



The Friends of

**Putnoe Wood
& Mowsbury Hillfort**

Winter Wassail 2014

Here We Come a Wassailing

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

Wassail Chorus

*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.**

Wassail Chorus

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

Wassail Chorus

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

Wassail Chorus

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

Wassail Chorus

**God bless the master of this house, likewise the mistress too;
And all the little children that round the table go.**



**Bedford
Borough Council**

The wake up rhyme.

The tree needs to be woken up by chanting the wake up rhyme. This is because the tree spirits have fallen asleep for the winter. 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.

Grand old apple tree, we have come to wassail thee
May your branches grow heavy, may your green leaves grow
May you bring forth fruit for us here below

The Wassail Queen sprinkles wassail onto the roots of the tree, This is to bring the roots good health and encourage growth, 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

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.

Mowsbury Hillfort

Iron Age Hillfort, Medieval Site and Nature Reserve.

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