

in touch

Issue 22 September 2010

Celebrating 110 years of Hills

- special feature
pages 7-10

Robert Hill (left)
and Alan Pardoe



Hutton's 7th win

- read more
on page 6



Homes wins award

- read more
on page 4



Plant a tree for free

- find out more
on page 15



Michael Hill
Group CEO

40 not out...

This year has seen several significant milestones for the group chairman Alan Pardoe. Not only has he been breathing non-stop for sixty years, he has also completed forty years of service with the company. Amazingly he has worked for Hills for 36% of its 110 year history!

Having joined as a trainee accountant in August 1970, Alan worked his way up the accounts department ladder to become group financial director in 1984. He then oversaw one of the most successful eras in the company's history as chief executive until becoming chairman two years ago.

I know that I speak for all the shareholders and many staff, both past and present, as well as many other parties in congratulating him on reaching both of these milestones. You can read more about Alan opposite and his tenure at the company working with my father and as chief executive in the last installment of the 110 year history of the Hills Group on pages 7 to 10.

Homebuilding success

I was extremely proud that Hills Homes won recognition for its excellent building design and construction methods when the division was awarded the 2010 Local Authority Building Control West of England 'Best small housing development' award – see the story on page 4. Hills Homes now goes forward to the national finals in London in November, a major achievement, and where the possibility of further recognition is eagerly awaited.

Environmental priority

The Waste Solutions division put environmental management firmly at the top of their agenda when they achieved the internationally recognised ISO 14001:2004 certification earlier this year – see story on page 13.

The Hills Group takes its responsibilities to the environment very seriously and has supported the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust since 1990 to ensure that wildlife habitats are created and protected for future generations to enjoy. The story of our 20 year partnership is on page 14.

The Trust has proved to be an outstanding organisation to work with and Hills are proud to sponsor the 2010 Corporate Green Awards – it is a great way for local businesses to gain recognition for environmental best practice.

Alan Pardoe

I remember well that sunny August morning in 1970 and starting my new job with Hills. Little did I imagine, or even intend, that I would still be here 40 years later.



Alan Pardoe, Group Chairman

"Here" of course has changed since then when our offices were at Kingshill in Swindon, which is now a housing site. In those days we had a number of businesses operating from that site but my main memory is the red trucks that used to park up there in the evenings.

I started in the accounts department, where in those days most things were done by hand; accounts were



Receiving the QPA trophy in 2007 with TV presenter Fiona Bruce



With George Batten, ex Wiltshire Council, when Hills took delivery of the first two kerbside vehicles in 2004

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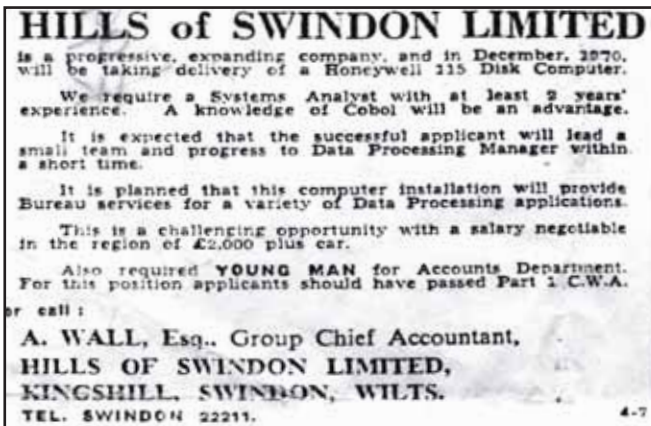
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shares his memories



The advertisement for a 'young man' - Alan's first position with Hills



The early years

prepared in ledgers and on 14 column analysis pads (the manual forerunner of a spreadsheet). The first computer turned up around 1972, it took up a whole room and could only perform one task at a time and could probably do only about 1% of what my current laptop does.

One of my first projects was to prepare for decimalization of the currency, quite an interesting job changing all the forms, tills and accounting machines. It was around this time we bought our first electronic calculator and I recall it being very expensive. The business wasn't doing all that well at the time but then the government decided to extend the M4 between Reading and Tormarton, we supplied lots of sand and gravel and really never looked back after that.

