



The Pagan Lady

Beads

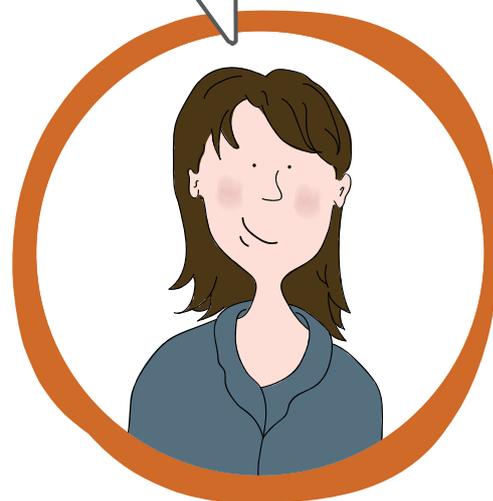
The grave of a wealthy woman round 950 AD was discovered inside Peel Castle Walls on St Patrick's Isle, Peel, and contained 73 glass, jet and amber beads.

71 of the beads were found near the head of her skeleton, which had rested on a pillow. The string that held the necklace together had long since rotted away, scattering the beads.

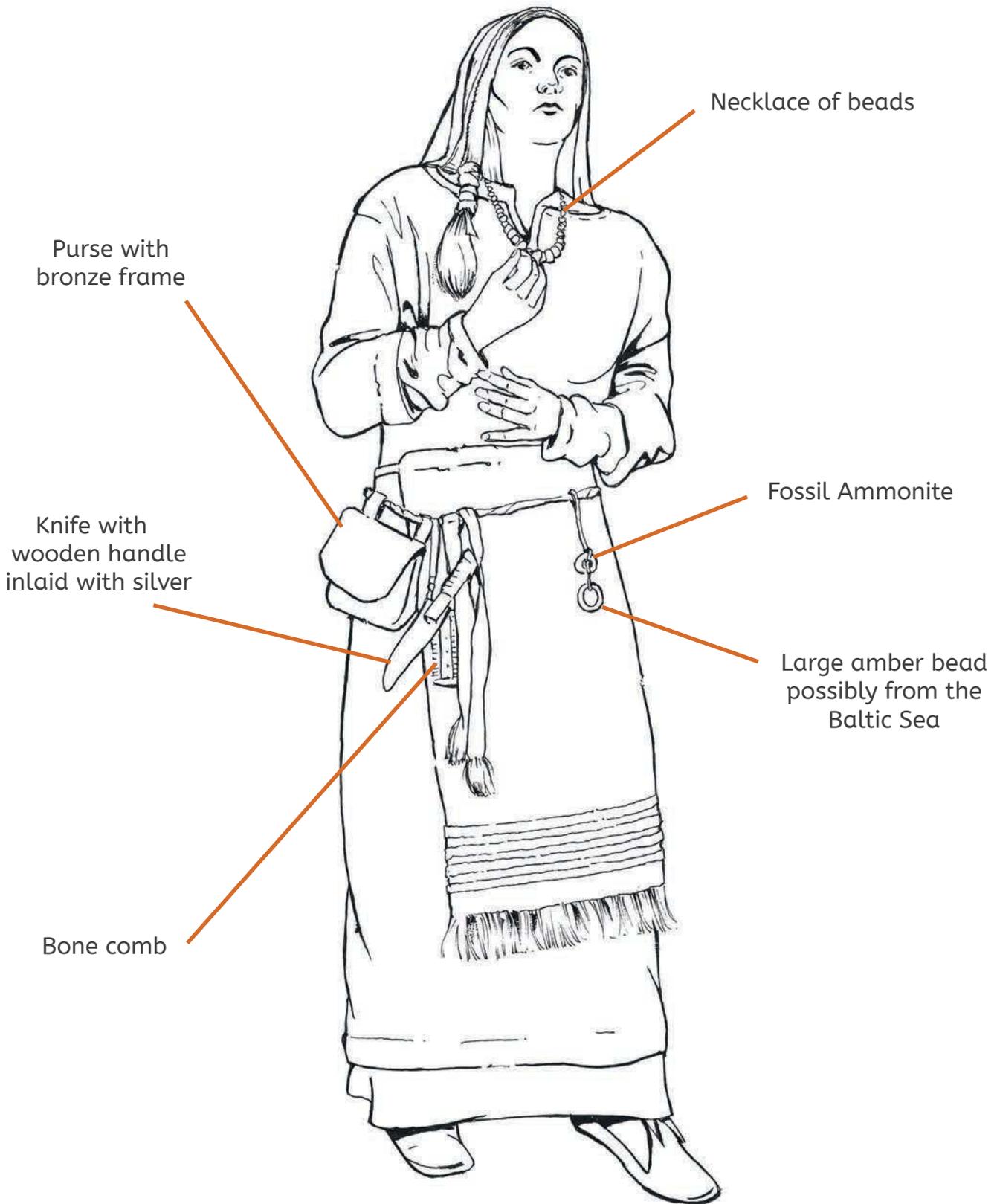
This woman may have had two other pendants: one made from two large amber beads and the other from a fossil ammonite. Amber is not found on the Isle of Man, so she might have been the wife of a wealthy Viking who traded aboard or maybe she earned her own wealth by giving advice to her community.

