on the bill (again). Except maybe P**t and D**s*1.	15 BBC Alba screen highlights of Heb Celt Festival (2007)	16	17
19	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# An Lunasdal / August 2021

## Zing-Pop's 1<sup>st</sup> Album and Midges of Rock : 40 Years On

2021 sees the 40th anniversary of Zing Pop's eponymous 1st album and the founding of Tape Records by Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali C.J. Mitchell (73).

And August 2021 sees the 40th anniversary of the first Midges of Rock festival - a showcase for the Townie AGOFR 'talent' of the day (Maws weren't allowed into the festival in these days, not even Sandwich suburbanites).

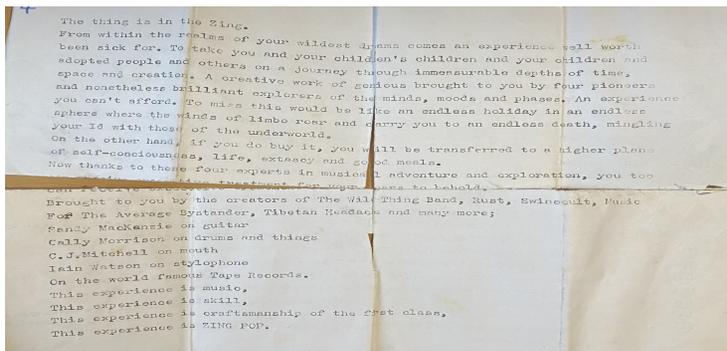
Zing-Pop were formed in the Sports Centre cafe in the summer of 1981, as a protest against all the crap bands which were becoming famous at the time (and in the hope that by being even more crap, Zing-Pop would get even more famous). Their first rehearsal was held in the Venture Room (which became known as the 'Venture Sesh') and later in [C.J.'s attic](#). It was in this attic that the legendary Zing Pop album was recorded. They put music to poems written by Honkas, Wattie and C.J. during their prelim exams in 1980, and before they knew it they had a classic album.

In 1981, the Monsters of Rock festival first saw the light of day at Donnington. That year, the wondrous Rainbow headlined. In honour of this occasion, [Tape Records](#) decided to hold a festival in the [Scout Hall](#). On the bill were [Black Stan](#), [The Props](#), and the headliners [Zing Pop](#).

This festival proved to be so successful that it was repeated in 1982, where [Zing Pop](#) supported [Cyclefoot](#). ([Cyclefoot](#) wouldn't come unless they were headliners, so in order to have an audience, [Zing Pop](#) agreed to go on first).

In 1983, the final and perhaps the most impressive MOR (until 2003) was held. On the bill were Rab Kuartski and the Bohemian Crapsodys [Chastity in Motion](#), [Cyclefoot](#), [Zing Pop](#), [The Guireans](#), and special guests, [Swedish T.V.](#)

MOR 1983 proved such a resounding success that there were no more Midges of Rock Festivals for another 20 years.



Zing Pop's 1<sup>st</sup> album, with hyperbolic sleeve notes from C.J.

~ An Lùnasda/ August 2021 ~

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	5	6	7
8 The Late Rocky Sh*rpe from R*cky Sharpe & The Replays' Birthday (maybe). Big Session at John Allan's House.	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Woodstock.  36 and a bit <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Midge of Rock 1983.	16	17	18	19	20 Phil Lynott's Birthday. Stornoway bye-laws declaring "Whiskey in the Jar" compulsory for all bands playing inside the cattle grid passed on this day in 1974.	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 V*n Morrison's Birthday. The usual Guga with candles in it is dispatched by his granny in Ness. You'd be a grumpy bleigeard too if you got one of these every year.				

# An Sultain / September 2021



## 85th Anniversary of the Spanish Civil War

In 2021, old SYs looking at the developments in the Newton Basin will doubtless be thinking back fondly to the days when Spanish dictator Generalissimo Francisco Franco kept trying to take over Goat Island so he could get his hands on the prawn factory. That of course will get them to thinking about the 85th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War that brought Franco to power.

AGOFR connections to the Spanish Civil War are admittedly tenuous, but in a cynical cash-in on the anniversary, Sinister Matheson Road Pop Svengali "CJ Miguel" and "Guireans Managerissimo Coinneachisco Fank-o" are said to be planning to form another AGOFR supergroup to record a 2021 souvenir EP of civil-war related rock classics.

