

# Welcome to Begg Bagpipes

-----Est. 1980 Glasgow city centre's oldest bagpipe shop-----  
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Piping on the web<sup>®</sup>

## 30th Anniversary of Begg Bagpipes

Dear Piping Enthusiast,

From very humble beginnings in the front room of the Beggs mother's house, Begg Bagpipes has reached a big milestone in March with our 30th Anniversary. Today, we service pipers all around the world and are proud to look back on how the business has grown. We strive to provide a professional and personal service and on the occasion of this event, we would like to offer subscribers to our Newsletter a very special, exclusive Anniversary present - please see below. Thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing to be of service to you.

Yours Aye,

James Begg, Bill Begg, Iain Begg, Malcolm Foster, Donald MacInnes, Gordon Cameron

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

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## An Anniversary Present Exclusive

**20% OFF EVERYTHING WHEN ORDERED ONLINE - VALID UNTIL THE END OF MARCH 2010**

Please use the following voucher when you checkout and 20% will be automatically removed from the price.

ID - 53763

Password - 4atpkzhf

[Anniversary Exclusive](#)

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## **A Profile of the Proprietor - James C. Begg**

James, Jim or Jimmy as is sometimes known, started his piping career with the 167th Glasgow Company the Boys' Brigade under P/M Hugh MacPherson. It became apparent early on that James showed great promise, and to maximise that potential, he enrolled at the College of Piping in Glasgow. This was at the time when the great, late Seamus MacNeill held court. James was given some "hard core tuition" by Duncan Johnstone, Duncan MacFadyen and Eddie MacLellan where any errors of playing were not lightly forgiven and this provided a solid foundation for his future piping prowess. He remained under Duncan Johnstone's guidance for over 30 years. James subsequently played with the Glasgow Schools Pipe Band, Rolls Royce, Seagrams 100 Pipers, Red Hackle and finally Babcock's Renfrew Bands and competed in all the major solo piping competitions. With his love of all things to do with Piping, it was logical for James to carve a full time career in this world and initially he worked for Grainger and Campbell. However, he saw potential for setting up his own company and started Begg Bagpipes in 1980 - he and the business have never looked back since. He has a young son and daughter, both of whom are learning the practice chanter and hopefully, one day, either or both will take over the reins of Begg Bagpipes from their father.



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## **A Personal Message from James**

Over the years, I have had the honour to meet most of the well-known pipers from all around the world and have done my utmost to supply them with quality products and a professional service. Some have become close personal friends and others sadly, have passed on to play their piobaireachds from on-high. Whilst it's great to have top-class pipers as customers, I am equally at home, if not more so, with beginners or players of average ability. I like to think that it is in this area that I can perhaps make the greatest impact in terms of improving their playing and enjoyment.

Things have changed dramatically over the 30 years. There was definitely a "this is piping and this is how we do it" attitude in the 80s and it was all relatively straight-forward. We now have a multitude of different piping related products to understand and get used to, all of which are aimed at improving the piping experience - some, of course, are more successful at achieving this than others. Overall, I have seen a healthy upsurge of interest in piping over the years, no doubt helped and influenced by cheaper air travel, more freely available tuition and even by movies such as Braveheart. The previous slightly closed forum of Scottish piping has been opened up to the World and that has to be a good thing for all involved.

I have had a great journey, from supplying a reed to a piper planning to go

busking in Sauchiehall Street, to providing Grade 1 World Champions with a complete set of hand-made Begg sheepskin bags - it's been great to have had you along. Thank you.

James

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## **A Short History of the Company**

Begg bagpipes are the oldest retailer of bagpipes in Glasgow City Centre. Established in 1980, we are known throughout the piping world for top quality Bagpipes merchandise and customer service. We can supply, repair or refurbish any item connected to most types of bagpipes.

Our particular speciality is the bagpipe bag made from top grade sheepskin and cow hide. The Begg pipe bag is used by the majority of top bands and solo pipers. The bag has been used extensively by the Highland Regiments via the army contracts in the 1980s and also by the Strathclyde Police during its success in the 80s and up until today. Most major Police Bands now use Begg bags - yes that's right - 30 years of being under the long arm of the law! Other notables among many include the current World Champions Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band, Mr Roddy MacLeod and Mr Gordon Walker. In addition to our bags, we now also manufacture our own bagpipes and chanters.

The company started from a home base and soon set up premises in Robertson St., Glasgow from 1982-87 followed by another successful period in Renfield St with Hector Russell Kiltmaker from 1987-96 & Biggars Music Shop in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow from 1996-2001. We are now in our own self-contained shop 30 yards away from Biggars at 202B Bath Sreet, Glasgow (tel 0141-333-0639). The shop supplies by mail order world-wide as well as to many customers who visit during the day.

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## **Next Newsletter**

We hope you can find the time to enjoy future newsletters and the next one will be out in early April.

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