



Horton Kirby wassailing ceremony

- Choose the biggest & strongest looking tree - *this tree represents all the other trees in the orchard - The Grand Old Apple Tree*
When arrive at tree get group into a circle around the tree.
- Wake up the tree by all chanting the wake up rhyme. *This is because the tree spirits have fallen asleep for the winter.*

Grand old apple tree,
We will wassail thee
In hope that you will bring
Fruit to us this spring.

- Wassail Queen/King sprinkles wassail onto the roots of the tree whilst the Teacher says the words on the "apple".

Needed - Cup with wassail & spoon.
Words on "apple"

This is to bring the roots good health and encourage growth.

- Everyone 'hints' to the tree that they would like lots of apples by walking around the tree pretending to be carrying a heavy basket.
- Toast is hung onto several 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 birds. These good spirits will help the tree with producing plenty of fruit.*
- Everyone shouts & claps and makes as much noise as possible. *This is to scare away the bad spirits.*
- Wassailing song is sung to the tree by all members of the group.
- All members of the group are given a cup of wassail, the greeting of WASSAIL is said by everyone to the tree and again to their neighbours clinking of glasses etc and then the wassail is drunk.

Flasks of wassail given to each adult
Cups given out to each child
Remind children not to start until everyone has said their greeting.