

# intouch

Issue 26 January 2012



## Well driven

Hills creates new driver's charter, see pages 4-5

**Find out which Wiltshire groups we've funded**

- read more on page 10

**Recycling poster competition winner**

- read more on page 13

**Bob Sparrow retires from Homes**

- read more on page 19

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# viewpoint

## Happy New Year!

I would like to wish everyone all the best for 2012 in what will no doubt be a challenging year for all. As predictions grow of the UK economy returning to recession, propelled by public sector cuts and the economic downturn and debt crises in the Eurozone, optimism has become rather thin on the ground! However there are several events this year which will focus global attention on to this country and will without doubt lift our spirits: the wonderful milestone of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Admittedly for those who are republicans and also dislike sport, there probably isn't much to look forward to!

## Reasons for optimism!

However our businesses have shown resilience during a turbulent 2011, and I am confident that they will continue to do so. The Government's plans to boost investment in infrastructure and construction of new homes give us good reason for continued optimism. 2012 will be a very interesting year as we progress plans to further evolve our waste treatment and recycling technologies as well as watch our biggest ever investment - the MBT plant at Westbury - gradually become a reality throughout the year (pages 12 and 15).

Safety also continues to be a priority demonstrated by our signing up to the Well Driven? scheme and introducing a charter for good driving (pages 4 and 5). The article on pages 10 and 11 also shows how we have been able to have, and will continue to have, a positive impact on the areas in which we operate through funding dozens of community projects throughout Wiltshire.

## Thanks Bob!

The end of 2011 saw the retirement of one of the Group's great characters - Bob Sparrow, production director Hills Property Ltd. Bob's energy, experience, humour and big smile will be missed by many, but we all wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement (page 19).



**Michael Hill**  
Chief executive

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The Hills Group Limited, Ailesbury Court,  
High Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1AA

**Tel:** 01672 516999

**Email:** info@hills-group.co.uk

**Web:** www.hills-group.co.uk

**twitter** @HillsGroup



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# What next for Lower Compton NAAFI?



The NAAFI building in Lower Compton

A committee of residents will be chosen to help decide the future of an historic building in Wiltshire.

The former NAAFI building next to Hills' Lower Compton waste site is in a poor state of repair and the company would like to bring it back into use. It held an open weekend inviting neighbours to visit the building and surrounding woodland and discuss how it could be improved for the community.

More than 60 residents from Lower Compton near Calne put their ideas forward. The interested residents packed into Compton Bassett village hall to take part in an exercise to gather ideas on how the project should go forward.

Andrea Pellegram, technical services manager Waste Solutions, said: "We were amazed by the response we got - not only on the day, but also via email and on our Lower Compton Naafi Facebook page from those who could not attend.

"The success of this project will be determined by the level of commitment local people are willing to make."

The single-storey building has been the victim of vandalism but

Hills has been working closely with the police to counter this problem. It is hoped that bringing the building back into use will deter further attacks.

Over the coming weeks a steering committee made up of residents and representatives from Hills will be formed. So far 13 people have shown an interest in joining the committee.

Mike Hill, chief executive Hills Group, said: "In our long association with Lower Compton we've tried to work closely with our neighbours. There has been a lot of interest in the site from local residents and we are now acting on that.

"If the public commitment is there then we will do our best to support people's wishes."

For more information see [www.hills-group.co.uk/consult/naafi.html](http://www.hills-group.co.uk/consult/naafi.html) or visit the Lower Compton NAAFI Facebook page.

## The NAAFI site

The site was bought at public auction by Hills Group in 2011. It is on the perimeter of the company's waste and recycling centre. The building served the former RAF Yatesbury site which closed in the 1960s.



Lower Compton residents inspect the inside of the NAAFI

# Safe

Hills Group has signed up to a national scheme which aims to enhance road safety and encourage better driving.



## How does it work?

Anyone who rings the *Well Driven?* freephone number is put through to an independent call handling centre which operates 24 hours a day.

The caller's personal details are taken and an incident report is generated. That report is then sent to Hills. If necessary the

driver or manager can provide feedback on that report which is sent back to the call centre to keep its records up to date.

Meanwhile the member of the public is sent a confirmation letter.

If the call is urgent then Hills can be notified within minutes.





# ty drive

Company vehicles now have the *Well Driven?* logos put on them which include a freephone number. Members of the public can then comment on driver behaviour by ringing that number.

Mike Hill, chief executive Hills Group, said: "This sends a clear message to members of the public that we take road safety and driver behaviour very seriously.

"Our drivers are often the public face of Hills which people see the most and so it is vital that they act professionally and appropriately at all times.

"By signing up to this independent national scheme we're making sure that people have every chance to comment on how our drivers are performing."

The *Well Driven?* scheme was established by the Freight Transport Association, Road Haulage Association and Confederation of British Industry in 1996. There are now around 40,000 vehicles across the country which are members and the companies which have signed up include Tesco, Boots and Asda.

