

intouch

Issue 25 September 2011



Million Tonnes

- read more on pages 4 and 5

**New plant for
ready-mixed concrete**

- read more on page 7

**Homes sponsor
Wiltshire College award**

- read more on page 8

**Working in partnership
with African charity**

- read more on page 10

Milestones...

We all reach milestones in our lives and we mark them in different ways. As a business we reached a significant landmark this summer in our contract with Wiltshire Council. Over the lifetime of the contract we've diverted a million tonnes of household waste from landfill (page 4-5).

It can be hard to comprehend how much that figure means. When you put out your household waste it seems such a tiny amount compared to everything in your street or your community – let alone the whole of Wiltshire. However, because we all do our bit then the impact we make together is huge.

I was reminded of this when we marked the start of construction on the MBT plant (page 3). It wasn't that many years ago when 80% of what was put out by residents went straight into the ground. Along with all the other schemes already in place, it is amazing to think that when the plant is operational, it will mean 80% of what residents put out will actually be diverted from landfill!

Making a difference...

The little things we do that can make such a big impression can be seen in another milestone – our work with jole rider (page 14). We've been donating bikes dropped in to our HRCs to this charity. They get refurbished and are then sent to The Gambia where they transform the lives of schoolchildren facing a long walk to the classroom on poor roads. It's a little thing for many of us to throw a bike away, but it makes a huge difference to people elsewhere.

I wouldn't say that climbing the three highest peaks in the UK is a little thing (page 20), but it is certainly making a difference and in this instance raising money for a children's hospital. In each edition of intouch I read about the remarkable things Hills' staff have done to raise money for good causes – and this edition is no different.

Despite the gathering storm...

As expected the medium term outlook remains uncertain as dark clouds gather over the economies of Europe and around the world, having a noticeable effect on construction related activities.

However optimism regarding the long term remains high with new markets being sought and exploited (page 6) and a number of planning applications being submitted to develop the waste treatment activities as well as housing land. I look forward to reporting on these developments in future issues.

Michael Hill, chief executive



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Ground breaking at **Westbury's new plant**

The two-year construction project by Waste Solutions to build Wiltshire's first state-of-the-art waste treatment plant got off the ground in July.

The £20 million Northacre resource recovery centre is a significant investment by Hills which will help underpin its expansion into new markets. It is also a key element in Wiltshire Council's strategy to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Once complete 60,000 tonnes of household waste will be processed using mechanical biological treatment (MBT) in the facility located on the Northacre trading estate in Westbury under a contract agreed between Hills and Wiltshire Council.

The groundbreaking ceremony at the end of July was attended by representatives from Hills, Wiltshire Council and Interserve, which has been awarded the design and build construction contract.



Alan Pardoe, Hills Group chairman, said: "I'm delighted that construction is ready to start on the Hills' Northacre facility. This is a significant milestone in both the company's development and the way Wiltshire handles its household waste.

"In the coming months we'll see innovative technology installed on the site by our contractors which will open up new markets for our company."

Toby Sturgis, cabinet member for Waste, Property and Development Control Services, said: "This is one part of a package



On site are (l to r) Cllr Toby Sturgis, Wiltshire Council cabinet member for Waste, Property and Development Control Services, Mike Hill, chief executive of Hills Group and Simon Ohlenschlager, director infrastructure at Interserve Construction

of measures Wiltshire Council is rolling out that will hugely reduce what we send to landfill.

"These measures, of which the construction of the Northacre facility is a major part, not only make environmental sense but financial sense for residents."

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.

How will the plant work?

The technological expertise from MBT specialist Entsorga Italia uses the natural microbes within the waste to accelerate the decomposition process. Inside the sealed building the waste dries and reduces in volume over a two week period. Any metals are extracted for recycling and the bulk of the remainder is turned into a refuse derived fuel which is ready for use.

In numbers

80%: the amount of Wiltshire's municipal waste the plant will help divert from landfill

63%: the current diversion rate

60,000 tonnes: the amount of waste the plant will handle

£20m: approximate cost

Million milestone



What's in a **million tonnes?**

- 16,000 Challenge 2 Main Battle Tanks
- two Silbury Hills
- 66 billion empty aluminium soft drink cans
- more than 29,000 unladen Hercules aeroplanes
- approximately 1.1 million Wadsworth Shire horses
- 153 Salisbury Cathedral spires
- 7.3 billion iPhones
- a million average sized family cars
- approximately 12.5 million average washing machines
- the weight of more than 500 Stonehenges

makes Wiltshire greener



Waste Solutions reached a significant milestone this summer when it was announced that a million tonnes of household waste in Wiltshire had been diverted from landfill.

