

# intouch

Issue 21 June 2010

## Celebrating 110 years of Hills

- special feature  
pages 8 to 11



Woodsford Quarry -  
open day (pages 2 and 3)

*Grahame Hill,  
Chairman 1954-1977*



Michael Hill  
Group CEO

#### Warm Woodsford Welcome

Watching the reactions and listening to the feedback of the guests attending the open day at the company's new and important quarry in Woodsford, Dorset made me a very proud man.

Seeing our new processing plant, concrete batching plant and offices through the eyes of external stakeholders really brought home what can be achieved when a professional, practical and long-term outlook is applied to a project.

It is a site to be proud of and the Quarry Products management team and Woodsford site staff have done a great job. Read more about the open day opposite.

#### The Story Continues

As part of the 110 year celebrations we continue our story of the company's history on pages 8 to 11. The positive feedback to the first instalment is very much appreciated.

#### Future Prospects

Now that the excitement of the general election is over the new coalition government can concentrate on trying to save UK plc. Although the Group has seen a marked improvement in performance since January, we are very conscious that this is probably not a period of sustained recovery. The difficult but necessary decisions that the government needs to make to try and reduce the UK's escalating sovereign debt crisis could well have another negative impact on the sectors in which we operate, especially construction.

However, we shall continue to rise to the challenges ahead!

# Woodsford



Alan Mackenzie, Group director - Quarry  
showing his group around the site

On 12th May Hills Quarry Products opened its doors to showcase its new quarry in Woodsford, Dorset.

The open day was attended by 50 invited guests including representatives from both Dorset and Wiltshire council, existing and prospective customers, local residents and the company's bankers, legal advisors and auditors.

## Publishers Note

'intouch' is published by The Hills Group Limited and is distributed three times a year to employees, pensioners, shareholders and friends of The Hills Group and its three trading divisions.

The Hills Group Limited, Ailesbury Court, High Street, Marlborough SN8 1AA  
Tel: 01672 516999 [www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk)

Issue No 22 will be published in September 2010; please submit news and photographs (if possible) to The Communications Department, either to the above address, on telephone (01672) 518924 or via email to [ttorr@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:ttorr@hills-group.co.uk)

Hills Group Limited makes every effort to verify all information contained within 'intouch' but does not warrant to its accuracy. No view or opinion expressed within 'intouch' should be considered to be that of the Hills Group Limited, its associated companies or any director or officer in its employment.

The newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

## Contents

Viewpoint.....	2
Quarry Products .....	2-4
Hills News .....	4-5
Hills Homes .....	6-7
110 years of Hills .....	8-11
Waste Solutions & Recycling.....	12-15
Hills News.....	15
People News .....	16



# opens its doors

Guests were provided with a warm welcome by Hills Quarry Products' staff and given a guided tour of the site. Normal operations continued throughout the tour, allowing the visitors to see the workings of the site at first hand, including the concrete batching plant.



*Refreshments were available in the canteen throughout the day*

Refreshments were provided in the canteen with the main office hosting a display of information on the site, its layout, restoration plans and samples of products available. In addition, information on the Hills Group and its other

operations were on show together with a display of archaeological finds made at the quarry by Thames Valley Archaeological services with Tim Dawson, archaeologist available to answer questions on the finds.

Woodsford Quarry is located six miles east of Dorchester and the development encompasses a mineral processing plant and concrete plant with excavation activities south, east and west of Woodsford village.

As part of the site's preparation works the ground level on which the plant was constructed was lowered and environmental soil bunds constructed around the site in strategic locations to reduce the visual and noise impact of the operation.

The mineral deposit at Woodsford is that of flint, sand and gravel. All these minerals are excavated using a Volvo L150F loading shovel and passed through a Finaly 595 mobile screener at 50mm. +50mm material, predominantly large flints, is stockpiled and crushed for sale whilst the -50mm is fed onto a surge pile. Recovery of material from the surge pile is achieved through a number of screeners, a washing plant and a de-watering system to provide a range of sand products.

The total site area is 163.6 hectares with a current reserve of sand and gravel of approximately 4.2 million tonnes.

The concrete plant is a dry batching and mixing plant and has the capacity to process 60-80 metres per hour with a 4 cubic metre dry batch feed to truck mixers.

It was clear from comments and feedback from guests on the day that they had all thoroughly enjoyed the tour and the company's hospitality.

