

Tudor Loan Box

This box contains a mixture of genuine and replica objects as well as some examples of Tudor medicine. All of the objects can be handled over a soft surface, the hats can be tried on and the medicine examples must remain sealed.

Contents

Onion bottle

These wine bottles were once a common sight in Inns and Taverns or on the dining table of wealthy people. This example was found on a shipwreck in the North Sea



Marbles

Games played with marbles were popular in the 16th Century and were like those of today. These terracotta marbles would have had a shiny glazed surface.



Clay Pipe

After Sir Walter Raleigh brought tobacco from America, smoking became fashionable. Pipes were sold already filled with tobacco, used once and then thrown away. Many people were disgusted by smoking; it was described as “A custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain and dangerous to the lungs.”



Elizabeth I silver penny

This coin has a portrait of the Queen on one side and the arms of Britain on the other. 6 pennies could buy a pair of children’s shoes and 2 pennies a pair of gloves.





Woolpack seal

English wool was known for its quality throughout Europe and was an important export. The lead seal certified that the woolpack contained the correct amount and also identified the packer.



Pewter spoon

Pewter is an alloy of lead and tin. It was used for making plates, cups, spoons and other utensils bought by wealthier people.



Shoe buckle

During the reign of Henry VIII, shoes fastened with a buckle at the side and a strap around the heel were a popular style.

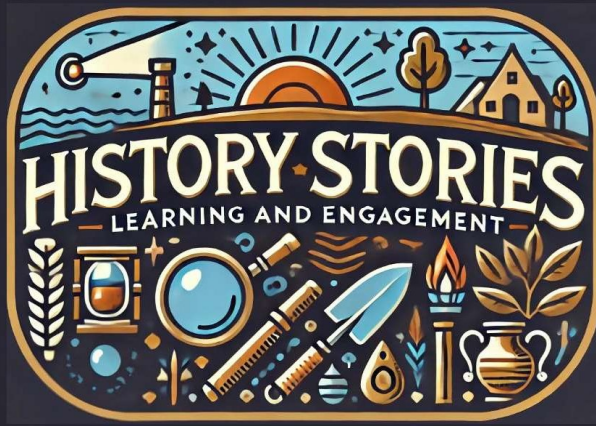
Casket key

Valued possessions such as jewellery might be kept in a locked box

Garment hook

This had the same function as a button. It would be sewn to one part of a garment and hooked onto another.





Crossbow bolt

The crossbow was a powerful and accurate weapon. The steel bolt could easily pierce a knight's armour



Arrowhead

The English archers were famous for their skill with the longbow. All able-bodied men between the ages of 14 and 65 were required by law to practice archery on Sundays in case of war.



Replica Wine bottle – 1662

Drinking wine in Tudor England was often safer than drinking water but wine was still considered a luxury drink in 16th-century England, affordable only to the nobility, gentry, wealthy merchants, and high-ranking clergy. The majority of people continued to drink ale or beer as their daily beverage.



Replica Posset pot – 1653

This pot was designed for posset, a nourishing semi-liquid food of sweetened milk, cream and egg, curdled with ale or wine and flavoured with spice. The liquid is sucked from the spout and the remaining solids can be scooped out with a spoon.



Replica Tudor split brim statute cap

Knitted caps were worn by men in business and working communities in Tudor times. They were designed to be warm and waterproof. A range of styles and qualities were available to suit the taste and pocket of the customer.

There were as many as 15-20 successive stages involved in making one cap and they are products of highly-skilled, professional workers. Bright colours such as blue or red were common, as were black and dark brown.





Replica Pilgrim hat 14th – 15th century

These hats were worn as a practical garment to keep out sun and rain whilst on pilgrimage. They were made of felted wool in various colours and often had some kind of religious adornment. For example, some had one side of the brim pinned up with a pilgrim badge. The badge on this hat is the Ragged Staff devotional badge which probably symbolised sacrifice, protection and resurrection.



Medicine examples

These are some of the treatments Tudors used for a variety of illnesses. There is little to no evidence that any of it worked and some made it worse!

Leeches – cure for almost everything!

Fennel seeds – cure for mistiness of the eye, to drive worms from ears or reduce excess flesh and fat

Sugar, Nutmeg and Ground woodlice (plus urine) – cure for cancer

