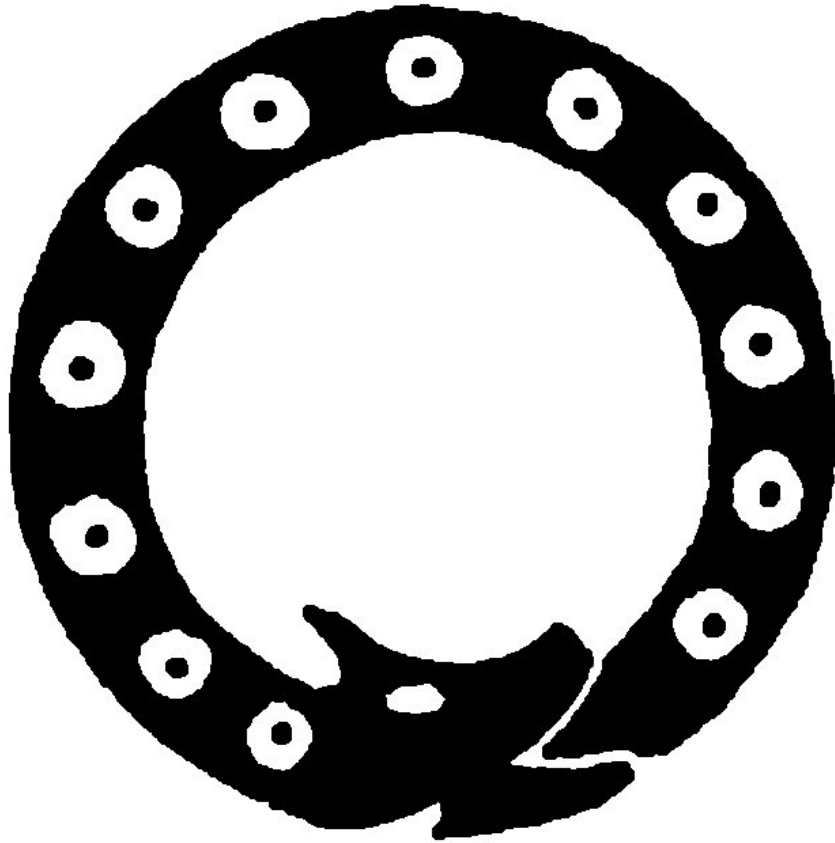


Present Past: Historical Crafts



Business Portfolio 2016

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Horn Drinking Vessels

The use of a horn for the sharing and consumption of drink is one of the most recognisable items that has become synonymous with the Viking 'era'. The use of various animals horns as feasting equipment is ancient enough as to have been used since at least the first domestication of horned cattle and goats. In 'Dark Age' Europe the most commonly known finds are the precious metal bands that would have lipped particularly large or affluent sharing horns. While the horns themselves often decay to nothing over time, enough archaeological and pictorial examples have been found to say with some certainty that they were a very commonplace item.

Horns would have been used solely by one person or as a 'friendship' or sharing cup to be passed around the guests to share the best alcohol. Traditionally these horns had no stand and were shared until empty, making them a perfect piece to add flair to any gathering. The addition of a metal stand in these items is purely for modern practicality and are a very useful addition at that.

All of our horn products are handmade from natural materials. Horn is a very resilient material, but should be treated with care. Wash with warm water and a little soap immediately after use, but take care not to soak or expose to harsh chemicals. Drinking horns and cups can be used with alcohol and soft drinks, but avoid leaving carbonated or high acidity fruit juices for extended periods of time. Do not use with hot drinks

*Current price £15-30 per horn
£20-30 per stand*

Overly large sharing horns or customised horns with the addition of cast metal horn 'ends' are also available upon request.

Coins of Britain Through the Ages
Historical Coins Found in Britain from the
Viking Era to the Late Crusades



Historical Coins

Coins provide a fascinating insight into the lives of people who lived in vastly different worlds to our own. The study of coins can give us a glance at many different aspects of day to day life; from changing cultural pressures, to the political situation of the time and what societies deemed of value.

These eye-catching sets contain a selection reproduction historical coins, each hand-stamped in pewter in the traditional manner. These coins take you through some of the significant changes in British cultural history; from the 8th Century and the beginning of the Viking invasions, through the conquest of William I, to the rise of the Angevin Empire and finishing in 14th Century Britain.

Each set is presented with an 8-12 page booklet detailing the history of each of these coins and their significance within the cultural history of our Island. Printed on high quality parchment paper, these booklets lead you through the story of changing cultural and political pressures.

Also included in the set is a handmade money pouch for your coins, made from linen with a braided woollen tie, so as to keep them together in style.

This set is perfect for the budding historian, living history enthusiast or as the perfect gift for the hard to buy for.

Current price £20-30 each



Beeswax Candles

Candles are an iconic historical means of lighting ones way in the dark, though largely these candles were seen as expensive and very time intensive to make.

Waiting for daylight was always easier. Most candles would have been made from tallow or animal fat, however these did not last as long or burn as cleanly.

Therefore beeswax was used for clean burning lighting only for important occasions or by the rich or influential. Consequently they are particularly known from monastic institutions. While beeswax may not be the most historically accurate material for most occasions, as they burn cleanly and brightly they are far more suitable than tallow.

These candles are handmade using the dipping method from pure beeswax. Wicks are repeatedly dipped into the melted wax to slowly build up layers to the desired size and thickness. These candles burn brightly and cleanly for around six hours and add a fantastic ambience to whatever event or display you are creating.

These candles are for outside use or within well ventilated areas. As with all candles, these should not be used in poorly ventilated areas or should be extinguished if build up of soot is located. Lit candles should be well clear of any combustible materials and should be attended at all times.

Current prices starting at £4 per candle with multiple purchases reducing subsequent cost.



Wooden Traditional Toys

Toys and Games Have been found universally across all time periods, customs and civilisations, with many children's toys being familiar to those you still find today. While the materials and complexity may have changed, the hours of joy had with them has obviously not changed.

These are a selection of hand cut and carved wooden toys based on animal representations from the Pictish stone carvings found all over Eastern Scotland. Wooden toy animals showing the same types of stylised representations of animals have been found in many of the major population centres of Early Medieval Europe, one of the most famous being the Trondheim horse.

Each toy is made from seasoned Beech wood, lightly stained with olive oil to both darken and preserve the toy. As such the toys are non toxic and are designed as to resist breakage into small pieces. ***Even so, adult supervision is always recommended***

Current designs include the Boar, the Bull, the Dog and the reproduction of the Viking era Trondheim Horse. These toys will run out quickly, but more can be made to order in the same or custom designs if requested.

