

into touch

Issue 24 June 2011

Contract signed to deliver Wiltshire's 1st MBT plant - read more on page 4



Community helps to plant 1,000 trees at new nature reserve
- read more on pages 2 & 3

Working with the community
- read more from page 5





Michael Hill
Chief executive

Planting roots for our future...

In the following article you can read how a local community joined us in planting the final saplings and helped convert an old restored landfill site into a wonderful nature reserve for our future. More symbolically the roots were also planted more recently for a new way to deal with Wiltshire's residual domestic waste when we signed the contract with Wiltshire Council to build the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant in Westbury. (See page 4)

This marked a highly important milestone in the company's history. It not only extended the extremely successful working partnership that we have enjoyed with the council for the past fifteen years but represents a significant step in our development into a waste treatment and resource recovery business from being a waste disposal business. I would like to thank

everyone from all the parties involved in finalising the various contracts for all their hard work and patience.

We need to develop our treatment and recovery facilities to cope with the fast changing requirements of the council and our commercial waste customers. The communication of these plans, and indeed those for all our activities, is of great importance to us and you can read more about our objectives and consultation from page 5.

Current performance and outlook

Sales volumes and results over recent months have been encouraging and certainly better than we were anticipating in late autumn last year.

Although reports regarding a stagnating economy and fears about the effects of the public expenditure cuts mean that the future is far from certain we enter our new financial year with a positive outlook with quality and service delivery remaining key objectives.

Cover: L-R Tracy Carter service director Wiltshire Council waste management, Alan Pardoe chairman, Mike Webster group director - Waste Solutions, Mark Boden director Wiltshire Council neighbourhood and planning, Mike Hill chief executive and Toby Sturgis Wiltshire Cabinet member for waste, property and development control



L-R Alan Pardoe chairman, Dr Gary Mantle MBE director of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Calne Town Mayor Councillor Helen Plenty and Mike Hill chief executive



Volunteers planting trees at Penn Wood

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

Issue No 25 will be published in September 2011; please submit news and photographs (if possible) to the communications department, either to the above address, on telephone (01672) 518924 or via email to tracy.torr@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.

 @HillsGroup

Contents

Viewpoint.....	2
Tree planting	2 & 3
Waste Solutions	4-11
Quarry Products	12-13
Homes	14-15
Community	16
Group news	17
People news	18-20

1,000 trees planted thanks to **community spirit!**

A community day proved to be a great success when local volunteers worked together to plant the final 1,000 trees at Penn Wood, High Penn.

The day dawned bright and dry and even though there was a cold wind blowing over 100 people braved the conditions. With spades at the ready they planted saplings where wooden stakes had been placed and erected tree guards to complete the project.

Calne Town Mayor Councillor Helen Plenty got into the spirit of the day and joined Alan Pardoe, Mike Hill and Gary Mantle, director, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, to plant one of the many varieties of trees that have made Penn Wood their new home.

Keith Mills and his team from Southern Forestry were on hand to assist volunteers with planting and representatives from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust were available to answer questions about Penn Wood. Information boards were erected giving details about the site and the trees being planted together with photographs of the wildlife that can be seen in the area.

Tours were offered around the 19 acre site of Penn Wood to show visitors the hibernation mounds and heat traps created

for the slow worms and the two ponds for frogs, toads, plants and creatures.

Mike Hill was pleased with the fantastic turnout of people and commented, "Everyone got stuck in and after a couple of hours all the trees were planted. I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who joined in to help us. Penn Wood is a beautiful green open space for the community of Calne to enjoy."

The variety of plants and trees in the nature reserve will provide a natural rich source of food for wildlife including insects and Hairstreak butterflies. Wooden poles have also been placed throughout Penn Wood to encourage kestrels, buzzards, red kites and owls. Bat boxes have been erected to provide safe roosting spots.

In total 10,000 trees have been planted at Penn Wood and include blackthorn, oak, ash, lime, black poplar and downy birch trees with a small amount of Norway spruce and Scots pine. Wide rides (grass paths) link onto the existing footpaths and bridle paths around Penn Wood.

Penn Wood can be accessed via Oxford Road, Calne and will be managed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on a long term lease from Hills.



Mike Hill digs out a hole for his daughter Louisa to plant a sapling with Dave Bevan, finance director - Group and Homes, and his daughter Georgina in the background



Jackie, receptionist, and Clive Phillips, postal operative, joined in the fun



Keith Mills from Southern Forestry handing out saplings for planting



Visitors on a tour of Penn Wood led by Sue Wyatt, personal assistant to the chairman and chief executive



Richard Corrigan, site technician, handing out tree planting stickers

Contract signed for **Northacre MBT**

The contract between Waste Solutions and Wiltshire Council has been signed for the county's first mechanical biological treatment (MBT) plant to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill in Wiltshire.

Commenting on the contract, Alan Pardoe chairman, said, "This contract and the construction of the Hills' Northacre facility is considered to be a key step in Waste Solutions' transition from a landfill disposal operator to a waste recycling and treatment business. It will enable us to bring forward further waste treatment projects and secure the company's future in waste management."

Construction of the £20 million facility on the Northacre Trading Estate, Stephenson Road, Westbury is scheduled to commence in August 2011 and the facility is expected to be operational by late summer 2013.

Toby Sturgis, cabinet member for waste, property and environment, said: "We are pleased to have signed the contract, and it is another milestone in our waste management strategy which will see thousands of tonnes of waste diverted from landfill."

