

Oodles of ideas for family fun and a creative eco Christmas!

GIVING

It's easy to get caught up in the spiral of excess buying at Christmas.

Now more than ever let's focus on what's really important - spending time with family, friends and neighbours rather than spending too much money.

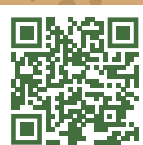
Giving presents is, however, a great opportunity to shop and support local, celebrating the wonderful independent businesses, makers and producers who make our community so special.



So why not...

- ★ put a little time aside (over a cuppa in a lovely local coffee shop perhaps) to write a list of who, what and how much to spend
- ★ pop in to local businesses with your Christmas list or ask for their suggestions
- ★ visit nearby craft and food markets for unique handmade gifts
- ★ jot down some sustainable gift ideas - something to grow, make or keep or tickets for a shared experience to enjoy together
- ★ buy a gift voucher from a local store or producer so the recipient can choose for themselves
- ★ make a donation to a community-based charity or gift your time volunteering for one
- ★ avoid excess packaging and wrapping which can't be recycled

check out and support our members



buy pre-loved gifts in West Street



Hello DORKING
shop locally using the town directory



It's a wrap... here are a few suggestions to make gifting greener!

Swap glittery and shiny rolls of wrap for craft paper, newspaper, reusable gift bags or even scraps of material.

Don't get stuck on plastic sticky tape - use ribbons, string or recyclable paper tape instead.

Turn old greetings cards into tags or adapt paper luggage labels. You can even use scraps of cardboard!

Say goodbye to bows made from plastic - forage for stylish present toppers or make them from reusable materials.

Check out other green gifting and wrapping ideas here:



woodlandtrust.org.uk



morfalfibres.co.uk



pebblemag.com

CELEBRATING

Fridges, waistlines and pockets often end up feeling the strain over Christmas.

As do food waste bins. Forward planning can really help. Write a list for each meal and set a budget for the days you are eating or entertaining at home.



Don't forget to...

- ★ check your cupboards or freezer before you shop so you don't double up
- ★ buy local seasonal festive food and drinks, including loose veg
- ★ try to avoid panic and bulk buying, most shops are only closed for a couple of days
- ★ make a note of quick easy recipes for using up leftovers
- ★ invite friends and neighbours to bring food and drinks over for a pot-luck lunch or supper
- ★ avoid excessive packaging and make sure any trays, boxes or wrappers can be recycled
- ★ swap foil or clingfilm for storage dishes with lids or reusable covers
- ★ compare the price of eating in a restaurant or pub to cooking at home, it might be more cost-effective to eat out than you think

Dining out in Dorking

If you are venturing out for a treat or doing the 'traditional' family Christmas Eve take-away, support your locally run pubs, cafés and restaurants.

Hello DORKING



Award winning

This Christmas buy from the award-winning FoodFloat for your local seasonal treats. They also deliver locally.



Caring and sharing
Know someone who will be on their own for Christmas?

Why not invite them in for a meal, or a chat over a cup of tea.



The thing is...

Over 103,000 tonnes

of plastic packaging is likely to be thrown away and not recycled in the UK this Christmas.

This is equivalent to the weight of **215,000 polar bears**

which is actually **over 7 times** the entire global polar bear population!

227,000 miles

of Christmas wrapping paper is used each year in the UK

That's almost the distance to the moon! (245,507 miles)

270,000 tonnes

of food is wasted in the UK at Christmas.

That's more than the weight of **1.6 million reindeer**

Less leftovers in landfill

Queen's Award-winning Mid Surrey Community Fridges saves and distributes food destined to be wasted.

Donate leftover food so that others can benefit from it.



lovefoodhatewaste.com

Need ideas for a pot-luck meal?

Here's a good source.



CHECK OUT ALL THE GREAT THINGS ON OUR WEBSITE



More ideas...

DECORATING

Buying new decorations to update your colour scheme is costly for you and the planet.

Adding to what you already have won't cost the earth if you buy-to-last or use what's around you. Striking seasonal foliage adds a fuss-free festive touch; likewise, your "tree" doesn't have to be traditional.

Be inventive!

Re-use and re-purpose to reduce costs and remember, less is often more!



Trees - real or fake?
Artificial trees need to be used for a minimum of 10 years for their environmental impact to be lower than that of a real tree.