Current price £8-10 each



Bone Flutes

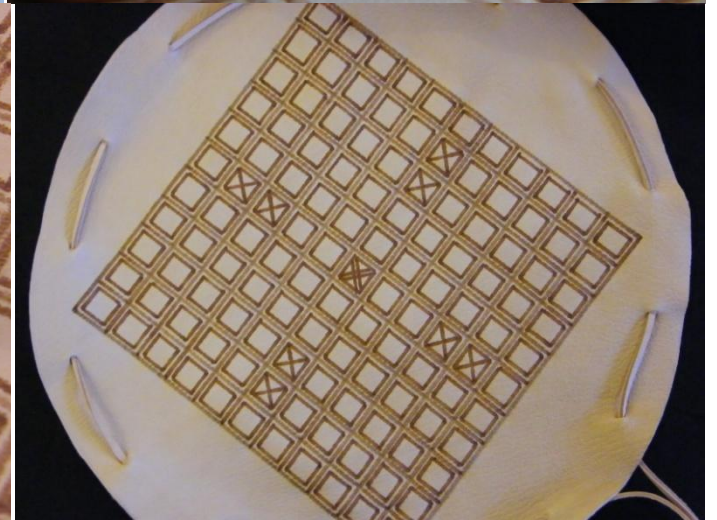
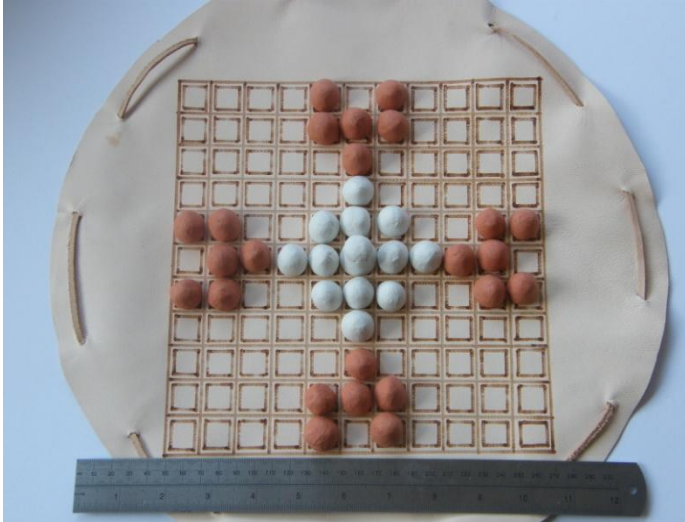
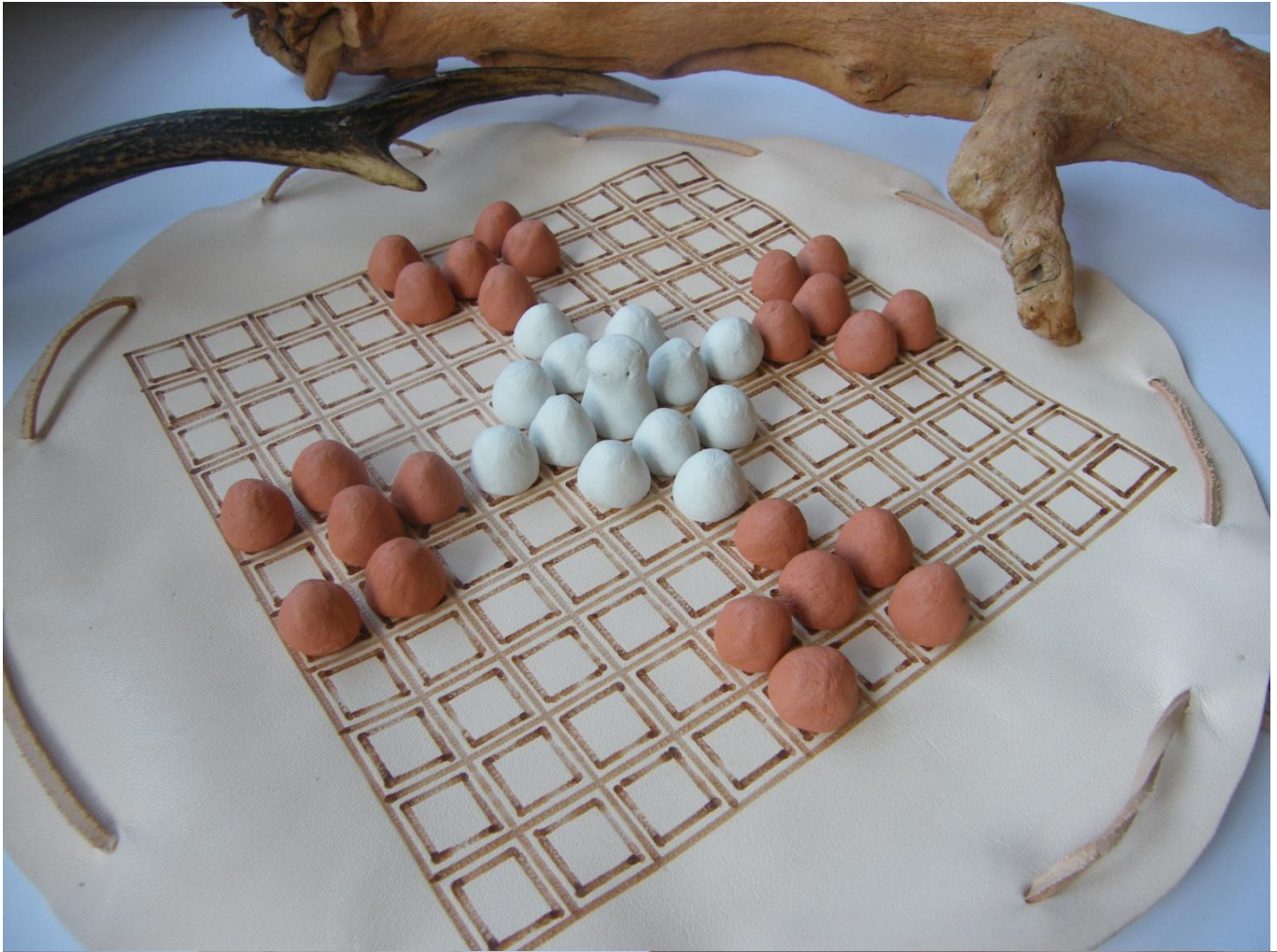
Like today, music meant a huge amount to the peoples of the Dark Ages. Flutes were an easily to learn and easy to carry around musical instrument. Bone flutes have been found all across Europe throughout history, made from a variety of animal bones that have been hunted. The most common animal bones that flutes were made from were sheep and deer tibias. The word 'Tibia' itself, from the original Latin is actually a reference to earlier Greek flute players who played a flute known as a tibia or aulos.

These flutes are based on various archaeological finds from Exeter, Norfolk, Yorkshire and London. They are made from sheep tibia bone and are painstakingly cleaned, bleached and carved to produce a consistent finish and a beautiful sounding instrument.

Each flute consists of three holes and fipple. The fipple consisting of the shaped whistle and the wind way built from beeswax. This gives a total of at least 4 clear notes and a variety of intervals, giving the ability to play a wide variety of beautiful pieces. As with many traditional wood and bone instruments, each flute is unique and tuned to itself. So while many modern notes will be replicated, each flute has its own unique sound.

Each flute comes with an information booklet printed on high quality parchment paper, detailing not only the care of your new instrument but some of the historical significance of bone flutes.

Current price £40 each



Hnefatafl

Hnefatafl is the Scandinavian game of 'King's Table', the strategy game that was the European precursor to modern chess. This is Viking Chess. Found all over Dark age Europe, with local variants becoming part of the cultures they were present in. A Viking leader not only needed to be strong at arms but strong of will and strategy also. A skilled player was a noble trait.

Hnefatafl is a very easy to learn game that can provide a strategically challenging game to players of all ages and experiences. Players compete as opposing armies seeking to either capture the King as the attacker, or to facilitate the King's escape off the battlefield as the defender.

These sets include a full Hnefatafl board, made from premium goat leather for durability and enhanced aesthetics, that doubles as a carrying pouch for the game. The board makings have been painstakingly burnt into the surface of the leather in a way that was often done with thin leathers historically. They also includes a full set of 37 clay pieces based on playing counters found in archaeological digs in mainland Britain.

Included is also a full instruction booklet to teach both beginners and advanced rules. In addition the booklet also contains research about the historical and cultural background of the game, printed on high quality parchment paper.

This set includes;

- 1x Premium Leather Playing Board/Pouch
- 1x 24 Clay Playing Pieces (Attackers)
- 1x 12 Clay Playing Pieces (Defenders)
- 1x Clay King Piece
- 1x Rule and Information Booklet on Parchment Paper

Current price £32 each



Meier

Meier is the traditional European game of 'Liar's Dice'. Dice of all types and materials have been found all over the world and represent some of the oldest games of human civilisation. Of unknown origins, Meier has been played in one form or another since at least the Viking Era, with many Norse Saga stories centred around successful or failed attempts at high stakes dice games.