The scheme will cover all of Hills' vehicles that deliver goods and services such as those serving quarries and waste sites. Due to the unusual configuration of some of Hills' vehicles several *Well Driven?* stickers may be used and plenty have been ordered because of the often tough conditions in which they work.

The company plans to trial the scheme for a year to test how effective it is.

"This isn't just a mechanism for people to make complaints," said Mike. "We also hope people will use it to highlight good practice.

"We expect the best from our drivers and the reports generated will help maintain that level of excellence."

## In numbers

**84:** initial number of Hills vehicles taking part in the scheme

**500:** number of *Well Driven?* stickers to be used

**0800 22 55 33:** number to call to comment on a driver

**1:** length in years of the trial

## Our charter for good driving

This charter declares our commitment to high standards of road use and good driving behaviour so that our operations have the minimum possible impact on the communities where we operate.

### We undertake to

- Ensure that all our drivers sign up to this charter.
- Follow up all complaints and take action where possible.
- Report on complaints and their handling.
- Participate in the *Well Driven?* programme.

### Our objectives are to

- Check that our vehicles are fully roadworthy and operating without significant defects.
- Load our vehicles properly so that they are stable and secure.
- Keep our vehicles clean and tidy.
- Ensure that all our loads have the appropriate paperwork and operate within legal limits at all times.
- Comply with all planning conditions and local agreements.
- Adhere to special routes where these have been agreed and otherwise choose the most suitable routes for the vehicle.
- Drive in such a way as to minimise impacts on homes, businesses and other drivers by:
  - Driving courteously
  - Observing the speed limit
  - Always following the Highway Code
  - Adjusting our speed according to weather conditions
  - Driving defensively
  - Avoiding intimidating other road users, pedestrians, cyclists and animals
  - Accepting the mistakes of other road users
  - Keeping a safe distance from the drivers in front
  - Driving in such a way as to minimise vehicle noise.

# New quarry opens up

A new quarry set to replace Tubney Wood is up and running. Upwood Park is just half a mile from the Oxfordshire quarry which is coming to the end of its productive life.

Upwood has an estimated 1.5 million tonnes of reserves and is producing dry screen sand and stone. It should have an operational life of around 15 years.

The extraction programme will be the same as at Tubney Wood and will work the same geological deposit of high quality sand and serve the same markets.

Meanwhile Tubney Wood is winding down and will spend the next few years being restored.

Planning permission for Upwood, a few miles south west of Oxford, was given in 2009 and the infrastructure has now been put in place to carry out the quarrying work.

Once it has been exhausted, three of its four fields will be backfilled to restore the land to agriculture at original ground levels which will consequentially improve its agricultural potential.

The fourth and largest field is to be restored without infilling and transferred to the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. They will manage it for nature conservation and habitat bio-diversity. The site will complement the ecological interest of the adjoining Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves.

## Sales tracker

A new aggregates and concrete sales system for Quarry Products is paving the way for an improvement in sales management, more transparency around prospective sales and more visibility on current activity.

The progress-based in-house system means that enhancements can be introduced in phases.

So far, a number of key points have been reached. Prospective sales jobs are now being recorded centrally, including tracking potential customers, quotations, and successful contracts.

A new combined quoting system has been set up, to make quoting easier than before. There's also a replacement ticketing and invoicing system for our ready-mixed concrete operations, which allows for a much faster retrieval of information.

The next stages include rolling out the combined quoting system to aggregates and haulage, and introducing automated load scheduling routines.

Dave Bevan, who is responsible for the company's in-house IT development, said: "The enhancements give us systems as integrated as any other package on the market, but tailored exactly to our ways of working."

## Safety awards

Congratulations to Quarry Products staff Danny Houghton (below left), Stuart Allen (centre) and Gavin Walton who are pictured with their Managing Safety certificates from the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health.



Hills' aggregate operations



# Mission to Mars

The six-wheeled RoboVolc vehicle crawls carefully over the rocky surface. Its sensors sniff the air for chemical traces of water while a camera records the barren landscape. This isn't some far-off planet - it is Tubney Wood Quarry in Oxfordshire. But the lessons learnt could be put to use on Mars in the years to come.

A European Space Agency (ESA) project called Seeker has been using the Hills quarry to test technologies to improve the ability of robots to autonomously explore the surface of the Red Planet. The international Seeker team is led by RAL Space in Harwell and includes BAE Systems, SciSys and Roke Manor from the UK, LAAS from France, and MDA from Canada.

RAL Space project manager Brian Maddison said: "The challenge faced by the team over the next seven months is to demonstrate that a rover can travel a distance of 6km over a three-day period, avoiding dangerous areas and local hazards, whilst detecting and recording the location of interesting objects, all without any human control or intervention."

The quarry's geology isn't a perfect match for Mars but the challenges it throws up provide a great test. Team leader Richard Brimble, from BAE Systems, who is leading the construction phase said: "Early research into rovers is often conducted within limited indoor areas called Mars Yards. RAL Space has recently constructed an outdoor area which is more extensive, but having an even larger area like Tubney Wood is fantastic. It enables us to conduct full-scale trials and ensure systems are robust prior to deployment abroad."

