

THE
SOMERSET
WILLOW
COMPANY
LIMITED



Why Willow is the perfect "green" material



Our willow coffins are increasing in popularity because of their association with being 'green' and society's demand to seek more environmentally friendly alternatives to the mass destruction of forests and woodlands.

As a fourth generation traditional basketmakers, we believe that willow coffins are the ultimate in environmental recycling. Willow is a renewable annually harvested crop, which grows from a crown that can last up to 60 years. Harvesting and planting of willow is labour intensive, therefore it reduces the dependence on mechanical machinery and chemical processing, making it a true environmental renewable resource. Willow is also carbon neutral; as it grows it locks the carbon dioxide within the stems. When buried it decomposes within 3-7 years and its combustion does not lead to any net addition of carbon dioxide into the air – all which helps to reduce global warming.

We specialise in offering a bespoke service, with coffins designed to customers' specification. Each coffin is beautifully and caringly woven by a skilled basket maker, ensuring that each coffin is unique and special.

A choice of three natural colours are available – buff, weatherbeaten gold and white – and a selection of contrasting coloured bands and coloured handles. Natural hemp handles are also available. Coffins can be customised with designs in small woven features such as Olympic rings, anchors, teddy bears and names. We will try and make whatever is required!

Our coffins are totally appropriate for green burial sites, burial and cremation.

We first started making coffins in 1999, after a family member requested a bespoke coffin made of Somerset willow and handwoven by a relative. Due to the quality craftsmanship and uniqueness of the style and design, orders flourished and demand increased which has resulted in us being able to provide employment and apprenticeships for local people.



Drying boiled willow



*Curved end coffin in buff willow,
inlaid with cream bands & woven
weatherbeaten gold willow handles.*



*Due to the limitations of the printing
process, we are unable to guarantee that
the photographs shown will be an exact
colour match to the final product.*

*Please note cotton liner ties can be shown
or concealed. The floral arrangements
throughout this brochure are not included.*



Traditional shaped coffin in weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with dark green bands. Woven green willow handles.



Traditional shaped coffin in buff willow, inlaid with black bands. Woven black willow handles.

Traditional coffins



Traditional style has square ends, plaited willow edge, with screw down lid. Available in weatherbeaten gold, buff and white willow. Plain or with coloured bands and woven coloured handles. Six woven willow handles.



Weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with orange bands and woven orange willow handles.







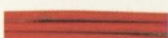







Buff willow, inlaid with yellow bands and woven yellow willow handles.



Weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with red bands and woven red willow handles.

Band colours



- Royal blue 
- Purple 
- Yellow 
- Brown 
- Red 
- Black 
- Turquoise 
- Pink 
- Burgundy 
- Orange 
- Green 
- Navy 



Traditional shaped coffin in weatherbeaten gold, inlaid with purple bands. Woven purple willow handles.



Traditional shaped coffin in weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with royal blue bands. Woven royal blue willow handles.



Coloured crosses are available as an optional extra.



Curved end casket in weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with brown bands. Woven brown willow handles.



Curved end casket in buff willow, inlaid with cream bands. Woven weatherbeaten gold willow handles.

Curved end caskets



Curved end style has a hinged lid and fastened with a sliding willow rod. Available in weatherbeaten gold, buff and white willow. Plain or with coloured bands and woven coloured handles. Six woven willow handles.



Weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with pink bands and woven pink willow handles.

Nameplate available for personnel inscription up to five lines of text available. Fitted onto coffin lid with matching coloured twisted willow.



Buff willow, inlaid with black bands and woven black willow handles.



Close up of natural hemp rope handles.
Available as an alternative to
willow handles.



Curved end casket in buff willow, inlaid
with cream bands. A cross can be woven
in as an optional extra.



Curved end casket in weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with black bands. Natural hemp rope handles.



Curved end casket in buff willow. Natural hemp rope handles.

Ashes caskets and urns

Square and rectangular ashes caskets and round urns, are fastened with willow rod in a plaisted loop. Available in weatherbeaten gold, buff and white willow, plain or with coloured bands. Natural calico cotton tie top liner included.



Available in (l to r) white, weatherbeaten gold and buff willow.



Matching round ashes urn in buff willow, inlaid with cream bands.



Matching square ashes casket in weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with green bands.

Child's caskets and coffins



Curved end casket in weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with pink bands. Four woven pink willow handles.



Traditional shaped coffin in buff willow, inlaid with yellow bands and woven yellow willow handles.