The Northacre facility will receive 60,000 tonnes of municipal waste from households in the county and, in doing so, help the county's taxpayers avoid landfill tax, which will cost £80 per tonne by 2014.

MBT specialist Entserga Italia is providing technology for the plant and Interserve plc has been awarded the design and build construction contract.

The MBT process employs natural microbes within the waste to accelerate the decomposition process. The MBT process to treat waste takes up to fourteen days and is carried out in a sealed building which is maintained under negative air pressure to avoid



Group photo of all parties involved in the Northacre project

the release of odours to the environment. Processed air from the building is passed through filters prior to release into the atmosphere. As the waste dries, it loses over 30 per cent of its original weight. Once dried, it is further processed to remove metals for recycling. It is from the remaining material that a refuse derived fuel (RDF) is manufactured. The final RDF is a dry and sanitised material that can be safely handled.

Key Facts & Figures

- **Wiltshire's current recycling rate (2010/11):**
41 per cent
- **MBT capacity: accepts 60,000 tonnes per year**
The Hills' Northacre facility will reduce the proportion of Wiltshire's municipal waste sent to landfill from 37 per cent to less than 20 per cent
- **When processed (averages) per year:**
 - 28,200 tonnes of refuse derived fuel (RDF)
 - Equivalent of 20,000 tonnes lost through drying
 - 1,800 tonnes of recyclable metals recovered
 - 10,000 tonnes of bio-stabilised residue to landfill

It is estimated that the Hills' Northacre facility will save significant council lorry miles per year as waste from the west of Wiltshire will no longer need to be transported to Hills' landfill site at Lower Compton.

- **Area served:** The west of Wiltshire
- **Timetable:**
 - Start construction: August 2011
 - Operational: Late summer of 2013
- **Cost:** Approximately £20 million



*Entserga built mechanical biological treatment plant
(not actual plant being built)*

Hills - working with communities

We recognise the importance of keeping local communities informed of any of our activities that may affect them. Regular liaison meetings are held with local people and their elected representatives in communities who live and work close to where we operate.

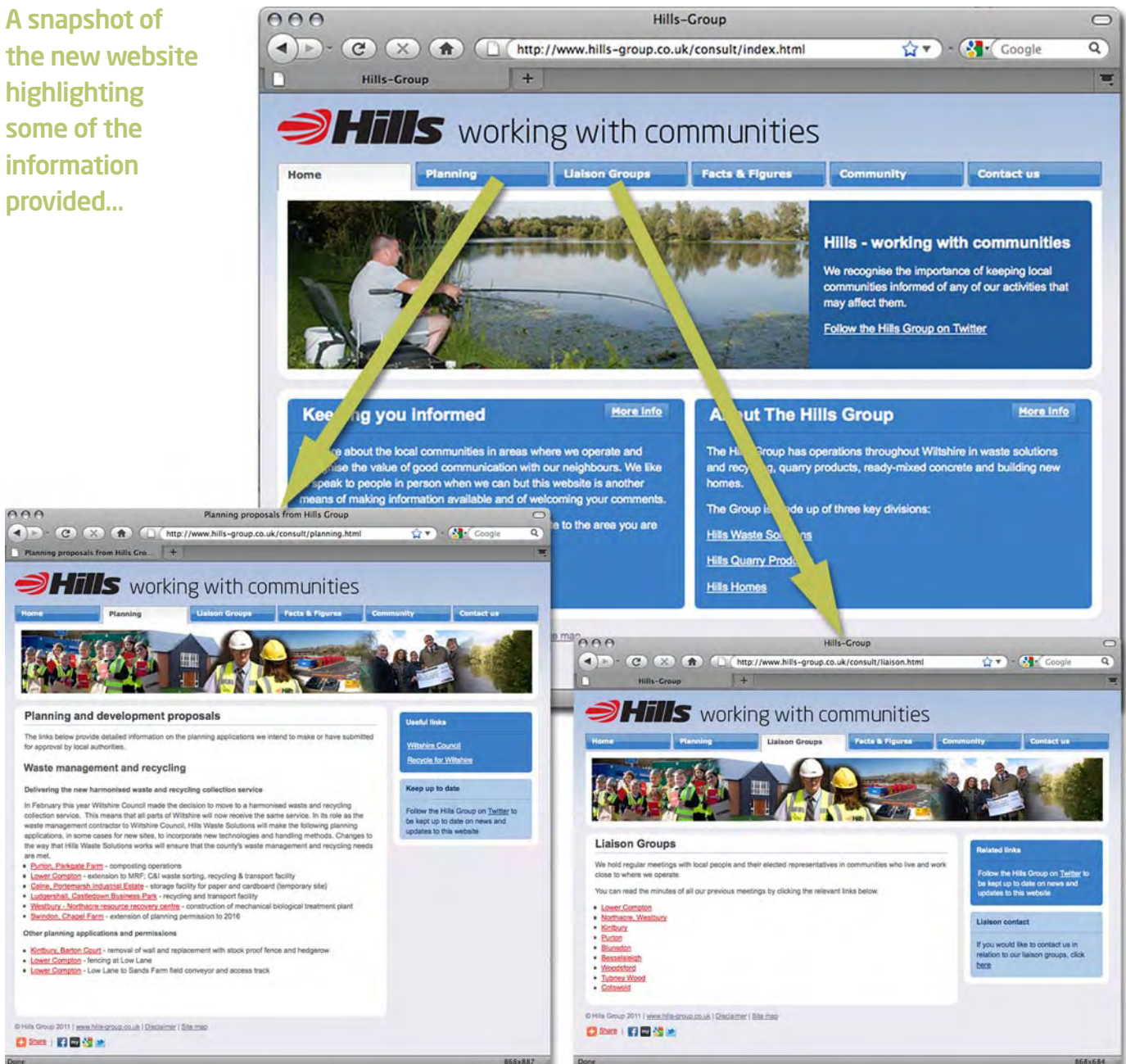
In addition to these meetings, a new section has been placed on the Hills Group website www.hills-group.co.uk/consult which

gives details of planning applications being made by Group, Waste Solutions, Homes and Quarry Products.