The final demonstration will be conducted overseas in terrain as close as possible to the barren landscape of Mars, such as the Atacama desert in Chile or the Mojave desert in Arizona.

The Seeker team has been down regularly to put different robots through their paces.



Mick Chivers, manager at Tubney Wood, said: "It was an unusual request but we always try to be flexible with customers. It's amazing to think these robots could be in operation millions of miles away on another planet."



RoboVolc

## Metal machine: what is being tested at Tubney Wood?

### RoboVolc

A six-wheeled robotic platform created to explore volcanoes and subsequently used as a basis for a bomb disposal robot.

### Wildcat

A modified 4x4, it has a suite of sensors and computers and is capable of fully autonomous operation. This, for example, enables the vehicle to follow pre-planned routes whilst sensing and avoiding obstacles.

### Indie

This micro class space robotic test platform on six wheels is packed with sensors, software and processors.



Wildcat



Indie



Testing at the quarry has also involved an unmanned aerial vehicle.

# Home is where the heart is...



New homes in Saltford

Work on homes at The Spinney, Saltford, is almost complete, and the launch of the view home in February is eagerly awaited.

The heart of any home is a sociable kitchen with space for family and friends to meet, chat, cook, eat and entertain. The kitchens in the four new detached homes in Saltford have been designed to maximise space and create an impressive working area.

The homes will provide a warm, safe, low energy, sustainable living space for their owners.

They've been built with Homes' care and attention to balance contemporary convenience with traditional character and excellent build quality.

The view home is sure to be popular with purchasers looking to settle in this village.

## Affordable homes in Southrop



Affordable homes

Three affordable houses built by Homes in a Cotswold village will ensure that people aren't forced to move away.

The homes are part of a development of eight in Southrop. They were built under an agreement with Cirencester Housing Society, Cotswold District Council, New Futures

and Severnvalle Housing Society. This ensures people with a local connection have priority to be housed.

The opening ceremony saw a tree planted by Councillor Carole Toppie, cabinet member for housing and communities at Cotswold District Council, and Liz Woodhead, chairman of Cirencester Housing Society. Allan Brown, headteacher of Southrop Primary School, opened the scheme by cutting a ribbon. The ceremony was attended by local parish councillors.

**Buscot House in Southrop certainly had the wow factor for the 34 people who visited it during an open day.** Like its neighbours it has been constructed using local building materials wherever possible with traditional building skills and craftsmanship in harmony with modern technology to provide economical, sustainable and efficient modern living.



# Wild at art

Visitors to a community woodland are enjoying some unusual sights thanks to a link-up with local artists.



L to R: Nick King from Homes, Gary Mantle from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Mike Hill from Hills Group, and artist Anita Andrews

**St Julian's Community Woodland in South Marston was created as part of a planning agreement after Homes built five houses nearby.**

The newly planted woodland is being managed by local volunteers with guidance and support from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Hills Group and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have been working to encourage a wider participation by the local community in the form of an arts project hosted by the Trust's education team and Future Jobs Fund volunteers.

The artwork created by local school children has been turned into two mosaics by artist Anita Andrews.

A number of benches have been produced for the site by the Future Jobs Fund volunteers using wood from a woodland management project at another of the Trust's reserves.

John Beavis, a blacksmith from Dauntsey, was commissioned to produce a table and bench which were also unveiled at the opening ceremony along with the mosaics.

"This is a fledgling woodland that will in a few years become a haven for many of our woodland species of plants and animals. Our aim is to provide skills and support to volunteers so they can be self sufficient in managing their local woodland in the future", said Neil Pullen from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

Nick King, group director Homes, said: "Working with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the local community has helped us to understand the needs of local people and to ensure that we do as much as we can to put something back for the future."



After 21 years Bob Sparrow has retired as Homes production director. His replacement is John Doody.

Turn to page 19 to find out more.

## Calne plans

A planning application has been submitted to build up to 200 homes on land off Oxford Road in Calne.

These new homes will form part of an urban extension to the north east of Calne in the period 2016 to 2026.

The application will be decided by Wiltshire Council.

Nick King, group director Homes, said: "We consider this an appropriate and sustainable development on the edge of Calne which will do much to improve housing options and employability in the town."

# Community funding

Hills Group takes its responsibilities as a local company seriously - and that's why it ploughs money back into the community in a number of different ways.

From sponsorship to grants and gifts in kind, Hills has ploughed more than £8m into good causes across Wiltshire over the past 15 years.

Now, for the first time, the company has charted the breadth of its support. A new interactive map on the Hills website and its Facebook page shows people the individual projects which have benefited. The map on this page gives just a flavour.

The principal way in which money is distributed is through the Landfill Communities Fund and one of the organisations which administers this is the Devizes-based charity Community First.