It was done in record time too.

The then Wiltshire County Council signed an agreement with Hills in 1996 to handle its municipal waste. Hills took responsibility for kerbside collections and household recycling centres. The aim was to appropriately dispose of the waste collected sending as much as possible for recycling rather than landfill.

It took until 2007 for the first 500,000 tonnes to be diverted from landfill. However recycling facilities have expanded hugely to meet the appetite by people in Wiltshire to recycle.

It has taken only four further years to reach the magic one million mark.

Mike Webster, group director - Waste Solutions, said: "Since the local authority contract in Wiltshire began we've seen improvements year on year.

"Residents now have far more options when it comes to recycling and we are diverting ever more away from landfill and in to reuse.

"We're proud of the part we have played in making Wiltshire a greener place to live and work."

Toby Sturgis, Wiltshire Council cabinet member for waste, property and development control, said: "I'd like to thank residents for their part in reaching the magic million mark.

"With the new services being rolled out on our behalf by Hills this autumn to collect cardboard and plastic from the kerbside as well as free green waste collection I'm sure we'll reach the two million mark in no time."

The one million tonne milestone was marked with a number of events.

Banners were unveiled at each of the 11 household recycling centres (HRC) thanking residents for their help. Hills gave away 100 bags of its compost on a first-come, first-served basis at each HRC. The company also launched a poster competition (see below).

Mike Hill, chief executive of Hills Group, said: "Staff have worked extremely hard to make our waste contract with Wiltshire a success and this milestone is a testament to that effort."

Drawing lessons

To help mark the million milestone Hills launched a competition for young people in Wiltshire to design a poster to encourage residents to recycle.

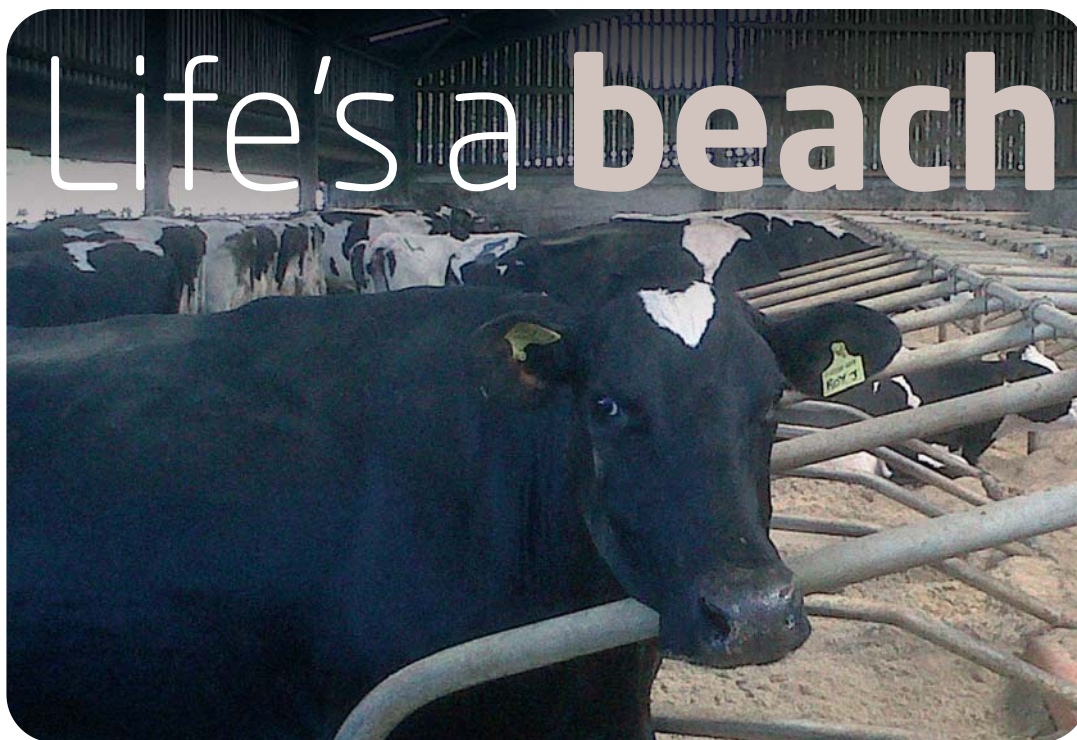
Open to those in school years 1-11 entrants could pick any of the many items people can recycle in their kerbside black box or at HRCs as a theme.

The top five winning entries will be turned in to a poster and used by Hills and Wiltshire Council to promote recycling.

Each of the winners will receive a £20 book token and the overall winner will earn their school a computer.

