

Wassail Song (Nailsworth)

(Here we Come a-Wandering)

1. Here we come a - - wan - d'ring all through the fields so green.

Here we come a - - wan - d'ring, so faith - ful to be seen ____ We're not ____ dai - ly

be - ggars ____ that beg from door to door ____ We're

on - ly neigh - bours' chil - dren ____ that you have seen be - - fore.

2. Come out the butler of this house, put on your golden ring
 And bring us out a glass of beer, the better we will sing.
 And bring us out a table and spread it with a cloth,
 And bring us out a lump of beef and some of your Christmas love.

Second tune:

Now here-s luck to Joe Wa - lker and to his right arm. May God send Joe

Wa-lker a good crop of yarn. A good crop of yarn_ that all we could see. And a

Dhorus

wass - ail - ing bowl now drink un - to me. Drink un - - to me,

drink un - to me. And a wass - ail - ing bowl come drink un - to me.

Suggested verses to add:

Wassail, wassail all over the town
 Our cup it is white and our ale it is brown
 Our bowl it is made of the sycamore tree
 To me wassailing bowl, I'll drink unto thee.
 Drink unto thee, etc

There was an old woman, she had but one cow,
And how to maintain it she did not know how;
She built up a fire to keep her cow warm,
And a little of your cider would do us no harm.
Do us no harm, etc.

Come butler, come butler, bring us a bowl of your best;
We hope that in heaven your soul it will rest,
But if you don't bring us a bowl of your small,
Then down will go butler, bowl and all.
Bowl and all, etc.

Source: Sung by Archie Gardner, Nailsworth. Collected by Richard Chidlaw and Andrew Kennett, April 1972.

Notes: The Nailsworth wassailers sang first one tune, then the second. Verses to the second were improvised according to the person to whom they were singing.

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