## "Through The Seasons"

There are many of us who, even in this modern age, live our lives through the seasons The springtime brightens our mood, with bud and leaf returning to the trees And the children dance around the maypole, to welcome back Jack In The Green In the warmth of Summer, we gather the grain for our beer and the apples for our cider The young at heart canoodle under the willow trees by the water, or make love atop the haystacks And the oldies, with their folding chairs and picnic hampers , listen to folk music at the outdoor festivals. The colours of Autumn see the strong beer produced and the apples pressed and fermented And we come together, getting a sweat on at the barn dances, while trying not to fall over too much In the cold of Winter, we gather around the open fire, tell stories, chuckle at the mummers and morris. And raise a toast to the trees of the orchard with a hearty wassail Through the seasons, always turning, always changing, always the same

Through The Seasons

There are many of us who, even in this modern age, live our lives through the seasons The springtime brightens our mood, with bud and leaf returning to the trees

The sound of the woodpecker tap tapping away, is joined by the cuckoo heralding the change of the season

The children dance around the maypole, to welcome back Jack In The Green

With the jangle of bells the morris men of Adderbury cavort and the delight of the hobby horse Grand National at Banbury's Song and Ale

In the warmth of Summer, we gather the grain for our beer and the apples for our cider The swallows swoop in the balmy evenings catching the insects on the wing

The young at heart canoodle under the willow trees by the water, or make love atop the haystacks And the oldies, with their folding chairs and picnic hampers, listen to folk music at the outdoor festivals of Cropredy and the New Forest

The trialling hobby horse beasts gather at Sidmouth and at Broadstairs mayhem surrounds the black garmented demented hooden horses

The colours of Autumn see the strong beer and pickles produced and the apples pressed and fermented into cider at The Fleece, Bretforton

The murmurations of the starlings fill the sky with enchanting patterns high above the Severn estuary

And we come together, getting a sweat on at the barn dances at Stroud, while trying not to fall over too much from exertion and ale

And while the bonfires light the night sky, the music turns indoors to escape the increasing chill and damp

In the cold of Winter, we gather around the open fire, tell stories, chuckle at the mummers and morris and ring handbells on Boxing Day

We marvel at the resilience of the robin and the wren, oblivious to the hardships caused by the frosted ground

And we raise a toast to the trees of the orchard with a hearty wassail, guided by the bare-footed druid

At Chepstow, and spreading across Wales, the long nights bring out the Mari Lwyds to celebrate the New Year and frighten the children

Through the seasons, always turning, always changing, always the same

Jules Procter, Storyteller www.banburyshire.net