Alan Mackenzie, group director - Quarry Products commented "The open day gives Hills the opportunity



*Alan Mackenzie, group director - Quarry talking to guests at the open day*

to meet with stakeholders and via future liaison meetings work together to provide the minerals that society needs to build our schools, hospitals and improve the environment we live in. Hills have a reputation for providing quality and service to our customers and I believe our new operation will enable us to continue to do this."

Mike Hill, chief executive attended the day and added "The day was a great success and demonstrated to all our guests that Hills is a professional company with a long term view and does things properly".

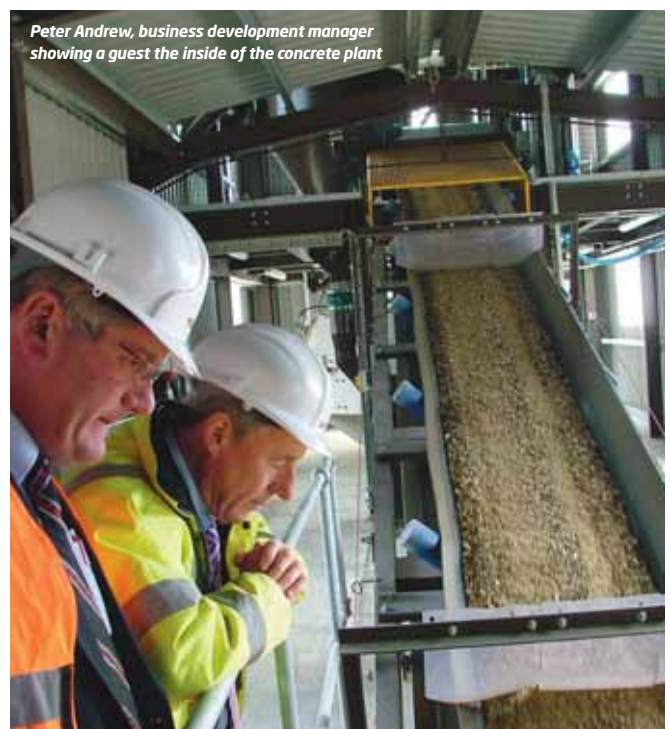
**To find out more about Woodsford Quarry visit [www.woodsfordquarry.co.uk](http://www.woodsfordquarry.co.uk)**



*Tour group on top of one of the three 60 tonne silos in which the cement is stored*



*L-R David Finch, mobile plant operative, Terry Newsham, sales representative, Steve Bowman, quarry manager and Robbie Davies, mobile plant operative*



*Peter Andrew, business development manager showing a guest the inside of the concrete plant*



Tree planting at Tubney Wood

## Restoration starts at **Tubney Wood**

Opened in 1992, Tubney Wood Quarry is located off the A420, towards Appleton Village near Oxford and produces dry screened building sand for the mortar markets and a small quantity of stone.

The site has been spilt into eleven phases for sand and stone extraction and once extraction of a phase is completed, preparation for the restoration of that area takes place. The restoration scheme creates a varied and bio-diverse habitat with the planting of trees and plants to encourage wildlife back into the area.

Quarried land is restored progressively as this reduces the amount of land under extraction at any one time, at Tubney Wood four sections of the quarry have been in-filled and will be planted once settled, two sections are yet to be excavated and the remaining sections are empty for operational purposes.

As part of the restoration project, a broadleaf woodland area has been planted with 1800 trees. This planting of a mixture of Ash and Oak trees is funded through grant money from the Forestry Commission. The restoration will also include areas left open for glades (open patches in woodlands) and rides (wide grassy tracks).

## *Marathon success!*

Brian Ford, concrete manager at Woodsford Quarry proudly showing his London marathon medal. He ran the marathon in an impressive time of 3hrs 26 minutes and came 3923rd out of 37,500 runners - well done Brian, a great achievement!



+ Stop Press + Stop Press +

Hills Quarry Products' new website featuring ready-mixed concrete, check out the site at [www.ready-mixed-concrete.co.uk](http://www.ready-mixed-concrete.co.uk)

# In the

**Community First** who administer funds generated from the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) to assist community projects has had a **boost to its funding with a cheque for £100,000 from the Hills Group.**

Mike Hill, chief executive presented the cheque to Gillian Barber, who has recently retired and new grants manager, Rebecca Lemont-Jiggins, this brings the total funding that Hills has provided to Community First since April last year to £220,000.

