

Wassailing (Here we come a')

Words and Music: English Traditional. "Wassail" is an old English word for a toast similar to "Good Health" and the wassail is the content of the glass or goblet (spiced or mulled wine or ale). Wassailing is a traditional rural event carried out in January to wish the land-owners a good harvest - traditionally for cider apples - in the coming year and to cadge a bit of money from them.

Traditionally held on 'Old Twelvey Night' which is 17 January because that was Twelfth night before the Gregorian Calendar messed things up in 1752

Ratching is a very rare word that means scratched or torn

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

Chorus

*Love and joy come to you, and to you 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.*

Chorus

*Good master and good mi-s-tress, as you sit by the fire,
Pray think of us poor children, who stand here in the mire.*

Chorus

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

Chorus

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

Chorus