The recording will be produced according to strict Anarcho-syndicalist principles, with all band members (but not managers) contributing an equal share of the costs, and all income being shared equally (between Coinneach and CJ).

The track listing is to be confirmed, but it'll probably include covers of the Clash's "Spanish Bombs", Maw-tallica's "For Whom The Bell Tolsta" and The Manish Free Preachers' "If You Tolerate Fish Your Children Will Be From Ness"

There are also plans for the Made Up History of Stornoway to publish a commemorative article on the subject, but the bleigeards propably won't get round to it, or it'll be about the wrong thing altogether.

Goat Island before the Makeover. Fleek All to Do with the Spanish Civil War... OR IS IT?

~ An t-Sultain / September 2021 ~

La na Sàbaid Sun	Òl-Luain Mon	Òl-Màirt Tue	Òl-Ciadaoin Wed	Òl-Àrdaoin 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 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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.	<b>22</b> Autumn Equinox	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Thon Kipper - Day of Atonement for excessive fish smoking (Free Presbyterian)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

# An Òamhair / October 2021

## **20<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Guireans Not Releasing An Album.**

In 2021 it'll be 40 years since the Guireans took 1981 off and did fleek all, between their difficult 1980 second album "EMI Cassette Super C60" and their breakthrough 1982 "Jazz Mucus for Fank People" EP.

It'll also be 30 years since they did fleek all in 1991, and 20 since the release of a big fat nothing in 2001 (setting the scene for 2002's "Alasdair Mackay Is God (Sorry - Bod)")

There are many theories as to why the Guireans neffer released anything in these years.

Some say the band's massive success is due to a bargain struck between Guireans Manager Coinneach and satanic forces, based on arcane Jimmy Page-style occult numerology; if the band released an album in a year ending with a 1, the spell would fail and a big demon would come along with a gràip and shovel them all off to h\*ll (where, at last, they'd propably get a gig tormenting everybody else).

Either that, or it's a tax dodge, or both.

AGOFR historians are unsure whether the pattern was repeated in 2011. There might have been some stuff released online, but seeing Myspace subsequently lost all their songs (See April), fleek knows. Nobody can remember.

Guireans Releases for 1981, 1991 and 2001.

~ An Dàmhair/October 2021 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Ìl-Luain Mon	Ìl-Màirt Tue	Ìl-Ciadin Wed	Ìl-Àrdain Thu	Ìl-h-Àoine Fri	Ìl-Sathairne Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Do you think the fleekeen spuds are going to lift themselves, you lazy bleigeard? You were chust as bad this time last year.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Anniversary of Skynynrd's Plane Crash - National day of Mourning (Outer Hebrides) National Mod closes with massed choirs singing "Freebird"	21	22	23
24 United Nations Day	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween. 48 <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 τ-Samhain / November 2021



## 12 Years of AGOFR Calendar Strategy Workshops

Stornoway's Thee Ann Lann Tayahhh arts centre (as the colonial set call it), on a wintry November Saturday night, is the place where Bòrd Stiùreadh na h-AGOFR have convened every year since 2009 for the annual Official Calendar of Avante Gaelic Obscurist Folk Rock Strategic Planning Workshop.

Over the years, the Emergency Calendar Development Strategic Steering Sub-committee could always be relied upon to have a few too many deochs and start talking about some other ruppish altogether, or fleek off to see whoeffer was playing 'Freebird'/'Wagon Wheel'/'Take It Easy' in the Clachan/Sea Angling/Lewis that night. Or to have some ideas they thought were great, but then forget to write them down and not be able to remember anything the next day.

Actions are usually placed retrospectively on whoever doesn't turn up (usually without telling them) chust to add to the general confusion and enable Bòrd senior management to deflect blame if anything goes wrong.

Unfortunately the 2020 Workshop was unable to go ahead due to Covid restrictions, so your 2021 calendar might not appear to be quite as ruppish as usual

The Bòrd views it as regrettable if calendar users *fee!* that this is the case, but if youse want a proper apology, youse can fleek off.

A High-Powered AGOFR Calendar Planning Summit in the LannTair.

