

Well-dressed widows of farmers and fishermen

Joan Algoode of Orford also left colourful clothes in her will of 1473 - her green kirtle and violet gown. **Margaret Hallywell** of Sudbourne left her daughter Joan her cloak and amber beads.

Isabel Mannyng, the widow of Thomas who died in 1483, received two tenements in Sudbourne for life, and although he wished his fishing nets to be sold, his widow kept an interest in fishing. She bequeathed to her daughter, Joan the younger, '*a manfare of spurling nets*⁸' and another daughter received cows, sheep, utensils, bedding, a pair of beads, silver rings, '*a belt of silver*' and her best cap.

Iken widows included **Cecily Talbas** (died 1486) whose daughters were left a violet gown with a kirtle of '*le Cremsy*⁹', a tabard, a hood and a violet kirtle. Cecily continued farming after the death of her husband and her son received horses for his plough and three cows. **Margaret Talvesse**, possibly a different spelling of Talbas, died in 1529 and asked to be buried in Iken churchyard in front of the porch door, a prominent position showing her relative wealth. She left properties with very precise conditions. John Raynold was to have her house for four years paying 40s per annum. He had to make sure hedging and ditching were carried out, except for the '*mill marsediche*'. Each year nine days '*thacking*¹⁰' had to be done. Her son-in-law, Henry Fox was to have the rushes from the marsh to repair the house.



St Botolph's church porch, Iken (photo Richard Quarrell)