If you can't face a fake, or create an alternative, buy a tree with roots (from a certified Grown In Britain supplier) so it can be replanted.



- ★ make your own Advent calendars
- ★ baubles don't need to be bling, avoid plastic and glitter (unless you are re-using ones you already have)

Your theme can be GREEN even if it isn't your colour scheme!

DRESSING

Spending the festive period in pyjamas is the idea of heaven for some (don't judge!), but not so ideal if you are off to a Christmas party or entertaining at home!

Fast fashion might seem a cheap wardrobe fix, but it definitely costs more than its price tag. Why not rescue something from the back of your wardrobe, or borrow or swap outfits with a friend?



To avoid feeling down about dressing up...

- ★ check out charity shops and the Community Wardrobe (see our *Circular Dorking directory*) - a great source of 'good as new' occasion wear
- ★ accessorise or customise something you already have. Dorking Repair Café (see our *Circular Dorking directory*) might be able to help if you get stuck
- ★ shop local for something you can adapt and wear again
- ★ if you need to buy something, visit shops selling eco-friendly and sustainably sourced clothing. Not sure? Ask, it's good to chat
- ★ pass on pre-loved items! Donate clothes you no longer wear which still have life in them

Get creative...

make your own sustainable centre-pieces and crackers, great craft projects to do together as a family



Visit local shops, craft markets and makers for handmade decorations you can use year after year

Circular Dorking membership organisations with directories for shops and craft makers



The thing is...



1 billion Christmas cards are thrown away in the UK each year, many of which can't be recycled

40 million Christmas crackers

are thrown away each year – lined up end to end this equates to **1,220 Mount Everests** stacked on top of each other



£66 million of electricity is used on Christmas Day – that's enough electricity to illuminate the Eiffel Tower for **50 years!**

Other ways to celebrate with less waste...

- ★ donate to a charity instead of posting cards
- ★ need to buy cards? Check they are from recycled or sustainable sources and can be recycled again after Christmas
- ★ set a timer to switch off indoor and outdoor lights. Switch to LED or solar to reduce extra energy bills
- ★ make or bake gifts for friends and family
- ★ give your time to help others
- ★ keep costs and the number of presents down by doing a friends or family Secret Santa
- ★ re-gift unwanted gifts - donate to a charity shop, or offer them as raffle prizes (see our *Circular Dorking directory* for our charity members)

Health and wellbeing

- ★ swap the TV and armchair for fresh air (an hour's walk will save the equivalent of 170g of CO₂)
- ★ ditch the car for journeys within walking distance and avoid long car journeys if you can. Stay local or arrange car shares if you are travelling further afield to visit family or friends

Here's hoping you have a fabulous, lovely sustainable family Christmas

Sources

<https://www.wcl.org.uk/the-plastic-cost-of-christmas---the-weight-of-215,000-polar-bears-in-plastic-waste.asp>
<https://www.gwp.co.uk/guides/christmas-packaging-facts/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/24-ways-to-waste-not-this-christmas>
<https://www.edfenergy.com/energywise/an-eco-friendly-christmas#:~:text=In%20the%20UK%20we%20use,Eiffel%20Tower%20for%2050%20years!>

Who we are and what we do..

Circular Dorking is a network of businesses, community groups and individuals who are working together as volunteers to strengthen our Dorking community, by creating a local circular economy at its heart. This will mean we are all better placed to support each other to deal with the challenges of climate change and future uncertainty.

Our activities encourage local businesses to act sustainably, to make the best use of their materials and to minimise waste. We are publicising the best practices so that businesses can learn from each other. We are also signposting and enabling the wider community to make better informed choices. This will help all of us to move forward into the safe and sustainable future to which we all aspire and that our planet deserves.

Shopping locally means that money circulates within the local economy whilst strengthening and benefitting our local community.

Everyone wins! What's not to like about our local community supporting itself and each of us to be sustainable and be more community-minded?

Join us!

Together we can make a difference!



If you are a business or organisation involved in sustainable activities, why not become a member of Circular Dorking?

[f](#) [x](#) [@CircularDorking](#)
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Have Yourself A Merry Eco Christmas!



Cost-effective tips and ideas for an Eco Friendly Christmas