I consider myself fortunate to have been able to spend more or less my whole career in a family business where honesty and integrity prevail, and there has always been a sense of fun and belonging. Many family businesses have been sold during this time, especially in the aggregates and waste sectors and I am particularly pleased that we have been successful enough not to have had to do that. Long may it continue.

So what of my 5th decade of association with Hills? The project that I am currently involved in, the MBT contract will hopefully reach a conclusion very soon and we will be able to start construction in early 2011. After that I hope to be able to continue to contribute to the company's success, albeit in a less hands on capacity, and I plan still to be around as a shareholder to help celebrate the 125th anniversary!

Alan Pardoe's milestones:

- Started at Hills on 5th August 1970
- Chief Accountant - 1978
- Finance Director - 1984
- Managing Director - 1992
- Group Chairman - 2008



Robert Hill and Alan laying a foundation stone at Hills Homes' Queensgate development



With pro-golfer David Howell (right) and Craig Scott of RBS (left) and Ross Snape of United Asphalt at a charity golf day sponsored by Hills



Alan Pardoe at the launch of the Waste Warrior in 1997



Enjoying the Rugby World Cup in Paris in 2007 with wife Heather, David Hill (left) and Mike Hill

Excellence award for Hills Homes

The Old Dairy, an exclusive development of seven homes in Upper Castle Combe has won the Local Authority Building Control West of England Building Excellence Award 2010 for "Best Small Housing Development".

Nominated by Wiltshire Council, the LABC Awards recognise quality, design, construction and project management. Nick King, group director - Homes said "Winning this award is especially important to us as it recognises not only our approach to developing quality homes which sit naturally in their environment but also to the talented team of people who brought this development together, from design through to completion utilising traditional skills combined with the most up to date technology."

Inspired by the idyllic surroundings of nearby picturesque Castle Combe, where strict building rules apply to preserve the beauty and character of the village, the development improved the setting of the existing adjacent listed Grade II property whilst maintaining a rural theme to blend into the local environment. The process saw the inclusion of traditional building skills and craftsmanship in harmony with the most up to date green technology including rainwater harvesting and solar thermal water heating systems.

Hills Homes will now go through to the LABC national finals, up against 11 other regional finalists in the same category "Best Small Housing Development" in London on Tuesday 2nd November.

Mike Hill, chief executive, commented, "This is a tremendous achievement and the whole team involved should feel very



Section of the Castle Combe development that won the LABC award

proud of themselves. Creating wonderful places to live is what we are in the business for and this kind of recognition is the icing on the cake."

The Judges commented, "Hills Property is to be commended in their achievement of a modern development, encompassing the requirements of all current Building Regulations, within an historic Cotswold village. Their use of top quality materials and craftsmanship has ensured that these new houses enhance the traditional streetscene in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."

New chairman for the Chartered Institute of Building

Nick King, group director - Homes has been appointed as the chairman of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) South West branch.

Nick held the post of vice-chairman for four years before being appointed to the post of chairman and commented, "Having progressed from being a student member to a Fellow of the Institute it will be my great privilege to play a part in leading the South West branch activities and promoting the interests of membership here in the South West."

I am sure you will join Hills in extending congratulations to Nick on his new appointment.



Nick King, group director - Homes

New Developments

Ashbury proves popular!

Hills Homes is currently building four new homes in the charming village of Ashbury, high up on the Downs near the Ridgeway Path.

With far reaching views across the valley to the front and pasture to the rear, these homes have proved so popular that they have all sold off plan. Built to Hills Homes' customary high standard the two semi detached cottages and two larger detached properties have been designed to sit naturally in their rural landscape and feature different architectural styles to echo the mix of properties in the village. Plots 3 and 4 each have a paddock in addition to their good sized gardens.



Artists Impression of Plot 4 at Idstone Road, Ashbury

The interiors will be no less impressive with well laid out living space and good sized bedrooms complemented by bathrooms from Villeroy & Boch. With many features to ensure low and sustainable energy usage, these new homes will be the period homes of the future.



Artists Impression of Plot 1

Taking shape at **South Marston**

The construction of five substantial detached homes at St Julian's Close, South Marston, is now well underway.



South Marston in progress

Looking after the build process is award winning site manager, Jan Pearce, who anticipates completing the site early in 2011. The five 4 and 5 bedroomed homes are all individually designed with generous reception space, large open plan kitchen/family rooms and ample gardens. Each with their own drive way and double garage, the homes will have bespoke kitchens by Windmill and sanitaryware from the Villeroy & Boch Architectura Collection.