The information on the website will help local people understand our proposals and comment on them. We will use the feedback received to assist us in preparing our planning applications and address any concerns raised wherever possible.

In addition, the website provides information on the Hills Group of companies active involvement in the region's community and with its residents.

A snapshot of the new website highlighting some of the information provided...



Waste Solutions embarks on major planning exercise to deliver changes to the waste and recycling collection service in Wiltshire

Following a county-wide public consultation exercise last year conducted by Wiltshire Council, the decision was taken by council members in February 2011 to move to a harmonised waste and recycling collection service. This means that all parts of Wiltshire will eventually receive the same service and is explained in more detail on page 8.

In its role as the waste management contractor to Wiltshire Council, Waste Solutions will work with the Council to make this happen. As a result, Waste Solutions will need to change the way it currently works and submit planning applications to incorporate new technologies and handling methods.

The following provides an overview of the changes Waste Solutions is proposing in response to Wiltshire Council's new services and to continue to deliver waste and recycling services to the region.

Wiltshire Council

All households in the county will move to a fortnightly plastic bottle and cardboard collection in addition to the current collection of paper, cans, glass, foil, clothes and shoes.

Waste Solutions

Waste Solutions currently does not have enough capacity to sort the additional materials that will be collected. Waste Solutions will therefore seek planning permission for a number of new and inter-related developments:

- 1 a redesigned sorting and transport facility at Lower Compton for municipal and commercial waste and recycling;
- 2 a temporary facility at Porte Marsh Industrial Estate in Calne for plastic bottles and cardboard until the work at Lower Compton is complete;
- 3 a new recycling and transport facility in Ludgershall;
- 4 move most of the composting operations to Parkgate Farm.



Wiltshire Council

A new county-wide green waste collection service for all those households who request it.

Waste Solutions

Waste Solutions currently receives 30,000 tonnes of green waste per year at the composting facility in Lower Compton. Once the new green waste collection service is in place, volumes may increase. The Lower Compton site will not be big enough to accommodate this increase in volume as well as the proposed redesigned sorting and transport facility.

Waste Solutions will need to move most of the composting activities from Lower Compton to Parkgate Farm at Purton that has existing planning permission for a composting area. Some low grade composting will be retained at Lower Compton to help with site restoration works.



Wiltshire Council

Fortnightly collection of household waste from homes in the north and south of the county to put them in line with the east and west.

Waste Solutions

Waste Solutions needs to re-organise its waste management activities and make adjustments at two of its main sites.

At Lower Compton the material recycling facility (MRF) will be reorganised and expanded to take account of the changed patterns of collection and the new types of waste and recycling that will be received.

At Chapel Farm, planning permission will be sought to extend the landfilling of residual waste to 2016.



Wiltshire Council

Making it easier for residents to recycle and reduce waste to landfill

Waste Solutions

Most of the cost of landfill is tax. Landfill Tax which is currently £56 a tonne will reach £80 per tonne in 2014.

This might not sound like a lot, but on average every person in the UK produces a third of a tonne of waste every year. This is tax that can be avoided if recycling rates are increased and less waste is sent to landfill.

In addition to operating a kerbside recycling collection scheme Waste Solutions provide 11 household recycling centres in the county which are available to all Wiltshire residents free of charge. All recyclable material that cannot be recycled via the kerbside recycling collection scheme can be taken to a household recycling centre.

We are proud of our new household recycling centre in Marlborough and Waste Solutions continually seeks to improve all of our household recycling centres.

Wiltshire Council

Managing its carbon footprint by ensuring that its contractors improve the management of their own activities.

Waste Solutions

Waste Solutions has carefully considered the impact its vehicles will have under the new harmonised waste collection system, and has agreed with the Council that new transfer facilities need to be created.

This will allow refuse and recycling collection vehicles to deposit their loads at these new transfer facilities where the materials can be bulked up and sent in larger lorries to either be recycled, used as fuel or disposed of in landfill.

Waste Solutions is proposing to submit planning applications for new waste transfer stations in Ludgershall and on the Porte Marsh Industrial Estate in Calne. In addition, new transfer facilities will be part of the improved facility at Lower Compton which will send bulked waste to Lakeside Energy from Waste, Northacre in Westbury and reprocessors. The current waste transfer stations at Thorny Down and Everleigh will be phased out when their planning permission expires in 2016 as the sites cannot accommodate the type of buildings required. The Everleigh household recycling centre is unaffected by these changes.

Wiltshire Council

More progress to moving away from the county's reliance on landfill

Waste Solutions

Landfilling of waste costs taxpayers money. In addition to increasing recycling rates, Waste Solutions makes use of new technologies to divert waste from landfill.

Hills' Northacre facility, Westbury

In August 2011 Waste Solutions will commence construction of a mechanical biological treatment plant (MBT) at Northacre in Westbury which will treat 60,000 tonnes of household waste.

The Northacre facility will reduce the proportion of Wiltshire's municipal waste sent to landfill from 37 per cent to less than 20 per cent.