The Vikings made glass items from recycling old glass or creating new with raw materials: quartz often from riverbed sand, mixed with salt. Beads made of amber; bone, antler, shell and stone are also found.

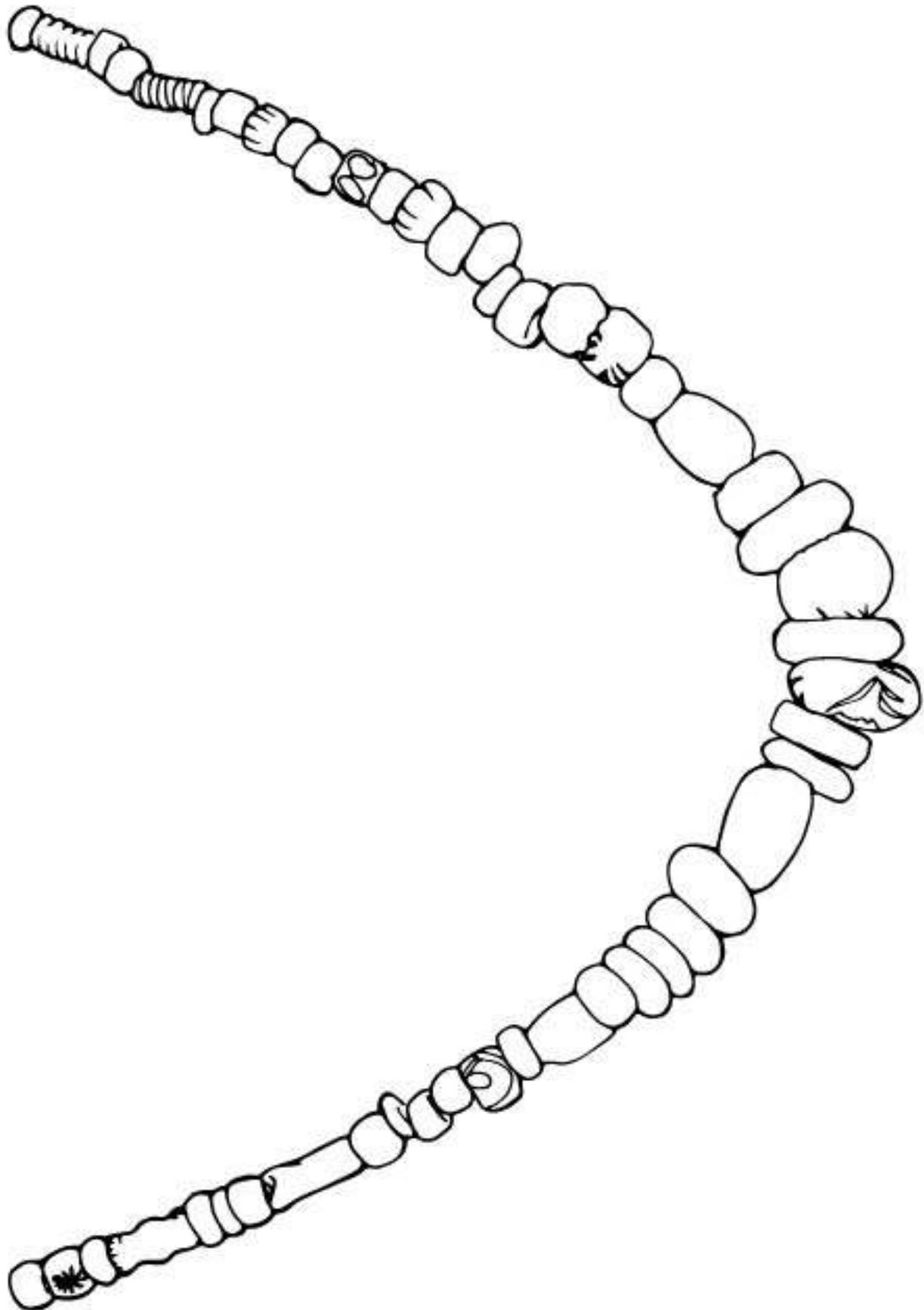
Did you know that the Pagan Lady's necklace and her other treasures are on display at the Manx Museum?



