



YEAR ROUND GIFT GUIDE

VERWOODIANS ♻️ N WASTE

*Greetings to you all! Have a "Planet"
Happy Christmas and a very "Eco" New Year!
But eco gifts are not just for Christmas.
We hope some of these ideas will inspire you, year round!*





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1. **Home made chutney** - easy to make, plenty of recipes online. Ask around for windfalls.

2. Unbelievably easy **mince pies** - BBC Good Food

3. Making **Christmas cake** is easier than you think!

4. **Pickled onions** are also extremely easy to make yourself, but start early.

5. Make your own **red cabbage**.

6. Why buy **bread sauce**?

7. Home made **limoncello** is delicious - also a great xmas pressies.

8. Just four ingredients for **mint sauce**.



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Home baking

Ditch the shop bought food wrapped in plastic! Making your own is easy. Plenty of recipes online or use ours.



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1. Advent Calendar - Get crafting. Make your own advent calendar and reuse each year. Instead of chocs, why not fill with a treat such as baking biscuits, decorating the tree, watching an xmas film.

2. Wrapping paper - Use recycled/recyclable paper and then decorate using potato stamps or ask the kids to decorate it.

3. Advent book gifts is a wonderful idea. Wrap 24 books (with recyclable paper) and put under the tree. One for each night, spend quality time reading them.



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4. Christmas Wreaths - Making your own is fun, especially if you have children. Search Youtube for ideas on rag wreaths, or gather greenery. Use a wire coat hanger, pulled into shape, twist hay around the frame, tie with jute twine.

5. Small gift boxes made from toilet rolls tie with wool.

6. Other wrapping ideas - use a Christmas fabric/pillow case, tea towel or scarves from charity shops.

7. Cloth Christmas bags are re-usable. Borrow the VoW sewing machine and make some!

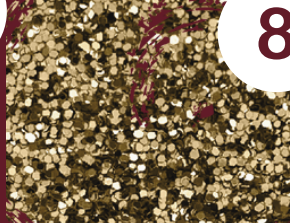
8. Decoration - try glitter made from seaweed!



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Advent



There are so many great ideas online for decorating and preparing for Christmas. Pinterest is a great place to start, or local craft shops like Hobbycraft.



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1. This is getting fashionable! Each child receives a box snowman.

Box 1 is something they want

Box 2 is something they need

Box 3 is a foodie treat or something to read.

Homemade boxes. Reused each year.

2. Brown paper, bit of greenery and string. Job done!



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3. Make "twine" from an old tee shirt. Wrap gifts or tie up your tomatoes! Search YouTube "make twine from a tee shirt"

4. There is no end of ideas for pine/fir cone decorations online. Use white emulsion paint for effect.

5. Table decoration - bowl, cones, holly candle, nuts

6. Suggestion from Friends of the Earth. Make your own edible decorations!



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Decorations

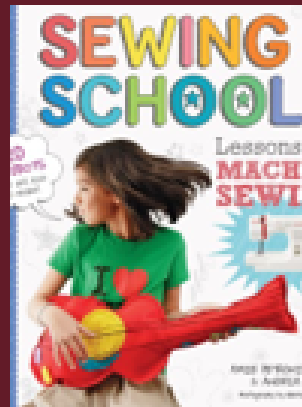


MEASURE A RIBBON AS TALL AS YOUR CHILD, THEN TIE IT AROUND THIS PRINTABLE ORNAMENT. SAVE ONE EACH YEAR TO REMEMBER HOW LITTLE THEY WERE!





1. Sand pit from an old boat.
2. Personalised garden tools from Studio.
3. Amazon or try Carey Outdoor Centre Wareham, they sell theirs off their good quality, canvas, tee-pees very cheap each year.
4. Buy garden bulbs or make up your own wild flower seed packs, even for cracker gifts.



Gifts for children

More memories, less stuff.

An opportunity to teach our children to consider the environmental impact before buying gifts.

Consider tickets to attractions, outdoor activities and experiences, home gifts like baking, sewing, gardening etc. Outdoor gifts will encourage a love of our planet.

Check out the Ethical Superstore for children's gifts. Pre-owned toys from Marketplace or Freecycle sites can be wonderful!



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A great gift with low cost to the environment would be vouchers for something different. Here are some examples:

- Bake a cake each month
- Afternoon tea
- Massage, yoga or pilates
- Favourite home cooked meal
- Babysitting promise
- Taxi service promise
- Subscription to Prime, Netflix or advert free YouTube!
- Classes i.e cooking, crafts, activities, photography etc.
- Membership of gift vouchers to something interesting like The National Trust, RSPB, shooting club, fishing, South Coast Path Association, local show, English Heritage..... Verwood U3A!
- Plant a Tree

1. The ultimate gift for a TALL person! Stretch their bed! Ingenious. Ringwood company. www.bedstretch.co.uk

2. **Beeswax food wrap kits**, Cherry Garth is local - Wrapitquick on Facebook, Etsy, CGBeeswaxWraps

3. **Hedgehog house** or upscale to a barn, bought or homemade.

