



RESCUED: Colin Stevens, front, with Hills Waste staff, from left, Martin Ford, Malcolm Smart, Martin Freegard, David Johns and Andy Quinney

(39419) PICTURE BY DIANE VOSE

Man thankful after recycling staff find lost items

Have you bin missing this?

FATHER-of-three Colin Stevens visited Hills Waste recycling base on Monday to thank workers who rescued two mobile phones and a wallet that he inadvertently put out with his rubbish last week.

The driver and crew of the recycling lorry that called at his Collingbourne Kingston home and emptied his recycling boxes worked with other staff at the recycling facility at Compton Bassett to sift through tons of discarded newspapers and magazines in a bid to find the phones and wallet.

It was one of the lorry crew who finally found the pair of mobile phones and the wallet in a pile of old papers.

The saga began on Wednesday last week when Mr Stevens decided to put his phones and wallet somewhere safe when he popped along to the Wellington Academy for a meeting about university choices for one of his children.

The scout master said: "We have had a few burglaries in the villages around where I live and

By Nigel Kerton

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I get the Neighbourhood Watch emails. We were going out the door to go to Wellington Academy for an information evening for the students who have applied for universities.

"As I rushed out the door I saw my two phones and my wallet sitting on my desk, so I picked them up and buried them under some papers in a box."

The next morning was the village's recycling day and Mr Stevens, 47, said: "I looked out and saw the lorry and I thought to myself, 'I had better put that box of papers in the bin'."

Some time later, on his way to get his daughter from school, he decided to get fuel for his car and realised he did not have his wallet or his phones.

"I saw the same recycling lorry along the road and I spoke to the men with it and explained what had happened and they said they would ring their supervisor at Compton Bassett, who told them they could search for my things when they got

back. They phoned me later to say they had found both of my phones and my wallet and they even hand delivered them to my home together with photographs of the nine people who had helped search for them.

"In these days when the media only covers bad news and bad service I felt I had to say a big thank you to them so I gave them coffee, tea and biscuits for them to recycle in their own way.

"I find it hard to believe they would go to such lengths above and beyond what you could reasonably expect of them," said Mr Stevens, who runs an online management company.

Recycling worker Andy Quinney from Calne, who found the missing items, said: "I walked in to help and I walked straight to it; I picked up a bundle of papers about a foot high and there were the phones and the wallet."

Hills group communications officer Monique Hayes said items previously rescued from recycling included £1,000 in bank notes in an envelope, plane tickets and even a proms dress still in its box.