

# Strawboy's Hat

## Brief History

The Strawboys attended weddings as uninvited guests, providing entertainment and demanding to dance with the bride.

After the wedding, if the Strawboys had been treated well, the hats were burned on the way home. However, if the Strawboys had been made unwelcome, the hats and costumes were thrown high up into the tree branches, so that the whole village would know of the bride's and groom's meanness!



Pat Loughney, Lacken, Co Mayo, making a Strawboy's hat, 1980

*Image: NMI Collection*



*NMI Handling Collection*

## What was it used for?

The hat was worn with a full costume at weddings and festivals throughout the year by a group of young men known as the 'Strawboys'.



Strawboy's costume

*NMI Collection*

## What is it?

A Strawboy's hat was made from straw and acted like a mask, covering the face when it was worn. This Strawboy's hat was made by Ted Kelly, Ballintogher, Co Sligo.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Strawboys hats were also worn by the Wren Boys on St Stephen's Day 26 December, and sometimes by 'Mummers' during the Christmas and New Year period. The Mummers went from house to house, performing plays whilst dressed in disguise.

# Hata Cleamaire

## Stair Ghairid



Bailiúchán Láimhseála AMÉ

### Cén úsáid a mbaintear as?

Chaith grúpa fear óg ar a dtugadh 'Cleamairí' an hata le lánchulaith ag bainiseacha agus ag féilte i rith na bliana.



Culaith chleamaire  
Bailiúchán AMÉ

D'fhreastail na Cleamairí ar bhainiseacha mar aíonna gan chuireadh, ag soláthar siamsaíochta agus ag iarraidh damhsa leis an mbrídeog.

Tar éis na bainise, más rud é gur caitheamh go maith leis na Cleamairí, dódh na hataí ar an mbealach abhaile. Mar sin féin, más rud nár cuireadh fáilte roimh na Cleamairí, caitheadh na hataí agus na cultacha go hard isteach sna brainsí crann, ionas go mbeadh an pobal ar fad ar an eolas faoi ghránnacht na brídeoige agus an fhir nuaphósta!



Pat Loughney, An Leacain, Co Mhaigh Eo, ag déanamh hata cleamairí, 1980

Pictiúr: Bailiúchán AMÉ

### Céard atá ann?

Rinneadh hataí cleamaire as tuí agus bhí sé mar mhasc, rud a chlúdaigh an t-éadan agus é á chaitheamh. Rinne Ted Kelly, Baile an Tóchair, Co Shligigh an hata cleamaire seo.

**AN RAIBH A FHIOS AGAT?**

Caitheadh hataí cleamaire le Lucht an Dreoilín ar Lá Fhéile Stiofáin 26 Nollaig, agus uaireanta chaith 'Cleamairí' iad linn na Nollag agus na hAthbhliana. Chuaigh na Cleamairí ó theach go teach, ag feidhmiú drámaí agus iad faoi bhréagriocht.