Recent projects which have benefited from funding include:

### **Lawn Community Centre**

Lawn Community Centre's official opening took place on Saturday 24th April and was attended by finance director Dave Bevan. The new extension, which received grant money of £20,000, includes a new lift and has also been fitted with a hearing loop. The centre has been

## Remembering **Ed Pollard**

Many of us were left shocked and saddened at the sudden and unexpected death of Ed Pollard, facilities manager in March.

Ed, originally from Texas (not from America as he would always tell us!) joined the company two years ago. He was a dedicated, hardworking and professional man and has left evidence of this throughout the company's sites and land holdings.

He will be greatly missed and our thoughts continue to be with his family and friends.





# Community!

designed to be light and airy and will be used by local residents within the community.

## East Grafton Opening

The Coronation Hall in East Grafton, originally built to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VIII in 1937, had the royal seal of approval when the new building was re-opened by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall.

Hills is proud to have been one of the sponsors with a grant of £11,114, to fit out the new hall with a stage and lighting system, sound system and fully equipped kitchen.

## Colerne Play Area

The play area, on the village recreation ground, used by generations of children and many more to come has been given a new face lift including a zip wire, swings, a large wooden climbing frame, roundabout and three benches.

The new facility now appeals to a much wider age range of children and was supported by Hills with landfill tax funding of £13,679.00.



L-R HRH the Duchess of Cornwall, Mike Hill CEO Hills Group and Gillian Barber, Community First



L-R, Rebecca Lemont-Jiggins, new grants manager at Community First, Mike Hill CEO Hills Group and Gillian Barber, Community First



L-R, Dave Bevan finance director with Frank Richards, president of Lawn Community Association

## Grant funds tree planting at High Penn, Calne

Planting has begun at High Penn thanks to a grant from the Forestry Commission.

Southern Forestry's Keith Mills has started planting the site with Blackthorn, Oak, Ash, Lime, Black Poplar and Downy Birch trees as well as marking out rides (grass areas) which will link onto the existing footpaths and bridle paths around High Penn. A variety of shrubs, wild flowers and small amounts of Norway Spruce and Scots Pine trees will also be planted.

It will take around four weeks to plant the 10,000 trees on site, with several hundred trees being set aside for a public Tree Planting Day being held on Saturday 27th November. More information on the planting day will be featured in the next edition of intouch.

Once planting has been completed the site will be managed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on a long-term lease.



Planting has begun at High Penn

# View home launch at **Heytesbury**

Hills Homes' development in the picturesque Wylde Valley village of Heytesbury is now complete with the first five delighted purchasers having moved in at the end of April.



*Fitted kitchen in one of the homes at Heytesbury*

Old Forge Close proved so popular that 6 out of the 10 homes were sold before the launch of the view home at the end of March. Notwithstanding that, the launch on the weekend of 27th and 28th March

was so well attended that agents, Cooper & Tanner of Warminster, were kept busy all weekend with around 40 visitors on Saturday and 60 on Sunday. There were many positive comments about Old Forge Close and how harmoniously it fitted within the village.

Plot 5, Old Forge Close, was selected as the new view home and the scheme by Hobbs Interiors gave viewers a chance to envisage how they would create their own home in the generous reception space and the four double bedrooms.



*Homes on sale at Heytesbury*

## All gone **at Burton**

The last two properties in Hills Homes' prestigious development, Church Rise, have been sold and the happy owners moved in to join the community in the charming village of Burton.

### Church receives funding

St Mary's church in Burton has been able to increase its facilities thanks to a grant from the Hills Group via a Landfill Communities Fund administered by Community First. The grant of £5,213 allowed the church to increase the available



space in the church by removing

some of the pews. This makes it more suitable for activities to take place and brings local people together for additional social and charity events including youth activities, a local library and internet cafe.

*Mike Hill, CEO of the Hills Group, pictured at the opening*



*One of the houses that was on sale at Burton*



# Goodbye Dave and hello John

A sad farewell was wished to popular quantity surveyor, Dave Law, when he retired from Hills Homes at the end of March. A buffet lunch in the



office was followed with a presentation by Nick King, group director - Homes, and speeches rounded up the event. A slightly more uproarious evening followed with colleagues past and present getting together to celebrate Dave's retirement.

Dave has been succeeded by John Fox, who joins Hills Homes with over 20 years' experience working with national house builders and smaller bespoke developers. We wish him every success.