4. **Bamboo socks**. The ultimate in comfort. Nearest shop, Fordingbridge @TinaatTimothys

5. Hand-made **produce bags** starts people on their plastic free journey. Use the VoW sewing machine.

6. Make your own **pickles and jams**.

7. Would they like to learn to paint? A **starter kit** or **lessons** with U3A or Dorset Art Courses.

8. Home made **hampers**, Local shops and produce. Visit the local eco shops.

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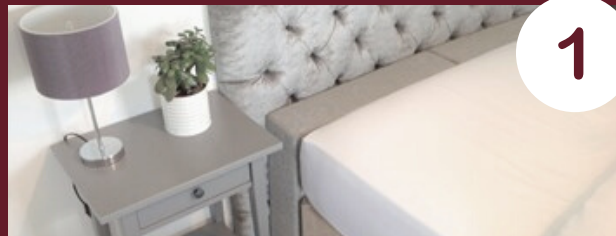
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Gifts for adults

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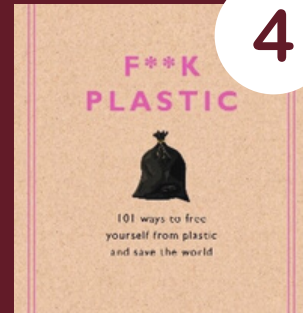
1. Would your loved one like to go **seal watching**? www.stivesboats.co.uk £25. How great to go away for the weekend with a gift like this as a purpose?
2. Beautiful unique **slate house signs** from Pamphill slate-signs.co.uk
3. Check out **Lakeland Eco Gifts** under the Christmas tab
4. Be inspired by others. **F**k plastic** for the keen eco warrior! From £5



5. Make or buy a **bucket list jar** or personalised book. It makes people focus on trying some fun things in life and the contents are a constant source of gift ideas.

Here are some more ideas:

- Offer to do a beach clean on Boxing Day
- Bulbs for the garden. Plant herbs in a planter. Grow bulbs in a pre-owned glass container with painted fir cones around it.
- A special photograph, professionally printed and framed, or a family portrait on canvas.
- Don't be afraid to buy pre-owned new gifts.
- Beautiful glass storage jars filled with favourite things. See charity shops and Marketplace.



Other ideas



How can you politely ask for low plastic pressies without sounding rude or like scrooge? You could have a bucket list jar! Add into your jar all the things you want to see and do before you croak.





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1. **Bamboo cutlery set in jute bag.** From &Keep, or make your own from cutlery you have and spare fabric.

2. Learn about the **life of bees** with VoW member, Totty, the Good Life, is local. deb.crut@gmail.com.

3. Handbag size re-useable and collapsible cup.

4. **Dog travel kit**, buy or make up your own.

5. Don't forget **books** on local walks! Try Gullivers Book Shop in Wimborne.

6. **Biodegradable poop bags!**



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7. **Walking poles** for the avid walker! A must for walking on uneven paths.

8. Why shouldn't dogs have their own plastic free, **shampoo bar**. Amazon.

9. Look after those feet! A wonderful **reflexology session** in your own home by VoW member Nicki! £35, 01425 613383.

10. **Bicycle phone holder** and cover for handlebars.

11. Could you take on the South West Coastal Path? This **poster map** will chart your progress! What's the hurry? Start with Dorset! £10.50 from Southwestcoastpath.org.uk



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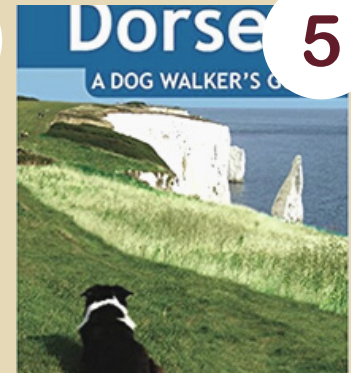
Other ideas



The great outdoors and pet friendly ideas!



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- 1. Take a **family photo** whether Christmas related or a nice update to send to friends and family. You can send via email, phone messages, Facebook, WhatsApp etc. This is the lowest environmental cost as you already have everything you need,
- 2. Make a family **Jib Jab video** – Subscription required but lasts all year!
- 3. Use the **Christmas templates** on Microsoft Publisher for a family newsletter
- 4. Call that special person instead of a card.



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Remember – avoid cards and wrapping paper containing foil and glitter so they can be recycled in the green kerbside bin!



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- 5 Cut up **old Christmas cards** for tags.
- 6. **E-cards** - these are email alternatives; there are a few websites you can use with really beautiful designs including videos. www.jacquielawson.com . Alternatively make your own!
- 7. Make your own **brown paper luggage labels** or by cutting out brown paper or card. Hole punch.
- 8. Use garden **twine** for tags. Better still...wool twine from Twool.



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Christmas Greetings

Greeting cards and wrapping paper have a high environmental impact but there are so many alternative ideas, here are a few...



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1. Edible plants make for fabulous gifts.

- **Strawberry** plants
- **Raspberry** canes
- **Lemon** tree
- A **selection of herbs** for the window ledge
- **Fruit** tree
- Something for all budgets. **You never forget the person** who gives you a garden plant.
- Try Marketplace or ask on social media locally if anyone is thinning out their plants.
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2. Swap plastic **selection boxes** for a mix of **chocolate** from a waste free shop. Surprisingly economical.
2. **Tickets** to somewhere like **Chelsea flower show** would be a real treat. A **family gift** is very much appreciated.
3. A **promise note** as a gift to visit a garden.
4. Waste free shops have a **growing stock** of **eco beauty products** for the ultimate treat. Holland and Barrett also have a good range of eco and **organic products**
5. An old **wooden ladder** with bedding plants looks **amazing**. Be creative.
6. Why not put together a **jam making kit** and recipe from Lakeland?



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Find your nearest waste free shop on our web site www.vowverwood.com.



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Swap selection boxes

Keep pretty **jars or tins** and fill them with a **mix of chocolate** from the local waste free shops, Or go **healthy** with dried banana chips or mango!

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