

Hunting the Wren



The full name of the society in Irish covers cultural clothing of all types as well as the kilt and it seemed appropriate to carry a note about Wren boys.

St. Stephen's Day is the day when the Wren Boys come out.

Originally they would catch and kill a wren which would be hung from a pole.



The Wren Boys would carry the pole from door to door and sing Wren Boy songs.

Today they only catch the wren and put it in a cage. The money raised would pay for a village party or it would be given to charity.



They usually wear straw masks or blacken their faces with burnt cork. This is a fine example of the owner's horse's tail in this horse hair hat!!

Their traditional saying was, "Up with the kettle and down with the pan, give us a penny to bury the wren."



A copyrighted article telling of the Dingle wren boys with further pictures may be found at:

<http://www.dingle-peninsula.ie/wren.html>

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