Look out for the next edition on intouch to see all the winners - or log on to www.hills-group.co.uk





"What sets us apart is not just the quality of the product but the fact that our staff know what they are talking about. Farmers can quickly sense when people aren't knowledgeable about their area and consequently you will have a difficult time to convince them of the merits of your product."

"We make a point of taking our sales people out to visit farms so they can understand exactly what it is that farms need and why it is that our sand bedding meets that need."

The sand, which is particularly fine and with low silt content, can be

Many of us will have spent at least some of the summer stretched out on sand relaxing.

Thanks to Quarry Products, thousands of cows across the west country are doing the same thing every day.

High quality sand extracted from the Calne and Woodsford quarries is increasingly being used by farmers as bedding material for their cattle. The result can mean healthier and more productive animals.

The sand is laid in the cattle stalls and farmers have found that the animals enjoy using it more than traditional straw bedding. A contented dairy cow can produce an extra litre of milk a day if her resting time is increased.

Quarry Products has built up a network of farmers across central and south west England and south Wales.

Peter Andrew, divisional director - Quarry Products, said: "We have a team of three sales people on the road as well as staff in the office."

spread in the stalls as soon as it is delivered. It is easier to clean than straw as muck doesn't stick to it. Once it has been used it can be ploughed straight into the field - which is particularly good for those farms sitting on soil with high clay content.

In contrast dusty straw bedding can provide a home to all sorts of microbes and needs months to rot down before it can be spread as manure.

Peter said: "Farmers are always looking at ways of enhancing the environment and welfare of their animals. Using sand bedding is not only more efficient it is also cost effective."

Sales have increased so that now more than 100 farms use sand sourced from Hills' quarries. One of those is Two Pools Farm at Iron Acton near Bristol. Owners, the King family, have a herd of 325 producing three million litres of milk a year and won the 2010 RABDF/NMR Gold Cup for the quality of their cattle.

As well as supporting such award-winning farmers, Quarry Products is looking to expand its sand bedding operations further by targeting the poultry industry.



Jamie Woolford, (l) receiving his certificate from Alan Mackenzie, group director - Quarry Products

Well done!

Jamie Woolford, mobile plant operative based at Lower Compton obtained a merit on completion of a CIEH Level 3 Health & Safety in the Workplace course.

The following employees successfully completed a one day IOSH Working Safely training course:

Grant Carter, LGV driver
Marc Eltham, sales representative
Graeme Haime, concrete technician
Kevin Hester, foreman
Garry Mullock, LGV driver
Keith Taylor, LGV driver
Neil Watts, transport co-ordinator

On show

Driver Lee Roberts entered his concrete mixer truck into this year's Truckfest South West event held at the Royal Bath and West Showgrounds in Shepton Mallet.



Completing the jigsaw

Quarry Products hopes that taking over an existing plant in Newbury will be a key part of the jigsaw to serve a core area.

The company signed an agreement with Cemex UK Operations Ltd to take back the lease on the Newbury ready-mix concrete operations in August.

It has carried out on site maintenance and has put in a new computerised batching system.

Gavin Walton is the business manager and Richard Swatton is the sales representative for the site. Shaun Hayward, plant supervisor, has joined Quarry Products from Cemex.

Alan Mackenzie, group director - Quarry Products, said:

"Acquiring the site complements our existing facilities in Shorncote, Lower Compton and Woodsford in Dorset.

"It gives Hills the strategic opportunity to develop our market in the west Berkshire, north Hampshire and south Oxfordshire areas."

The site is now operational and delivering ready-mix concrete to customers.



L-R Shaun Hayward, plant supervisor, with business manager - concrete Gavin Walton

Contacts:

Gavin Walton, business manager: 07775600852

Richard Swatton, sales representative: 07785304190

Site address: Hills Quarry Products, Bone Lane,
Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5SS

Site phone number: 01635 43253

Shorncote says hello to new franchisee drivers Steve Reid and Julia Robbins.



Julia Robbins



Steve Reid

Show time in Dorset

After last year's success Quarry Products once again exhibited at the Dorset County Show. The two-day event attracted thousands of visitors, with some of them entering Hills' competitions with four-year-old Frankie Price winning the children's colouring competition.



L-R Terry Newsham, sales representative, and Brian Ford, plant manager

Quarry tour

Members of the Somerset Keynes History Group were given a tour of Shorncote Quarry.

The group was interested in how geology has shaped the area, how the gravels were formed and the gravel extraction process.