Set only 3 miles from the centre of Swindon, the houses enjoy a delightful location next to woodlands. This area has been gifted to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust by The Hills Group and will be maintained by the community ensuring a safe haven for wildlife for generations to come.

Marketing of the exclusive new homes is planned to commence this month.



Computer generated image of Plot 6 St Julian's Close, South Marston

Hutton wins again!

The 30th Hills Wiltshire Professionals Golf Championship took place at Marlborough Golf Club on Wednesday 21st July.

A clear sky greeted the 21 professionals as they teed off early for the 36 hole event with last year's winner, David Hutton going into an early lead.

Despite a change in the weather and gusty conditions in the afternoon session, Hutton continued his great form to record a winning two round score of 3 under par.

Hutton became champion for an impressive seventh time and for the fifth year in a row!

Marlborough Golf Club's professional Simon Amor finished the afternoon round with three birdies giving him the runners-up slot with 2 over par. Richard Blake from Upavon Golf Club finished third (5 over par) and Graham Laing, North Wilts Golf Club coming in fourth (6 over par).

The afternoon also saw some excellent golf played by Hills' invited guests. Six teams of three amateurs played the 18 hole course with the team led by Alan Mackenzie winning overall. Alan's team consisted of Ross Snape (United Asphalt) and Len Wright (Wright Minimix). Second was Alan Pardoe's team and he played with Rob Lister (Lister Communications) and Jim Crick.



David Hutton, Hills Wiltshire Professionals Golf Champion 2010



Alan Pardoe putting on the green watched by Jim Crick



Simon Amor, Marlborough Golf Club Pro teeing off



Graham Laing from North Wilts Golf Club finished 4th with 6 over par

Calling all junior golfers

Bad weather cancelled play at the Hills Junior Golf Championships in August and the event has been rescheduled to take place at Broome Manor Golf Complex in Swindon on Tuesday 26 October.

Junior golfers wishing to enter the competition should contact Barry Sandry at Broome Manor on 01793 495761.

Players over 10 years of age must hold a golf club membership with handicap and will play 18 holes. Players under 10 years of age will only play 9 holes and must be accompanied by an adult.

ANYTHING • ANYWHERE • ANYTIME

110 Years of the Hills Family Business



Entering the new millennium

The 1980's saw the sale of various parts of the business under the direction of Robert Hill

and managing director Bob Cass, including the profitable sale of Handygas which ensured the Group's survival through the recession at the time. Robert was then joined at the helm by Alan Pardoe who became managing director in 1992 as the company concentrated on a narrower but more profitable range of activities.

A few years later the company entered the house building market and expanded greatly over the years since winning the Wiltshire Waste Contract, the housing boom, the growth in aggregates reserves and the commencement of ready mixed concrete production.

The Recycling Revolution

The recycling and disposal contract awarded by Wiltshire County Council (now Wiltshire Council) in 1996 led to the opening of the materials recycling facility (MRF) at Lower Compton. To date, a recycling rate of over 45% has been achieved under the contract,



Alan Pardoe signing the Wiltshire Waste Contract in 1996

which includes a kerbside collection service, a network of 10 household recycling centres and more than 200 mini recycling sites. Hills is also transporting 50,000 tonnes of residual waste a year from south Wiltshire to the Lakeside Energy-from-Waste plant at Colnbrook.

Recycling and waste management activities continue to grow for customers in both the public and private sectors. While hazardous and non-hazardous landfill remains an important activity, it is now a final option as Hills Waste Solutions seeks every opportunity to transform waste into a resource. In a typical year, it now recycles over 230,000 tonnes and harnesses sufficient gas from two landfill sites to satisfy the electricity needs of some 12,000 homes. Green waste is transformed into compost and wood is shredded into chips that help fire power stations.



Artic lorry leaving the Lakeside EfW plant at Colnbrook



Doppstadt shredder being loaded with green waste for composting

Digging Further Afield

Hills Quarry Products operates five strategically located quarries serving wide areas of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Dorset. Facing potential loss of an important part of its market, the company launched its own ready-mixed concrete business in 2005. It now has three concrete plants, one of them at the new Woodsford Quarry near Dorchester where Hills took the opportunity to extend its boundaries with a valuable 4.2 million tonne reserve.