Meier is a very easy to learn game that can provide a quick but challenging game to players of all ages and experiences. Players compete in a circle to secretly roll the dice in the shaker and score the highest rolls possible. However, with the roll being secret, players can also attempt to bluff their fellow players and call rolls other than what they received. Competing players must decide whether they are telling the truth and have the winning roll, or are trying to bluff their way out of a losing one.

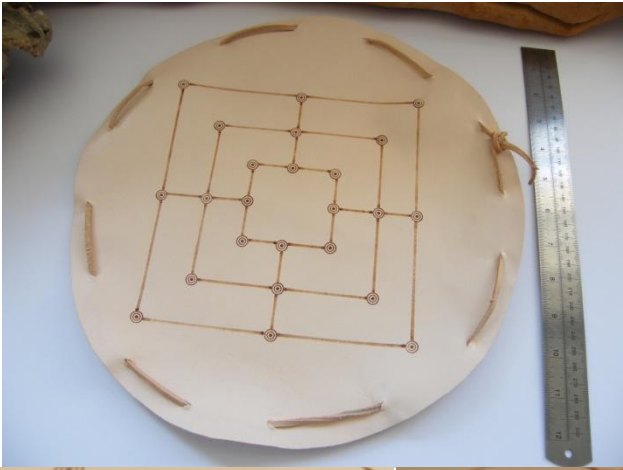
These sets include a handcrafted dice shaker that doubles as the game storage, made from premium leather, and is stitched with durable waxed linen thread. Included are two hand carved dice made from red deer antler or cow bone with standard 1-6 dot configuration.

Included is also a full instruction booklet to teach both beginners and advanced rules. In addition the booklet also contains research about the historical and cultural background of the game, printed on high quality parchment paper.

These sets include;

- 1x Premium Cow Hide Dice Shaker/Storage Container
- 2x Handmade Dice in Red Deer Antler or Cow Bone (variable sizes 8-12mm)
- 1x Rule and Information Booklet on Parchment Paper

Current price £25 each



Merels

Nine Men's Morris is a truly ancient board game that has travelled the world and transplanted itself into cultures on almost every continent. While no-one knows exactly when or where it originated, it has spread largely due to the trade routes of the silk road and the expansion of the Roman Empire.

Nine Men's Morris is a very easy to learn game that can provide a tactically challenging game to players of all ages and experiences. The aim is to create lines of three of your own pieces while preventing your opponent from doing so. Every time a 'mill' is formed, you remove an opponent's piece. Once a player has been reduced to less than three pieces the game is over.

These sets include a full Nine Men's Morris board, made from premium goat leather for durability and enhanced aesthetics, that doubles as a carrying pouch for the game. The board makings have been painstakingly burnt into the surface of the leather in a way that was often done with thin leathers. The set also includes a full set of 18 clay pieces based on playing counters found in archaeological digs in mainland Britain.

These sets can also be made with dyed boards and supplied with bone & horn pieces instead of clay pieces.

Included is also a full instruction booklet to teach both beginners and advanced rules. In addition the booklet also contains research about the historical and cultural background of the game, printed on high quality parchment paper.

These sets include;

1x Premium Goat Hide Playing Board/Pouch

2x 9 Pottery Playing Pieces (each set contains a different authentic design)

1x Rule and Information Booklet on Parchment Paper

Current price £25-35 each



Fox & Geese

This unequal sided game is known from at least the 1300's and consists of players being the many 'geese' or the single 'fox'. The aim is for the geese to trap the fox and prevent it from moving and for the fox to eat all of the geese (or enough as to be impossible to be trapped). Fox & Geese is reportedly mentioned in the Icelandic sagas and likely originated in Scandinavia as yet another tafl variant much earlier. Its 'viking' counterpart is known as Halatafl, meaning 'Tail-Board', likely in reference to the shape of the board or to the foxes tail.

These sets includes a full game board, made from premium goat leather for durability and enhanced aesthetics, that doubles as a carrying pouch for the game. The board makings have been painstakingly burnt into the surface of the leather in a way that was often done with thin leathers historically. The set also includes a full set of clay pieces based on playing counters found in archaeological digs in mainland Britain.

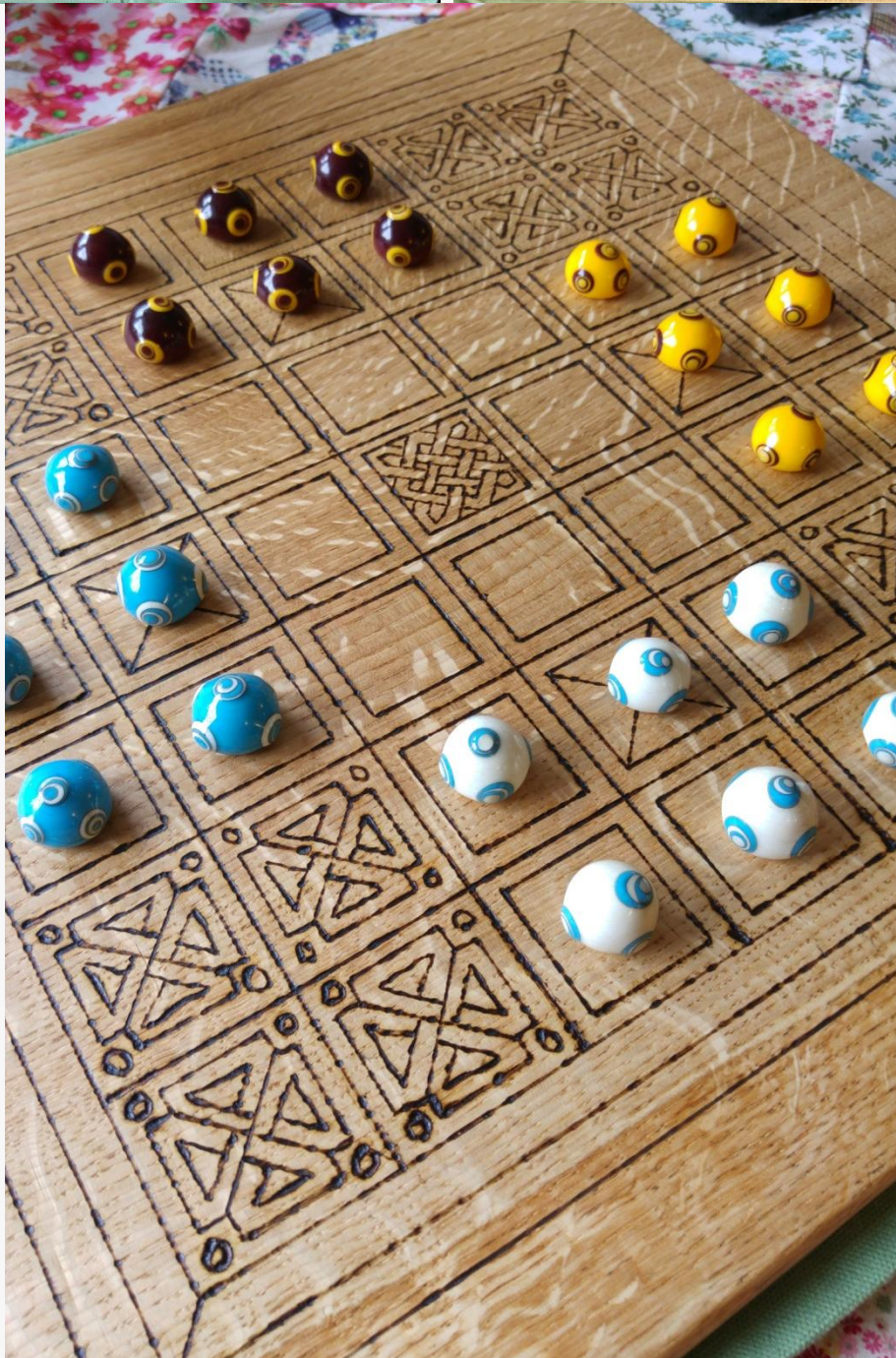
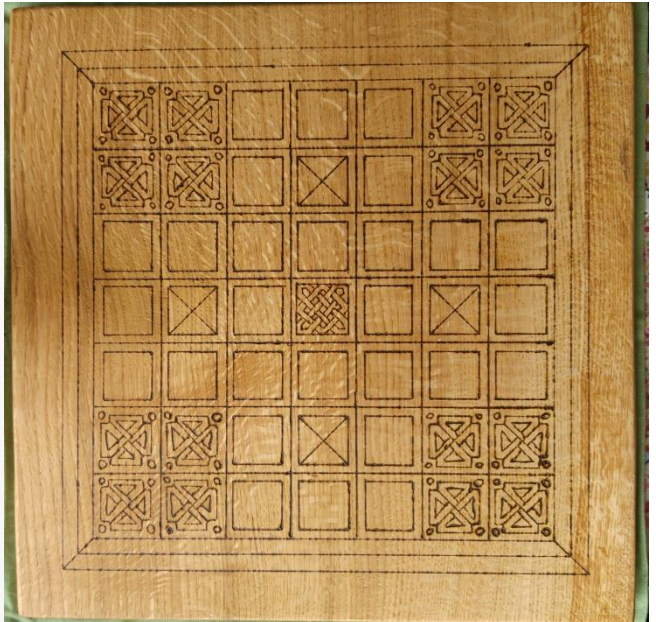
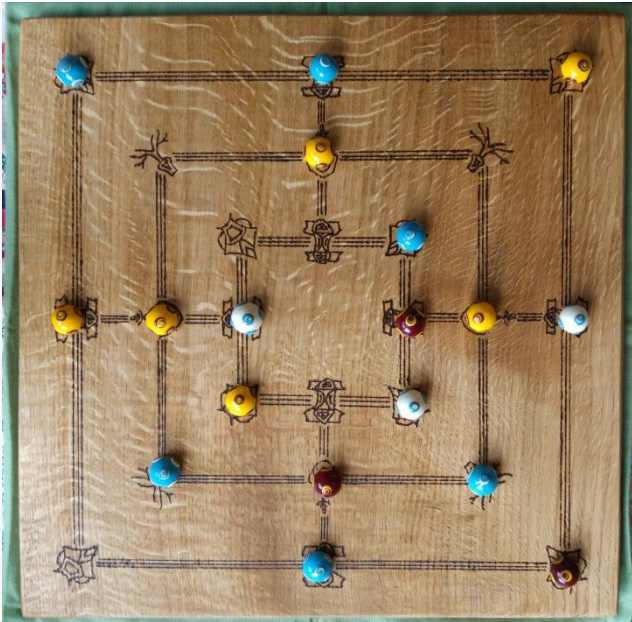
Included is also a full instruction booklet to teach both beginners and advanced rules. In addition the booklet also contains research about the historical and cultural background of the games, printed on high quality parchment paper.

