

## 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. Bradford Observer (26 Dec 1874), Roud 209.*

*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