

Welcome to Begg Bagpipes

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

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Newsletter - April

Dear Customer,

This is our second newsletter and I am pleased to report that we have had good, positive feedback from the first. Do feel free to comment on any aspect and we welcome any suggestions to make it more interesting and entertaining.



Yours Aye,

James C Begg

www.beggbagpipes.com

News

PM J Motherwell, 13th Sovereign Piper to the Queen, will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall on the 15th May. In addition to solo renditions, he will be leading his pupils from the Eton School Pipe Band and this will be a tremendous experience for these young players. We are pleased to have been meeting their piping needs for many years.

Emma Buchan, a young player from Boghall Juvenile Pipe Band using a Begg bag, turned in a superb performance at the recent Duncan Johnstone Memorial competition at the Piping Centre. She gained 2nd place in both the piobaireachd and jig competitions amidst a fierce field - well done Emma! Congratulations as well to all our other customers who were taking part.



Technical Feature

Further tips on pipe bags:

1. Never place in water at any time. The skins are specially tanned to take them from a moist state to a dry condition. Any moisture that is added to the skin will cause decay and return it to its original uncured state.
2. The inside of the bag is the more important side and one which customers obviously don't see. It is on this side however where you need the quality -hence the importance of dealing with a reputable and experienced bag manufacturer who will select and use only the highest quality skins.

3. Don't worry if the outside of the bag has some flay or vein marks. This is normal with a natural skin - it is the inside of the bag that counts.
4. Don't over season the bag -a little on a regular basis is preferred when achieving maximum performance and longevity.
5. Don't always expect a bag to be tight straight away. It needs worked upon and molded into shape and takes a little time to reach its peak state.
6. Some people stopper and inflate their bag for 30 minutes or even up to 24 hours to test for leakage. This is not necessary - a 20 second external inspection on an inflated bag will soon tell you if the bag is fully functional or not.

April Special Offer

Steady Drone Reeds.

Normally £30+vat reduced this month to £25+vat per set.

This set of 3 plastic drone reeds have the advantage of easy set up -almost instant. The inverted tongues mean your drones striking in no matter how badly you start playing. They also give a very consistent performance over time - Bill at Begg Bagpipes is a big fan and can vouch for them!

CD SPECIAL OFFER - ORDER ANY TWO CDS AND GET A THIRD FREE! Top sellers include Field Marshall Montgomery Re-charged and Red Hot Chilli Pipers with Bagrock to the Masses. There are many CDs in the shop not shown on the website - to order this special offer, email bill@beggbagpipes.com or call James on 0141 3330639

Special Feature

The Barludh - an explanation.

In 1760, Joseph MacDonald produced the first written book on pipe music in the style of piobaireachd of that era, and this included the Barludh - this was at the time the dynasty of the MacCrimmons was coming towards an end, after a glorious run of some two centuries. In September 1991 and after 30 years of research, Roderick Cannon published the first full explanation of the playing style. The Barludh is in fact a cutting movement from low g to high g, with 18 grace notes in between the theme notes making 20 in total. It is exceptionally difficult to execute and perhaps explains why this movement has not been in use in recent history. It is in effect a doubling of the crunluath or the creanludh as written by Joseph MacDonald and ably demonstrated today by Alan MacDonald. Alan, originally from Glenug and currently based in Edinburgh, comes from a great piping family and in addition to his solo piping prowess, also teaches piping at the Piping Centre degree course. His brothers Dr Angus and Iain are both great players and his cousin was the late, great P/M Angus MacDonald - Begg Bagpipes are proud to have a close association with such a talented family.

It remains a mystery as to why the Barludh all but disappeared - was it edited out because of its difficulty or was piping just taking an easier route? Any thoughts and conspiracy theories welcomed!

One Stop Shop

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