

# WSSSEN

## Social Enterprise of the Month

### Frame of Mind (Vocational Training) CIC

Founded in 2006 by Theresa and Ian Bates, Frame Of Mind CIC started trading in the May of 2007. Formed to offer employment, training and work experience for adults with mental health issues/learning disabilities; Frame Of Mind is a bespoke picture framing and digital printing business. Having recently moved to a larger unit on the Arun Business Park they are soon to add other activities to their operation such as pottery, horticulture and IT training.

Frame Of Mind are members of the Fine Art Trade Guild and Theresa Bates is a Guild Commended Framer ensuring that all framing is carried out to Guild standards. "Trainees progress through our training scheme, before moving on to customers work once they have reached the required standard."

Ian Bates Support Services Director says "Our innovative approach means that we do much more than just train people in picture framing: it is a much more rounded approach. We can see our trainees confidence and self esteem grow as they learn new skills and take on more responsibility working together as a team towards a common goal."

Earlier this year the Frame Of Mind team were up in London when they were one of only four companies shortlisted nationally as Trailblazing Newcomers in the Royal Bank of Scotland Social Enterprise 100. In addition they were named in the Social Impact Leader Table placing them in the top 12% nationally for measuring Social Impact.

In their first 12 months of trading Frame Of Mind won the West Sussex County Council Social Enterprise Innovation Award and the Arun Business Partnership Business in the Community Award. This was followed up in November 2009 when they were awarded the Arun Business Partnership Training & Development Award. In March of this year they were the first company in West Sussex to be awarded the Social Enterprise Mark.

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