-Samhain/November 2021 -						
La na Sábaid Sun	Ói-Luain Mon	Ói-Mairt Tue	Ói-Ciadam Wed	Ói-Árdaoin Thu	Ói-h-Áoine Fri	Ói-Sathúirne Sat
	<b>1</b> 4 Days Till Guy Fawkes: Plasterfield and Parkend declare war but decide they'll have it in Sandwick to avoid damage at home.	<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.	<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 Sandwick government.	<b>5</b> Guy Fawkes - Parkend and Plasterfield in flames as usual.	<b>6</b> Tyre collecting for 2022 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>	<b>16</b> Comhairle's Winter 2021/22 Ice Gritting Contract Starts	<b>17</b> Comhairle's Winter 2021/22 Ice Gritting Contract Runs out of Money	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8th 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.	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 42nd 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.  42 Years since Pink Floyd released "The Wall". (Knocked up in a week after they heard "Pronounced Goo-thans")				

# An Oubhlachd / December 2021



## Ch\*rsty Al\*ne's Christmas Kitchen

Come December, thon N\*g\*lla blone is forever on the telly showing youse how to make lovely Xmas dishes to tempt your guests over the festive season. You would think she'd invented classy Christmas catering, but old SYs will no doubt remember the classic "Ch\*rsty Al\*ne's Christmas Kitchen" programmes on BBC Alba in the 60s and 70s, where Sandwich's own domestic goddess demonstrated some of the great festive recipes of the day. Who can forget Ch\*rsty's legendary recipes? Here are a few classics:

- Turkey (4) Crown - Take 1 large turkey, alive or dead. Go up to the Mac's and swap it for a bottle of fortified South African wuine.
- Fags in Blankets - Take 3 Woodbine dog ends from the pavement outside the Star, wrap a Rizla round them and cadge a lught. (Remember, never use your own matches)
- Trawler Rum Trifle - Take a half bottle of Trawler rum an' don't fleekeen trifle with it. Cathy Ghall's is best, but Henderson's will do.
- Oranges Calain De Bou (A 1930s Sandwich classic, developed by Ch\*rsty's brother) - Take 1 orange and start to peel. Then get a sgelp because it was only rented for show at your granny's wake. Get called "Cailean nan Orainsearan" for the next 50 years.

By Xmas 2021, as one of the many benefits of Brexit, readers will for the first time in many years be able to relive the authentic "Cailean nan Orainsearan" experience for themselves.

Away to fleek, Nigella òlone, worrying if yu've got the riught za'atar in for yur spicy roast parshnips. In Ch\*rsty Al\*ne's Xmas Kitchen, as long there's 4 Crown, 20 Woodbine, Pale Ale an' a Den Supper, yur sorted.

~ An Òbhlachd / December 2021 ~						
La na Sàbaid Sun	Òi-Luain Mon	Òi-Màirt Tue	Òi-Giadaoin Wed	Òi-Ardaoin Thu	Òi-h-Aoine Fri	Òi-Sathairne Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11 years since Horslips got back together. Public holiday (Wattie's house)	<b>4</b>
<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> 7 <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> Dec. Solstice	<b>22</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Isles FM. For 24 hours, normal service will be replaced by a special celebratory show: "AJK's Top 1000 Voiceovers 1994-2020"	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Suas an Fheamainn Day (Brought Forward). Fleek Xmas. Tomorrow's Sunday so you'll have to go down the Braighe to collect your year's supply of rotten seaweed in the middle of a Force 10 gale today instead.
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<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 Taoth Mugh a' Chatle 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 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 AGOFR's (not the fleekken Dun Ringles) "Aridhòhruach" performance at Sounds in the Grounds 2009, AGOFR influences finally begin to seep into mainstream culture...

In 2016 the Dun Ringles had an even bigger EuroTube smash with "Stornoway Skyline", and the United States of America elected some fleekken amadan from Tong 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, thon Lewis Capaldi òigeard neffer worked in the Town House in his life, but he'd like you to think he had. And thon Billie Eilish is said to ed changing her name to Billie Arnish and releasing a benefit single to get the yard going again. Oh yus, and apparently, Stornowaywegian substitute swear-word "fleek" is still being used by trendy fashionable types on the mainland - as in "fleek's sake - 'fleek' is really fleekken 'on fleek' again this fleekken 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-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 fleekken ferry.

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

Front cover – Parkend back in the days when it was a rural paradise (before Mackenzie Park went up).

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