Ten members were given an introductory talk by Jill Bewley, of the Cotswold Water Park Trust. Then Danny Houghton, quarry manager at Shorncote, gave them an extensive and extremely informative tour around the site, showing areas which are undergoing extraction and restored areas.



All sold at Ascott-under-Wychwood

With just six cottage style homes being built in the sought after village of Ascott-under-Wychwood, interest was expected to be high. It was no surprise that, before the houses were completed, all were reserved. The first buyers are already

enjoying their new homes. Dan Hammond, site manager, thoroughly enjoyed his time in this idyllic Cotswold village and can now be found heading up the team at Homes' new development in Saltford, between Bath and Bristol.

Homes encourages young talent

At the recent 2011 Swindon College Student Awards, Homes was delighted to be able to sponsor one of the categories.

The annual event is an opportunity for further education students and their families and friends to celebrate their successful study and for tutors to nominate those students who have made a real difference, worked hard and been a credit to their class. The award sponsored by Homes was the 'Best Overall Carpentry & Joinery student' and the proud recipient was Cameron Russell.

The evening on 8 July was attended by local dignitaries and community leaders including the Mayor of Swindon, the Principal and Governing Body of Swindon College, as well as other businesses and employers supporting the event through award sponsorship.



Cameron Russell receiving his award from James Tischer



Coming soon...

Artist's impression

Work has recently begun on 'The Light' development in the historic town of Malmesbury

Towards the edge of town, but within walking distance of all the amenities of this well served community, the eight town houses and two coach house apartments enjoy lofty views across the trees towards the river. Built of natural Cotswold stone, these new homes will enjoy all the customary Homes features with traditional build quality coupled with the best

quality materials to provide economical, sustainable and efficient modern living. Jan Pearce, site manager, is running this project and has already started on site overseeing the early groundworks. Launching in the new year, 'The Light' is sure to prove a popular option for purchasers looking to settle in this charming town.

Allan achieves NVQ Level 5

Allan Ramsay, site manager, was delighted to learn that his studies have resulted in his achieving NVQ Level 5 in Construction Management.

The intensive assessment based course covered subjects as diverse as the management and development of staff, project development and control, procurement, contracts and budgeting, all of which will stand Allan in good stead in the years to come.

Currently running the prestigious Stonesfield Close site in the beautiful Gloucestershire village of Southrop, Allan is spearheading the Considerate Constructor programme and regularly meets with local residents to keep them informed as the site develops. With one of the substantial houses already sold off plan, Allan is working with the new purchasers to create a beautiful country home.



Steve and John 'pile' on the pressure and out 'fox' the opposition

At the recent CIOB Four Ball Betterball Pairs Competition Steve Pile (Futureland) and John Fox (Homes) formed a winning partnership and claimed the trophy. The competition, which has been competed for annually since 1966, now has pride of place at Homes' office in Marlborough where John is the commercial manager.



Steve Pile (left) and John Fox receiving their trophy

Aside from the golf played on the day at Bath Golf Club, the event raised monies which were donated to the Dorothy House Hospice and the Forever Friends Appeal for the RUH Bath. Despite the weather which was unseasonably wet and blustery, all the participants enjoyed an excellent day.

Re-cycling for Africa



L-R Tony Oliver from jole rider, Cliff Carter, recycling team manager, and Les Sedgemore from jole rider

More than a thousand unwanted bikes have been collected from household recycling centres (HRCs) in Wiltshire and sent to help people in Africa.

Bath-based charity jole rider has been collecting the bikes since March from Stanton St Quintin, Melksham, Devizes, Trowbridge, Purton and Marlborough HRCs.

The bikes have been taken there by members of the public and are put aside by Hills staff for the charity. In August jole rider collected its 1,000th bike.

Mike Webster, group director - Waste Solutions, said: "We work hard to make sure that what people bring to household recycling centres can be reused or recycled. Linking up with jole rider has

been a great way to make good use of the many bikes we receive. I am delighted that we have been able to help people in Africa."

Jole rider's mission is to change lives through education and its flagship programme is bikes4Africa. Many African children live in remote communities, a long way from their nearest school. Without reliable, affordable, motorised transport the only way these children can get to school is to walk.

So having a bicycle makes a world of difference for these children, and for their families and communities too.

Each bike needs to meet a minimum specification and some refurbishment is carried out at prisons in the UK. The bikes are then shipped to The Gambia and allocated to different schools.

Bike Facts

The recycling centre which has provided the most bikes is Stanton St Quintin.

Each sea container holds 333 bikes.