Concrete plant at Woodsford, Dorset



Homes development in Priory Vale, Swindon

Building Quality

Hills Homes grew quickly following the purchase of Olivemead Developments in 1998 and won wide recognition for the quality and energy efficiency of its properties. While the majority of its developments have involved smaller sites, the company has pursued larger developments at Paxcroft Mead in Trowbridge and Priory Vale, Swindon.

Caring for People and Nature

The company cares passionately about its employees with health and safety as its top priority and has some of the best health and safety records in the industry in which it operates. The business sets itself high environmental standards designed to minimise any impact on its neighbours, and communicates readily with them through established liaison committees.



Alan Pardoe (left) and Mike Hill touring Lakeside EFW plant at Colnbrook

Restoration of land that has been quarried, sometimes filled through landfill, is a particular skill that has won the company a series of top industry awards. The work in the Cotswold Water Park is of particular note, but so too is Langford Lakes, a superb nature reserve in the Wylde Valley near Salisbury. This

achievement is one of many in which Hills has partnered the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) with substantial benefits to nature and communities.

Hills was the first company in the country to take advantage of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme which was introduced by the government in 1996. Partnering with registered environmental bodies over the years resulted in numerous projects throughout Wiltshire receiving vital funding to improve the lives of communities affected by the company's activities.

Looking Ahead

Throughout its long history, Hills has always held on fiercely to its independence. Despite working in industries dominated by multi-national concerns, the close support of shareholders has made it possible to remain a family owned business.

Today, The Hills Group is led by chief executive Michael Hill, the great grandson of its founder, with Alan Pardoe in the role of chairman. Under their guidance, the business remains very much a family and that is reflected in its relationship with its various stakeholders – and in its approach in particular to its employees, local communities where it operates and to the environment.

The Hills Group is in good shape, despite indication that the financial climate will remain difficult for some years to come, and well prepared to tackle challenges and pursue opportunities.

In the immediate future Hills Waste Solutions is on course to open two further household recycling centres serving Westbury and Marlborough.

Hills Quarry Products will be looking at growing its network of ready-mixed concrete plants within the region and faces the



Hills wins national award for Langford Lakes



Robert Hill and Alan Pardoe join Prince Charles for a visit to an organic farm project supported from landfill tax

challenge of replenishing reserves. With this in mind permission has been granted at Upwood Park in Oxfordshire as a replacement for existing Tubney Wood quarry.

Hills Homes is concentrating its immediate future on small sites in desirable village locations and work has recently started in Ashbury, South Marston and Ascot-under-Wychwood.



Mike Hill, chief executive standing in front of the MRF at Lower Compton

A Word from the Chief Executive

Much has changed, and yet the essential spirit of our business remains much as it was way back when my great grandfather launched it in 1900. I often wonder how Edward felt when he set out single-handed as a brick maker all those years ago - he quite literally built the business "from the ground up" using materials dug from the earth. The intervening stewardships of my father's and grandfather's generations each overcame daunting challenges and enjoyed great successes.

The fact that we remain a strong unit owes a great deal to the loyalty and commitment of an admirable workforce over four generations. But we also need to thank our shareholders who ensure that we remain independent and can do what most public companies cannot in taking a longer term view of our business.

My take on the years ahead is that we certainly have hurdles to cross as the nation reduces its debt. Hills are, however, very well placed to build on the achievements that have gone before. The Hills family business will doubtless be very different ten years from now, but our core values will be much as they have always been.

Michael Hill, chief executive

Behind the scenes at Shorncote

On Saturday 12 June, members of the public were taken on a guided tour of Shorncote Quarry by site manager Daniel Houghton.

The tour, run in partnership with Cotswold Water Park Society (CWPS), involved interested members of the public being shown around the washing plant, concrete plant and excavation pits before being handed over to rangers from CWPS who took the group on to see the restored lakes and the wildlife habitat of the reedbeds.

The aim of the tour was to give an insight into the life cycle of a gravel quarry from the gravel excavation process right through to restoration and how this transforms the landscape over time.



Daniel Houghton, site manager addressing the tour group at Shorncote Quarry

Quarry sponsor Dorchester FC

Hills Quarry Products have strengthened their ties with the local community in Dorset by sponsoring the under 18's away shirts and 1st team reserve shirts for Dorchester Town Football Club (DTFC).

