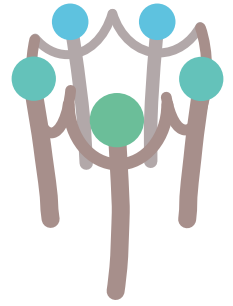


# West Sussex Social Enterprise



## CASE STUDY

# 2

# The Aldingbourne Country Centre

For more details about this project:

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[www.aldingbournetrust.co.uk](http://www.aldingbournetrust.co.uk)

The Country Centre is open 10am – 4pm every day, including Bank Holidays (please check for Christmas and New Year times).



The Aldingbourne Country Centre provides work and training opportunities for people aged 18 to 65 with learning difficulties. Clients are able to develop a range of skills leading towards greater independence and, whenever possible, useful employment in the local community.

Founded by a group of parents 28 years ago, the Aldingbourne Country Centre started in a field with a few poly-tunnels and caravans. From such humble beginnings the Country Centre has flourished and is now home to 6 enterprises all providing the Centre's clients with work based skills: These enterprises are:

- Horticulture -  
Bedding and patio plants, herbaceous plants, hanging baskets
- Coffee Shop and Conference facilities -  
Refreshments, snacks, light lunches, teas. Conference facilities for up to 40 people
- Furniture restoration -  
repair, reviving, French polishing
- Organic Vegetables -  
Soil Association registered, salad and field vegetables in season
- Wood Recycling (see panel)
- Powerful Trainers -  
A project run by the Centre clients to improve attitudes and approaches towards people with learning difficulties. They provide training to local organisations.

## wood@aldingbourne

The Aldingbourne Country Centre has recently started a new enterprise 'wood@aldingbourne' - a wood recycling scheme.



They provide a commercial collection service of waste wood for builders, joiners and other producers. This is a cost effective alternative to hiring skips, with a real reduction in landfill.

This recycled wood is graded; the best is sold in the Country Centre shop for DIY. Wood is also used by the Centre's clients to build wood products, including commissioned projects. The lower grade wood is used for kindling.

## FUNDING

The Country Centre receives funding from a number of sources, including grants and donations. Each of the enterprises generates income from trading.

The wood recycling project is aiming to be a sustainable enterprise, covering all of the running costs through the commercial collection service, workshop and retail shop.

This case study has been compiled by West Sussex County Council for the West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group with the express permission of the project. For more information on the West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group - Contact 01243 777606

If this information is needed in an alternative format please contact us and we will try to meet your needs. Call 01243 777544.  
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