## Jan brings home the prize to Heytesbury

There was more excitement at Old Forge Close when site manager, Jan Pearce, was awarded the top prize in the Building Safety Group Ltd's annual health and safety awards. The award was presented to Jan by Michael Setter, chairman of The Building Safety Group Ltd (BSG) on site at Hills' development at Old Forge Close.

Each year BSG presents an award to the manager in each region of the UK who has maintained the highest standards of health and safety. Nick King, group director - Homes said, "Winning this award is testament of Jan's commitment to the importance of health & safety on our sites and recognition of the commitment and investment in training made by Hills."



L-R Jan Pearce receiving his award from Michael Setter

# ANYTHING • ANYWHERE • ANYTIME

## 110 Years of the Hills Family Business



**The story continues** with a quest for gravel.

Aggregates have been the base of activities throughout the company's existence.

Digging and prospecting for sand and gravel were constant preoccupations of Edward, Grahame, Harold and Mervyn Hill who all lived and breathed the business.



*Early processing of sand and gravel*

Family outings would often revolve around this quest with children bundled into the back seat of Dad's or Grandpa's car, being driven off to South Cerney, Newbury or a spot in the middle of nowhere and waiting whilst the grown ups prodded the ground or bored holes.

The Cotswold Water Park is the most important gravel extraction site in the South West and Hills started extraction in the area during the war years when the first lakes were formed. The company has been active in the area since 1919 and was probably the first mineral extractor to dig there and is still operating in the water park today.

Harold's son Tony, who joined the business in 1960 recalls that the first large lake was wet-dug by dragline and the aggregates



*Using the dry digging method, a tractor shovel can dig and load in one operation*

loaded onto barges. A tug then took the barges across the lake to the plant where a powerful pump sucked the aggregate to the top of a series of vibrating screens which graded it according to size. The gravel was then allowed to fall into various stockpiles.

Later, dry digging was introduced; water was pumped out of the pit allowing the operator to see what he was digging. Rubber-tyred shovels dug the gravel direct from the ground and loaded it into lorries.

Tony Hill was at South Cerney during the severe winter of 1962-63 when the ice on the lake was so thick that cars could be driven across it.



*Frozen gravel lake at South Cerney during the winter of 1962-63*

As soon as the lakes were created they were used for fishing or boating. Hills let Lake 17 to the Bristol Hydroplane Racing Club, in his diary Grahame records visiting South Cerney in August 1966 to see the water skiing and hydroplane racing.

In 1971 the Cotswold Marina Company was formed and Lake 21 was used for fishing and jet-ski racing with holiday homes built around it. The company's plans and ideas, which included leisure homes and a caravan site, were the subject of a BBC TV documentary at the time. Hills later sold the site to a large South Coast family run firm called Hoburne.

Thanks to their constant search for gravel and buying of land, Hills had the capacity and reserves to become a major supplier to the main motorway contractors to the Swindon region in the mid-late 1960s. The first of these new roads was the M3, the London to Portsmouth motorway in 1966.



*Cotswold Marina which was once a gravel pit, South Cerney*



## Expansion

Don Howard was appointed director and general manager in 1969 with his appointment ushering in a period of re-organisation and expansion.

Unprofitable operations were improved or sold. Brickworks were closed, at Devizes in 1968 and at Badbury in 1970 but the land was retained.

Accountancy procedures were improved, the company divested itself of the long distance haulage companies, plant hire was reorganised and the servicing workshop was scaled down.

One casualty of the decade was the Purton brickworks, a landmark purchase made by Edward in 1906.



*Don Howard, appointed director and general manager in 1969*



*Sage & Down Quarry near Western-super-Mare*



*The end of Badbury brickworks*

Despite all efforts the Purton brickworks was closed in December 1977 and with the demolition of the kiln a 70ft deep hole and other hole pits were left behind. They posed a danger to the public and filling them in was the only sensible option. Purton may have closed as a brickyard but the site began a new career and has become an important tipping and landfill area.

The scale back in transport operations marked the end of the traditional "muck away" business from building sites. Instead, investment was made in more specialised waste disposal facilities - skips for hire.

Perhaps the most important theme of the 1970s was expansion. It began with the purchase of T F Coke (Cheltenham) Ltd, then T S Thomas & Sons Ltd of Chepstow and Tintern, next came Sage & Down Ltd of Worle, near Weston-super-Mare. Lulsgate Quarry, south of Bristol, was also bought to supply roadstone materials.