Lynn Gibson, assistant chief executive, said: "The fund supports community, built heritage and environmental projects in the vicinity of landfill areas or depots.

"The majority of Wiltshire and Swindon are covered by eligible catchment areas, so we would encourage community groups to find out more and to apply."

One example is the Laverton Project in Westbury (see right) which received a £25,354 grant from Hills.

But the company's contribution to the community can be seen in many different ways.

The firm diverted washing machine drums sent for recycling to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in Lyneham (see right). Meanwhile a music festival in Calne was provided with a free recycling service and compost has been donated to villages competing in Britain in Bloom.

Direct grants are also made to appropriate organisations. One of the most recent is Calne Town FC whose 1st team shirts are sponsored by Hills.

Arguably the support which will last the longest is that given to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Hills works with the environmental group to protect and restore Wiltshire's natural environment for its local communities.

Mike Hill, chief executive Hills Group, said: "Hills is part of the community and we want to play our part in making it a better place for all."

## A sample of our support

**Amesbury:** £15,000 LCG to Wyndham's Hall and £15,000 to Lord's Walk

**Burbage:** £14,270 LCG to the village hall

**Calne:** £25,000 LCG to the Beversbrook sports facility and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust manages Penn Wood nature reserve on a long-term lease from Hills

**Chippenham:** £3,200 LCG to Westinghouse Cricket Club

**Cricklade:** donated compost to Britain in Bloom competitor

**Devizes:** £1,280 LCG to Wyndhams Garden Project and £14,755 LCG to the Wiltshire Heritage Museum

**Great Cheverell:** sponsored the popular soapbox derby

**Holt:** £3,500 LCG towards sports facilities

**Langford Lakes:** Now a stunning Wiltshire Wildlife Trust reserve having been bought from, and subsequently supported by, Hills

**Ludgershall:** £10,000 LCG to the scout hut

**Marlborough:** sponsors annual Jazz Festival and donated more than 1,000 bikes collected at recycling centres to African charity

**Malmesbury:** £10,000 LCG to Athelstan Museum

**Melksham:** £10,000 LCG to Melksham United and £910 to Melksham Assembly Hall

**Nomansland:** £8,600 LCG towards community improvements

**Salisbury:** £11,273 LCG towards the Digital Resources for Education, Arts & Media project

**Sandpool Farm:** Funding to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to turn former landfill into nature reserve

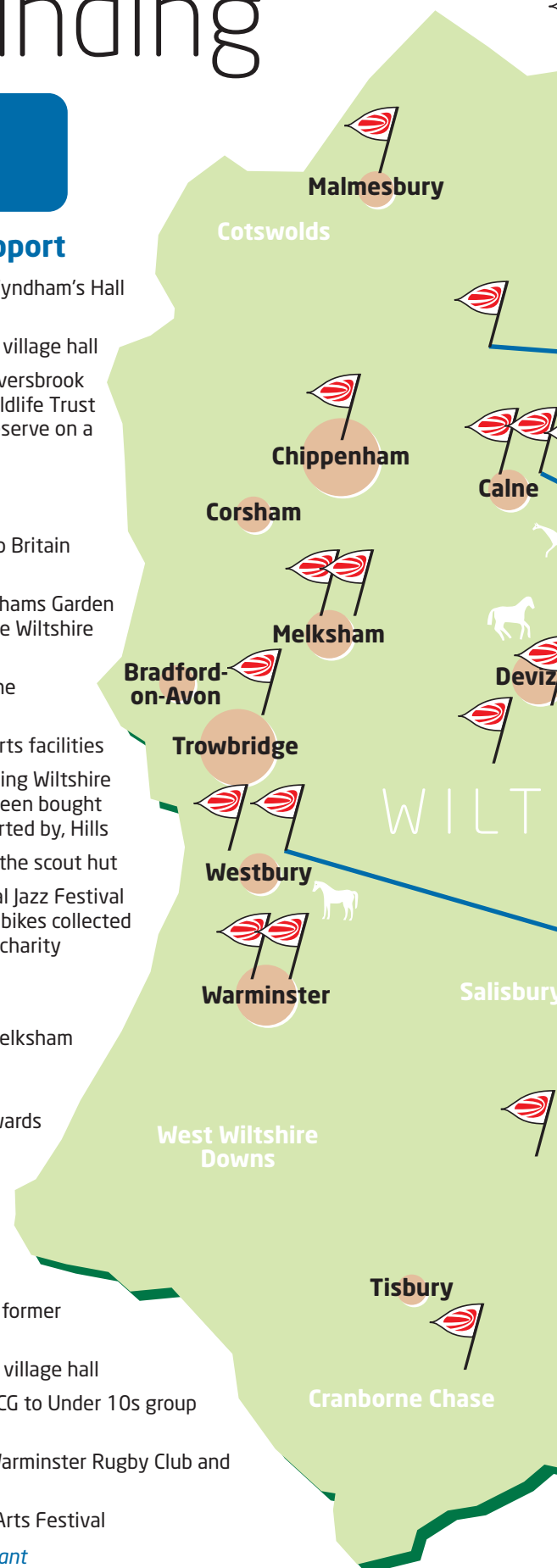
**Swallowcliffe:** £2,000 LCG to village hall