Around 9,000 bikes have been delivered to The Gambia since 2006

Some bikes being ridden are over 40 years old

Mountain bikes or bikes with large tyres are best suited to the conditions of Africa

Bikes are shipped to Africa every two months

For more information see www.jolerider.org

Hills cleans up



LGV driver Mike Hill at RAF Lyneham collecting the donated skips



R-L Jason Coombs, LGV driver, with Mark House, drivers mate, at this year's Steam and Vintage Rally.

Waste Solutions has provided waste management services at the following events:

At Wiltshire's Steam and Vintage Rally at Rainscombe Park in Oare, a trade waste collection vehicle was parked on site all weekend so that Redtop containers could be emptied at the end of each day.

A mini festival of local bands 'Calnefest' took place in July and Waste Solutions provided the waste management at the event.

As staff, past and present, said goodbye to RAF Lyneham at the charity event 'The Final Fling', Waste Solutions worked quietly in the background supplying, collecting and emptying skips and recycling bins.

Kevin has Grand Designs on compost

Thirty-five bags of Warrior compost were collected by TV property expert Kevin McCloud for his development company Hab. The compost will be used in his eco-friendly housing scheme being developed in Swindon.



Keith Hillier, mobile plant operative, helping Kevin McCloud load his truck with Warrior compost

Training

The following employees successfully completed a one day IOSH Working Safely training course.

- Adrian Dunn, LGV driver
- Robin Pearse, HRC site supervisor

Keeping the public informed

Over 600 leaflets were handed out by staff at Everleigh HRC informing site users of road resurfacing work that was being carried out and how it would affect access to the facility.

Birthday delight

Young recycler, Liam, who regularly visits Melksham HRC with his mother to recycle had an extra treat on his birthday when he was handed a Hills jute 'goodies bag' to help him celebrate - many happy returns Liam!

Stars of the small screen

A granny with a missing grand and the Army turning green brought the television crews to Waste Solutions.

Adele Clark, kerbside collections supervisor based at Lower Compton, was interviewed on ITV after staff recovered some missing money.

Chippenham grandmother Ann Honour accidentally put £1,000 in her kerbside black box along with newspapers for recycling.

After a desperate phone call to Hills, Adele called the kerbside crew back to Lower Compton. Then she, along with Mick Fisher, Mark Dolman, Chris Dunn, Dave Nicholls (agency) and Ken Webb searched through the rubbish until they found the small envelope with the big wad of cash.

It was returned less than two hours after first being reported missing.

The story sparked national media interest and ITV dispatched a reporter to interview Adele. The news story was subsequently screened across several ITV regions.

Meanwhile Adele's colleague at Lower Compton, Henry Newbery, was interviewed by a crew from British Forces Broadcasting Services.



Aspire Defence is creating campus-style communities with high quality accommodation, amenities and services for thousands of soldiers based in the county.

Hills has been contracted to supply waste and recycling facilities as the project aims to have a high environmental standard.

Henry, the recycling area manager, was interviewed at Tidworth barracks for a story on this work which was then beamed across the world.

Planning update

Waste Solutions has prepared a number of planning applications so that it can have the facilities necessary to meet the requirements of Wiltshire Council's new kerbside recycling collections.

In Calne, permission has been given to convert an existing warehouse on the Porte Marsh Industrial Estate. This will handle cardboard and plastics collected from householders. The material will be baled at the facility and then transported on for recycling.

The permission is for three years until proposed new facilities at Lower Compton become fully operational. That is subject to a separate planning application which, at the time of going to press, was still being considered.

If approved, Lower Compton will have a much larger materials recycling facility and a new and improved composting facility. Some existing facilities, such as the weighbridge, will be repositioned and there will be landscaping work.

For further information see:
www.hills-group.co.uk/consult.html



Purton HRC come top!

Purton has the highest recycling tonnage at an HRC during the May, June and July. Jessie Bunce, site supervisor and her team of operatives managed to recycle a total of 83.64 per cent.

There was praise for Shaun Harvey who works at **Amesbury HRC** from one regular recycler. The lady, who is in her seventies, wrote to thank Shaun for always being on hand to cheerfully help with her garden waste. Indeed all the staff at Amesbury were described as: "most pleasant and ready to assist if and when required". Well done to them.

On the road **with KS 40**

Tracy Torr, communications assistant, spent a morning with the kerbside crew

It's 6.30am and the KS 40 team is preparing for another day collecting and sorting Wiltshire's recycling.

At the Lower Compton depot Les Baldwin, driver, and loaders Denys Jones and Matthew Strong swap jokes as they get ready for the round. Les has got there early so he has enough time to carry out routine maintenance checks on the vehicle before they're ready to head off.

Each day vehicles are at work in the county collecting materials for recycling put out by residents and then bringing it back to depots for processing. It is vital work which has helped to hugely increase the amount of material diverted from landfill.

