

Manx Notes 335 (2018)

“OLD CUSTOMS”

(1851)

Many of our ancient customs have passed away, and but for their preservation in the pages of *Train*, the very memory of their existence would have perished from human recollection. There are a few however which seem not unlikely to hold their ground for many years to come, seeing that their upholders are fully as numerous as we ever recollect them to have been in our boyish days. Among this class we may enumerate “The Whiteboys,” “The Fiddlers” or Waits, just prior to Christmas, and that still more singular relic of a forgotten antiquity called “Hunting the Wren,” on the anniversary of the protomartyr St Stephen. The votaries of these ancient customs show no symptoms of diminished numbers, and the customs themselves have stood their ground for untold centuries untouched by the enervating hands of time and change; while of others, the only evidence of their former existence, is alone traceable through the channel of a dim and misty tradition.

“Old Customs.” *Manx Sun* 27 December 1851: 4b.

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