**Swindon, Penhill:** £20,000 LCG to Under 10s group and £47,900 to TWIST project

**Warminster:** £7,310 LCG to Warminster Rugby Club and £3,330 LCG to teen shelter

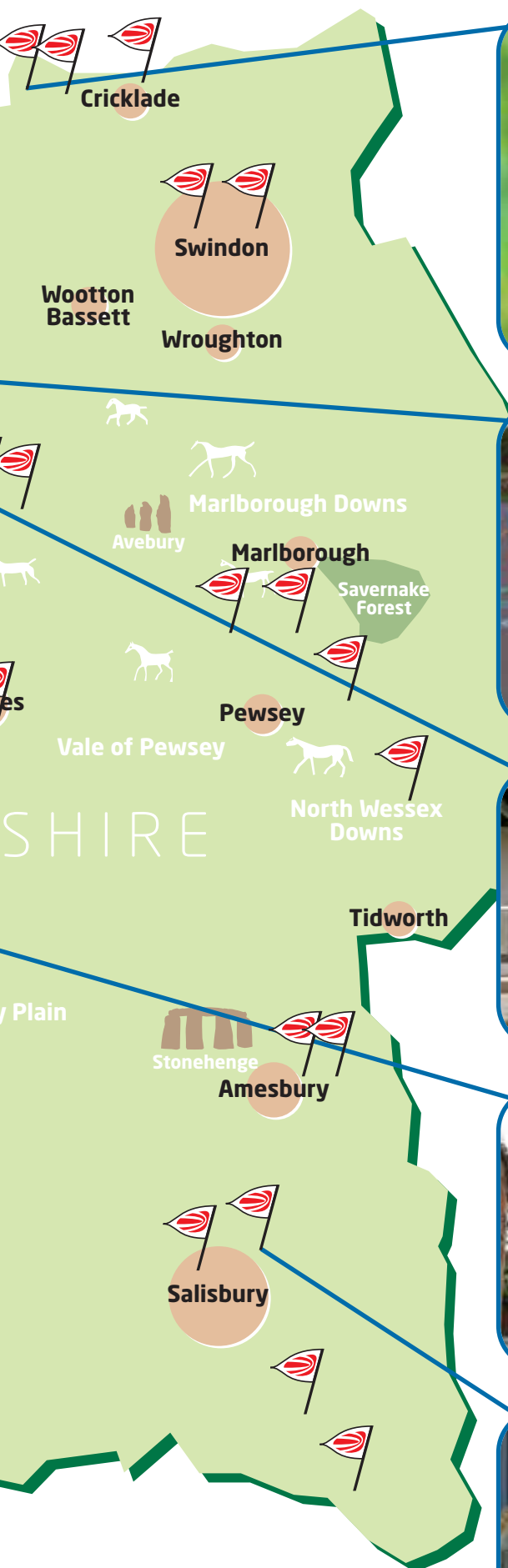
**Westbury:** sponsors Music & Arts Festival

LCG = Landfill Communities Grant



Visit [www.hills-group.co.uk/consult/community.html](http://www.hills-group.co.uk/consult/community.html) or our Facebook page to see the full map. For further information on making a Landfill Communities Grant application contact Community First at [www.communityfirst.org.uk](http://www.communityfirst.org.uk)





With funding from Hills, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have completed initial works to improve dragonfly sites and create new areas of open water habitat at Lower Moor Farm. There are 32 species of dragonfly and damselfly recorded in Wiltshire of which 17 are found at the complex next to Cotswold Water Park.

Picture: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust



Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at 1st Lyneham (Air) Scout Group have come up with a novel way to contain their traditional altar fires - by using the inner drums from recycled washing machines.



Hills is the new sponsor for Calne Town FC. The Lilywhites are proudly bearing the firm's logo on their kit for the first time in the 2011/12 season.



Westbury's historic Laverton Institute, an imposing Grade 2 listed Victorian building, has been extensively refurbished as a community centre for residents.

Picture: John Parker, reproduced with permission of The Laverton Institute Trust



The River Bourne Community Farm has carried out major renovations thanks to a £15,600 grant. The renovations mean it is well on the way to its aim of opening more of its facilities to the public.

# A million-pound plant for composting set for spring opening



## A green waste facility at the Parkgate Farm site in Purton will be ready for business this spring.

And the waste team hopes that it will eventually gain an additional PAS 100 (2011) accreditation as a result of the additional compost products they'll be able to produce.

The new facility has been purpose-built on the site, using around 2,700m<sup>3</sup> of concrete and 25,000 tonnes of aggregate, which have all been supplied by Quarry Products.

The facility is 90m x 150m and currently has planning permission to manage 25,000 tonnes, although it is capable of managing around double that amount.

