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Hi Friend,

I hope this finds you well. It's been a while since my last newsletter. Spring, in fact. I am currently still in Arizona with my lovely wife on our ranch with ponies and echoes from the petroglyphs, fulfilling orders from my shop on the old Route 66. Business is brisk and I continue to be grateful for all the positive comments I receive about my products from pipers around the world.

As the year draws to an end, I reflect on how many of you have spent a lot of time striving to improve your piping and to improve your sound. I, too, have been very busy on this same issue and with my good friend, John Patterson we have been putting the science together to explain what we were taught as tradition by our elder teachers.

They knew it was fact, but they did not have the science – nor needed it – to prove it. They knew what 'sound' was and what



they wanted from the instrument

– one example would be why drone reeds should not leak air ... I will bring you more on this subject in 2022.

Due to the virus, the last two years have been very challenging for everyone including all of us in the bagpipe world. It now looks like the UK and many other countries could be closing borders and maybe heading back into lockdown soon – and we don't even want to start thinking about next year's piping events.

I have been asked if my moisture systems prevent the spread of the virus. They currently dry out the air in the pipes and therefore help towards preventing spreading the virus. Once I understood that many types of facemasks do not actually contain fine enough filters to block the virus completely it made me realize I needed a better filter.

I therefore spent a lot of time researching this and eventually I found the answer in my native New Zealand. Here, I found the product/filter I was looking for. This filter takes out 99% of particles and viruses larger than 0.3 microns and is made from natural Merino sheep wool!



Please watch the video, above (you will need to log in to Vimeo to do so).

Watch out for these products being on the market at the beginning of 2022.



Enjoy your piping – and I wish you a happy 2022. *Slàinte mhath.*

Cabar Feidh Gu Brath.

Bruce Hitchings MBE BEM.

As ever, please send me photos or videos you'd be willing to share at bruce@highlandreeds.com including a caption of event and date. Please also leave a product review on the appropriate produce page of my website – or leave a comment or video clip of you playing on the ['Submit your comment/playing' page](#).

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