Traditional shaped coffin in weatherbeaten gold willow, inlaid with turquoise bands. Woven weatherbeaten gold willow handles.



Babies caskets



Babies caskets available in natural white/cream woven willow with lift off lid, fastened with willow rod and plaited loop. Crib style is raised at head end. Coloured bands available.



*White willow crib casket,
inlaid with pink bands.*



*White willow crib casket, showing
frilled natural cotton liner.*



White willow oval casket.



White willow crib casket.



About Us



The Somerset Willow Company is owned by the Hill family and our experience spans four generations.

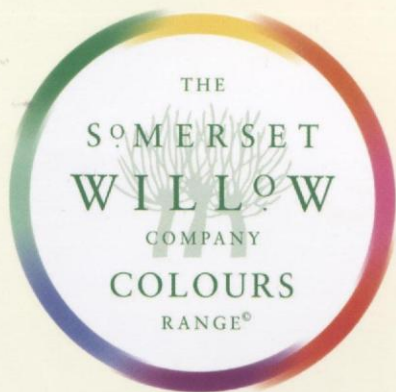
The company, established in 1959, has seen fashions come and go and we are proud to be one of the few UK producers to consistently manufacture high class willow basket ware and luxury willow furniture.

Centuries pass, yet originality and traditional craftsmanship still endure, especially when allied with contemporary vision and innovative modern designs, which has helped us to create a constantly evolving product range which includes woven willow furniture, log baskets, picnic hampers, kitchen drawer baskets, pet baskets and a vast amount of other willow items for the home and outdoors. We manufacture bespoke commissioned products for leading brand companies worldwide and we are regarded as the world's largest manufacturer of Hot Air Balloon Baskets – outside of the USA.

Every basket maker completes a minimum five year training programme, reflecting a strong commitment to exemplary professionalism and ensuring our position as one of the few UK producers that continually manufacture consistent high class willow products for the discerning customer.

In order to guarantee and secure willow supplies for The Somerset Willow Company, we recently established a sister company; Somerset Willow Growers Ltd; with Darrell Hill and close friend and farmer Richard Roberts, to grow and harvest our own willow. Somerset Willow Growers are based in Westonzoyland, Nr Bridgwater in the heart of the Somerset Levels, within five miles of our factory and showroom.





Rainbow coffin



*Available in traditional or curved end.
Bespoke design service available.*



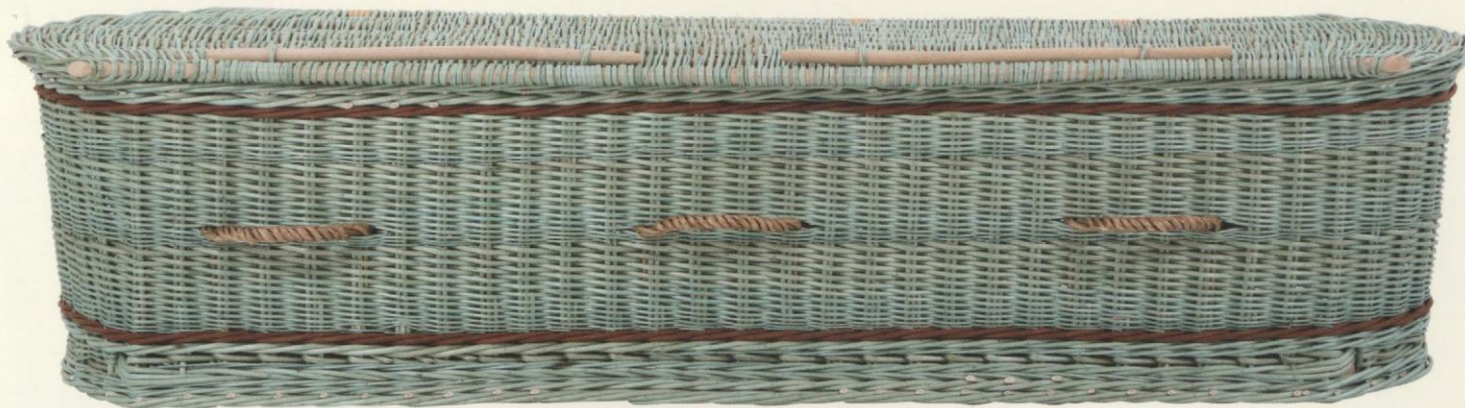
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Coloured coffins



Available in traditional or curved end and in the following colours: Yellow, orange, pink, red, purple, royal blue, turquoise and green. Please refer to page 5 of the Somerset Willow Companies coffin brochure for a list of band and handle colours.