Each set includes;

- 1x Goat leather board with markings for Fox & Geese or Halatafl
- 1x Full set of clay playing pieces for your chosen game
- 1x Instruction and information booklet on your game

Customisation is readily available in the form of coloured/custom pieces, dyed leather boards & customised board designs. Get in touch to find out more.

Current price £30 for both Fox & Geese and Halatafl



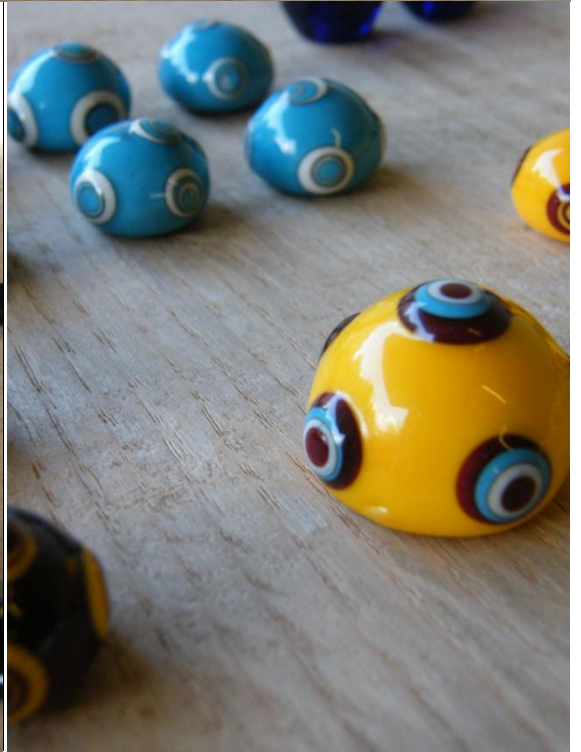
Deluxe Game Sets

'Tafel' is a general term for many different board or 'table' games of Northern European and particularly Scandinavian origin. These include Hnefatafl (Kings-table), Tablut (Hnefatafl variant) and Halatafl (Tail-board). Both 'viking' and Saxon cultures considered the strategic skill of table games to be an important aspect of their culture. As such many of these boards that have been recovered have been highly decorative and the pieces made with great skill in valuable materials.

These deluxe sets are designed to replicate both the decorative and practical nature of these archaeological finds. Highly decorative carved and burnt wooden boards in Oak, Ash and Lime; skilfully made glass, bone and horn pieces. These sets are fully customisable to represent personalised designs or to emulate particular ethnic artistic styles of the early medieval. Reproductions of specific archaeological finds can also be undertaken. The set pictured was made with multiple different playable game surfaces in a style emulating that of actual finds alongside pieces that are direct reproductions.

Many different types of wood base and styles of pieces are available.

Prices start from £80



Deluxe Gaming Pieces

We are lucky enough to have a varied selection of glass playing pieces and beads hand crafted for us at Present Past. These pieces are made using a process known as lampwork and are spun on a mandrel. Traditionally, small fragments of previously made coloured glass would be heated over a concentrated heat source from a small forge. As these pieces melt they are spun onto a rod, the mandrel, and manipulated to form intricately decorative forms.

Modern lampworking uses a gas torch to do the heating, however this is essentially the only modernisation.

These playing pieces are all direct reproductions of historical finds across Britain, Sweden, Denmark and Russia; from the iron age through to the 1100s. The pieces we have currently have are full sets for Hnefatafl, Tablut, Halatafl and Ludus latrunculorum among others. Combined with one of our deluxe wooden gaming boards, these glass sets are truly spectacular, but can also be supplied separately upon occasion.

Prices start from £45 for a full set

Beaded Jewellery

The Viking people had a fascination with intricately made beads and tokens of all sorts, often taking them in raids and using them to show off their wealth. While primarily thought to be a women's garment, glass beads have been found in both men's and women's graves and were likely to have been used as a makeshift currency to barter with. Treasure necklaces are beautiful archaeological finds, made up of a variety of gemstones, glass beads, decorative metalwork and amulets. They have been found all over the Viking world. From Russia and Scandinavia to Britain. A bit like a modern day charm bracelet the necklace would hold lots of different objects. Treasure necklaces have been found containing many small amulets or pendants.

We are lucky enough to have a varied selection of glass playing pieces and beads hand crafted for us at Present Past. These pieces are made using a process known as lampwork and are spun on a mandrel. Traditionally, small fragments of previously made coloured glass would be heated over a concentrated heat source from a small forge. As these pieces melt they are spun onto a rod, the mandrel, and manipulated to form intricately decorative forms. Modern lampworking uses a gas torch to do the heating, however this is essentially the only modernisation.

