

Friends of Putnoe Wood & Mowsbury Hillfort Wassail 2017 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 drive away the evil spirits*) 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 2017 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-wandering, 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 neighbours 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.

Mowsbury Hillfort

Mowsbury Hillfort is an univallate hillfort constructed in the early Iron Age, and a medieval moated site adapted from and situated within the earlier ramparts.

Pottery found in association with the rampart indicates a construction date in the early Iron Age. Traces of a possible hut circle were also found in the form of a circle of cobbles. The complete outline of the perimeter forms a roughly oval plan measuring approx 290m by 200m. Pottery fragments show that the hillfort was again occupied in the later Iron Age and into the Roman period, probably as a small farmstead.

The next lasting mark made on the landscape is in the medieval period when a rectangular moated site, with two 'islands', an inner and an outer one, was developed. A wooden bridge would have allowed people to cross from the outer to the inner island. Parts of the moat may have reused the ditch of the original hillfort as part of the defensive structure and part was also adapted as a pair of fishponds for raising fish as a food source. The moat was filled with water, fed by a leat stream (an artificial watercourse or aqueduct dug into the ground).

The medieval site has been identified with the manor of Morinsbury mentioned in various documents before 1465. The name may have been retained as "Morsebury" a 16th century field name, which included the area of earthworks and presumably devolved to the present name of Mowsbury.

For further information please go to:

Main website: www.putnoemowsburyfriends.org.uk

Mobile site: www.pwmhfriends.com



Mowsbury Hillfort

Iron Age Hillfort, Medieval Site and Nature Reserve.

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|----|---|-----|---------------------------|
| 1. | Main Entrance. | 8. | 3rd and 4th ponds |
| 2. | Western rampart. | 9. | Old Orchard east. |
| 3. | Leat from Cleat Hill. | 10. | Historic Parish boundary. |
| 4. | Iron age ditch and first medieval pond. | 11. | Medieval ditch and mound. |
| 5. | Courtyard meadow. | 12. | Old orchard south. |
| 6. | Second medieval pond. | 13. | 2nd entrance. |
| 7. | Inner island. | 14. | Wild flower meadow. |

**Please Be A
Responsible
Dog Owner**