It is estimated that the Hills' Northacre facility will save significant council lorry miles per year as waste from the west of Wiltshire will no longer need to be transported to Hills' landfill site at Lower Compton. By reducing the miles that these refuse collection vehicles travel, the facility has the potential to make a reduction in Wiltshire's carbon footprint. Initially the refuse derived fuel (RDF) produced will be transported by road to port and then shipped to Europe for use in renewable energy plants, but it is anticipated that the production of RDF will encourage the creation of a more local market.

Lakeside Energy from Waste plant, Colnbrook

50,000 tonnes of household waste, mainly from the south of the county is sent to an energy from waste plant and used to create renewable energy.

Wiltshire Council

In addition to the changes in the new waste service, Wiltshire Council has identified a shortfall in the handling capacity for industrial and commercial waste in the county.



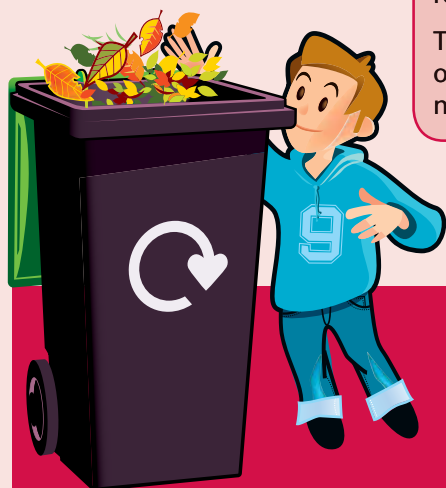
Waste Solutions

Waste Solutions will apply for permission for a new industrial and commercial waste sorting, recycling and transport facility at Lower Compton as part of its other proposals outlined above.

Full details on all these planning applications can be found on the new Hills website www.hills-group.co.uk/consult

Investment in waste and recycling – one of our key priorities is to divert waste from landfill to reduce the local and global environmental impact and, in the medium to long term, secure significant cost savings for residents through the reduction in payment of Landfill Tax. In addition, there is a need to harmonise waste collection and recycling arrangements to provide a consistent service across Wiltshire. The council's target is to reduce landfilled waste to less than 25% of the total collected by 2014.

The average recycling rate in Wiltshire is already ahead of target – in excess of 40%. However, major investment, encouragement and education will be needed to meet an increased target of 50%.




Garden waste collection service

The non-chargeable garden waste service launch is in spring 2012. This is an opt-in service, and so residents who do not already have a garden waste bin will need to sign up to receive the service. Applications to opt-in for this service can be made from summer 2011. If you already have a garden waste bin you do not have to apply.

For updates and more information:

 0300 4560102

 www.recycleforwiltshire.com
or look out for leaflets and events over the summer.

From winter 2011 your recycling collections will change

Your new service will be:



Plastic bottles and cardboard

Fortnightly collection

Winter 2011



Non-chargeable garden waste

Fortnightly collection

Spring 2012



Household waste

Fortnightly collection

Spring 2012



Black box recycling

Fortnightly collection

Continues unchanged

Some residents may already receive elements of the above service.

Recycling made easier

for Marlborough residents



Mark Boden director Wiltshire Council neighbourhood and planning, Toby Sturgis Wiltshire Cabinet member for waste, property and development control, Mike Hill chief executive, Tracy Carter service director Wiltshire Council waste management and Cllr Linda Conley Wiltshire Council portfolio holder for waste



Local school children were given a tour of the new HRC facility

Residents of Marlborough and surrounding communities can now recycle locally at the new household recycling centre on Salisbury Road Business Park.

The site opened to the public on Wednesday 23 March. Residents are able to recycle a variety of materials at the site including paper, glass, cans, textiles, cardboard, green waste, timber, metals, electrical appliances, rubble and soil and vegetable oil.

Mike Hill, chief executive, commented, "We are delighted to be opening this new HRC, providing a service for the local community enabling residents of Marlborough to recycle locally."

The centre is part of Wiltshire Council's strategy to promote and increase recycling in the county which in turn reduces



Recycling operative Kevin Archer assisting a member of the public

the amount of waste that goes into landfill. The new household recycling centre is expected to handle around 3,500 tonnes of waste a year and aims to recycle at least 75 per cent of the material deposited by local residents.

Top Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) over three-month recycling period

Amesbury is top for the highest recycling tonnage at an HRC during November, December and January. Paul Dark, site supervisor, and his team managed to recycle a total of 76.71 per cent of the tonnage received during this period.

Stanton St Quintin tops the ladder for recycling the highest tonnage at an HRC during February, March and April. Nigel Bray, site supervisor, and his team of operatives recycled 79.12 per cent of the tonnage received during this period.

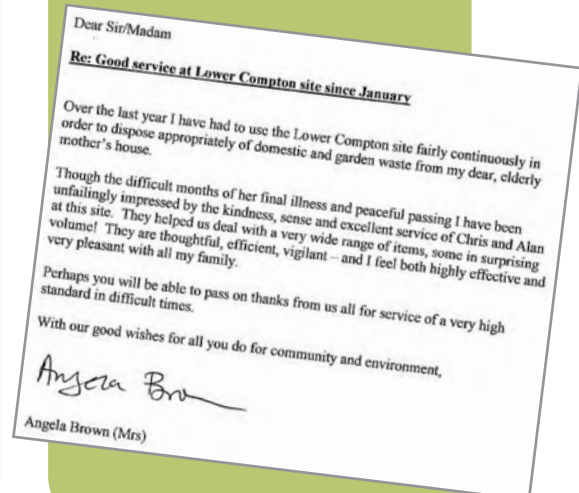


L-R Recycling operatives Michael Nickolson, Paul Dark site supervisor, Shaun Harvey, Danny Corder and Peter Kerley



L-R Nigel Bray site supervisor with his team of operatives Stuart Thatcher, Mark Farmer and Garry Bancroft. (Graham Doman not pictured)

Praise for Honeyball HRC



Open to suggestions!

