

Welcome to Begg Bagpipes

-----Est 1980 Glasgow city centre's oldest bagpipe shop-----

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Newsletter - May

Dear Customer,

Hi and welcome to the 3rd newsletter that takes us into May and ever closer to the start of the outdoor piping season. We have Dunbar on the 10th May, Gourrock on the 11th and Campbeltown on the 17th. The first major of the season, the Scottish Championships, takes place on Saturday the 24th at Dumbarton . The solo season also gets going in May with the Atholl Gathering on the 25th and Bathgate on 31st. Let's hope for far better weather this year - do you remember the wash-out at the Worlds last year?!



Yours Aye,

James C Begg

www.beggbagpipes.com

News

It was nice to get a mention in the Glasgow Evening Times in early April in connection with the world famous Mamma Mia west end musical. Begg Bagpipes have supplied the show for many years since its first appearance at the Shaftesbury Theatre in the west end of London. It has been seen by an audience of 30 million over the years and I am glad it has now reached my home town of Glasgow. The company generally buys a new set of pipes from me every time it opens in a new country.

The next time you are visiting us for your piping supplies, why not stop off for a cup of coffee as well? The lovely girls in the cafe above my shop, Roland Butter, have kindly offered a 10% discount to all Begg Bagpipes customers - just present one of my business cards to them when ordering. If I am free, I'd be pleased to join you for some piping chat.

Top Tip

Should you leave your reed in the stock or remove it and put in a reed protector stock? This is very much up to individual preference but I would suggest leaving it in. You can damage the reed taking it in and out all the time and it is better to leave it in its natural environment which will keep the reed stable. The use of the protector is good if you have two chanters on the go.

The Top Three Tunes - by John Wilson

1. 91st at Modder River, composed by Major A. MacNab
2. Tullochgorm (trad.)
- 3a. John MacKechnie's Big Reel (trad.)
- 3b. John Garroway, composed by Pipe Major D. MacLeod



John Wilson, originally from Campeltown, had a distinguished career with Strathclyde Police, rising to the rank of Commander. He served as Pipe Sergeant of the Police during their title winning years in the 80s, and today he is Pipe Major of the Glasgow Highland Club. As well as being a prominent piping judge, John remains one of the great exponents of piping today and retains all of his technical and musical skills. As a close personal friend, I am delighted John is the first person to select his top three (or is it four) tunes for inclusion in our newsletter (note that John has selected 4 tunes, since he thought 3a and 3b were both worthy of inclusion- don't argue with the Police!)

Watch out for other world class pipers making their selection in future issues.

May Special Offer

New - bagpipe reed case. Normally £5.95 plus vat, reduced to £4.95 plus vat. This pipe chanter reed protective case takes 5 reeds and has a moisture pad to keep the reeds in good condition. Why not buy 5 new fully tested reeds and store them here.



No more nasty match boxes or bottles- Be professional!

Look out for more great offers coming soon.

At the point of purchase, we will also price match any product of the same quality from another supplier.

Special Feature

The Background to Light Music

Angus MacKay, 1812-1859, and the First Sovereign Piper, was the innovator of manuscripted staff notation as opposed to the oral tradition of the past. He was also the first to introduce the competition style 2/4 march. Joseph MacDonald, as mentioned in the last newsletter, was the first to publish a book but Angus developed it from there with a book that is both beautiful in appearance and content. It has always intrigued me as to how old piobaireachd and light music

really are .Were they intertwined or in fact totally separate disciplines? It would appear that the light music i.e. march, strathspey and reel that we have today evolved from the late 1700s with folk tunes being interpreted for the pipe - for example, the High road to Gairloch and Killiecrankie. We then had some piobaireachd tunes such as the Piobaireachd of Donald Dhu being transposed into the well known 6/8 march . It was approximately in the late 1820s that Angus MacKay developed the basic folk tunes into a more complex form . He composed the 2/4 Glengarry's Gathering as well as the famous Balmoral Highlanders . So light music may not be as old as we would imagine. Piobaireachd, as historians lead us to believe, was the original main form of music and from 1500-1800 would have been the sole form performed on the great highland bagpipe.

One Stop Shop

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*Begg Bagpipes
202B Bath Street
Glasgow, Strathclyde G2 4HF
United Kingdom*

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