

Wassail! Wassail! All Over the Town

*Alternate Title: Gloucestershire Wassail. Words and Music: English Traditional¹⁵.
Roud 209.*

The toast refers to the practice of placing stale toasted bread dipped in cider in the apple trees to placate the spirits that may spoil the cider apple harvest.

Chorus

[Singer 1] Wassail! wassail! all over the town
*Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee*

[Singer 1] Here's to our horse, and to his right ear
God send our master a happy new year
A happy new year as e'er he did see
With my wassailing bowl I drink to thee

Chorus

[Singer 2] So here is to Cherry and to his right cheek
Pray God send our master a good piece of beef
A good piece of beef that ere we did see
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

Chorus

[Singer 3] Here's to our mare and to her right eye
God send our mistress a good Christmas pie
A good Christmas pie as e'er I did see
With my wassailing bowl I drink to thee

Chorus

<more>

¹⁵ <https://archives.vwml.org/records/COL/5/67>

[Singer 4] So here's to Broad Mary and to her broad horn
May God send our master a good crop of corn
And a good crop of corn that may we all see
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee

Chorus

[Singer 5] And here is to Fillpail and to her left ear
Pray God send our master a happy New Year
And a happy New Year as e'er he did see
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee

Chorus

[Singer 6] Here's to our cow and to her long tail
God send our master a bowl of good ale
Of a cup of good beer I pray you draw near
And our jolly wassail it's then you shall hear

Chorus

[Singer 7] Come butler come fill us a bowl of the best
Then we hope that your soul in heaven may rest
But if you do draw us a bowl of the small
Then down shall go butler bowl and all

Chorus

[Singer 8] Then here's to the maid in the lily white smock
Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin
For to let us jolly wassailers in

Chorus