

Friends of Putnoe Wood & Mowsbury Hillfort Wassail 2015 with HEMLOCK MORRIS

All will make a formal procession, Piper, Wassail King and Queen, Morris, Friends of Putnoe Woods and invited guests.

Upon entering the orchard, all will process around the orchard whilst making as much noise as possible (*this is to awaken the trees from their slumber*) by using musical instruments, biscuit tins, saucepan lids, etc. or shouting and clapping, and come to rest at the chosen tree.

****Hemlock Grove will bestow a Blessing upon the Tree.****



Mowsbury Hill Fort Wassail 2015 Ceremony

(Arrangement based on Horton Kirby Wassailing Ceremony)

The Royal Couple will be adorned with a golden nut for good luck!

All Sing “Here we come a-Wassailing”

Everyone chants the Wake-Up rhyme. (*This is because the tree spirits have fallen asleep for the winter*)

ALL: **Grand old Apple Tree, we have come to Wassail thee...**
May your branches grow heavy, as your sweet apples grow
May you bring forth much fruit for us here below

The **Wassail Queen** sprinkles wassail onto the roots of the tree, (*cider from the Wassail Bowl*) whilst the **Wassail King** says these words...

Old Apple Tree, awake and grow - take nourishment from the earth below
Old Apple Tree, we anoint thine root - Great Bearer of our Autumn fruit
Old Apple Tree may your blossoms fall - then grow your apples for one and all
Old Apple Tree, to you good cheer - bring forth your fruit for us this year

(*Everyone ‘hints’ to the tree that they would like lots of apples by walking around the tree pretending to be carrying a heavy basket full of fruit.*)

Toast is hung onto branches of the tree by members of the Wassail group.
(*This is to encourage the good spirits to visit the tree in the form of Robins.*
These good spirits will help the tree with producing plenty of fruit.)

All sing “The Gloucestershire Wassail Song”

End of formal ceremony.



Here We Come A-Wassailing!

**Here we come a-wassailing, among the leaves so green,
Here we come a-wand'ring, so fair to be seen.**

*Love and joy come to you, and to your wassail, too,
And God bless you, and send you a Happy New Year,
And God send you a Happy New Year.*

**We are not daily beggars that beg from door to door,
But we are neighbors' children whom you have seen before**

Love and joy...

**Good master and good mistress, as you sit beside the fire,
Pray think of us poor children who wander in the mire.**

Love and joy...

**We have a little purse, made of ratching leather skin;
We want some of your small change to line it well within.**

Love and joy...

**Bring us out a table and spread it with a cloth;
Bring us out a cheese, and some of your Christmas loaf.**

Love and joy...

**Protect this orchard from the wind, from winter's frost and snow
Take care of us kind visitors that wander to and fro.**

Love and joy...

The Gloucestershire Wassail (Hemlock Adaptation 2015)

O' Wassail! O' Wassail! All over the town,
Our **toast** it is white and our **ale** it is brown;
Our **bowl** it is made of the **white** maple tree;
With the **Wassailing** bowl, we'll **drink** to thee.
Drink to thee, **Drink** to Thee
With the **Wassailing** bowl, we'll **drink** to thee.

Here's to our mare, and **to** her right eye,
God send our mistress a **good** Christmas pie;
A **good** Christmas pie as **e'er** I did see,
With the **Wassailing** bowl, we'll **drink** to thee.
Drink to thee, **Drink** to thee
With the **Wassailing** bowl, we'll **drink** to thee.

Here's to our cow, and **to** her long tail,
God send our master us **never** may fail
Of a **cup** of good beer: I **pray** you draw near,
And our **jolly** Wassail it's **then** you shall hear.
Then you shall hear, **then** you shall hear
And our **jolly** Wassail it's **then** you shall hear.

Here's to the maid in her **lily** white smock
Who **tripped** to the door and **slipped** back the lock
Who **tripped** to the door and **pulled** back the pin
For to **let** these jolly **Wassailers** in.
Wassailers in, **Wassailers** in
For to **let** these jolly **Wassailers** in.

Here's to our horse and **to** his right ear
God send our master a **happy** new year
A **happy** new year as **e're** he did see
With the **Wassailing** bowl, we'll **drink** to thee.
Drink to thee, **Drink** to Thee
With the **Wassailing** bowl, we'll **drink** to thee.