

# Social Enterprises in the East of England



# What we asked

To celebrate the work of our members on Social Enterprise Day, we invited their contributions to a **Quickfire Presentation**. We asked them to tell us:

The answer to **three** of the following questions

1. A financial figure (average monthly turnover, profit, or your best sale in last twelve months)
2. Your best internal achievement this year (staff development, new process etc)
3. Your best public achievement this year (your impact, best contract, award etc)
4. Biggest barrier to growth/success/sustainability that you overcame in last year.
5. Your hope for the next year

This is what they said...

# Sunnyside Rural Trust

[www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk](http://www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk)



- Sell fresh produce, operate a gardening business, grow bedding plants & undertake PAT testing
- In 2011 achieved a 15% increase in social enterprise income
- This year set up trading arm 'SRT Trading Ltd'
- Won the tender to grow Dacorum Borough Council's bedding plants for the next 5 years alongside the lease to the Council's Central Nursery site in Hemel Hempstead

# Noise Solution

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



- Uses Technology and music to re-engage marginalised people
- Average monthly turnover £3500
- Successfully passed the model of work developed to new workers to deliver for the first time
- Took a 20 year old diagnosed agoraphobic to the point where he's considering volunteering and attending college
- Recognition by the local children's organisations/services of the quality of services and the implications on costs

# Future Business

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



- Provides affordable workspace and business support to new and existing social enterprises in the Cambridge area
- £5M Bond issued to 2 massive local companies, to support the Future Business Centre
- £3.5M ERDF grant award for match funding the building construction cost
- Hope for next year is that the Centre is built and operating in time for social enterprise day

# BIG Barn CIC

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



- Month profit £500
- Changing the culture of the business away from grant funding to earning income
- Provide our local food map and MarketPlace to 50+ foody websites increasing hits & sales to local food producers to compete with the national supply chain that is failing both farmers and consumers
- Gain funding through Crowd Funding or angel investors and employ more staff to build the business and achieve our mission

# The Priory Centre

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



- A multi-purpose community enterprise empowering Great Yarmouth to fulfil its potential from families up
- Average monthly turnover of £230k
- Implemented Uimprove - a whole organisation approach to business improvement. 32 members of staff trained in the approach
- Achieved an outstanding judgement from Ofsted for our Children's Centres

# The Guild Social Economy Services CIC

[www.the-guild.co.uk](http://www.the-guild.co.uk)



- Accessible, affordable and specialist professional services to empower individuals and communities to develop Social Enterprises
- Fast and professional turn around for those complicated and unusual structures that social enterprises and co-operatives use
- The removal of all free-at-source advice and support for social enterprise start-ups is a barrier to our clients that we need to overcome
- We hope that the social enterprise and co-operative sector can continue to grow and develop and that our knowledge and expertise supports our CIC to thrive



# Destiny Enterprise Solutions CIC

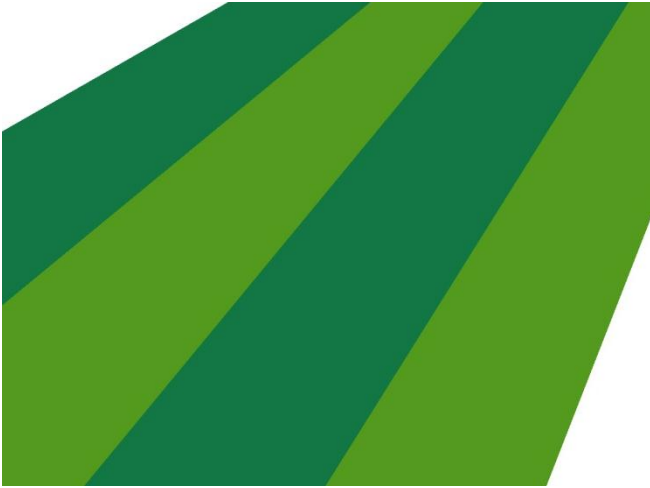
[www.destinycic.org](http://www.destinycic.org)



- Destiny assists people with pan disability or disadvantaged background to achieve self-employment or start an enterprise
- Bringing hope to over 100 people throughout the East of England
- Directors invited to become Fellows of the RSA in recognition of their work with disabled and disadvantaged people
- Planning to work on a much larger scale next year

# Mow and Grow

[www.thegroworganisation.org](http://www.thegroworganisation.org)



- Providing gardening services for the vulnerable while improving employability for individuals disadvantaged in the labour market
- Annual profit £158, 091 for last financial year – significant improvement on previous years
- Direct partnership working with prisons in the East of England
- Planning for complete sustainability whilst continuing supporting disenfranchised individuals – cutting grass, cutting crime, cultivating futures...

# Apsley Paper Trail

[www.thepapertrail.org.uk](http://www.thepapertrail.org.uk)



- Heritage paper machines produce unique recycled papers at visitor and education centre
- Peter Ingram Gallery opened in November, commemorating our founder's 10 years of dedicated service to social enterprise
- Hoping to continue to expand our work with disadvantaged people and to become totally self-sufficient

# Norwich Door to Door

*[www.norwichdoortodoor.org.uk](http://www.norwichdoortodoor.org.uk)*



- A charity and voluntary organization providing mobility bus services for 500 disabled people in Norwich
- Trained 50 passenger assistants for taxi companies so that they could undertake contracts with the local authorities and transport disabled children and adults
- This year won five local education authority contracts to take severely disabled children to special and mainstream schools contributing to our bottom line
- Celebrating 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year