

KENTWELL SCHOOLS



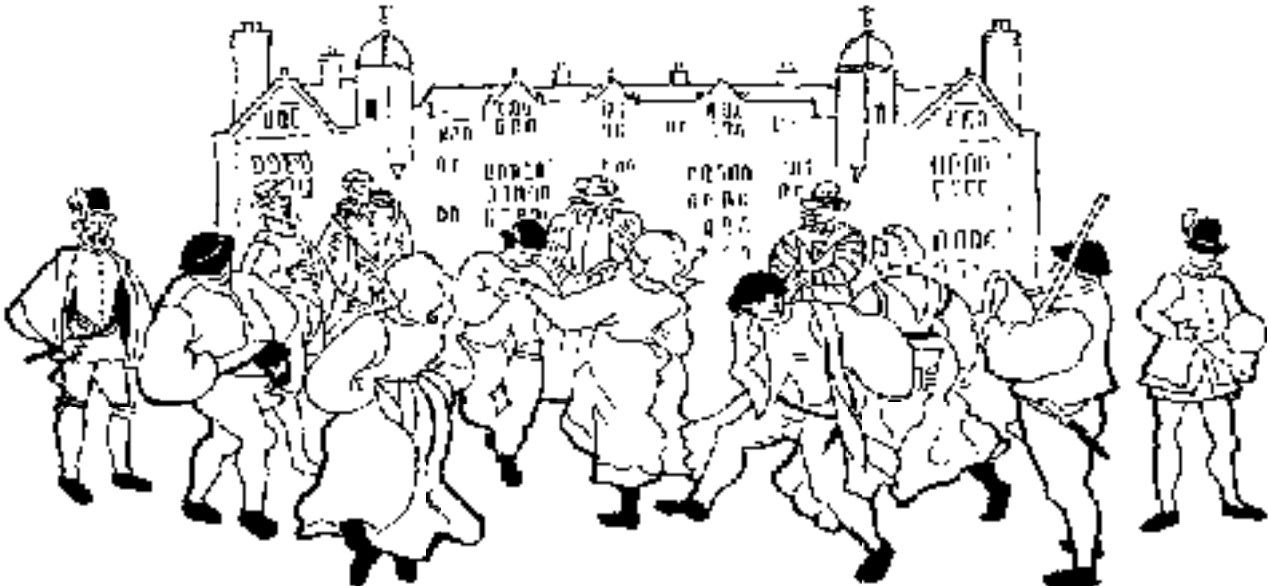
Revised - SCHOOLS COSTUME SHEETS

These notes are to help everyone make and understand the clothes which are worn by the adults and children who live and work at Kentwell and which visiting children, teachers and helpers should all wear too.

These Notes should be copied to all Parents, Teachers and Others likely to be involved in making Costume for the Visit. Making the clothes can also be a good classroom project.

When you visit Kentwell, the children will be going back to the sixteenth century. The clothes they will see people, who live and work on the manor, wearing are very different from those we wear today. The children should wear simple, peasant clothes which can be made (or adapted from clothes most may already have) very easily. Children will have a lot more fun and feel more at home on their visit if they wear the clothes we outline here. Don't let them come in something very grand which they have hired or borrowed (or even made). It will make the wearer very conspicuous and he (or she) might spend all day worrying about getting it dirty or damaging it!

Accompanying Teachers & Supervising Adults should also make the same effort re costume as the children.



WHY TUDOR CLOTHES LOOK DIFFERENT FROM OURS

Tudor clothes look different because the basic units are different from our modern clothes and were all made from natural materials using natural colour dyes. Everyone would start off with two basic layers and then add more clothes as necessary. Next to the skin in the place of our vests, pants etc. everyone wore a long garment of linen, called a smock. This garment was comfortable and could be washed easily. Normally the smock was covered with the layer of outer clothes, generally made of wool. If you were cold, you would simply put on another layer over what you were already wearing.

GIRLS

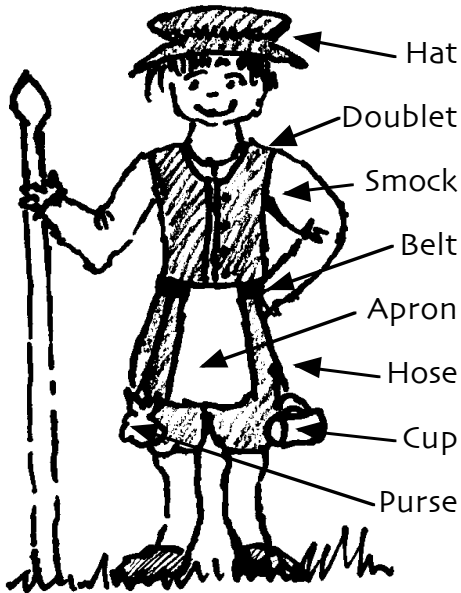
For girls, the basic outer garment was a dress called a kirtle – a tight-fitting bodice on the upper part of the body, joined to a long, full skirt, coming down almost to the ankle. Over this, they might wear a jacket or put a huke (or tabbard) about them if it was cold. They would have an apron and would never go without a coif on their heads.

