Patagonian Wassail

The Tehuelche are an indigenous people hailing from the southern pampas of Patagonia, in South America, where the Welsh founded a colony in 1865, and they helped these Celtic incomers survive. The Welsh have never forgotten this kindness.
"In the early years of the Welsh settlers' survival in the Chubut Province of Patagonia, where they founded Y Wladfa, it was the Tehuelche who assisted them in surviving the harsh climates, mountain terrain and so forth. The settlers were taught how to navigate the land; how to tame and ride the wild horses; how to farm in the desert-like climate and, most importantly, how to gather food and water.
Michael D. Jones, the founder of Y Wladfa, formerly of the town of Bala, in Snowdonia, had a great respect for the Tehuelche people - ensuring that they were treated as they should be as the rightful owners of the land."
With the support of the Agentine government, both Welsh language and culture were encouraged, and they survived in Patagonian schools and, later, Welsh-speaking towns in the region. A sharp distinction from the attitude of the English, who sought to destroy the Welsh heritage. Today the Welsh language is spoken, and the culture valued, by more people than at any time in history.

So, at this time every year, the Welsh settlers still produce a rich, hearty banquet for their Tehuelche neighbours, starting with an afternoon tea, which leads onto the main meal. Empanadas, spit roasted lamb, with rosehip sauce, wild boar stew, and calafate berry ice cream.
This is their version of the old wassail tradition, which took place at the end of the calendar year. Thanking the Tehuelche for their help, having welcomed the Welsh to their lands.
Back in their old homeland, at this time of year, in South Wales, the Mari Lwyds are awakened, ready to bring in the New Year. These horse-skulled beasts, with a white cloth, and decorated with bright ribbons, are scary to most, but beloved by others.
So around the world, societies acknowledge their neighbours, for the help received over the year. A time of sharing food, and drink, of celebration and thanks