Our destination was Melksham and there was little traffic on the road as we made our way there. Through experience Les made sure we arrived just at 7am. Any earlier and the crew are not allowed to start collecting.

Denys and Matthew swung in to action with practiced ease. They worked their way along the rows of familiar black boxes, hooking them on to the side of the vehicle. There are separate compartments in the vehicle for each of the items that can be recycled. The loaders swiftly separated out the items and then placed the box upside down on the kerbside – to show it had been emptied.

Kerbside loaders work outdoors in all weather conditions. The work is very active and involves lifting, bending and carrying heavy boxes so loaders must be physically fit and strong enough to work at a fast pace.

It was noticeable from the start that the team have to work closely together so they can complete the job to a high standard. The driver has a dual role, as well as manoeuvring the vehicle; he also helps the rest of the crew in the black box emptying. The on board camera assists the driver



R-L Les Baldwin, Matthew Strong and Denys Jones

while he positions the vehicle, and I was amazed at the vehicle's manoeuvrability.

The safety of the loaders was apparent throughout my time with the crew. At all times heavy duty gloves, reflective jackets, safety trousers, ear defenders and steel capped boots were worn.

The crew also deal with assisted collections from specific homes where

the householder is unable to place the black box onto the kerbside.

By 2pm KS 40 had finished the collection round having serviced around 750 houses. The crew headed back to Lower Compton so the material could be unloaded – and they could enjoy a welcome cup of tea.

Tomorrow it would start all over again.

Hills' golf tournaments

Andy Beal from Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club won the title for the third time at the 31st Hills Wiltshire Professional Golf Championships held in July.



Nick King group director - Homes with the winners of this year's junior championship tournament

Perfect weather conditions greeted the players at Marlborough Golf Club as they teed off though the wind picked up as the afternoon session began testing the skills of the golfers.

Beal led the tournament from start to finish ending with a score of 139, five under par. Craig Bell from Ogbourne Downs Golf Club took second place two under par with Barry Forster from North Wilts Golf Club and last year's winner David Hutton from Hamptworth Golf & County Club equal third one under par.

"It was a fantastic feeling holding the trophy once again," said Beal, who last won the title in 2005 and won for the first time 20 years ago. "It is always great to come and play at Marlborough Golf Club and I look forward to returning next year to defend my title."

The company is also committed to supporting golf in the local community at junior level by sponsoring the Hills' Junior Open Golf Championship, a Daily Telegraph Qualifier event.

Thirty-seven juniors teed off for this event at Broome Manor Golf Complex in August.

The boys scratch trophy was won by Jake Vallis, at one under par, closely followed by last year's winner Ross Gillett, who finished level. Last year's girls winner, Yasmin Brooks, and previous winner Katie Warren both ended on a final score of eight over. The result was determined on count back which gave Katie the win.

Jake and Katie have now been placed on the qualifiers leader boards for a chance to take one of the 21 places available to play at the Abu Dhabi Junior Golf Championship later in the year.

The best net score was won by Will Randall and the nine hole medal competition for 10 years and under was won by Sebastian James. James White won the Tiny Tigers competition.

Jumping the 'Hills' at Barbury

Horses and riders from across the world tackled the cross country fences at this year's Barbury International including the Ditch & Brush jump sponsored by Hills.

Hills' jump was positioned half way around the course, and competitors enjoyed the gallop after the jump before tackling the Bears Corner fences.

Waste Solutions and Quarry Products exhibited at this year's Wiltshire Show which is also held at the Barbury International horse trials.

Employees from both divisions actively engaged with members of the public over the two days promoting the services that they provide.



The Hills Jump



Hills staff at the Wiltshire Show



Music to our ears

Hills and Marlborough celebrated 25 years of making music as the vibrant sounds of jazz came to town in July.

Hills has been associated with Marlborough Jazz since it was founded in 1986 and over the years has sponsored many of the venues, including this year's bandstand at The Crown Hotel.

Big name bands to young groups from around the world came to perform at numerous locations around the town. The Crown became vibrant and lively as it showcased musical talent from the Filthy Six, Ray Harris & the Fusion Experience, Baddest Blues Band, Slide by Slide and a Hills' favourite The Adam Winslet Band.



Adam Winslet Band on stage at The Crown during Marlborough Jazz festival

Calne beat the taste

Hills Waste Solutions was pleased to sponsor the Calne Food & Drink Festival which took place on 10 September.

The event saw a number of local producers exhibit their products.

Mongolia or bust

A team of four construction workers from Wiltshire have completed an epic journey overland to Mongolia.