Dorchester's under 18's play in the South West Counties League, FA Youth and League cup with their home ground (The Avenue) 4 miles away from Woodsford Quarry.

DTFC welfare officer and administrator Stuart Griffiths said "We are extremely pleased that Hills has become involved with DTFC at this level, we search for the best talent throughout the South West and the under 18 group is of great importance to building a team for the future."



Team DRT celebrate their win on the track, with Alan Mackenzie attempting to avoid the spray!

Go-karting fun!

Hills Quarry Products teamed up with Bridges Electrical to entertain customers at Thruxton Kart Centre recently. Thirty-five people, divided into teams, took part in the 2 hour endurance race on the 1.1km circuit. The 60mph Box Thunder karts with racing chassis and slick tyres gave drivers an exciting ride and the need to refuel ensured that strategy remained key.

The race was strongly contested with 3rd place going to Two's Company (Matt and John Bridges of Bridges Electrical), in 2nd place was the Solent team (Mike Jackson, Robbie King and Alan Mackenzie) and the overall winner, by a mere 14 seconds, was Team DRT (Dene Roberts of DR Communications, and Wayne Willavoys and Pat O'Grady both of Trucktyre).



Amesbury HRC gets country's first remote controlled Jumbo Roll Packer

*The country's first remote controlled
Jumbo Roll Packer on site at
Amesbury HRC*



Equipment specialists Kenburn Waste Management have installed the country's first remote-controlled compaction system at Amesbury Household Recycling Centre.

The Bergmann Jumbo Roll Packer is mounted on rails so that it can service multiple bays and is operated via remote control.

The Jumbo Roll Packer uses a giant roller on a hydraulic arm to break up material in containers. Blades on the roller drum tear up the material and reduce the amount of space taken up and because it is so versatile almost any type of material can be compacted, from cardboard to wood.

This has reduced the number of collections that take place at Amesbury HRC meaning fewer disruptions to the public. Fewer collections also mean less traffic movement.

Mike Webster, group director - Waste Solutions said "The Roll Packer is already in use at four of the ten HRC sites we operate on behalf of Wiltshire Council. Adding the remote control element provides an extra safety feature, since the operator stands in front of the container allowing the public access walkways to be more closely monitored."

Aspire – sustainability week

For the past four years, Aspire Defence Services Ltd has run a sustainability week to coincide with World Environment Day. This year the event ran from 7 to 11 June with information flyers and competitions covering topics such as nature conservation, energy and transport, materials and food, waste, and water.

Hills Waste Solutions sponsored an information flyer which dealt with the issue of waste and asked the question, 'Over 80% of plastic bottles are capable of being recycled, but in the UK what percentage is actually recycled, on average?' (See below for answer.)



*L-R, Richard Bond shaking hands with winner Michael Sheridan
with Dave Long on the right*

Michael Sheridan from ADSL based in Tidworth won the competition and was presented with his prize of an Italian designer recycling bin by Richard Bond, key account manager and David Long, waste contract manager - Aspire.

The correct answer is 20% (source: <http://www.recoup.org>)

Chris Boyd, transport supervisor, has obtained his CPC certificate. The Transport Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) is a qualification required by the EU which must be held by at least one key member of a transport operation.



ISO 14001:2004 presentation takes place



A ceremony took place in May at the Materials Recycling Facility in

Lower Compton to acknowledge Hills Waste Solutions achieving ISO 14001:2004 certification.

Terry March, president of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) attended the ceremony and presented Mike Webster, group director- Waste Solutions and Daryl Taylor, environment manager with the certificate.

The project took 12 months to complete and was led by Daryl Taylor who said, "This certification is a major achievement for Hills Waste Solutions. We have identified our key environmental issues and ensured

that processes are in place for effective management, environmental improvement, prevention of pollution and legal compliance."



L-R Mike Hill, Daryl Taylor, Steve Burns, Terry March President of CIWM and Mike Webster

The ISO 14001: 2004 certification applies across all activities and facilities managed by Hills Waste Solutions including transport and collection operations, recycling, treatment, transfer and landfill with energy recovery and demonstrate that the division is committed to improving its environmental performance.

