

New use of jute—for coffins

A NEW jute board being used to make coffins by a Dundee business is proving the city's historic textile industry isn't yet dead and buried.

Last year J Funerals launched a range of funeral products made from the fibre, including shrouds, carriers and other accessories.

They are now set to launch the latest in their lines of products—a coffin made from a specially treated jute board.

The firm's managing director Sandra Thomson hopes the coffins, which should be on the market by the end of the year, will become an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional coffins as jute is completely biodegradable.

"We have had a lot of interest from funeral parlours and crematoriums for the coffins," she said.

Dundee Crematorium has already tested a prototype coffin, recording extremely low carbon emissions from the burning.

Another prototype has been buried at the city's Birkhill Cemetery and a jute urn is also in development.

The coffins are made by mixing the plant fibres with natural starch and then compressing it to create a strong, yet easily biodegradable board.

Sandra is also responsible for eco-friendly jute shopping bags and has an entry in the jute display at the National Gallery in Edinburgh.