

The Great Woodcraft Folk Wassail

For at least six years Cheltenham Woodcraft have taken over the Community Orchard for its annual wassail. The event takes place on a winter's evening in January. We have been surprisingly lucky with the weather so far and judging by the numbers of apples produced in the orchard each year, our singing, chanting and making an unholy row appears to be really working!

For those who don't know, a wassail is an old English tradition where villagers tour orchards in their neighbourhoods, dress up, sing, dance, chant and drink copious amounts of cider. The idea is to wake up the spirits of the fruit trees and encourage them to produce more fruit. We have substituted cider for warm apple juice for the children. For those of you who haven't heard of the Woodcraft Folk, you can find out more here: <https://woodcraft.org.uk/>.

This year leaders put paraffin lanterns along the length of the nature reserve to create a magical tunnel of fire and light for our young members, and others who attended, to walk through on their way to the Wassail. Who knows what might happen next year! All are welcome to come and join the fun, look out for the PBNR Facebook page in the new year for details.