



Social Enterprise of the Month

The Aldingbourne Trust

The Aldingbourne Trust supports people with learning disabilities to reach their potential across West Sussex. The charity, first established in 1978, now provides opportunities for day and residential services, training and support to find a job. Our residential services offer flexible support for people to live independently in their own homes. At our day and training services at the Aldingbourne Country Centre (near Chichester) and The Acorn (near Pulborough) we provide vocational training within a range of social enterprises. Current commercial training activities include:

- Café: catering to the public and conference customers.
- Conference: facilities for up to 40 people, used by local businesses and outside agencies.
- Furniture restoration: we provide a repair, polish & re-upholstery service
- Wood recycling: we offer a competitive rate to local builders to collect their waste wood, bringing it back to the Centre where it is sorted. Reusable wood is sold on from the site, some is used for commission orders which are made at the Centre and our wood products group makes gift items from the smaller pieces. The rest is chipped and recycled.
- Horticulture and organics: we have a good local reputation for our plants, these are sold throughout the year and used for displays across West Sussex. Our organic fruit and vegetable production is run to Soil Association requirements.
- Shop: sale of Country Centre produce & products and also those of local crafts people.
- Community projects: we have community gardening and design projects. We work in partnership with Southern Rail to provide and maintain planted baskets and tubs on 22 railway stations.

New Projects:

We are actively developing new social enterprises that can provide training and employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities. This summer we have opened a 'Victorian Seafront Experience' on Bognor Regis seafront promenade. This has created 13 paid part time jobs for people with learning disabilities.

We have recently opened a drop-in service (Number 64, High Street, Bognor) to offer more flexible support and to assist with signposting, access to information.

We are in the final stages of opening a new laundry business that will provide services around the County. This will also provide training and employment opportunities - further information will be available from the Trust in early autumn.

For more information about the work of the Aldingbourne Trust, please contact us as below:

T 01243 544607
E centraloffice@aldingbournetrust.co.uk
W www.aldingbournetrust.co.uk

