

of 'crymson velvett', 'grene clothe of bawdekyn', 'whyte sylke, embrodered with byrds of grene sylke', 'red sylke embrowdered with byrds of golde', 'olde whyte fustian, with a Grosse of red saye'. Some of these cloths may need some explanation for the modern reader – 'bawdekyn', a rich cloth made of gold and silk threads, originally from Baghdad, 'Fustyan' was a thick hard-wearing twilled cloth and. 'Saye' an English woollen cloth made in the East Anglian region around Sudbury. No doubt all of these copes and vestments would have been stored in specially constructed cope chests, like those that survive in the Pyx Chamber at Westminster Abbey, dating from the late 12th and 13th centuries, heavy and iron-bound to safeguard against theft. Of course, all of these expensive materials would only have been on show for High Days and Holy Days - the vestments used every day would have been like those recorded, touchingly, I think: '... ix olde vestments, with all thyng thereto belonging, occupied dailye'.

Finally, the entry for the chapel concludes with the following '... iii aide carpets, of tapestreye, to be laid before the aluter' ... ii carpets of red wollen, and ii whyte wollen and iii other carpets, to be laid before alters' and, my favourite, '... ii cuschons made of an olde cope, and ii other olde cushions'. The reference to cushions made from an old cope is interesting; people in the Middle Ages, up to the middle of the 16th century, often bequeathed expensive items of clothing in their wills to churches and religious houses for re-working as Mass vestments or cushions for the priest to sit upon in his stall. In this instance, however, it was the reworking of an old cope to provide that all-important priestly cushion.

This is what inventories of the past provide for us today - a window through which we can view a long lost world, colourful and lively, irrespective of their matter-of-fact recording on a particular day, in a particular month, in a particular year.

Dover Wombles

Deborah Gasking

Dover Wombles is growing; we now have over two dozen members in our WhatsApp group. Also, we have recently launched a public group on Facebook. This too is attracting new members.

Our latest projects:

Planting 500 geraniums and ten yucca plants in Pencester Gardens in time for the Jubilee Party in the Park. These are in the arc behind the bus stops, and look rather splendid

Alongside the River Dour, near the carpark at the rear of the Town Hall carpark, there are some concrete planters. Dover Town

Council allowed us to bring life into them.

We weeded, then collected several sacks of manure which were dug in and watered again, offering the worms access to the dry soil below. This was left for a few weeks to allow everything to settle and mingle.

Then we planted bulbs and some small shrubs - which looked a little inadequate. Jemma Jenkinson, Morrisons' Community Champion has come to our rescue and has offered several more shrubs, which I will grow on in my back garden before planting out.