Waste Solutions has recently introduced a suggestion system called "Move to Improve".



The scheme is designed to encourage waste division employees to generate ideas or proposals that improve processes within the work environment. Suggestions could be about ways to reduce accidents and incidents, improve productivity and quality of products, reduce energy consumption, improve customer service and reduce waste.

Mike Webster, group director - Waste Solutions, is keen to encourage employees to be involved in the continuous improvement of the waste division and the Move to Improve scheme actively promotes employees contributions.

If you work within the waste division and have an idea that you want to put forward for evaluation, all you need to do is fill in the Move to Improve suggestion card and post it through the red box located at sites within the waste division.



Certifications

highlight Waste Solutions' commitment to high standards

Waste Solutions has successfully gained a further two certifications for ISO 9001 for Quality Management and OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Management to complete their trio of certificates.

All activities and facilities managed by Waste Solutions are covered by the certifications and include transport and collection operations, recycling, treatment, transfer and landfill with energy recovery.

These certification achievements are a recognised international standard and are key to the division's commitment to provide a quality service to customers, maintain the highest standards and ensure the health and safety of employees and others.

Daryl Taylor, environment manager, and Paul Elling, health and safety manager, led the project which involved many challenges. Gaining these certifications is an acknowledgment of the commitment and dedication of all the employees within the waste division.



L-R Paul Elling health and safety manager, Mike Webster group director- Waste Solutions, Andrea Pellegram technical service manager, Barrie Dennis director general of the Environmental Services Association and chairman of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, Daryl Taylor environment manager and Mike Hill chief executive

Old bikes don't go to waste!

Bicycles that are taken to any of our eleven household recycling centres are being saved from landfill and given a second chance thanks to the *jole rider* charity.

This is an education organisation and registered charity working with young people and through their flagship programme, *bikes4Africa*, the donated bicycles are restored by local prison inmates and then placed in containers and shipped to Africa.

The refurbished bikes make a world of difference to school children in Africa, who sometimes have to walk to school from remote communities. The students are also taught the necessary skills and given the tools to enable them to maintain the bicycles, so that they can be re-allocated when the students graduate.



A student riding one of the refurbished bikes

If you would like to donate your bike to the programme, either take it to one of our HRCs or go to www.jolerider.org for more information.

Reading University students visit Chapel Farm

A group of 1st year Environmental Protection undergraduates from the University of Reading visited Chapel Farm and were shown around the facility by David Meakin, site manager. The students, accompanied by their lecturer Dr Duncan Westbury, commented that the visit was excellent and very useful. The field trip was arranged to assist students on gathering information for their course in environmental, ecology and agricultural studies.



David Meakin, site manager (far right) with students from Reading University

A recipe for the hard stuff

So what is ready-mixed concrete?

Ready-mixed concrete is one of the most versatile materials in today's construction industry and can be used in many applications from a pavement you walk on to the foundations of the home you live in.

Ready-mixed concrete is composed of aggregates, cement, additives and water. Aggregates of sand, gravel and stone represent 60 to 75 per cent of the volume of ready-mixed concrete. The size and shape of the aggregate is selected according to the desired strength of the concrete. Cement is the binder and represents 10 to 15 per cent of the volume. The components of ready-mixed concrete cannot become solid without water. Water and cement react chemically, causing the concrete to "go hard", through a process known as hydration.

The ratio of water to cement in ready-mixed concrete is the critical determining factor in concrete strength and great care is taken to ensure only enough water is added to the mix to react with the cement.

How is it produced?

Ready-mixed concrete is produced in the same way that a chef prepares a recipe. All the required materials of sand, stone, cement, water and admixtures are stored in holding bins, silos and tanks. The batcher inputs the order onto the computer including mix design, quantity and any special instructions and the process begins. The plant has scales to weigh the dry materials and measure out the liquid which are discharged into the rotating drum of the concrete truck and mixed together to create ready-mixed concrete. The entire batching process of the truck pulling up under the plant to leaving can take as little as 10 minutes. This would be for 8m³ of concrete or 17 tonnes of material.

Featured project

Most of the images shown here were taken at a current development by Haines Construction (Southern Ltd) just outside of Pewsey. Quarry Products is supplying Haines with 5,000m³ of ready-mixed concrete and 5,000 tonnes of aggregates for the project.



Jamie Woolford, mobile plant operative tipping materials into the ground hopper which feeds into the overhead storage bins



Steve Robbins, plant manager/concrete batcher, inputting the quantities on the computer



Ready-mixed concrete being poured from a skip and then raked into position



Mixer truck having ready-mixed concrete dispensed into the drum



Stuart Allen, business manager (left), talking to "Freddie" site foreman from Haines Construction

Woolly mammoth steals the show!

Quarry Products was one of the sponsors of the Time Travel in the Gravel event held at the Four Pillars Hotel in the Cotswold Water Park where a two-metre high mini mammoth was one of the main attractions.

The event, held to showcase the fossil and archaeological finds in the Cotswold Water Park through gravel extraction over the years, included a first showing of a rare and beautifully preserved Palaeolithic flint hand axe. Visitors were also able to watch Phil Harding from Channel 4's Time Team programme demonstrating the fine art of flint knapping and the making of stone tools.