BOYS

Boys wore tight-fitting doublets on the upper part of their body and hose (like knickerbockers) and long socks or stockings over the legs. They might add looser garments – jerkins (or jackets) or hukes (or tabbards) on top of their doublets for extra warmth. They would all wear hats on their heads.

*Don't get too fancy or grand when designing your clothes.
Simple, peasant clothes are easiest to make, wear and have fun in!*

CLOTHES FOR BOYS

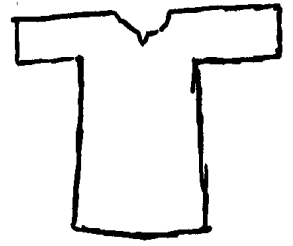


FIRST, MAKE A SMOCK.

This is a simple T-shaped garment of plain cotton, just about long enough to sit on.

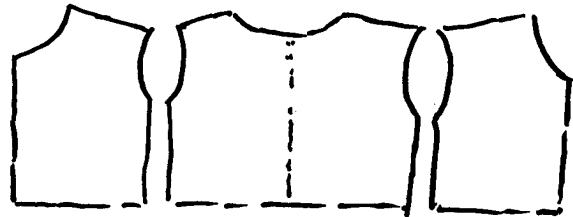
Make a pattern by enlarging this one. The neck should have a narrow 'V' about 6 inches long.

If you are feeling adventurous, how about a drawstring neck?

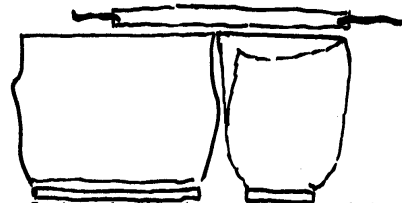


On top of your smock, you will need to wear your DOUBLET and HOSE, made of a plain-coloured, thickish fabric: an old curtain, an old blanket etc.

For a doublet, cut two fronts and one folded back. Join the fronts to the back across the shoulders and down the sides, from the armholes to waist.

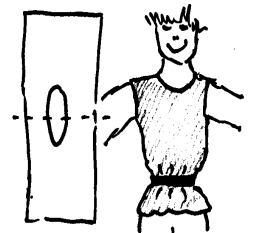


For HOSE, cut one waistband, two kneebands and two legs. Join up the inside leg seams, then sew legs together down the centre back seam and part of the way up the centre front seam. Pleat this onto the waist band and pleat each leg onto knee bands (the legs should be loose and baggy). Fasten waistband with tapes or buttons.



Stockings should be plain wool-type and reach above the knees, or go bare-legged if it is warm enough.

To keep warm, wear a huke or tabbard (an oblong of blanket with a hole in the middle for the head) over your doublet (secured by a belt), or a jacket made by adding sleeves to a larger-sized doublet.



OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS

HAT (everyone must wear one), see the enclosed Classroom Project – 'Making a Boys Hat'

Boys (yes, boys) need an **APRON** – a straight apron on a waistband, with no pleats or gathers, or a rectangle of fabric tucked into the belt.

Boys need a **BELT** (of leather or wool) from which to hang their **POCKET** or purse (a pouch of leather or of your doublet material closed with a drawstring – see the enclosed Classroom Project 'Making a Hanging Pocket') and your **CUP**, which you will hang from your cup string (see the enclosed Classroom Project 'Making a Cupstring').

Kentwell sells suitable very cheap hanging Pockets

Shoes flat, sturdy, preferably leather or mock leather in plain colours are most suitable. If trainers, dark only please.

HOW TO CHEAT...

Smock: you may have a T-shirt, or, better still, a man's collarless shirt that you can use instead. (Remove buttons + sew up to 6" from the top - Plain soft colours only, no patterns).

Doublet: a waist coat (plain fabric, front and back) will do well.

Hose: Tuck baggy (say, tracksuit) trousers into knee-length socks – make them look like breeches.