MRF tours go from strength to strength

The Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) not only enables the company to sort various materials and prepare them for transportation to reprocessors, but is also an ideal 'educational' resource. Since its opening in the late 1990's many individuals and groups have taken tours of the site.



John Chapman, MRF foreman with a teacher and children from Broad Hinton school including Sophia Hill (second left), Mike Hill's daughter

The MRF is capable of handling 23,000 tonnes of material per annum that is collected at Wiltshire's 10 HRC's and

the kerbside black box schemes. Tours show visitors the recycling process of materials and include the reception areas, conveyor belts, manual and automatic sorting lines, flattening, spiking and baling equipment, and the bulk stores of paper and glass prior to transportation.

The tour then goes on to show the areas that deal with wood chipping, composting and water treatment, ending with a view of the landfill which manages household waste that is not suitable for recycling. The tour is free and is part of Hills Waste Solutions' commitment to the local community in raising awareness of waste minimisation and recycling.



Henry Newbery, waste treatment manager talking to ASPIRE about composting



Liana Shadwell, recycling sorter & mobile plant operative operating the fork lift at Waste Solutions' Lower Compton facility

Purton HRC retains top spot

Purton maintained top position for the highest 'recycled tonnage' at an HRC over the May to July period. Staff at the site recycled 83.03% of tonnage received and just managed to beat Stanton St Quintin on 82.75% and Amesbury at 81.26%.



L-R, Operatives David Tarrant, Trevor Reeves, Suzanne Willis and site supervisor Jessie Bunce

Celebrating 20 years of support with **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust**



Mike Hill (second right) presents the cheque to Perry Chadwyck-Healey, chairman of the Trust (second left) with Dr Gary Mantle (left) and Mike Webster, director Hills Waste Solutions (right) looking on surrounded by Trustees from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

The work that the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is doing to ensure wildlife thrives and expands in Wiltshire is rooted in a partnership founded 20 years ago between Hills and the Trust.

It all began in 1990 when Hills agreed to fund one of the Trust's first Countryside Management Projects at Braydon Forest. At that time the landfill at Purton was one of Hills' biggest operations and its location had an impact on both the Braydon Forest and the community of Purton. The opportunity to support the Trust's project fitted in perfectly with Hills strategy to support local communities and wildlife habitats affected by business operations.

For the next six years of the partnership, Hills provided an average £20,000 per year to support the Trust in their work with local farmers and landowners to create habitats where wildlife could thrive. "The decision to fund the Trust was driven by a genuine desire to give something back to the communities of Wiltshire which supported our growing company. This is a principle the Hills Group still lives by today," comments Mike Hill, chief executive.

The perfect opportunity for Hills to significantly boost financial support for the Trust came about in 1996 when the government introduced the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. This innovative tax credit scheme, now known as the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), enabled landfill operators to

Use the enclosed membership application form to support Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – join for as little as £2 a month for an individual or £3 a month for a family

contribute money to environmental bodies, working in partnership to create significant environmental benefits and to undertake projects which improve the lives of communities living near landfill sites. Hills and the Trust were the very first organisations in the country to work in partnership in this way.

Since 1996 Hills has contributed more than £4.5m to the Trust through the LCF to support the conservation of biodiversity and the provision of public amenities in the region.



Brown hairstreak butterfly
Photograph: Wayne Clinch

The company continues to fund work in Braydon Forest, which includes laying hedges, creating and restoring ponds, monitoring bats and putting up bat boxes, and surveying dormice.

"These generous grants from Hills help us continue our crucial work to protect, maintain and enhance Wiltshire's biodiversity and create the Living Landscapes that we need if there is to be a sustainable future for wildlife and people," says Dr Gary Mantle, director of the Trust. "A number of Trust reserves have benefited from Hills funding including Lower Moor Farm and Clattinger Farm near Oaksey, Blakehill Farm near Cricklade, Jones's Mill near Pewsey, Coombe Bissett Down and Langford Lakes near Salisbury."

Hills sponsor 2010 Corporate Green Awards

Awards to recognise, reward and promote environmental best practice. Entry is open to all companies and organisations who have an office or base in Wiltshire or Swindon. Deadline for entries – 10 September 2010

More information from
www.wiltshirewildlife.org
or contact Iain Boyd on 07872 117386



Safe passage for **Jubilee Gardens students**



*Mike Webster (right) officially opens the new path with
Bruce Porter (left) and one of the students*

Thanks to the combined support of local farmers, businesses and Hills Waste Solutions, a new path was constructed for students at Jubilee Gardens charity in Purton Stoke giving them a safe route to their garden.