Woolly mammoth on display at the Time Travel in the Gravel event

Activities held throughout the day included the making of fossil replicas, Anglo Saxon shields and Roman sandals. Visitors were encouraged to bring their own fossils and rocks to have them identified by experts.

The event was organised by the Cotswold Water Park Society.



Phil Harding from Channel 4's Time Team demonstrating flint knapping



Alan Mackenzie, group director - Quarry Products (left), with Tony Hill shareholder on Quarry's stand at the Time Travel in the Gravel event

Work starts at Upwood Park



Access road to the new quarry at Upwood Park

The new quarry at Upwood Park in Abingdon is starting to take shape as work commences on the access road to the site, just off the A420.

The 20 hectare site has a potential mineral reserve of 1.5 million tonnes and it is expected that 90,000 tonnes of sand will be dug each year giving the site a 17 year life span.

Upwood Park quarry is replacing Tubney Wood where restoration work has commenced to restore the land to agricultural use and increase biodiversity on the site.

Homes achieve **NHBC premium rating**

Homes has been awarded the highest premium rating possible for its NHBC (National House Building Council) registration.

The NHBC is the standard-setting body and leading warranty and insurance provider for new homes in the UK and its premium rating scheme is designed to reward members who build good quality homes and encourage others to improve their standards.

Members are rated on length of registration with NHBC and on their claim record. Homes was awarded the highest level of A1* rating. This rating is granted to builders who have been registered with NHBC for 20 years or more and have a loss ratio of less than 50 per cent. A loss ratio is



measured on defects reported in years three to ten compared with the national average cost for these claims.

Learning of their A1* rating, Nick King, group director - Homes said, "This is recognition of our long standing record of excellent build quality and further cements our growing reputation for superior standards of construction."

Coming soon...

Homes has started planning its next new development and work will commence on four detached houses in Saltford, between Bath and Bristol soon.

The new houses will feature Homes' customary high specification and excellent build quality. Each has four bedrooms, one with en-suite facilities, a generous kitchen/dining room opening out onto the garden together with a spacious living room and useful separate study. Each house will have its own garage and additional parking.

Design of the new homes in Saltford



**During the second half of the year work will start on ten homes in the elegant town of Malmesbury
- more about this development in the next edition of intouch.**

Nature reserve saved for village

In the well regarded traditional village of South Marston, only minutes away from the bustling commercial, cultural and shopping centre that is modern day Swindon, is a small oasis and tranquil woodland.

Adjacent to Homes' development at St Julian's Close hides a woodland area which Homes generously donated to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Homes wanted to ensure that the woodland, which is open to the public, would be preserved as a natural environment which could be enjoyed by all. The woodland is home not only to many indigenous plants and trees but also to deer, rabbits and foxes, and provides a haven for birds and butterflies.

L-R Neil Pullen, senior community wildlife officer Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Dr Gary Mantle MBE, director Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Jan Pearce, site manager Homes and Nick King, group director - Homes



Carrington House, one of the detached houses built in South Marston

Homes shortlisted second year running for **LABC award**

Homes was delighted to learn that its development Smith's Court in Purton has been shortlisted for the LABC West of England Building Excellence Awards in the category "Best housing - large developer".

Smith's Court is a delightful courtyard of 13 cottage style homes set in the heart of the village. On hearing of the nomination Nick King, group director - Homes, commented, "It is an honour to be shortlisted two years running. We know that we would be fortunate not only to walk away with the Regional Award but also to scoop the National Award. We bring the same quality and care to all our developments and believe Smith's Court has a real chance of making us double winners."



One of the homes at Smith's Court, Purton

Homes' development at The Old Dairy in Upper Castle Combe won the LABC National Building Excellence Award for 'Best small housing development' last November.

Local MP Claire Perry tours MRF



L-R Henry Newbery
recycling area manager,
Mike Hill chief executive,
MP Claire Perry and John
Chapman foreman - MRF

The MP for Devizes Constituency Claire Perry was taken on a tour of the material recycling facility at Lower Compton by Mike Hill to see how Wiltshire's household waste and recycling is processed.

The tour also included the compost operation, and, as a keen composter, Claire was fascinated to see how high quality compost was produced from Wiltshire's green waste.

Claire was able to gain an understanding of the key importance for Wiltshire of developing facilities to recover commercial and industrial waste as a source for energy. Mike said, "It was a delight to show Claire around our site. All the staff she met really appreciated the interest that she clearly has in our operations. Claire grasped the strategic importance of the waste management and recycling sector and the future challenges facing it."

Claire wrote to thank Mike Hill for organising the visit and giving her the opportunity to find out more about the work done by Hills and hear about the company's plans for further expansion. She added that she found the trip to Lower Compton a fascinating experience.

Free home for Scrapstore

Unit 4, County Park Business Centre has become a free temporary home for Swindon Children's Scrapstore after its former premises were destroyed by fire. Mike Hill, chief executive, offered the premises to them after hearing of their plight. "Assisting a charity that reinforces our efforts to minimise landfill through active recycling is important," said Mike Hill.

The premises will allow Scrapstore to continue collecting reusable materials for the benefit of the local community.

Swindon Children's Scrapstore is a local community resource centre and environmental charity that collects reusable materials from business to save them from being landfilled.

Scrapstore turns the materials into play things through art, educational and recreational activities whilst also teaching children, parents, child minders, play leaders and play professionals about re-use and recycling.