The Pagan Lady



The Pagan Lady's Necklace



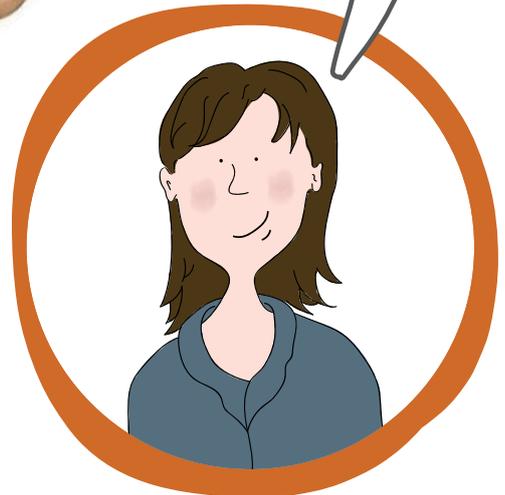
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Leather Bag

Leather was one of the most important natural materials used by the Vikings. The raw animal hides and skins were readily available as a by-product of rearing animals for meat. The raw materials would require processing 'tanning' and resulted in a material that was strong, durable and flexible. Leather could be sewn for clothing and shoe manufacture, reinforced for body protection and a made into a range of other items such as bags and horse bridles.



Did you know the process of tanning leather was quite unpleasant? Soaking animal skins in urine made it easier for leather workers called 'tanners' to remove hair and bits of flesh from the animal skin!



See 

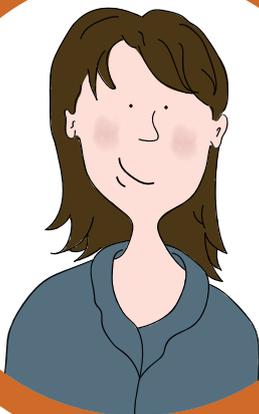
This bag is made of sewn leather. The Pagan Lady of St. Patrick's Isle was buried with a leather pouch, which originally had a bronze frame. She was buried with many other significant items.

Viking Dress

Bone Comb

The Vikings made everything by hand. Animal bones and antlers were used to make combs and pins. Vikings wore their hair long and used combs in grooming. Most combs were made from deer antler or bone and could be highly decorated and inlaid with precious metal.

Did you know that Vikings used combs to remove lice and fleas from their hair and beards!



Design your own pattern