The purchase in 1975 of Broadmoor Brickworks in Cinderford, was to prove a catalyst. The brickworks brought liquid propane gas to fire the kilns direct from oil refiners at a vastly cheaper price than Hills was paying at Purton from gas suppliers.

So, gas tanks were installed at Purton and gas started to be bought direct from the oil companies. In 1976 Robert Hill, who had become managing director in 1968, persuaded two independent gas bottle distributors to buy gas from Hills. These were Handygas, of Swindon, and Sungas which distributed gas in Bristol. Hills went on to buy both companies in 1978 and 1979. One further major acquisition was made in 1987 with the purchase of Everygas Ltd in Braunton, Devon. Branded Handygas, the empire stretched from South Wales through the Thames Valley to Devon.

Two years later, in 1989, BP had made an offer to acquire the business, which, says Robert "We couldn't refuse", and the sale was completed on New Year's Eve 1989.





*Builders merchants yard, Kingshill, Swindon*

## All around the House

The major group activity in the 1970s and 1980s centred on Hills Building Supplies. After the war Hills increased the variety of building products it supplied stocking a comprehensive range of drainage pipes, bricks, cement, timber and other materials.

This part of the business had evolved gradually on the Kingshill site as builders brought in hard-core and other refuse to dump in the disused clay pit. Over a long period the area was filled and levelled and storage sheds erected. Beverley Hill remembers that, because of the diversity of the company's activities, drivers and other employees could always be found other work if there was a slack period.



*Brick library built in 1971*

A brick library was built in 1971 and contained examples of 400 types of facing bricks. The nearest such library for Swindon before had been at Bristol or Reading. There was further expansion in 1976 when a second depot was opened at Bristlington.

The company, always alert to current trends, was in the vanguard of the booming DIY home improvement era with the launch, in 1977, of the Hills Home Improvement Centre, at Kingshill. This first venture into the retail trade was opened on April 4 by popular comedian Eric Morecambe.

Everything was stocked here from a tap washer to a bathroom suite as well as items for the garden, in all a total of 22,000 items were available to the public.

The new centre was open to anyone who wanted to improve his or her home or garden. The huge new building was big enough to hold 90 buses and was open for business from 8am to 5.30pm with late night shopping on Thursday until 7.30pm.

There was a free kitchen planning service (which subsequently became Hobson's Choice Ltd); Handygas Ltd had its own showroom where gas fires, cookers and heaters were on display; shoppers could buy paint, wallpaper, carpets and bathroom equipment and there was free delivery within 25 miles.

Grahame Hill died shortly after the opening in May 1977 and his death at the age of 78 brought to an end any involvement in the business by the original sons of the founder. Mervyn had retired in 1972 to live in Gozo, Malta and Harold had died in 1973. Robert Hill then became chairman at the age of 38.

Robert remembers his father as a tough, sometimes intimidating man with a great sense of humour and mischief, a countryman at heart.



*Beverly Hill, mainly involved with planning applications and licences, also helped the company realise the potential of skips*

## Changes Throughout

A new direction which was to lead to the company's greatest prosperity to date was taken in 1968 when Hills purchased its first skip vehicle – the basic tool of waste disposal. Soon the company had acquired a fleet of skips to run in conjunction with plant hire.

Holes in the ground, particularly worked-out clay pits, had always been valuable for filling with builder's rubble, and as house building increased so did the need to dispose of household waste.

Other and older parts of the business came to an end. Hills Farms Ltd at Barton Court, High Penn Farm at Calne and West Marsh Farm at Purton were wound up in 1984.

The Thatcham gravel site, near Newbury, became an industrial estate and 110 acres of land were reclaimed at Badbury. Purton proved a valuable landfill site and a source of impermeable clay for projects such as lining the restored





Hills Homes Improvement Centre opening, from L-R, Victor Hill, Eric Morecambe, Edward Hill (behind), Glenys Hill, Tony Hill and Lyn Hill

Kennet and Avon canal. Today, the Purton site also houses an industrial estate, Hills transport depot and a recycling centre.

The 1980's also saw Welford pit, near Newbury being sold, as were Broadmoor brickworks, Hills Readymix Ltd, Sage & Down Ltd and the Thomas group of companies.