Headwear: Anything so long as head covered

Shoes:, Belt, Cupstring & Apron: as above

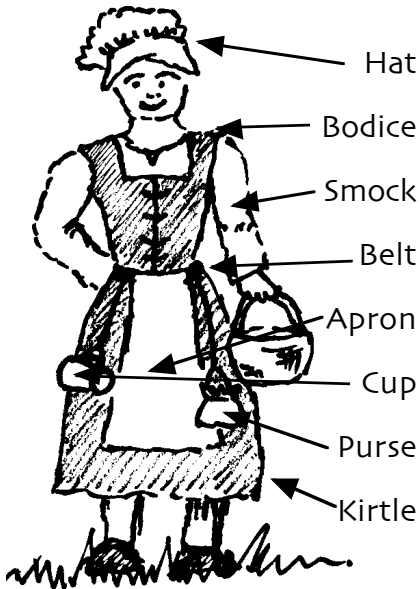
WET WEATHER

Life went on in the 16th Century whatever the weather - and so do we.

Bring a waterproof, pac-a-mac or even a dustbin liner with holes for head and arms to keep your top half dry. **Even more importantly,** wear wellingtons or other waterproof shoes on your feet.

We have found that boys do not mind getting wet !

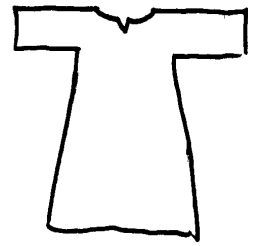
CLOTHES FOR GIRLS



FIRST, MAKE A SMOCK.

This is a simple T-shaped garment of plain cotton, reaching down to mid-calf.

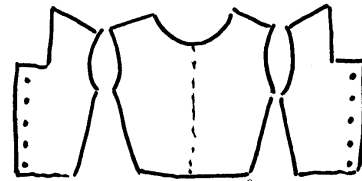
You can make a pattern by enlarging this one. Gather up the neck with a drawstring.



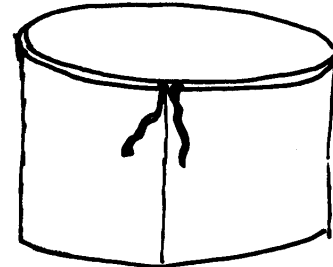
On top of this, wear a **BODICE** and a **KIRTLE**

Materials for both should be plain, soft-coloured, thickish fabric: wool, an old curtain, heavy linen etc.

BODICE: cut two fronts and one folded back. Join fronts to back across the shoulders and down sides, from armholes to waist. Make lace holes down the centre front, use a long lace (e.g. from your trainers) to lace up.

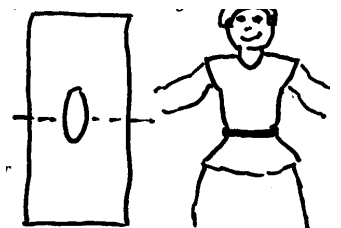


KIRTLE (skirt): cut a rectangle four times the measurement of your waist. Pleat onto a waistband, or make a channel at the top and run a draw string through. This will give the necessary full effect. (*Tight skirts not Tudor !*) The bottom should come down to, but no lower than, your ankle.



Legs should be bare (if it is warm) or wear knee-length socks.

To keep warm, wear a huke or tabbard (an oblong of blanket with a hole in the middle for your head) over your bodice (secured by your belt), or a jacket can be made by adding sleeves to a larger version of the bodice.



OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS

HEADWEAR: You must cover all of your hair and your fringe with a **COIF**. Use plain white cotton to make the pattern below. Alternatively, make a triangle of white cotton the size of a headscarf. Tie the long ends at the back of your head, over the point hanging down the back of your neck, then tuck this point over the knot you have just tied.



Girls need an **APRON** – a straight apron on a waistband, with no pleats or gathers, or a rectangle of fabric tucked into your belt.

Girls need a **BELT** (either of leather or plaited wool) from which to hang your **POCKET** or purse (a pouch of leather or of your bodice material closed with a drawstring) and your **CUP**, hang from your cup string (see the enclosed Classroom Project 'Making a Cupstring').

Shoes flat, sturdy, preferably leather or mock leather in plain colours are most suitable. If trainers, dark only please.

HOW TO CHEAT...

Smock: you may use a T-shirt, or, better still, a man's collarless shirt (but remove buttons + sew up to 6" from the top - Plain soft colours only, no patterns).

Bodice: a waist coat (plain fabric, front and back) may do. You can lace it round buttons and through holes.

Kirtle: If you *really* can't make one, use any single soft coloured (no patterns or garish colours) ankle length skirt preferably one too big & full (*not* slim-line or short) gathered round the waist with a belt.

Shoes:, Belt, Cupstring & Apron: as above

WET WEATHER

Life went on in the 16th Century whatever the weather - and so do we. If it looks like rain you'll need cover.

Bring waterproof, pac-a-mac or even a dustbin liner with holes for head and arms to keep your top half dry. **Even more importantly**, wear wellingtons or other waterproof shoes.

We have found that many girls do not mind getting wet !