L to R: Alistair Andrews, partner at Loveday and Loveday, Mike Hill, chief executive,
Dave Wood, chairman of Scrapstore and Olivia McCann, project manager
of Scrapstore



Mike Hill, chief executive cutting the ribbon overlooked by local children

New play area for children of Cherhill village

Children from Cherhill village can play once again thanks to the refurbishment of the Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field.

The Hills Group, via Community First, gave a grant of £22,528 from the Landfill Communities Fund towards the play ground. The grand opening on 12 May was performed by Mike Hill, chief executive, who commented, "This is an enchanting children's play area and it will remain a wonderful community asset for many years to come. It is a pleasure and privilege for the Hills Group to be associated with the development."

The playing field's new layout and equipment is based on designs and ideas put forward by parents and children from the local community and has been constructed out of natural wood.

Local youngsters who attended the opening liked the bright and cheerful colours of the park and gave it the thumbs up.

Meeting Andrea Pellegram and Rachel Hardwick

intouch caught up with Andrea Pellegram, technical services manager, and Rachel Hardwick, contract bid manager, both based at County Park to ask about their background and what they bring to their roles within Waste Solutions.

intouch: What is your background?

Andrea: I know I sound like I just got off the plane at Heathrow (I've kept my American twang) but I've been working in town planning in the UK since 1987. I've worked in local government, the ports authority industry, waste and minerals planning and district planning. I've even worked as a planning inspector and consultant.

Rachel: I grew up in North Yorkshire and moved south after graduating in the 80s but remain a northern girl at heart. Working for defence engineering (QinetiQ) brought me to Wiltshire where I was for seven years prior to joining Hills.

intouch: What brought you to Hills?

Andrea: Good luck

Rachel: I have always had an interest in recycling and in the pre-kerbside collection and HRC days was involved in various schemes that raised money for charity by collecting newspaper, cans etc.



Andrea Pellegram



Rachel Hardwick

intouch: How do you like your role?

Andrea: I'm having a great time. It's quite refreshing to be working in a private company and not in local government.

Rachel: I enjoy working to tight deadlines and thanks to a great induction programme when I joined, have learnt so much about the business quickly.

intouch: What do you do when you are not working?

Andrea: Shout at my kids and put away their discarded clothes and shoes!

Rachel: I have a horse who I visit on the way to and from work and ride at weekends. I also spin, weave and knit and am an active member of the Kennet Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.

Retirements

A luncheon was held at the Bathurst Arms in North Cerney to thank **Keith Broadhurst**, plant operative, for his 17 years and 8 months service with Quarry Products.

Former work colleagues, John Day and John Wheeler along with Keith's daughter Jane joined Mike Hill, chief executive, Alan Mackenzie, group director - Quarry Products and Andrew Liddle, production manager, to celebrate the event and wish Keith well in his retirement.



L-R John Day, Jane Broadhurst, Keith Broadhurst, Alan Mackenzie, Andrew Liddle, Mike Hill and John Wheeler

Norman Valdez retired from Waste Solutions earlier this year and to mark the occasion the Purton HRC team took him and his wife Mary to dinner at Churchill House, Wootton Bassett. Norman has had a long association with Hills having driven skip lorries on a self employed basis in the early 90s. In 2003 he joined Waste Solutions working at Lower Compton and Purton as a machine operative before moving to Purton HRC on a part time basis until his retirement.

Norman is very keen on Beatles trivia and was presented with tickets for him and his wife to go to a Beatles Tribute concert at the Wyvern Swindon.



L-R Mary Valdez, Norman Valdez, Dave Tarrant recycling operative, Trevor Reeves recycling operative, Jackie Reeves, Antida Tapp, Jessie Bunce site supervisor

Sharing our Expertise

Ng Heong-Chen, assistant general manager, from Anderson Road Quarry in Hong Kong, was shown around Shorncote, Tubney Wood and Bowling Green quarries by Alan Mackenzie group director - Quarry Products where he gained a better understanding on how sites operate in the UK.



Ng Heong-Chen and Alan Mackenzie

Ng found the sand and gravel operations very interesting as this type of quarrying is difficult in Hong Kong due to the landscape and he was amazed to see how effective the restoration work carried out encourages wildlife back into the areas.

The SatNav real time monitoring of the tipper trucks was a highlight of his visit. He said that the ability to efficiently utilise

the fleet and track fuel consumption made both operational and economical sense.

Ng has gone away with lots of ideas on how to move forward quarry developments in Southern China and was particularly impressed with the field conveyor system as a cost effective method of moving large volumes of material.

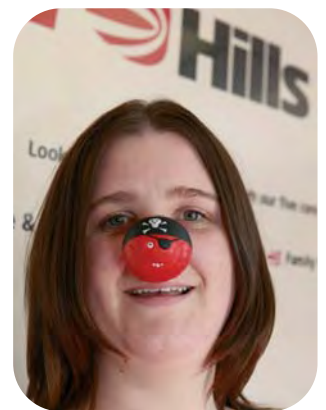
Supporting Comic Relief

Hills entered into the charity spirit by raising funds on Red Nose Day.

'Pick a celebrity pose' posters were displayed at offices in Marlborough, County Park and Lower Compton with half the £180 raised going to Comic Relief and the other to employees who selected the correct pose.

Staff also held events during the day including 'count the stones', dress down day, 'name the teddy' and cake sales.

A fantastic total of £696 was raised by employees and through a donation from the company. A big thank you to everyone for supporting Comic Relief.



Winners of the 'pick a pose' sweepstake Top Left: Steve Palmer, sales representative Top Right: Katie Hemmings, administrator and Bottom: Clive Philips, postal operative



Staff in Marlborough enjoying cake!