We currently have a large selection of handmade glass beads. These are all direct reproductions of historical finds across Britain, Sweden, Denmark and Russia; from the iron age through to the 1100s.

Whether you are purchasing for yourself or as a gift, you will know that you are not the proud owner of your very own piece of history. Just get in touch to find out more.

Pictures Pending



Wire Weave Jewellery

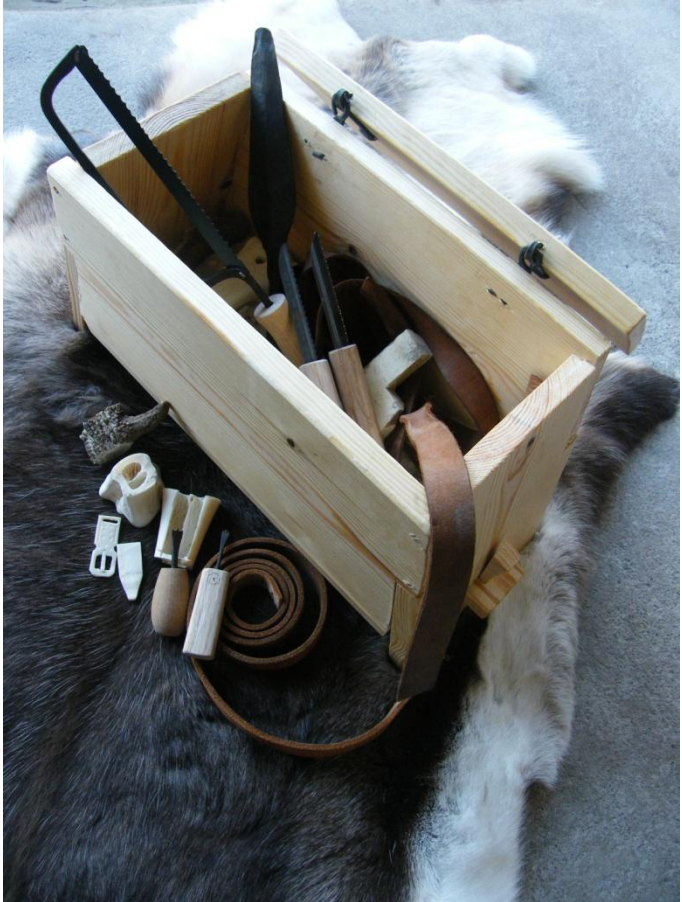
Viking wire weave, also known as wire braiding or Trichinopoly chain, is a technique for 'cold' working of metal wire to form a continuous metal knit. The technique is most prominently known from precious hoard finds from around Europe.

A variety of necklaces, torcs, bracelets, rings and even clothing has been found to have been made from or decorated with this technique of jewellery making. Silver was the prominent metal that was most often used, but examples have been found in a variety of metals including Gold, Bronze and other copper alloys.

The examples shown have been made in a variety of metals including Copper, Bronze and Sterling Silver.

These pieces are great for anyone looking for a unique gift, especially for someone interested in history or cultural heritage. They also include a detailed information guide that contains meticulously researched facts regarding the historical and cultural heritage of wire weave in the Viking age. So that way you know how unique your item is.

Current price £32-60 each



Mastermyr Chests

The Mastermyr chest was a tremendously important find when it was first discovered. Uncovered by a farmer in Sweden in 1936, it was not only very well preserved but also contained a hoard of blacksmithing and woodworking tools. Chests of this type have also been found at the Oseberg ship burial in a variety of sizes and variations. It is unknown whether these are simply items of furniture, or whether they are more akin to proper sea chests and travellers trunks. Either way there are an incredibly useful and decorative item, either at home, storing your tools in the garage or on the living history display.

These chests are a simplified smaller version of the original archaeological finds and made in solid pine rather than oak in the original Mastermyr chest. At the base of the chest they measure L50cm, W20cm, H28cm. Every panel is hand cut and shaped and held in place with dowels and wedges as in the original. For modern added security, the seams are also glued together to preserve the box for longer. The metal hinges are forge made and hammered by hand, reproducing the finds from Mastermyr. A natural semi-felted sheep fleece liner has also been added to the base of the box both to enhance the aesthetic of the chest and to protect your stored items from damage (and from damaging the base).

The entire chest has been painstakingly sanded and every exposed corner carefully rounded to improve the appeal and utility of the chest. A generous application of linseed oil has also been applied to aid in preserving the chest and in bringing out the quality of the wood.

The item also includes a high quality information booklet, detailing some of the history of the original find at Mastermyr and its importance to modern interpretation of Viking era crafts.

Current price £60+ each dependant on size and style required

Furniture

No historical setting is complete without somewhere to sit, put your feet up and display your finery. Furniture can really complete your display and adds both realism and practicality to any environment. Hand crafted from sustainable British hardwoods, we can create varied small items of furniture. Anything from storage chest, to stools and tables. All are made to be simple, hard wearing and long lasting. Your choice of wood from Oak, Ash, Lime and Beech amongst others.

Simply get in touch to find out more about what we can offer you. Also see 'Mastermayer Chests' above for more info.

Pictures Pending



Drop Spindles

Drop spindles have been used for thousands of years to transform various plant and animal fibres into a usable thread for weaving. Bottom weight drop spindles have been around since 7000BC.

These starter kits contain everything you need to learn how to spin your own thread and learn a traditional craft. The included booklet contains detailed and easy to use instructions to get you started, as well as guiding you through the history of this fun ancient craft through meticulously researched information.

The wool in this kit can either be a mixture of traditional sheep wool or Merino wool dyed in a variety of colours to suit your preference. They have been specifically chosen for their beautifully soft texture and ease in hand spinning.

These kits contain;

1x Handcrafted Ash Wood Bottom-Weight Drop Spindle

1x High Quality Instruction and Information Booklet on Parchment Paper

4x 25g Skeins of Premium Wool Tops in assorted colours and breeds (including Icelandic, Norwegian, Finnish, Jacob and Gotland wool)

Or;

4x 25g Skeins of Premium Dyed Merino Wool Tops in assorted colours

If you have a particular preference for certain colours of wool then feel free to contact us and let us know when you place your order.

Current price £20-25 each



Lucet Forks

Cord and braid has been made around the world for thousands of years. It is the simplest form of textile weaving and can be used for a huge variety of purposes, from simple string or rope to decorative braids for jewellery or decoration.

Lucets (or Lucettes) are simple tools to enable quick and easy braid making. The earliest Lucet forks have been found in Britain from the 11th century and would have been made from a variety of materials such as metal, wood and bone.

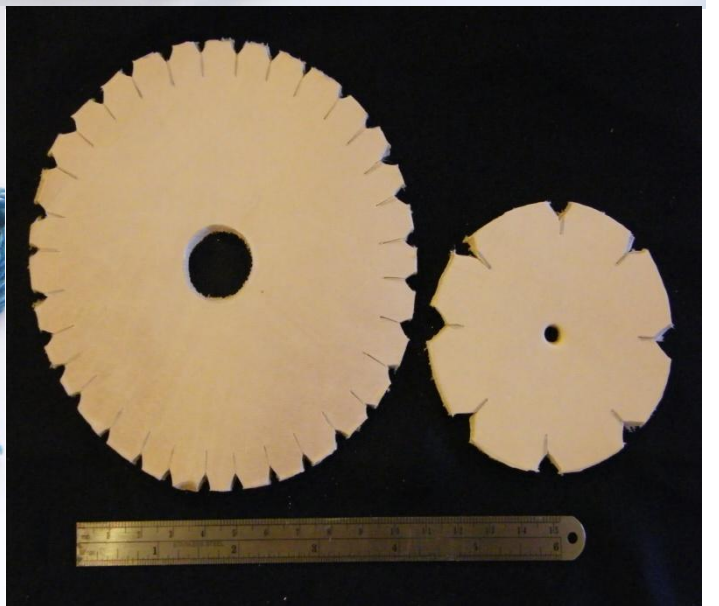
These kits contain everything you need to make your own Lucet braid and learn a traditional craft. The lucets themselves are made from Oak wood and fit nicely in the palm of the hand. The yarn is premium dyed Shetland wool in a variety of natural colours.

