

# WSSSEN

## Social Enterprise of the Month

### Action in rural Sussex (AirS)

AirS work with rural people to improve and develop services and facilities within rural towns and villages. It is primarily a community development organisation that provides support and training for local councils, community groups, activists and individuals helping them to take action. Alongside this it has a rural advocacy and influencing role of which it is also proud. The aim is to provide practical help and support to villages in Sussex enabling them to be vibrant living and working places.

AirS was founded in 1931 with the express task of reducing rural poverty and improving the quality of life in rural Sussex. AirS has a broad range of services that it provides for rural communities supporting young people and their families, older people and rural isolation in general and rural businesses. One example of AirS current services is their work to support the development of better broadband services in rural Sussex as a key issue faced at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

AirS currently pursues four organisational aims which guide the work it undertakes. These are:

1. To reduce the incidence and impact of disadvantage and poverty on people living in rural areas.
2. To increase the capacity of rural communities to manage change for the benefit of all their members.
3. To inform and amplify the voice of rural communities to influence public policy.
4. To support partnership initiatives with other organisations in pursuit of the first three Aims.

AirS is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and as part of the celebrations they are looking to compile an archive record of the story of AirS. This will be in the form of stories, photographs, and publications. For further details or to provide information for the archive contact Claire Reynolds. Phone: 01273 407305 Email [claire.reynolds@ruralsussex.org.uk](mailto:claire.reynolds@ruralsussex.org.uk)

Sussex House,  
212 High Street,  
Lewes, East Sussex  
BN7 2NH

**Email Address:** [info@ruralsussex.org.uk](mailto:info@ruralsussex.org.uk)

**Telephone:** 01273 473422

**Website:** <http://www.ruralsussex.org.uk/page/home/1/>

