

Waysailing Bowl – Arlingham, Lem Hayward (as collected)

Collected by Gwilym Davies Jan-1977

Sung by Lem Hayward (76) of Arlingham, Glos

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 7, 13, and 19 indicating the start of each line. The final line of the score ends with a double bar line.

7 Way - sail, way - sail_ all o - ver the town, Our toast it is white and our
13 ale it is brown; Our bowl it is made of the sy - ca - more tree_ To me
19 Way - sail - ing bowl I'll drink un - to thee. Way - sail, way - sail_ to me
jol - ly way - sail, And joy shall go with our jol - ly way - sail.

1. Waysail, waysail, all over the town,
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown;
Our bowl it is made of sycamore tree,
To me waysailing bowl I'll drink unto thee.

Chorus Waysail, waysail to me jolly waysail,
And joy shall go with our jolly waysail

2. Come butler, come butler, a bowl of your best,
I hope that in heaven your soul it may rest;
But if butler don't bring us a bowl of his small,
Down will go butler, bowl and all.

3. There was an old woman, she had but one cow,
And how to maintain it she did not know how,
But she built up a barn to keep her cow warm,
And a drop of your cider won't do us no harm.

4. Here's a health unto Colley and to her right eye,
May God send our master a good Christmas pie,
And a good Christmas pie, that we may all see,
To me waysailing bowl, I'll drink unto thee.

5. Here's a health unto Colley and to her right leg
God send our master a good fatted peg [*pig*];
A good fatted peg, that we may all see,
To me waysailing bowl, I'll drink unto thee.

6. Here's a health unto Colley and to her right horn,
Pray God send our master a good crop of corn;
A good crop of corn, that we may all see,
To me waysailing bowl, I'll drink unto thee.

7. Now come all ye maidens, I know there are few,
Will not let the waysailers stand on the cold stone,
But lift up the latch and draw back the pin,
And let the waysailers walk merrily in.

Song as collected by Gwilym Davies. Use also for copy to sing.

Source: Davies and Mike Yates recording and transcription in 'Let Us Be Merry' from earlier Davies recording

Notes: 1. 'Peg' = pig. The chorus can be sung after every verse or as singer determines

2. The custom was kept up until the Second World War in Arlingham, where at about 8 pm on New Year's Eve, a party some twenty strong would set off from Arlingham and call at Framilode, Saul, and Frampton Court. They carried a six-foot bough decorated with tinsel and cards, and collected money in a tin.

3. Davies has 2 recordings. The first was made in a pub and though poor quality is the source for the words. Mike Yates and Davies later recorded Lem in his house and this is the recording on the web-site

Audit Transcription prepared by VL Nov 2011/HT Nov 2011/Checked tbc