Wiltshire Council's green waste collection service will produce more than 25,000 tonnes.

Waste Solutions will therefore seek planning permission to drop the tyre recycling operations it currently runs in favour of increased composting, and so the facility will cater for this.

The new facility will eventually replace the old one at Lower Compton. It is due to become fully operational at the start of April.

Ed Dodd, waste operations manager, said: "With the access road and associated infrastructure, the work project has cost in excess of £1m. We will also have three staff relocate from Lower Compton to the new site.

"That investment will see a huge return in the amount of green waste composting thanks to all the extra material generated by Wiltshire Council's expanded kerbside collection contract.

"This state-of-the-art facility means Hills will be able to produce far more quality composting and better serve Wiltshire residents."

## MBT on track

### Work on the new mechanical biological treatment plant continues...

Since the project for a new mechanical biological treatment (MBT) plant in Westbury began, the team's worked hard to achieve a number of key milestones. The detailed design is complete, and the structural steel work has been ordered. Crane supplier Kone Cranes has been appointed by Entsorga, who will be supplying the MBT plant.

Quarry Products has supplied the concrete for the foundations (pictured right).



The plant will transform local waste into a valuable fuel, diverting more than 45,000 tonnes of waste from landfill.

The project is still on schedule for completion in autumn 2013. There's a plan for activity to increase in the spring when the principal equipment from Entsorga is delivered and installed at the site.

## Porte Marsh underway

New equipment is expected to be installed at the Porte Marsh waste facility in the coming weeks.

The warehouse on the Calne industrial estate is a key part of Hills' operations to deliver household recycling services to people in Wiltshire. It handles the new cardboard and plastic kerbside collections which Wiltshire Council is rolling out.

The material is baled at the facility and then transported on for recycling.

The new equipment will mean the site can better handle the amount of material already being generated.



The first load of cardboard and plastic collected from households in Wiltshire is unloaded at Porte Marsh



# Poster competition **winner**

A schoolgirl from Calne has seen her winning poster design turned into a recycling campaign for the whole of Wiltshire.

Jessica Milstead, a year six pupil from Fynamore Primary School, beat nearly 300 entries to win a recycling competition organised by Hills.

Each finalist receives a £20 book voucher while Jessica also earns her school a new computer.

The competition, open to Wiltshire school children, was launched in the summer to mark a million tonnes of waste in Wiltshire diverted from landfill.

In total there were 296 entries from across the county and these were whittled down to a shortlist of 30. From that the five finalists were chosen.

Mike Webster, group director Waste Solutions, said: "There was an incredible range of ideas that really tested the judges. In the end, Jessica's simple but brilliantly effective design of a child made from recyclable materials won us all over."

Jessica was presented with her prize at her school. She said she was delighted with the way her winning entry had been turned into a recycling poster.

*Pictured right is Jessica's winning design with the adapted version (far right) ready for use.*



L to R: Jessica Milstead, mum Petrina and Mike Webster from Waste Solutions



Other finalists were:

**Charlotte Davis from Broad Hinton Primary School**

**Ella Betty Dewhurst from St Edmund's Girls School, Salisbury**

**Alfie from Wylfe Valley School, Warminster**

**Eagles Class from Larkrise School, Trowbridge**



# Recycling at Aylesford



Hills staff celebrate Wiltshire's recycling success at Aylesford's paper plant

Wiltshire residents have recycled 150,000 tonnes of newspapers and magazines in the last decade. That's almost one tonne of recycled paper for every household in Wiltshire.

And recycling staff have been getting a closer look at where all that paper ends up.

For more than a decade Wiltshire's recovered newspapers and magazines have been delivered to Aylesford Newsprint in Kent. The firm hosted a training visit for Waste Solutions staff to make sure that the high standards of recycling are maintained with the expansion of kerbside services in Wiltshire.

Cliff Carter, recycling manager Waste Solutions, said: "It's really important that the collection teams see how the materials that they sort are used. It means the fantastic efforts by Wiltshire residents are put to the best use.

"It's up to our team to make sure the material is properly sorted and of the right quality. Kerbside collection and sorting is a key factor in achieving this quality. The training received at the mill highlights the need for quality in all areas of our recycling activities and helps the teams to put this into action.

"We were able to see an impressive example of efficient UK recycling. It relies on good quality, clean materials in order to recycle the used papers and magazines into new

newsprint. People in Wiltshire can be confident that their recycling is working."

The used newspapers and magazines are recycled by Wiltshire residents through either the kerbside collection scheme, bring sites, school paper banks or household recycling centres. Within a week of collection they can be turned into newsprint once more.

Dave Moore, area manager for Aylesford Newsprint, said: "The paper that we receive from Wiltshire is always of excellent quality.

"Residents do a great job of participating in the kerbside service as do the operatives who are responsible for sorting the paper at the kerbside. It's no surprise that we're celebrating this delivery milestone and we're keen to help Wiltshire residents recycle even more in the future."

