

Stamford Community Orchard Group



Wassail Wassail

Sat 4th Jan

4.30 pm

**Stamford Community
Orchard**

(end of Christ Church Close, off Green Lane)

Join us in this noisy old English custom, sing to the trees and bang your old saucepans to bring a good harvest of apples. With seasonal songs, cider, apple juice, brazier and morris men.

Bring saucepans, wooden spoons, torches, lanterns, warm clothing, sparklers and ribbons.



Wassail song



Old apple tree, we wassail thee
Here's hope that you wilt bear
For the Gods doth know where we shall be
Come apples another year

For to bloom well and to bear well
So merry let us be
Let every man take off his hat
And shout out to the old apple tree

For to bloom well and to bear well
So merry let us be
Let every man take off his hat
And shout out to the old apple tree

All Say:

Old apple tree, we wassail thee
And hope that you will bear
Hatfuls, capfuls, three bushel bagfulls
And a little heap under the stairs

Three cheers for the old apple tree:
Hip, hip, hooray
Hip, hip, hooray
Hip, hip, hooray

SCOG is reviving the old English custom of Apple Orchard Wassailing. It is traditionally held on the old Twelfth Night (17 January) as a ritual to ask for a good apple harvest. The villagers form a circle around the largest apple tree, hang pieces of toast soaked in cider in the branches for the robins, who represent the 'good spirits' of the tree. Pots and pans are banged loudly to scare away evil spirits and the group sings. Wassail is a hot, mulled punch often associated with Yuletide drunk from a 'wassailing bowl'. The drink is often mulled cider made with sugar, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg, topped with slices of toast as sops and drunk by all the wassailers from a large communal bowl.

Web: <http://scog.org.uk>

Contact: scogchair@gmail.com