Each kit also comes with a meticulously researched information and instruction booklet printed on parchment paper. Not only does it have easy to use instructions, but also contains information on the history of lucet braid and archaeological evidence.

Each kit contains;

1x Premium 7.5" Oak Lucet Fork
1x High Quality Information and Instruction Booklet
5x 10m Premium Dyed Shetland Wool in Assorted Colours

Current price £15 each



Trollen Wheels

Trollen weaving is a brilliantly easy to learn traditional craft that produces beautifully decorative braids and cords. Trollen weaving has existed in Europe since at least the 17th century and is likely to have existed for centuries beforehand. Trollen weaving developed from finger braiding as a way to make the process easier. Trollen weaving is known as 'Kumihimo' in Japan and has been used from the 8th century through to the modern day to make incredibly decorative weaves.

These kits contain everything you need to learn how to make your own Trollen Braids.

They contain one eight slot trollen wheel for you to learn how to weave and make multi-coloured & patterned cords with the included 50m of premium dyed Shetland wool yarn. The kit comes with a meticulously researched booklet summarising the history of Trollen braiding and easy to follow instructions to get you started with your cord. Lastly, the kit also contains a large 32 slot trollen wheel for you to develop your skills and master many of the far more complex and decorative braids that you can find anywhere on the internet.

These kits contains;

1x 8 slot Trollen Wheel in High Quality Leather

1 x 32 slot Trollen Wheel in High Quality Leather

5x 10m of Premium Dyed Shetland Wool Yarn in Assorted Colours

1x High Quality Instruction & Information Booklet on Premium Parchment Paper

Current price £15 each



Treasure Necklace Craft Kit

Treasure necklaces are beautiful archaeological finds, made up of a variety of gemstones, glass beads, decorative metalwork and amulets. They have been found all over the Viking world. From Russia and Scandinavia to Britain.

A bit like a modern day charm bracelet the necklace would hold lots of different objects. Treasure necklaces have been found containing many small amulets or pendants.

These kits contains everything you need to start your very own Viking Treasure Necklace. With it you can add your own treasures and create your own unique piece of history.

They contain a selection of handmade glass and ceramic beads sourced to reproduce the beads found in archaeological finds. Each kit also comes with premium dyed Shetland wool to make your cord and a meticulously researched information and instruction booklet. The booklet contains easy to use instructions on how to make your necklace, as well as information on the history of your necklace.

Kit Contents;

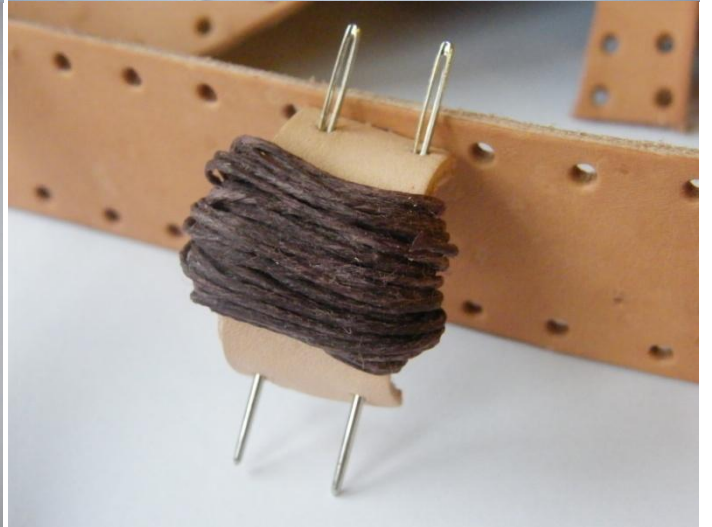
1x 3" Leather Trolen Wheel or Wood Lucet Fork

1x High Quality Instruction and Information Booklet on Parchment Paper

2x 10m Premium dyed Shetland wool in assorted colours

5x Assorted Glass and Ceramic Beads, Selected to Reproduce Archaeological Finds

Current price £15 each



Leather Pouch Kit

Leatherworking has been an essential part of society for cultures in Britain and around the world. With everything from shoes and clothing, to toys and games being made from leather at one point in history or another. Leatherworking is an often overlooked craft today, despite its being a very fulfilling and easy craft to learn.

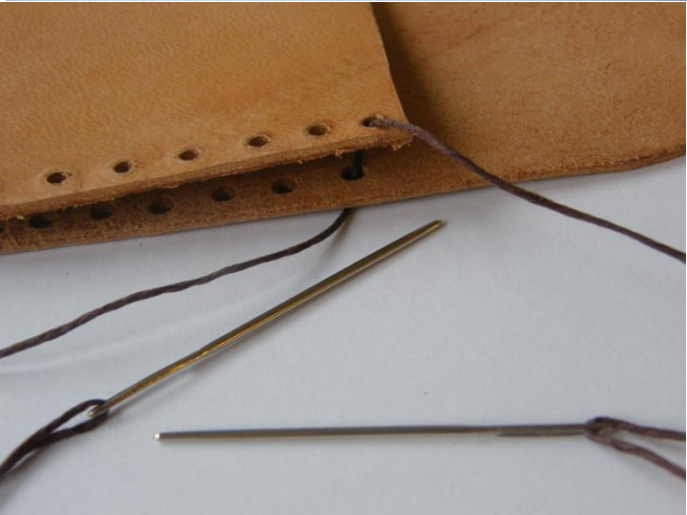
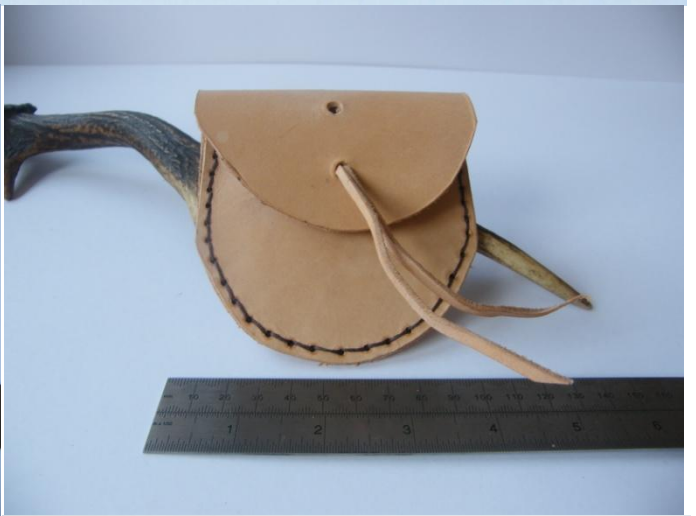
These kits contain everything you need to learn how to make your own Leather Box Pouch or money pouch. They are perfect for both adults looking to have a go at a new craft and for a unique children's craft activity. These kits are suitable for children of around eight years plus, but should be carried out with supervision as with all new crafts.

They contain multiple pre-holed leather pouch sections that need to be sewn together. The kit also contains a length of durable waxed linen thread and two large eyed, blunted metal sewing needles.

They also comes with a full booklet detailing, in easy to understand instructions, how to make your pouch. It not only covers how to put the pouch together, but gives instructions in basic leatherworking stitches for future projects.

