An Solempnyta Wassel / The Wassail Ceremony

The ceremony given here is framed for an Apple Wassail in an orchard, but it is endlessly adaptable. If you have access to an orchard or apple tree, wonderful, but the spirit of the Wassail can still be captured in the form of a procession (Visit Wassail) or an indoor venue (Hall Wassail) if circumstances dictate. The ceremony lends itself well to a bi-lingual Cornish / English approach and the sound of our ancient language adds to the atmosphere.

Dynnargh / Welcome :
An opportunity to provide some background to the Wassail and explain what will happen during the ceremony. It can be tailored to individual people and location.

"Friends, we are gathered here to wassail the apple trees and to ask for health, wealth and happiness for our community and for our loved ones for the coming year. We're here to honour the trees, the spirits of the past and to wake the spirits for this coming year to ensure a good harvest, to thank them for last year's harvest and for the continuation of life's cycle. We think of those who cannot be with us tonight and those who are celebrating their own Wassail of their own trees in this ancient tradition."

Galow Difuna / Awakening Call:

"Friends we are gathered here to perform the Orchards Awakening Call with our Wassail.

Y hwovynnyn orth an Avalennek ha spyrys an goswik rag lowender, yeghes ha trevas dha y'n vledhen a dheu. We ask the orchard and the spirit of the forest for happiness, health and a good harvest in the year to come.

Lemmyn y whovynnav orth Spyrys and Goswik difuna an avalennow.
"I now ask the spirit of the forest to awaken the apple trees.

Y halwav orth an gwydh, Difunewgh!
"I call upon the trees. Awaken

Oll/All: "**Difunewgh!"** *(awaken!)*
"Arta!" *(Again!)*
Oll / All: "**Difunewgh!"** *(Awaken!)*
"Arta!" *(Again!)*
Oll / All: "**Difunewgh**!" *(Awaken!)*

Shallal!
As the Orchards Awakening Call finishes an "infernal noise" is created with any percussion that comes to hand together with cheers and shouts.

Kan Wassel / Wassail Song

It is a nice touch to write or commission a Wassail song especially for the occasion but there are many new and traditional songs to choose from. Here we give the traditional song from Redruth in English and Cornish.

The Wassail Bowl or individual cups of cider are passed around during the song. In an orchard setting, toast is hung on the trees and the last of the Wassail Cider poured at their base.

1 Gans arluth ha mestres
Y tallethyn ni,
Pysi kummyas
A wren-ny dhe dhos ajy.

Burdhen:
Gans agan wassel,
Wassel, wassel, wassel;
Ha bedhewgh-why lowen
Gans agan wassel.

2 An arluth ha mestres
esedhys yn es,
Y rons i dhyn ni,
An pyth dhe dha bles,
Burdhen

3 Y hwaytyn sewena
Dhe bub avalen,
May fo cider ragon
Dhe benn an vledhen.
Burdhen

4 Ow mos ha bos sqwithha
Yth eson devri,
Tewl temmik a arghans
Y' gan bolla ni.
Burdhen

5 Re bo bennath warnowgh
Bos hir war an bys,
Awos agas helder
Ha rohow keffrys.
Burdhen

1 With mistress and master
Our wassail begin,
Pray open the door,
And let us come in.

Chorus:
With our wassail,
Wassail, wassail, wassail;
And joy come to,
Our jolly wassail.

2 The mistress and master,
Sitting down at their ease,
Put their hands in their pockets
And give what they please.
Chorus

3 I hope that your apple trees
Will prosper and bear,
That we may have cyder
When we call next year.
Chorus

4 Now we poor wassail boys
Grow weary and cold,
Drop a small bit of silver
Into our bowl.
Chorus

5 I wish you a blessing
And a long time to live,
Since you've been so free
And willing to give.
Chorus

Dons Wassel / Wassail Dance

The Serpent Dance is the traditional finale for many Cornish customs. Accompanied by a lively march the Wassailers form a long line and are led through the trees (or around the room) in a series of loops and spirals, dancing or stepping carefully as dictated by the terrain.