



Having trouble reading this email? [View it in your browser.](#)



-----Est. 1980 Piping Perfection-----
click on the banner for our home page

[May Newsletter](#)

BEGG BAGPIPES - OPEN FOR ONLINE BUSINESS 24/7

Dear Piping Enthusiast,

Well, it's looking like a grim season for Piping in the Northern Hemisphere with most events now cancelled but let's hope we can get going again in time for our friends' season Down Under. If you are a piper who is not one of our fantastic health, front line or essential workers, you can of course take the down-time to practise and maintain your pipes. Begg Bagpipes remains open for online business and so we can sort out whatever you need, utilising couriers and post. If you require a new bag and a tying in service, just send your stocks to us and we will turn round your order post-haste. Prior to the lockdown, we anticipated a potential supply problem with our raw materials and so increased our orders accordingly - as a result, finished sheepskin and hide bags are in stock in good numbers.

Yours aye,
James C. Begg
Piping Perfection

www.beggbagpipes.com

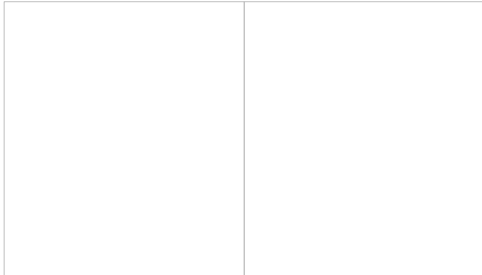
News.

Like most other places in the world, we in the UK are largely confined to barracks but every Thursday night brother Bill and I get onto the street outside our respective houses and play a few tunes - in salute to all the health workers and other front line staffs who are doing so much to keep the rest of us safe. Many other pipers around the world are doing similar performances including Bill Geddes from Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota, U.S.A - and in fact, Bill goes even further and plays every evening at sunset. Bill sent us a clip from his local newspaper and you can read it on this [link](#). Bill - that's really great piping and please keep it up. (Bill Geddes' lovely photo as the sunsets is courtesy of Bill Shettle.)



These photos are of the Begg brothers about to start their Thursday night playing.

Bill, on the right, is looking splendid in his kilt attire with a nice red hackle in his Balmoral. James on the other hand has some serious doubts about Bill's "poncy" headgear and thinks it should be binned, whilst James looks as if he has just stuck his Glengarry on after having fallen out of the Puffer - his favourite drinking hole in Kirkintilloch - except of course it is closed.



The question is - who is the better piper?

Well it would seem obvious to the general public that it has to be Bill in all his magnificence but in reality it is James, by a country mile. Whilst James is at the very top end of his profession, Bill counts himself somewhere around Grade 4 on the pipes but Grade 1 on the fiddle, having spent most of his time and musical career on the fiddle with the likes of the Tannahill Weavers in Scotland, Drowsy Maggie in England and Hootenanny in Kenya.

Thoughts about Bags - by James C. Begg

Introduction - as someone who has spent some 40 years making and selling pipe bags to the world's top solo pipers and pipe bands, I am often asked my opinion on piping products in general and pipe bags in particular. So as there seems to be a lot of mystery about it I thought I would try to explain a little bit about pipe bags.

In many bagpipes throughout the world, the bag traditionally used is the leather bag – perhaps sheepskin, cow hide, goat, possibly elk, or dog. The bag is made using the whole skin of the sheep or goat or part of the cow skin as it is a lot bigger with the head, forefeet and hind quarters removed. In the Mediterranean area the skins are tied to create the bag but the Highland bagpipe is cut from a pattern and sown by hand.

We have synthetic materials being used today as pipe bags – goretex, woven nylon with zippers or clamps and various other combinations but essentially all similar. Most of the synthetic bags seem to do the job of holding the air and dispersing moisture from the breath but only to a moderate degree. Some pipers will find these bags to their satisfaction. I would however suggest that greater success would be achieved with the leather bag, either sheepskin or hide. The main advantage that attracts pipers to synthetic is the apparent lack of maintenance, which the synthetic bags manufacturers proclaim. This is certainly true for goretex and suits the very occasional player but it has other problems such as being floppy and also moisture retentive.

We should consider that a pipe bag also acts as your sound box and it is crucial to the final tone that you will get from your bagpipe. It is fundamental to have the correct bag on as the wrong one will not give the comfort or tonal platform to work from i.e. if it's not right, your bagpipe pipe will be very erratic and unstable.

To continue with the rest of this article including the benefits of natural materials, please click through to our website [Thoughts about Bags](#)

A Passing Thought

Bill lives in England and on telling an English golfing buddy that he was playing the pipes each Thursday as a thank you to front line workers, his friend replied (somewhat tongue in cheek)

"That's more of a punishment than a thank you but in any case, the bagpipes are an ideal solution for self isolation - everyone will want to get as far away from you as possible!"

And a late addition.....

Photo shows James restored to his proper glory and marching through Kirkintilloch to play his pipes on the occasion of a lady's 80th birthday. It brought her some pleasure during this difficult time of isolation. All the neighbours came out to join in the celebration but of course, maintained social distancing.

YouReport - what's going on in your part of the Piping World.

Pipers around the world are responding in different ways during these tough times from doing some more practice, learning new tunes, doing video conferences with band members, playing in salute to health workers, playing to cheer people up a bit and so on. We would love to hear from you with any stories of your own and if we get enough responses, we could do a Newsletter Special. So please email Bill on bill@beggbagpipes.com

[Account.CompanyName]

[Account.CompanyAddress]

This email was sent to:

[Unsubscribe](#)