

Donkeyfield Community Orchard Wassail 2023

1. Bear Good Fruit

Words: 19th Century South Hams

Music: Jane Lewis 2017

Apple tree, apple tree bear good fruit
Or down with your top and up with your
root

2. Carhampton Wassail

Trad. Somerset, arr. Penny Stone

Old apple tree we'll wassail thee,
And hope that thou wilt bear
For Lord doth know where we shall be
come apples another year.

For to bloom well and to bear well,
So merry let us be
Let ev'ry one take off their hat
And shout out to the old apple tree (x2)

(Spoken)

Old apple tree we'll wassail thee,
And hoping thou wilt bear
Hatfulls, capfulls, 3 bushel bagfulls
and a little 'eap under the stair!

3. Wassail Round the Branches Bare

Jane Lewis 2018

*1. Root and shoot and bud and berry
Apple, pear and plum and cherry,
Friends and neighbours let's be merry
Wassail round the branches bare,
Wassail round the branches bare,
Oh wassail round the branches*

*2. Robin Redbreast fluffed and free,
Perching on the feasting tree,
May there be fruit for you and me
Wassail etc*

*3. Summer sun and autumn showers,
Plenty work and lazy hours
Drink a toast for orchard flowers
Wassail etc*

*4. Splash some cider round the roots,
Stamp the earth down with your boots,
May the tree put
out new shoots
Wassail etc*



4. Wassail the Trees

Words: Robert Herrick (1591-1694),

Music – Jane Lewis 2023

Wassail the trees – that they may bear,
You many a plum – and many a pear,
For more or less – fruits they will bring,
As you do give them – wassailing

4. Donkeyfield Community Orchard Canon

Tune: Tallis canon

Words: Jane Lewis

James Grieve, Coul Blush, Lass O'
Gowrie,
Ard Cairn Russet, Discovery,
East Lothian Pippin, Scotch Dumpling,
Mabbot's Permain, Carlisle Codlin.

5. Coventry Wassail

Trad, arr. Jane Lewis

Oh apple, apple tree,
We have come to wassail thee
Will you bear some fruit for me
When the season changes?

6. Give thanks to the Wood Wide Web:

A Wassail Waltz for the Fungi

Jane Lewis 2022 with thanks to Merlin Sheldrake

1. Mycelial networks under my feet,
Give thanks to the Wood Wide Web
Sustaining all life and the apples we eat,
Give thanks to the Wood Wide Web

2. So waltz with the hyphae, tip and strand,
Give thanks to the Wood Wide Web
Unmakers and makers of the underland,
Give thanks to the Wood Wide Web

3. Branching and forking, tangling and swarming,
Give thanks to the Wood Wide Web
Partnering, fusing, linking and sharing,
Give thanks to the Wood Wide Web

4. So, wassail the fungi who live down below,
Give thanks to the Wood Wide Web
Stitching together the worlds that we know,
Give thanks to the Wood Wide Web (x3)



7. Stand Fast Root

Music: Jane Lewis 2020

Words: 19th century Sussex, Surrey

Stand fast root, bear well top,
Pray the God send us a howling good crop
Ev'ry twig apples big,
Ev'ry bough, apples now

8. May there be Fruitfulness

Jane Lewis 2019

To your health, dear tree to the depth of
your root,
To your health, dear tree to the tip of
your shoot,
To your health dear friend as I take your
hand,
May peace grow in these troubled days
May we learn more loving ways
May there be fruitfulness – wassail!

9. Edinburgh Wassail

Tune: The Birkin Tree, arr. Penny Stone
Words: Pat Abel, Jane Campbell, Beryl Holman, Jane Lewis, Georgia March, Fergus McInnes & Penny Stone

Chorus:

*Come gather in the orchard,
Raise a cup to apples,
We'll celebrate our common roots,
And we'll all sing a wassail.*

1. The winter nights are darkening,
With pruning let new growth begin,
We'll rest before we greet the spring,
Singing by the firelight.

(Chorus)

2. The frost releases now its hold,
Sunlight melts the winter cold,
Upon the branches buds unfold,
Slow the sap is rising.

(Chorus)

3. The blossom and the buzzing bee,
Union of the apple tree,
Working hard for all to see,
Sweet the nectar's promise.

(Chorus)

4. Summer turns to autumn now,
The fruit hangs heavy on the bough,
The sun's good gifts our lives endow,
As we join the harvest.

(Chorus)