Mike Webster, group director - Waste Solutions attended the opening of the new path and commented that, "we have been working with Jubilee Gardens for a while to get the project completed. Hills welcomes being involved in projects such as this one where we can help communities located near our sites."

The project was made possible by funding received from Hills and donations received by Jubilee Gardens. William Pointing licensed the necessary land and local farmers Dick Scott and Richard Sweet sourced materials. F R Crew Ltd fenced the path and the project was completed with landscaping by Eric Bowles.

Students used to have to walk along the busy Cricklade road from the main building to access their garden, where they grow vegetables, plants and flowers as part of their horticultural training.

Jubilee Gardens is a registered charity which provides education and training for adults with learning disabilities. The primary aim of the charity is to promote the development of horticultural skills, whilst maintaining growth in literacy, numeracy and social skills.



Southern Marsh Orchids growing at the High Penn site

Planting Day at **High Penn, Calne**

One thousand trees will be made available free of charge for visitors to plant at High Penn on Hills planting day to be held on Saturday 6 December. The planting will coincide with National Tree Planting Week.

The Hills Group is planning the scheme with Southern Forestry and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, who will manage the site once planting has been completed.

Those wishing to attend should contact Group Communications on 01672 518924 or email info@hills-group.co.uk

Purton village centre improvements

A grant by Hills of £23,075 via the Landfill Communities Fund which is administered by Community First, has enabled works to improve facilities at the Purton village centre.

The public tennis court has been resurfaced and the perimeter fencing enclosing the putting green and garden has been replaced, a section of the car park has also been resurfaced.



Welcome

A warm "Hills" welcome to the following employees who joined the Group between 1 May and 31 July 2010.

Scott Collings	HR assistant
David Butcher	kerbside loader
Samuel Weston	kerbside loader
Simon Homer	kerbside loader
Julia Robbins	LGV driver (mixer)
Nicholas Beasant	LGV driver
Kevin Gingell	LGV driver (kerbside)

Challenges



Nathan Carr, depot manager (above centre) and Jon Bucksey, divisional accountant (3rd right) celebrate with warrior helmets after completing the British Heart Foundation London to Brighton cycle challenge 2010.

Liz Carr, credit control clerk completed the British Heart Foundation Harbour cycle challenge around Portsmouth



Tony Britten, sales representative, took part in the Great London Swim and completed the one mile course in the Thames in 42 min 36 secs coming 2,249 out of 5,000 competitors.



Hills 2010 cricket season

The first match was held in June against KPMG at their grounds at Flax Bourton in Bristol with the team from Hills going in to bat first. Hills finished with a score of 87 for 1 wicket. KPMG eventually won the match with a score of 88 for 7 with 2 overs to spare. The return match was held in July at Ballard's Ash sports ground in Wootton Bassett with KPMG going in to bat first scoring 130 for 6. Hills' innings started well; however a dip in scoring left them with a final score of 112 for 8 giving KPMG a second victory.



Neil Watts, transport co-ordinator (right) leaving the field with Jon Bucksey, divisional accountant going in to bat

Not to be defeated Hills cricket team went on to play local team 'The Five Bells' at Ballard's Ash sports ground a few weeks later. The Five Bells won the toss and elected to bat, posting a score of 134 for 8. With "emerging new talent" Steve Burns claiming 2 wickets, Hills' innings came up short with a score of 74 for 9.

The Hills Cricket Team is made up of: Adrian Knowles, Cliff Carter, Dave Bevan, Terry Newsham, Garry Mulcock, Richard Swatton, John Warner, Neil Watts, Gavin Walton, Marcus Eltham, Steve Burns, Alex Marland, Jon Bucksey including invited players: James Taylor, James Askew, Harry Hazzard and Martyn Parfitt.

If anyone is interested in playing for the Hills Team please contact either Adrian Knowles on 07919 527512 or Richard Swatton on 07785 304190

Prospect Starlight Walk

Julie James, PA to group director - Waste Solutions (left) and Lynn Daniels, PA to group director - Quarry Products entered the Prospect Hospice's starlight walk in June and raised £345 (plus gift aid) for the charity.

