

Waysail Song – Woodchester, Billy Buckingham (as collected)

Collected by Gwilym Davies Feb-1979

Sung by Billy Buckingham (87) of Woodchester, Glos

Way - sa - il, way - sa - il all ov - er the town, Our

5 bread it is white and our ale it is brown. And our

9 bowl it is made of the best mott - ling tree, To the

13 way - sail - ing bowl I'll bring un - to thee.

1. Waysail, waysail, all over the town,
Our bread it is white and our ale it is brown
And our bowl it is made of best mottling tree,
To me waysailing bowl I'll bring unto thee.

2. Now here's a health to our master and to his
right eye,
Pray God send our master a good Xmas pie,
And a good Xmas pie that we may all see
To me wassailing bowl I'll bring unto thee.

3. Now here's a health to our master and to his
right ear
Pray God send our master a happy New Year
And a happy New Year that we may all see
To me waysailing bowl I'll bring unto thee.

4. Now here's a health to my master and to his
right arm,
Pray God send our master a good crop of corn,
And a good crop of corn and another of hay
To pass the cold wintry wy-unds (*winds*) away.

5. Now here's a health to my master and to his right hip,
Pray God send our master a good flock of ship (*sheep*),
And a good flock of ship that we may all see;
To me waysailing bowl I'll bring unto thee.

6. Now here's a health to my master and to his right leg,
Pray God send our master a good fatted pig
And a good fatted pig that we may we all see
To me waysailing bowl I'll bring unto thee.

7. Now butler come fill us a bowl of your best
I hope that in heaven your soul will rest
But if you should bring us a bowl of your small
Then down shall go butler, bowl and all.

8. There was an old woman she had but one cow
And how to maintain it she did not know how
She built up a barn to keep her cow warm
And a drop of your cider will do us no harm.

Song as collected by Gwilym Davies

Source: Davies recording.

Notes:

1. Ship=Sheep; wy-unds=winds
2. Billy Buckingham sings 'Xmas' but the singer today may wish to use 'Christmas'
3. This recording is a version Billy Buckingham learnt in Woodchester, however it is referred to as 'near Stroud' in some lists.

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