



13th February 2012

To the Chair & Committee of Alnwick Pipers' Society

The Alnwick Northumbrian Gathering (ANG) Committee feels it has done all in its power to promote the ANG in recent years and were disappointed not to hold the event in 2011.

This decision was not taken lightly and, only after considering all relevant factors after the 2010 Gathering – lack of competition entrants in the vast majority of disciplines, reduced turnout for the evening concert, poor attendance at the Saturday night ceilidh, and the increased costs of hiring venues. The ANG committee was then forced to question the 'whys and wherefores' of putting on the event again along similar lines, given the amount of time, commitment and finances that are required to organise the event.

We did appeal to interested parties for suggestions as to how the committee might inject renewed enthusiasm into such an event, but on reflection, feel that little has changed in the last 12 months and can offer few suggestions as to how the situation might be improved in the short-term.

It is therefore with regret that the ANG committee feels it should stand down from organising the event and pass the responsibility back to Alnwick Pipers' Society (APS). The ANG committee understands that it is within the terms of the APS constitution that the APS is required to hold a Gathering on an annual basis in the month of November, and are aware that a small-scale 'Gathering' of APS did take place at Newton-on-the-Moor Village Hall for an afternoon of workshops on the Saturday afternoon of the 2011 Gathering weekend.

The dedicated bank account currently stands at just over £8000 and the ANG committee would strongly recommend that it remains a separate account, and be designated purely for future Gatherings, whatever shape or form they may take. The Gathering committee would like to encourage APS to consider holding a concert/ceilidh/session in addition to piping workshops and perhaps widen the remit of workshops to include other traditional instruments. Committee members would also like to offer their assistance to APS in whatever way possible for future Gatherings, and do very much hope there will be a revival of interest in years to come.

In practical terms, the Gathering Secretary will take steps to retrieve any cups that were handed out at the 2010 Gathering and which have not yet been returned and arrange to have them engraved with the winners' names. It will also be necessary to make arrangements for these and other Gathering-related items and paperwork to be handed over to the APS.

Sincerely, and with regret

Chair and Committee, Alnwick Northumbrian Gathering

Chair: Robert Whitehead **Secretary:** Joan Little **Treasurer:** Di Jevons
Members: Catherine Beal, Gillian Birnie, Robin Dunn, Mike Jevons, Jimmy Little