Turquoise willow coffin, inlaid with brown coloured bands



Red willow coffin, inlaid with royal blue and cream coloured bands



Green willow coffin, inlaid with yellow coloured bands



Purple willow coffin, inlaid with pink coloured bands

Main Willow Coffin Colours

Yellow



Orange



Pink



Red



Purple



Royal blue

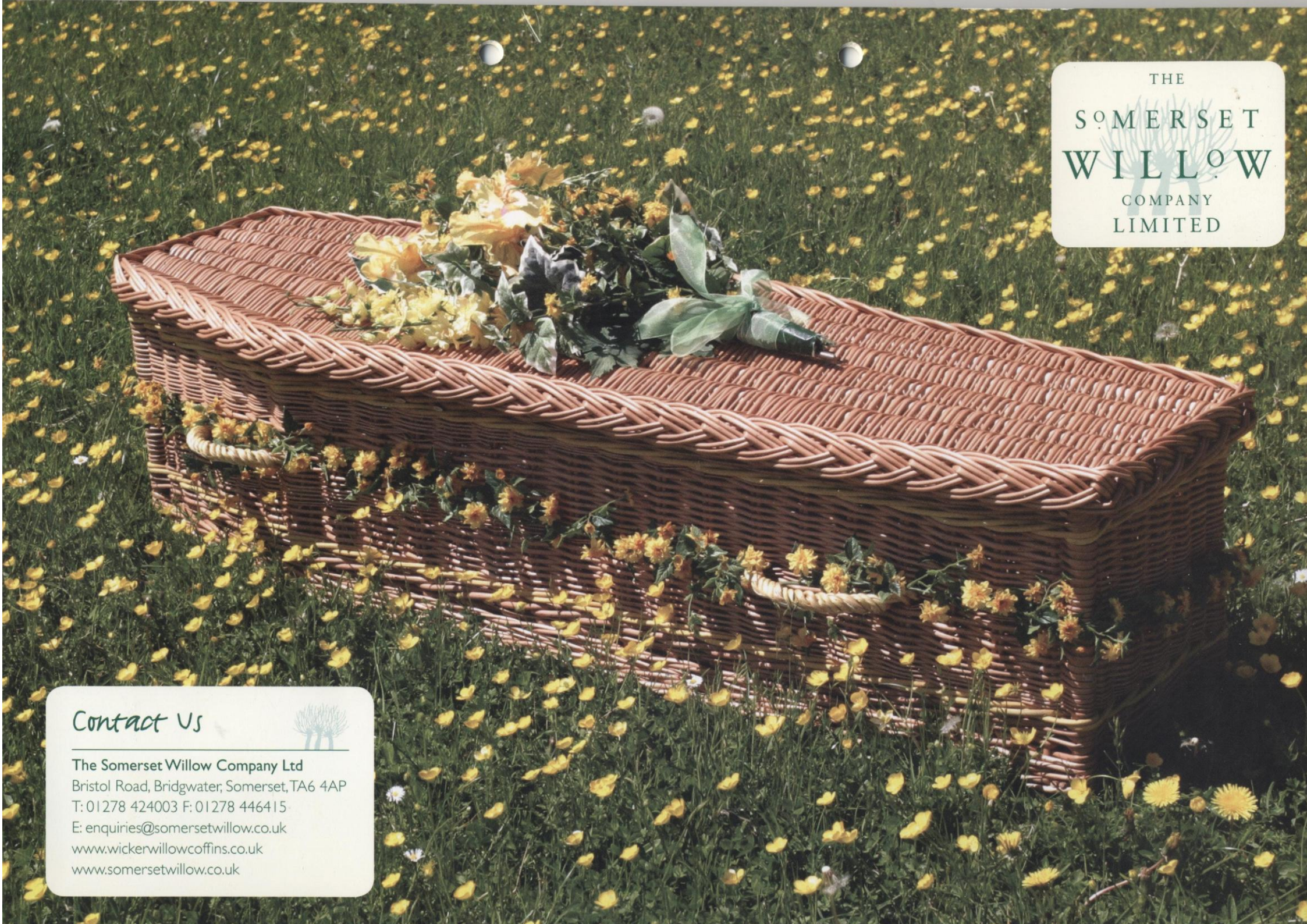


Turquoise



Green





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