*****Please Note, This Item Should Not Be Given To Children Without Parental Instruction and Supervision*****

Current price £15 & £20 each





Deer Pelts

Genuine Roe Deer pelts from Polish herds with a gorgeous feel to the fur. Professionally cleaned and tanned, this is a perfect item for use as a throw or for crafting purposes.

These pelts are fantastic for adding warmth and depth to chairs or beds and as decorative trim on clothing.

Each of these pelts is derived from Polish Roe Deer that have been involved in accidental traffic collisions and have been collected for use of their fur. This results in high quality hides, that have been cleaned and tanned to a high standard without the deer having been hunted. As such, these hides may have small repaired holes in the hide but are not visible from the fur side and do not in any way diminish the use of these quality pelts.

The pelts measure are between 25"-30" in length and 4-5 square feet in total area.

Current price £40 each



Boar skin Pelts

A genuine Boar skin from Polish sounders (collective term) with a gorgeous feel to the fur. Professionally cleaned and tanned, this is a perfect item for use as a throw or for crafting purposes.

These pelts are fantastic for adding warmth and depth to floors or walls and as decorative trim on clothing.

Each of these pelts is derived from Central European Boars that have been involved in accidental traffic collisions and have been collected for use of their fur. This results in high quality hides, that have been cleaned and tanned to a high standard without the Boar having been hunted. As such, these hides may have small repaired holes in the hide but are not visible from the fur side and do not in any way diminish the use of these quality pelts.

The main body of the pelts measure between 40"-43" (100-110cm) in length and 6-7 square feet in total area.

Current price £70 each



Historical Belts

Inspired by the archaeological finds of Viking Europe, these belts replicate the aesthetic of belts from this time period in order to recreate a truly eye catching and practical piece of clothing. These belts are cut from high quality veg tan leather, before being intricately hand tooled and dyed; before the final addition of buckles and strap ends.

The decorations can be designed to replicate a wide variety of styles depending on aesthetic preference including: forming a repeated dotted leaf motif, reproducing the designs found on a leather strap found in excavations in York; leaf and vine motif, emulating the designs found on the embroidery in the Mammen grave finds in Denmark; ring and dot motif, a common decoration found right the way across the Viking and Saxon World.

The buckles and strap ends are inspired by the unique artistry of Viking belt finds across Europe as well as many being specific reproductions. The addition of dyes and stains can then change the overall impression and status of the belt from low to high status. Creating an item well and truly centred in the Viking era and a perfect addition to whatever outfit you may be wearing.

These belts can be made to fit a wide variety of waist sizes. They can be worn as a traditional belt right the way up to the largest circumference or can be worn by smaller waist sizes by tying the dangling belt end in the Hollywood medieval belt knot style.

Current price £30-40 each

Organic Belt Fittings

Metal was not the only material used to make fittings for belts. In fact for much of human history metal was considered to be too much of a luxury and something to be reserved for the important items of everyday life. Metal requires specialist skills to find ores, smelt them and then work the material into something useful. Because of this, easily found and worked organic materials were often more commonplace. Bone and horn would have been the easiest to find but antler and whalebone would also have been used for more prestigious items. While some of these items would have been considered poor, many could be intricately decorated and just as highly valued as precious metal pieces.

Present Past can offer a range of belt ends and buckles made from cow bone. All decorated in styles fitting for any 'viking' or Saxon. These can be sold separately or premade attached to a leather belt. Fittings can be highly customised with your own designs or be made to replicate a particular historical find. For more info also see 'Historical Belts' above.

Prices start from £60 for a buckle and strap end set

*****Pictures Pending*****

Clothing

Currently specialising in Early Medieval British/Northern European clothing, Present Past offers a wide range of made to order period costuming. 'Viking', Saxon and Norman clothing are the main stems of the kit we create. Tunics, trousers, undershirts, dresses, hangerocs, hats, kirtles, wimples, hosen to name but a few of the selection of items we can produce.

From a wide range of available modern natural fabrics, we select materials and weaves that as closely reflect those that would have been used in the past as possible, without breaking the bank for our customers. Pure wools and linens in twills and weaves that replicate those found in the often scant archaeological evidence. The same goes for the patterns we use to create these garments. A lot of time and effort goes in to researching historically accurate clothing styles, often using patterns that are direct reproductions of what we currently understand about early medieval clothing. We can we tailor your kit to reflect a wealthy trader or a poorer farmer, all through purposeful choice of colour, material, weave and pattern. We can also advise on what sort of accessories (belt fittings/jewellery) may best reflect the background of the kit you are trying to create.

Perfect for living history, reenactment and LARP, our period clothing takes the wearer back in time. These items can be entirely hand sewn using stitching techniques known from historical studies, or machine sewn and hand finished to hide the machining element. Just get in touch to discuss what you are looking to have made for you and we can fill in the details as to options and pricing.

Pictures Pending

Bags & Satchels

Various fabric and leather bags are known from throughout early medieval history. The simplest are basic fabric satchels or wicker baskets, with many highly decorative leather covers also known from the historical record. The most intricate were found as covers or satchels for precious books. However for more modern uses, a bag for all of your personal effects is always infinitely useful. Whether used for hiding away modern items at a living history event, storing useful bits and pieces or simply as a hold-all for everyday use, these bags are perfect for adding an historical twist to your person.

These satchels can be made to a standardised form or be made more personalised. Both leather and linen satchels are available with decoration of the leather being an option. Simply get in touch for details.

Pictures Pending



Shields

The most iconic and useful tool in the 'Dark Age' warriors arsenal; something no self-respecting (or indeed sensible) Viking would be without. Used as both defensive shield and offensive weapon in its own right, the round shield is a must have for all prospective re-enactors, LARPerS and living history enthusiasts.

These are designed and made to be practical items, at home both in demonstrations and full scale battle re-enactments. As such the main body of the shield is made from exterior grade plywood (either 9mm or 12mm thickness), a common material used in many re-enactment and LARP societies, for structural integrity. The shield is then faced front and back with a sturdy canvas to further improve the longevity of the shield against splinters and impacts before the addition of a sewn on rawhide rim (carefully cut and sewn by hand to minimize raised edges; sewn with artificial sinew for strength).

The shield boss is attached to the shield board and handle through the use of steel or copper rivets; ensuring a smooth finish, free of burrs. The handle is made from shaped wood - generally ash - shaped to fit the hand within the boss. The addition of a thick leather strap, firmly attached with rivets and wide washers to the board allows easy carrying of the shield on ones back to and from events.

Finally, shields can be painted in many different fashions, from simple block colours to simple personalised designs such as those demonstrated in the above pictures. A thick coat of toughened clear matt varnish is then applied to the entire shield and the rim to protect from the weather and prevent excessive scarring and tearing of the shield with heavy use.

This item is made to order with a turnaround - generally including delivery time - of 4 to 8 weeks. Once you purchase the item, we will be in contact to discuss the options available to you such as paintwork and style of handle etc. If you require specific variations for your shield it is strongly advised that you contact us prior to purchase in order to discuss more complete options of customisation.

Enhanced options such as complex painted designs, hand hammered or non standard shield bosses and unusual or child sized shields will also be undertaken on a commission basis.

***All of our shields are unique handmade items, made to the highest standard we can achieve. Many of our shields have been successfully used for many years of active use with minimal maintenance. However if the shields are to be used for combat use we simply cannot guarantee a fixed lifespan of the shield and cannot be held responsible for breakage due to excessive use. Unless obviously flawed due to construction or delivery, replacements will only be considered on an individual basis. If you are concerned please contact us

first***

Current price £100+ each

Spearheads & Axeheads

Blacksmiths in the early medieval would often be tasked with the making of axeheads as tools and in the manufacture of spearheads and war-axes during times of conflict. As they require little in the way of specialist training to make, the community blacksmith would craft these items for their local warriors or lord.