Hills decided to increase aggregate reserves and two major gravel sites were brought in 1984, at Shorncliffe and Faringdon.



This lovely old house close to Purton brickworks was used by the Hills family for many years, both as a residence and later as offices. It no longer exists.

**Hills**  
HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTRE

**FREE**  
Newspaper for you  
On what's new and  
making news at Hills  
right now.

**ERIC MORECAMBE COMES TO SWINDON,  
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER!**

Eric Morecambe is to appear  
at Swindon — at Hills!

Standing on the evening side,  
this new Home Improvement  
Centre will be a most attractive  
one on Monday April 2nd at  
11.15am. We hope you will come  
along and help us celebrate an  
event which we believe will be  
the start of something new and  
exciting in Swindon.

Quality products, at value, all at  
once, you would find hard to  
beat. Come and see around our  
huge new building (it's big enough  
to hold almost 90 buses) and  
discover what you're never  
thought of, and what you never  
before needed. Come and take  
in our solar pool and restaurant  
opening next September.

**Open for your convenience**  
Planning here, although it is  
for more months to come during  
normal opening hours, it is  
now extending, that means to get  
things done.

**NEW to you**  
Fashions in home, garden  
and leisure accessories are the  
feature in everything that  
today, in that they are  
continually changing. At Hills  
at Hills we make it our business  
to catch up with the products  
you want right now. This means  
our already vast selection of  
products is still growing, with  
new products appearing on our  
shelves virtually every week.

To give you some idea of  
what our stock, here are the  
very latest arrivals at our  
centre.

If Springtime makes you  
interested in home decorating,  
our new selection of paints by  
Bergers and Cavers will put all  
sorts of bright ideas in your  
mind. Our wallpaper selection  
is also growing, and includes  
all the latest designs for the  
bathrooms, kitchen, the lounge  
and hall.

Everyone welcome  
This new Home Improvement  
Centre is not just for the trade,  
it is a business for people who  
hold special ideas. It is open to  
anyone who wants to improve  
their home or garden. It is open  
to all who want to see the  
the amazing selection of top

This centre will be open  
for Swindon from 8.30 to 5.30  
every day except Tuesday when  
we will close at 1.30, and Swindon  
when the opening will not  
open at all. This Centre will be  
open on Good Friday and Easter  
Monday.

If you cannot come to our  
Grand Opening, just to order of  
our products, look out for the  
opening price in the next future.

**It's a great  
cover-up.**

**BERGER  
Broloc  
PEP EMULSION**

It's easy to apply. It's washable. It's  
quick-drying and free from smell. It can be  
used inside and outside, in kitchens and  
bathrooms, and directly over new plaster  
and exterior brickwork.

Broloc PEP Mast Emulsion by Berger.

**BERGER. If it's worth doing well.**

Front cover from the free Hills Home Improvement Centre newspaper

Next Issue: How Hills prospers under the leadership of Robert Hill and Alan Pardoe

# Meeting the team at **Amesbury HRC**



*Paul Dark, site supervisor helping a visitor to Amesbury's HRC*

## Tracy Torr, communications administrator spends the morning at Amesbury HRC with site supervisor, Paul Dark.

Household recycling centres have been around since the late 60's and have evolved during the years to become the public friendly, safe and easy to use sites where local residents can recycle their household and garden waste.

Amesbury's HRC, which was opened in April 2004 is one of 10 sites managed by Hills on behalf of Wiltshire Council and is run by a team of operatives led by site supervisor Paul Dark.

The site is open 7 days a week from 9.00am until 5.00pm, with late night openings twice a week during the summer until 7pm.



*Supervisor Paul Dark placing plastics into the container*

On arrival at the HRC site, the first thing that I notice is how tidy and clean the facility is and it's not long before the first cars of the day start to arrive with waste bursting from the brim, pushed up against

their car boot windows. Staff greet visitors with a friendly smile and happily go about their work including talking to visitors at the site, encouraging and advising them about recycling.

This teamwork and communication with the public means that less waste goes into landfill and more recyclables are sorted into their correct containers, in turn increasing recycling rates of the site.

Amesbury HRC deals with all the material types that Wiltshire Council accept for recycling, and has an array of containers clearly signed to let the public know what goes where. Materials accepted for recycling include: household hazardous waste, including both large and small electrical items, fluorescent tubes, lead-acid car batteries and household batteries. This is taken

along side more traditional recyclable items of waste including wood and paper, glass, plastics, newspapers, bricks and rubble, metals, green waste and textiles.

