

## Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association

### Guidelines for coffin/urn materials

Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association was established for people who have a care for our natural environment. We have taken great care to preserve the beauty of the meadow and developing woodland so that it can be appreciated by all. For this reason we ask that coffins and urns be made from materials that have been recycled or are from a renewable source, such as soft wood, willow or bamboo. These materials return to the soil as nature intended and do not impede the growth of seedlings or saplings that will be planted in memory of those who are buried here. We encourage each member to plant a native tree or shrub from a list of indigenous species, so that each burial can contribute towards the creation of the new woodland. When all the trees have been planted the burial ground will be managed as woodland for ever.

We also ask that no embalming fluids, metals or plastics of any kind be brought onto the Ground. Members of the Association undertake to ensure that everything brought is biodegradable and/or made from a renewable source.

Many funeral directors will offer a range of coffins made from polished hardwood. We do not consider this use of hardwood to be appropriate or sustainable. Instead we encourage you to use a coffin (or shroud) made from a more bio-degradable source material. Some examples are given below and, in addition, we refer you to our Supplier leaflet for further information.

#### Woven Willow

These can be made to measure. The coffins look friendly and, with posies of flowers tucked in around the edges, beautiful.

*'Because willow coffins are not mass produced, they have their own character and are as individual as each person's life.'* Nigel Price, willow coffin maker Chagford.

#### Bamboo

These coffins look wonderful. The SAWD partnership in Kent imports them from a place in China where the workers are paid fair wages. The coffins are packed like Russian dolls inside each other and sent by sea, so keeping environmental damage and carriage costs to a minimum.

#### Shrouds

We welcome burials using only a shroud, such as those made locally by a Leafshroud. These are made from natural materials from the beautiful surroundings of Dartmoor and the Welsh borders. Their wool is chosen for both its softness and strength. The fleeces are bought from organic farms wherever possible & selected from flocks of White-faced Widecombe, Devon Closewool, Hill Radnor, Welsh Mountain and other hill breeds of sheep. They also use fleece that has been hand-dyed with indigo, onion skins & madder root. The wool is first needlefelted, then made into the leafshroud by hand in their Dartmoor workshop.

#### Papier Maché ('Ecopods')

The ultimate in recyclable material, there are two good suppliers for these coffins that look delightful. The Ecopod looks beautiful and is a wondrous shape, each one individually decorated to order. Earthsleeper is made locally in Lapford, mid Devon, by Andrew Vaccari, in vibrant colours, peach-soft and irresistible to stroke.

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