Congratulations **Louise Painting**

Louise, was successful in gaining a place in one of the world's biggest races, the London Marathon which she completed on Sunday 17 April.

Louise was quite nervous as to whether she could actually make the distance. So it was with a combination of relief and pride that she crossed the finish line in a time of 4 hours 34 minutes. Louise said, "I loved the crowd cheering me on; they really kept me going when all I wanted to do was sit down! I couldn't walk for days after but it was definitely worth all those months of training."

While there are lots of bad things about running a marathon like all the training that you have to do through winter, Louise has shown motivation, commitment and dedication in this personal challenge while at the same time raising over £1,200 for Breast Cancer Campaign.

Well done Louise!



Where's the oak leaf?

Ten oak leaves have been hidden in this edition of intouch. Tell us what pages the leaves appear on for a chance to win a £50 Sainsbury's voucher. Send your entry to the communications department by internal mail or email: tracy.torr@hills-group.co.uk

Entries to be received by Friday 17 June. One entry per employee and the winner will be drawn at random from all the correct entries received.

The winner will be announced on Monday 20 June.



Competition winners

The 'How many times does Hills appear' in intouch issue 23 competition was 74. Unfortunately there were no correct entries but three people came close:

- **Steve Bowman**,
quarry manager, Woodsford Quarry (73)
- **Gavin Walton**,
business manager - concrete, Shorncote (75)
- **Mick Chivers**,
assistant quarry manager, Tubney Wood (75)

They deserved recognition for their efforts and as runners-up they each received a £20 voucher from ASDA. You have to be in it to win it!

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Catherine and Edwyn Dodd, waste operations manager, on the birth of twins Megan (left) who weighed 5lb and brother Morgan, 5lb 3oz born on 23 January.



Easter bunny visits women's refuge

50 Easter treats hopped their way to the Women's refuge in Swindon thanks to the staff at County Park who brought in extra eggs as a donation.



Welcome

A warm "Hills" welcome to the following employees who joined the Group between 1 January and 30 April 2011.

Stephen Palmer	Sales representative
Craig Hunt	LGV driver
Dene Larkin	LGV driver
Cliff Bryant	Mobile plant operative
Rachel Hardwick	Contract bid manager
Andrea Pellegram	Technical services manager
Gareth Crosby	Mobile plant operative
Peter Kerley	HRC recycling operative
Martyn Swadden	Mobile plant operative
Bernard Broom	Mobile plant operative
Kerry Evans	HR assistant
Barry Surridge	HRC recycling operative
Clive Maple	Sales representative
Terrence Swain	Mobile plant operative
Marcus Dredge	Foreman
Richard Burge	Kerbside loader
Darren Taylor	LGV driver

Maurice Higgins



We were very sad to hear about the death of Maurice Higgins at the grand old age of 90. He joined the company when his previous employer, T.F. Coke Ltd was acquired in 1971. Maurice worked as sales director for Hills Aggregates Ltd until his retirement in September 1986.

Robert Hill described Maurice as one of the 'good guys' and a real character. In a social environment he was great company relating stories in his unique manner often with his favourite tippie in his hand - Campari and Angostura bitters.

Many remember his speech at a dinner near Bristol promoting the group's activities when explaining the location of aggregates activities - 'The main quarry is in South Cerney - which for those of you who don't know is south of North Cerney!'

Our thoughts are with his wife Eileen and the rest of his family.

What's on

Hills will be sponsoring, supporting or participating at these forthcoming events across the region.

JUNE • Wiltshire Steam and Vintage Rally • 11-12 June

Held at Rainscombe Park, Oare you can watch working demonstrations, see steam traction engines, motorbikes, chainsaw sculpture or have a tractor and trailer rider. Waste Solutions is providing the waste management at this event. £6 adults with under 16's free.

Old Town Festival • 18-26 June Hills is one of the sponsors for the festival where events taking place over the week include: jazz evening, bowls event, dog show and big family party on the lawn. To find out more about events during the week visit www.oldtownfestival.co.uk

JULY • PRO Golf • 4 July Hills' 31st Wiltshire Professionals Golf Championship takes place at Marlborough Golf Club where David Hutton will be defending his title for the 8th time.

Wiltshire County Show • 9-10 July At this year's show you will find a Hills stand exhibiting products from Waste Solutions and Quarry Products as well as a Wiltshire farmer's market, rural crafts stands, tractors and farm equipment, rare breeds and helicopter rides. £15 per person (under 12's free) www.barburyhorsetrials.co.uk

Marlborough Jazz Festival • 15-17 July Bands ranging from famous touring stars to up and coming groups can be seen at over 20 locations around Marlborough. Hills is sponsoring the Crown Hotel bandstand where the "Adam Winslet Band" will perform on Saturday night. www.marlboroughjazz.co.uk



AUGUST • 3 August Hills Junior Open Golf Championship takes place at Broome Manor golf complex.

SEPTEMBER • Dorset County Show • 3-4 September

Quarry Products will be exhibiting again this year at the Dorset show. The main ring will have performances from the motorbike display team, Titan the Robot, falconry, Wolf Man, terrier racing, sheep shearing and a gun dog display. Animals, agricultural stands, vintage tractors and crafts will be on show. £13 on gate (under 16's free). www.dorsetcountyshow.co.uk

Calne Festival of Food and Drink • 10-11 September The festival will have a harvest theme and planned events include continental market stalls and cooking demonstrations, plus a junior Masterchef competition.

Give us your views and help make **intouch** better by completing a survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/VBMDMBG