The amount of recyclables that come through the site is high and to combat the necessity of having to change the containers so regularly, Amesbury have a Jumbo Roll Packer, which



*Jumbo Roll Packer in the wood container*

compacts the waste allowing more tonnes to fit into the containers especially the wood, as that fills up the quickest.

Site supervisor, Paul Dark monitors the site with vigilance, as health and safety is paramount due to the constant stream of visitors that come and go. Hazardous waste streams are kept separate from normal waste streams to avoid contamination, staff are easy to identify as they stand out in their PPE and posters line the site office with health and safety information.

I asked Paul how he enjoys his role within the company and he is quick to comment about the diversity of the role as one day never ends up the same.

As well as dealing hands on with the public, Paul also has paperwork to complete, numerous telephone calls of enquiries from the public and the booking of lorries into the site to change over the containers.

This purpose built site has improved recycling facilities in the area and has had a positive impact on the local community, especially with more people being aware of the importance that recycling has on the environment and statistics at the site highlight that the message is getting across.



*Paul Dark, site supervisor and his operatives  
L-R, Michael Nicholson, Shaun Harvey and Stephen Guckel*





*New Volvo FM Tridem 8x4 rigid truck*

## UK's first Volvo Tridem for Hills Waste Solutions

**The first pusher-axle tridem 8x4 built by Volvo has entered service with Hills Waste Solutions.**

The new design, engineered primarily for the waste collection industry, combats the rear axle overloading frequently experienced with traditional 8x4 rear-end loaders. The Volvo tridem features a 24-tonne capacity rear bogie and 9-tonne front axle.

Peter Moore, transport operations manager, said "We needed a comfortable, powerful and fuel-efficient

32-tonner for this particular operation. When we were offered the first pusher-axle tridem arrangement to be installed in an FM we were keen to give it a go. The new configuration will provide a noticeable improvement in fuel economy and payload over our existing vehicles."

The FM is powered by the 410hp version from the Volvo 11-litre range and the gearbox is the familiar automated Volvo I-shift. Disc brakes are fitted throughout and an on-board weighing system provides an additional margin of safety for drivers.

## Purton regains its crown

Having been pushed off their top spot at the end of last year by Stanton St Quintin, Purton have started 2010 by being the star performer for the highest 'Recycled Tonnage' at an HRC during December, January, February, March and April. Jessie Bunce, site supervisor, and her team of operatives managed to recycle a total of 77.36% of tonnage received during those five months.



*L-R Operatives Trevor Reeves, Norman Valdez, Suzanne Willis, David Tarrant and site Supervisor Jessie Bunce (2nd Left)*

## Waste & Recycling Technology Conference 2010



Alex Marland, development manager for Hills Waste Solutions, gave a presentation at the W&RT conference attended by representatives from local authorities, environmental consultancies and the waste and recycling sector. The conference in Reading discussed the challenges around selecting, using and financing technologies to meet landfill diversion targets for 2010 and beyond.

Alex and Andy Conn, waste services manager from Wiltshire Council outlined how Hills and Wiltshire have developed a true working partnership under its 20 year waste disposal and recycling contract which began in 1996. The presentation detailed how the partnership began, achievements and the challenges going forward.

The conference was well attended and provided good exposure of Hills' ability as a regional waste management contractor and plans to develop waste treatment infrastructure.

Other companies giving presentations on the day covered landfill diversion challenge, how waste companies utilise technology and some case studies covering banking on recycling.

Delegates went away with a better understanding of how a public private partnership works in practice and the types of waste treatment and recycling technologies available in the market today.



## Aspire – one year on!

Following a highly successful first year of supplying waste management services to nearly 19,000 army personnel at Salisbury Plain and Aldershot Garrisons, Waste Solutions has recently agreed an expansion to the scope of work that has resulted in an amalgamated planned and reactive waste service for the next three years with Aspire Defence Services Ltd. Aspire Defence were interested in Hills providing a one-stop shop for all their waste needs over a four year period.

Commercial manager Julian Cope explains, "This is just reward for the efforts of all involved in the contract to-date. The reputation we have achieved on this contract, in such a short space of time, is truly remarkable and both Aspire Defence and the army are extremely happy with the way things have gone.

Congratulations to the collections division on a job very well done.

