

## 2022 Reports

### Wassailing

15<sup>th</sup> January



15th January and our Wassail Day, what a day this has been! Crook had reluctantly decided that it needed to be paired back with no post-ceremony pub sessions and all activity to be outside. No other groups were invited so just Crook and some Kendal Revellers. What do we know? This special event has a very loyal local following and we possibly had more people than a normal year! Dan did a fine job of the Lord of Misrule, Simon would definitely have been proud of him. A strong opening song and then a tumultuous racket of drums, bells, horns and thunder shakers as the crowd followed Dan up into the orchard and we formed a nicely socially spaced big circle around the Crook tree! Another wassail and the we were regaled with the odyssey of the king of all birds before our own wren was displayed on the tree and we could sing to it. Mark doused the roots with his special ale, we all got to sing to the tree and then all was ready for us to collect our pieces of toast, dunk them in ale and display them on the tree with some ribbons. Crook absolutely loved how many families came and the young also got to hang their toast before petting our bowed horse. It gave the rest of us the time to demolish a piece of Damson cake, thank you Judy, and get a nip of warm ale, thank you Mark, fortified with some Damson gin, thank you Judy. A final procession out of the orchard and back to the house for some Morris dancing. A couple of jigs, a couple of dances and a tribute to Simon Gillow. Everyone joined in a fine rendition of 'What's the Life of a Man'. Then finally a raucous dance 'Fanny Frail' in the border style. Crook had decided not to collect but with the numbers attending an impromptu bucket placed simply on the floor and we have a great start to our dance out season where at least 50% of all collections go to our chosen charity. Last year this was The Great North Air Ambulance. This year kicks off with around £50 in the charity bucket. Thank you to every single person who came, to the Walker family for letting us do this and to Juliet & Michelle who are Crook's new Wassail queens with Judy Malkin (we can do this) always in support.