The Westcountry Wanderers team drove a 1990 Leyland fire engine the several thousand miles through some rough driving conditions.

Hills Waste Solutions sponsored the team who raised more than £4,000 for the charities Help the Heroes and the Christina Nobel Children's Foundation.

Giving back to the community

Four Wiltshire communities now have improved facilities thanks to donations from Hills through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Wootton Bassett's cricket club has recently installed a double practice net facility. A grant of £9,814 was given towards the practice nets which were officially opened by former England International John Crawley.

Meanwhile Shaw village basketball court got a re-vamp after receiving funding of £5,575 to extend the existing half-sized basketball court.

The court at Shaw playing field is now full size with multigoals at both ends. As well as basketball, people of all age groups have an opportunity to play numerous activities on the court including netball, five-a-side football and tennis.

Future Wimbledon champions could play their first matches on refurbished Wiltshire tennis courts.

Burbage tennis club had funding of £10,274 from Hills for a new high quality, durable surface to aid drainage, which will extend the life of the court. The new court is also suitable for wheelchair tennis.



John Crawley coaching youngsters from Wootton Bassett cricket club

Kington Langley tennis club received funding of £2,976 from Hills to have its court resurfaced to high standards which will enable long term use of the courts.

To find out about the Landfill Communities Fund contact Community First at www.communityfirst.org.uk

Community togetherness with Aspire Defence



Aspire works with Hills donated skip in the background

Voluntary Playground works at Shipton Bellinger Primary School.

I am writing this letter in relation to the Shipton Bellinger Primary School works carried out between Wednesday 1st June – Thursday 2nd June 2011. On behalf of Aspire Defence Capital Works I would like to say thank you for the two 14 yard skips that you so kindly dropped off and delivered free of charge.

It truly does show just how Hills Waste Solutions Ltd strive to help the community and work well with other companies to complete a job to a high standard.

Without your help the event would not have been the success that it was.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Hillier

Mike Boon

Aspire Defence Capital Works
Compliance Co-ordinator

Aspire Defence Capital Works
Project Director

Thank you Hills from St Dunstan

Inspiring gardeners from St Dunstan School, Calne, will be digging into their own grown produce later in the year thanks to Warrior compost.

Potatoes, tomatoes, courgettes, pumpkins and sunflowers had a growth spurt after compost was added to the thick clay soil.



Young gardeners from St Dunstan School with Hills warrior compost

Walking under the stars

Swapping heels for walking boots, PAs Lynn Daniels and Julie James joined hundreds for the annual Prospect Hospice Swindon Starlight Walk.

They both said that "it was a lovely evening for a stroll" as they raised £300 for the charity. There was a new route at this year's event which took walkers past the hospice building.



Julie James



Lynn Daniels

Cricket team on winning run

It was two wins on the trot for the Hills cricket team as they beat Haines Construction with eight wickets in hand.

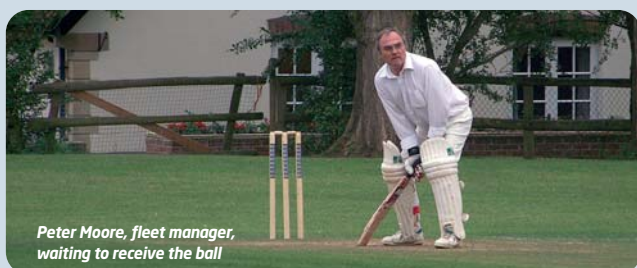
Haines opened the batting and put on 121 for 9 in their allotted 20 overs. Tight fielding and accurate bowling couldn't contain some key Haines players who struck a number of boundaries and several sweet sixes.

The pick of the Hills bowlers was captain Richard Swatton who took three wickets. Sam Jackson and Gary Mulcock took a pair of wickets each.

Considering the heavy rain during the day, the Goatacre wicket was lively and the muggy weather gave the ball extra swing.

Peter Moore and Sam Jackson opened the batting for Hills and set off at a gallop with some crashing boundaries and plenty of running between the wickets. Moore retired having smacked a swift 27 without ever looking in trouble. Phil Chamberlain made his debut at number three and edged a couple of fours before his late call saw Jackson run out by expert fielding having scored 13.

Chamberlain was then joined by Adrian Knowles and they continued to chip away at the target supported by a comfortable run rate and some porous fielding. Despite being bogged down for several overs by accurate and pacey Haines bowling, the pair sealed the match with two overs to spare. Chamberlain ended on 21 and Knowles on 20.