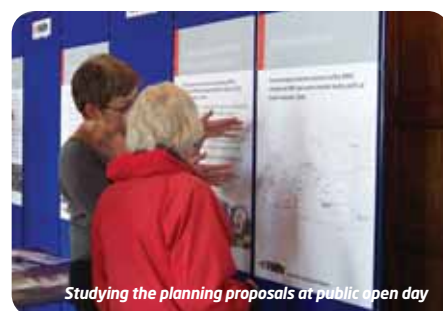
- Aylesford Newsprint manufactures 100% recycled newsprint and is one of the UK's leading reprocessors of recovered paper
- Each year Aylesford Newsprint recycles more than 500,000 tonnes of used newspapers and magazines, producing 400,000 tonnes of newsprint
- In as little as seven days the papers and magazines that are recycled by householders can be reprocessed and used once again to produce new newspapers

## Planning for the future

A proposal by Hills to expand and improve its operations at Lower Compton near Calne looks set to be considered by Wiltshire Council planners in March.

The aim is to provide a total waste recovery capacity for the management of approximately 285,000 tonnes per annum of non hazardous waste from municipal, industrial and commercial sources.

In order to explain the need for the facility, Hills organised a comprehensive consultation including public exhibitions, site tours and numerous media interviews.



Studying the planning proposals at public open day



# New facility proposed

Waste Solutions is submitting a planning application to Wiltshire Council for a new recyclables management facility.

The site, on Mills Way in Amesbury, would help Hills meet the requirements of the council's new waste collection services being rolled out across the county. The facility will handle waste that is collected from the local area including garden waste, plastic and cardboard and black box recycling. It will be bulked up and taken away to recycling companies.

Until the summer of 2011 the site was used as a furniture removal and storage business and so planning permission already exists for industrial activities. However, this application is for a waste-related use and so different planning procedures apply. In particular Hills is looking to make sure that the site will meet air quality management and noise impact regulations.

The activities of the previous user were very similar in terms of noise, traffic and other impacts to what is under consideration by Hills. It is expected that the site will operate from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 12.30pm on Saturdays. There will be some Saturday afternoon working following certain bank holidays. It already has very good highway links.

Mike Webster, group director Waste Solutions, said: "We need to make sure Wiltshire Council can deliver on its plans for kerbside waste collection and that means having the right infrastructure in place.

"This site offers an excellent solution to making sure that Wiltshire isn't criss-crossed with lorries carrying waste unnecessarily. It means we can deal as close as possible to where it is generated.

"We believe that the existing building can handle the volume of material and contain any noise or smells - but we're employing expert consultants to make sure that is the case."

**People can visit**  
[www.hills-group.co.uk/consult/amesbury.html](http://www.hills-group.co.uk/consult/amesbury.html)  
to get more detail on the proposal and comment on the plans.



## A MESSAGE FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL



# Thank you for recycling

In Wiltshire residents now recycle on average over 700 tonnes of plastic bottles and cardboard every month using the kerbside recycling service. Residents can now recycle a wide range of items from the kerbside using their blue lidded bin for plastic bottles and cardboard and black box for paper, magazines, glass, cans, clothes, shoes and aerosols. For those who already have a garden waste bin, you can also recycle grass cuttings, flowers, branches, leaves, clippings at the kerbside.

The new non-chargeable garden waste collections start in Wiltshire from February 2012 onwards. Those who signed up before 1 December 2011 to receive the new non-chargeable garden waste collection will receive their new green lidded bins in February 2012. You can still opt-in to receive the service and will get a new green lidded bin in summer 2012. To sign up visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenbin](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenbin) or call 0300 456 0102.

Remember, now you can recycle more from home the very little remaining household waste you have will be collected every fortnight from February onwards.

Residents in east, south and north will soon be receiving a new waste and recycling calendar through the post along with further information about your new fortnightly collections. Please check your calendar carefully as your collection days for all your waste and recycling collections may change.

For more information, including lots of FAQs and collection dates, visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste) or call 0300 456 0102.

**Wiltshire Council**  
Where everybody matters

Working in partnership with 



# Christmas parties...











Marlborough staff mark Children in Need



Simon Allen and Terry Newsham took part in Movember



Neil Watts poses with his facial hair for Movember

## Hills helps good causes

Children in Need, Macmillan Cancer Support and prostate cancer awareness were just some of the good causes Hills staff have been highlighting.

Staff in Marlborough baked cakes in aid of Children in Need and enjoyed a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan.

Meanwhile staff at County Park wore pink to raise awareness of the Breast Cancer Campaign.

Some male staff over at County Park also showed off their moustaches and beards for a final photo shoot at the end of

November, just before saying goodbye to the facial hair they'd grown in support of Movember.

Simon Allen, Terry Newsham and Neil Watts managed to raise money and awareness for men's health. They were helped by other County Park staff members who organised a drinks raffle, a tombola and a dress down day. They raised £191.