Our spearheads and axeheads are hand forged by a specialist blacksmith to designs made just for Present Past. These are blunted, 'battle-ready' items for use in reenactment and living history events. The axeheads all have a minimum of 3mm blunted and rounded edge to the blade and our spearheads all have a rounded ball-end of minimum 10mm diameter. Depending on the size of weapon piece, these are made of mild steel or EN45 carbon-steel.

These pieces are sold as the heads only, however the axeheads can be supplied hafted to a suitably sized and shaped piece of ash. These items will be available to purchase soon.

Pictures Pending

Saeaxes & Knives

Another commonly found item in the archaeological record are small and medium sized knives and blades. These items are thought to have been used for myriad purposes. Many would have been simple craft or working knives, others as food and eating knives and yet still others would have been larger tools or status symbols. Across Britain and wider Europe knives have been found with incredibly simple blades and wooden handles to the most beautifully decorated bone handles, with decorated leather sheaths. Even the blades themselves could have been decorated, with highly skilled blacksmiths incorporating pattern welding techniques to fold the steel into patterns during its creation. The largest of these knives were the saeaxes most commonly associated with Saxon culture- Saxon meaning the 'people of the knife' - with these often highly decorated blades and sheaths acting as a cultural status symbol of wealth and status.

At Present Past we have a small range of blades waiting to be hilted in wood, bone and antler, with carved decoration incorporated to create a beautiful piece inspired by history. Skilfully made pattern welded blades are also available. We also have a selection of sharp and blunted saeax blades for use in reenactment and living history. These can all be hilted to the customers' requirements and can have intricate decorated leather sheaths made for them with optional metal fittings. Just get in touch for details of what we have available.

Pictures Pending



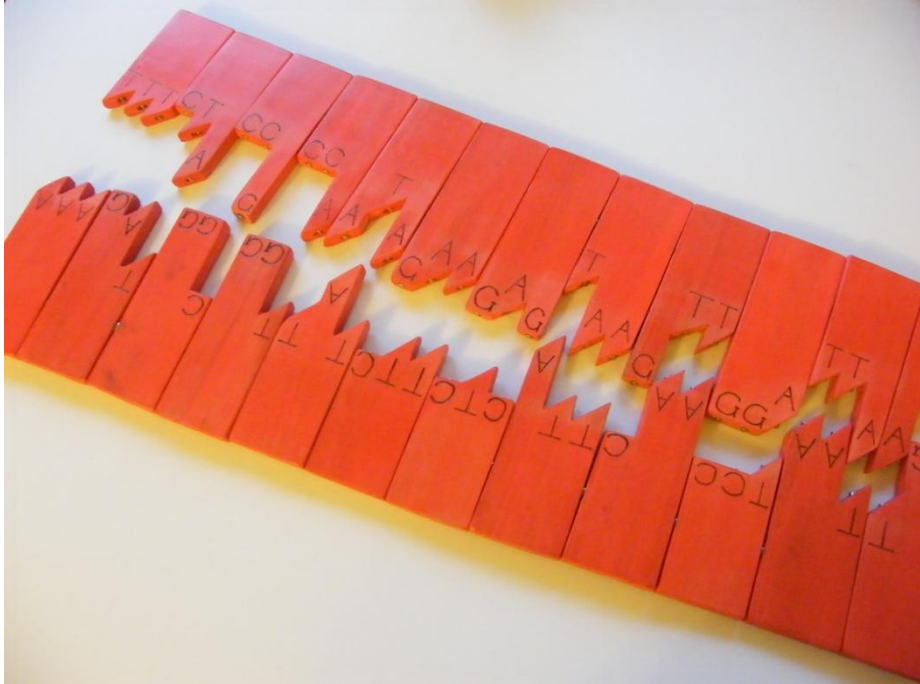
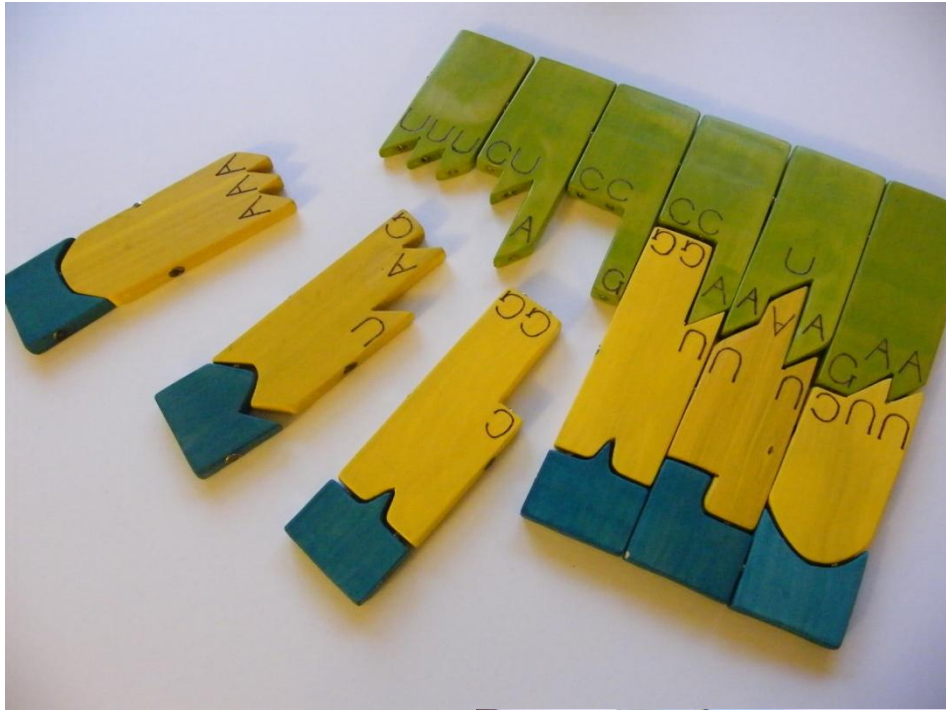
Living History Services

"Living history is an activity that incorporates historical tools, activities and dress into an interactive presentation that seeks to give observers and participants a sense of stepping back in time." - Wikipedia, living history

Present Past offers a range of educational and demonstrational events all for the purpose of bringing history to life. We can offer a variety of short craft demonstrations or full day drop-in sessions for the general public. Our living history can be tailored to suit most age groups and can incorporate formal talks, storytelling, interactive displays and games. Our experience covers small and large groups from primary school age to adult sessions. If you are running an event we can focus on specific aspects to suit your school class or historical site.

Our living history services can act as a great community display for adults and children to drop in and out while seeing crafts being undertaken, ask questions and give things a go for themselves. This is the same for school and educational events, where students/guests can get hands on with traditional crafts and see what peoples of the past would have looked like. We can bring myriad replica artefacts for everyone to see and handle; bone flutes, tools, jewellery, household goods, clothing, swords, spears and armour.

Present Past's living history is fun and informal, we do it because we enjoy it. To find out more about what we can do for you just get in touch via our website or email us directly. To learn a little more about the background of *Present Past*, visit our website and see 'Who we are'.



Misc. Craft Services

While Present Past is primarily focussed on historical reproductions and inspirations from Britain's archaeological record, we can also supply other craft services as well. Alongside historical displays we have previously made a selection of science communication props for use with outreach programmes and festivals.

The props below were made to tangibly demonstrate protein synthesis. The jigsaw like pieces physically and magnetically fit together to make the double stranded DNA helix with RNA molecules to transcribe and translate the DNA to slowly build up the proteins amino acid sequence.

If you have a similar project or something else you need made then just get in touch to see if we can help.