Peter Moore, fleet manager, waiting to receive the ball



Adrian Knowles, finance director, demonstrates unusual technique

Welcome

A warm "Hills" welcome to the following employees who joined the Group between 1 May and 31 July 2011.

Robert Cross LGV driver
Pamela Hunt HR advisor
Jeff Rowland LGV driver

Phil Chamberlain Communications advisor
Emma Carter Contracts co-ordinator
Richard Whale Field sales manager
Charles Kettlety Mobile plant operative
Anthony Barrett Kerbside LGV driver
Gillian Chandler Commercial team administrator
Richard Hartley Mobile plant operative
Philip Pieragostini Yardperson
Pamela Parfett Sales administration clerk
Charles Park LGV driver

Meeting Richard Whale

Intouch caught up with Richard Whale, field sales manager, to ask him about his background and what he brings to his role within Waste Solutions.

Intouch: What is your background?

Richard: My background is in sales, sales management and sales training consultancy. I have worked with brands Pepsi Cola, Hallmark cards, Head Sport, Kellogg's, Gossard, Rimmel and Twinings. I have 30 years practical experience of managing and developing teams to achieve their maximum potential, via motivation coupled with ongoing individual and team training.

Intouch: What brought you to Hills?

Richard: The company, its people and its exciting future challenges and opportunities.

Intouch: How do you like your role?

Richard: I'm particularly enjoying my team and their receptiveness to a new way of thinking and the results they are beginning to achieve.

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

Richard: I love live music, walking, good food and wine. Most of all time with my children and grandchildren (I know I look too young!)



Richard Whale, field sales manager



L-R Robert Hill, Rosie Hill, John Cleese and Mike Hill, chief executive

Meeting up with a Python

Robert Hill recently caught up with old school friend John Cleese when he was on tour in the area.

Mike Hill arranged the reunion after John's hilarious performance at the Theatre Royal in Bath. "It was the first time they had seen each other for 57 years," said Mike. "They were absolutely thrilled to meet up and have made arrangements to stay in touch."

Famous faces

Have you ever been photographed with a famous face? Send in your photograph to the communications department

by internal mail (all photographs will be returned) or email to: info@hills-group.co.uk saying who is pictured and where the photograph was taken.



Family reunion

The last time Robert and Rosie Hill were together with their five boys – Mike, Chas, Bill, Dave and Jamie – was at Dave's wedding in March 1997. As you can see from the picture they managed to get them all together again, while Chas was visiting from Australia and Bill was back from Colombia – although now with a few more additions!

New arrival

Congratulations to Jodine Pask and Steve Burns, divisional director – Waste Solutions, on the birth of their son Jacob who was born on 21 May 2011 weighing 6lb 81/2 oz.



Jacob Tyler Burns

Jute bag on tour

Sales representative Terry Newsham's nephew Kieron Newsham with a Hills jute bag in Camp Bastion, Afghanistan.



Climbing to the top

"It was by far the hardest thing I have ever had to do in my life, however through the blood, sweat and tears it was all worth it," said Gavin Walton, business manager - concrete.

From Friday 1 to Saturday 2 July Gavin Walton and friends took part in the Three Peaks Challenge and climbed Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Mount Snowdon raising £706.79 for Bellhouse-Drayson, an acute medical ward at the Oxford Children's Hospital.

Starting their gruelling climb at Ben Nevis, the challenge took them across 26 miles of all terrain on foot, as well as nearly 450 miles travelling the country by car. The team finally made it back onto solid ground and crossed the finish line in a remarkable 23 hours.

Gavin would like to thank everyone who gave a donation toward the Oxford children's hospital.



Gavin Walton, business manager - concrete, at the summit of Ben Nevis

Fancy a night out at the movies?

Answer the following question correctly to win cinema tickets to see the latest blockbuster at your local cinema. Send your entry to the communications department by internal mail or email: competition@hills-group.co.uk

How many Hercules aeroplanes = 1 million tonnes?

Entries to be received by Friday 7 October. 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 10 October.



Carrs take to the road on two wheels

Liz Carr, credit control, and Nathan Carr, depot manager, took to the saddle again this year and raised funds for the British Heart Foundation.

Liz rode 35 miles to complete the BHF

Round the Harbours Bike Ride starting and finishing in Langstone, Hayling Island, which also included two ferry crossings.

Nathan, along with seven friends, completed the BHF London to Brighton

bike ride. The 56 mile route started from Clapham Common at 8.30am with the team arriving in Brighton just after 2pm.

Liz and Nathan raised a fantastic combined total of £350 - well done to you both!



Liz Carr holding her medal after completing the course



Nathan Carr, 4th from left, and his team mates having a break during the London to Brighton cycle challenge

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