## Our new **white** **kerbsider** vehicle



## ISO 14001 achieved!

Hills Waste Solutions has achieved ISO14001:2004 certification of its Environmental Management System. This prestigious international standard will be recognised at a presentation ceremony on Friday 28th May with attendance by Terry March, Chairman of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management. Read all about this achievement in the next edition of InTouch







## Hills Waste holds **Business Seminar**

Hills Waste Solutions held a breakfast business seminar on Wednesday 23rd March at the Swindon Marriott Hotel to invited local businesses.

The seminar titled "Effective and Compliant Waste Management" focused on ways to offset the rising cost of waste management by diversion from landfill through increased recycling and other routes. Presentations were given by Julian Cope, commercial manager and Caroline Wilde, bids co-ordinator. The presentations took a no-nonsense look at waste regulations and Duty of Care obligations for business.

Delegates also had the opportunity to take advantage of one-to-one sessions with Richard Bond, key account manager and Simon Collins, sales representative to discuss their particular concerns and requirements.

## Used hand tools sent to **Africa**



L-R, David Moody, driver and Tony Richardson, Rotary Club of Swindon load up the vehicle with tools

Used hand tools brought into the household recycling centre in Purton by members of the public have been saved from being thrown away and instead will provide a means for people in some of the poorest communities in Africa to earn an income. The tools are refurbished by the UK based charity Tools for Self Reliance before being shipped off to Africa.

Hills has supported both the Rotary club of Swindon and TFSR by storing and transporting the tools donated since being introduced to the charity in 2003 by Rotarian Tony Hill, director of Hills UK. Cliff Carter, recycling team manager remarked "It is great to know that unwanted tools can go on to change lives instead of being thrown away".

## Secure Your Load

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have been handing out leaflets to residents who bring garden and household waste to household recycling centres.

The campaign was to highlight to residents the importance in securing their load before setting off to their local household recycling centre to prevent debris falling off their vehicle during the journey.



Visitor being handed a 'secure your load' leaflet by John Sutton from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

## Simon Allen

Simon Allen has joined Hills Waste Solutions as the new site manager at Chapel Farm. Simon started in the waste industry in 1998 working for Biffa where he was employed as a support manager. He then spent six years working as the site manager of Trecatti Landfill before taking over a regional role within the company for the south west overseeing both landfill and recycling operations.



Simon is married with two children and enjoys watching all types of sport.

## Welcome

A warm "Hills" welcome to the following employees who joined the Group between 1 January and 30 April 2010

**Julie Basford** administrator

**Helen Lock** IT support manager  
**Brian Wordley** LGV driver  
**Robbie Davies** mobile plant operative  
**John Fox** quantity surveyor  
**Grant Carter** LGV driver  
**Terry Newsham** sales representative  
**Nicholas Beck** HRC recycling operative  
**Bruce Archer-Smith** LGV driver

**Stephen Guckel** HRC recycling operative  
**Simon Allen** site manager  
**Suzanne Willis** recycling operative  
**Mark Farmer** recycling operative  
**Andrew Benger** recycling operative  
**Terry Trueman** LGV driver  
**Darrell Morley** recycling operative  
**Dominic Barlow** recycling operative

## New Arrivals

### Congratulations to:

Michael Dinwiddy, kerbside driver and his wife Kristen on the birth of their daughter Harriet, born on 20 January, weighing 7lb 7oz



Sam Douglas, administration assistant and her partner Michael on the birth of their son Calvin, born on 23 February, weighing 8lb 1oz



Simon Collins, sales representative and his wife Kim on the birth of their son, Jacob born on 3 January, weighing 7lb 15oz



## Hills Twitter it!

FOLLOW US ON 

Hills have joined this fast growing social media and marketing tool allowing us to tweet our latest news and details of changes to our website to individuals and companies interested in the Hills Group (followers).

Twitter is easy to join and you too could be following Hills by setting up a free account at [www.twitter.com/HillsGroup](http://www.twitter.com/HillsGroup) or follow the link on the homepage of the company's website [www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk)

## Hills Jute bag on location



Hills Jute bag reaches the most south-western point of the African Continent thanks to Alan Pardoe, Chairman and Mike Hill, CEO

## St Georges Day celebrated

County Park dresses in red and white to honour St Georges Day whilst raising £15.00 toward their fundraising for Help for Heroes.



## Hills Angels



Hills Angels ride for Afghan Hero's in the February Wootton Bassett ride