

The Peace through Folk Gathering

Alstonefield, Staffordshire. 15th to 17th September 2017

Thank you one and all !

As the sun sets on another year we say a thousand thanks

- to the village of Alstonefield for hosting The Gathering again,
- to the support of all ticket holders who gave us the money to pay for it all, and their hearts and voices to share the music.
- to all of our wonderful line up of artists who made the songs and music happen,
- to the people who fed and 'watered' us so well, and
- to all of our very special team of volunteers who set everything up, helped to run it and then packed it all away afterwards.



The site was completely clear by lunchtime on Monday and we are now taking stock, paying the last of the bills and working out how much we can send to our nominated charities.

We have also started thinking about all of next year, with a blank sheet of paper as usual.

We are looking at what shall we do, why, when, where and how.

We will be taking stock of the pluses and minuses of this year's event. From all of that we will produce our plan.

2018 will be a special year. It concludes our five year mission to commemorate the centenary of the Great War. It is universally acknowledged that the mishandling of the end of the Great War with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles precipitated the events that led to Second World War.

What we decide to do in 2018 will not however be the end for any of us, but the beginning of how we go forward together and as individuals.

Our theme for next year will be - "Forgiveness and Reconciliation".

As Jean Paul Samputu says,

"Forgiveness is the most powerful unpopular weapon against violence that exists. This weapon does not only fight against community injustice; it also works on one's own heart"

Watch this space!

Peace and love,

Malc & Pat, Wal & Lorna and Rick