County Park staff members raised a total of £464 last year for Swindon Hydrotherapy Centre and Macmillan, and this year they will be supporting Blue Lamp, a charity that helps emergency services personnel who have been injured while on duty. Well done everyone!

## Long service milestones

### 10 Years

**Keith Taylor** - 15/10/01  
**Kate Chipping** - 10/09/01  
**David Wills** - 08/05/01  
**Gordon Boulton** - 24/09/01  
**Linda Ritchings** - 01/10/01  
**Duncan Simester** - 19/11/01  
**Peter Steel** - 02/02/01  
**Garry Johnson** - 26/03/01  
**David Barnett** - 28/05/01  
**Alan Curtis** - 25/06/01  
**Ian Twycross** - 16/07/01  
**Peter Ingram** - 24/09/01  
**Christopher Boyd** - 03/09/01  
**Jessie Bunce** - 04/11/01  
**Garren Hall** - 03/12/01

### 15 Years

**Philip Rymer** - 24/06/96  
**Daryl Taylor** - 12/08/96  
**Jan Pearce** - 12/06/96  
**Colin Woodhouse** - 01/11/96  
**Andrew Liddle** - 17/06/96  
**Peter Strange** - 01/04/96  
**Neil Luce** - 01/06/96  
**Brian Hayes** - 27/06/96

### 20 Years

**Stephen Mead** - 01/08/91

### 25 Years

**Leslie Miles** - 21/07/86

### Dedicated service

Sue Wyatt, PA to chief executive Mike Hill and chairman Alan Pardoe, has left Hills after almost nine years in the role. Sue is moving to the house she shares in the Brecon Beacons with her partner Stuart. Chief executive Mike Hill said: "It has been a joy to work with Sue over the years and I know I speak for both Alan and my father Robert. All of the family shareholders will greatly miss her friendly and efficient approach. We wish her all the best for the future."



Sue with Robert Hill, left, Mike Hill, centre, and Alan Pardoe

### Quarter century

Les Miles has marked his 25th year working as an LGV driver for Hills. He joined the company in July 1986. Fleet manager Peter Moore said: "Nearly all of his time with Hills has been spent in the Newbury area where he has built up a loyal and long standing customer base. Most of them know Les by name and have a high regard for his reliability and friendly personality. Long may it continue."



Leslie Miles

### Time for a well-earned rest for Fran

After 14 years service, Fran Doris has retired as sales office supervisor with Quarry Products. Fran joined Hills Minerals & Waste, as it was then, as a receptionist at the Marlborough office in July 1998. Two years later she transferred to Shorncote as sales administrator and was promoted a year later. Since 2008 Fran has been based at County Park and it was there that a reception was held to mark her retirement. She was presented with a watch before enjoying a meal with friends and colleagues at the Pear Tree at Purton.



Fran Doris



# Bob Sparrow flies off



Bob Sparrow and his wife Veronica

Bob Sparrow has retired from Hills after 21 years, the last 14 of which he worked as Homes production director, and the other seven at the building company he owned before Hills acquired it in 1998. He gave intouch the low down on his long career with Homes.

When Bob joined Hills Group in 1998, he and group director Nick King brought staff from the building company Bob owned previously, and set up Hills Homes with Lance Parry, Hills' general manager at the time. Things quickly progressed and the

team went from building a handful of houses each year, to more than 100.

As production director, Bob has been responsible for the planned production of the construction sites, and for supporting site staff in building high quality homes that comply with all current regulations, within the projected cost. He's managed the implementation of the health and safety on these sites, and also been responsible for the maintenance work to occupied houses to comply with the company's commitment to the National House-Builders Council.

"Not only have I enjoyed working with everyone here, but I love the type of houses we've produced, and the locations we've built in," said Bob.

The division's focus in recent years has been on smaller farmyard developments in the Marlborough, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire areas, places close to Bob's heart.

"We've always built in and around the area I was born, and we've never moved that far away," he said. "I look at our older developments now they've matured, and realise that we've built homes, not just houses."

Bob's always taken his responsibilities in overseeing the production on sites and health and safety seriously.

"I'm pleased to be in a position where I've never had to report a serious incident. It's down to the quality of our staff and the company's investment in health and safety training. In fact, our last audit by the Building Safety Group was the best one we've ever had."

Now that he has retired, Bob, who lives in Dauntsey near Chippenham, plans to spend more time going "out to play" with his friends. But it seems that he has his work cut out.

"My wife Veronica has enough jobs lined up to last me the rest of my life! On top of that I have three grandchildren and another one on the way, so I hope to spend lots of time with them too."

## Welcome to a replacement from overseas

John Doody has joined Hills as Bob's successor and can't wait to get started.

"I really like what Hills does in relation to the quality of houses it builds. When I saw the job ad it was too good an opportunity to miss, even if it meant moving from Ireland!"

John previously worked at Hollioake Homes as construction director. He moved with his wife from Avoca, County Wicklow, to Swindon, to join the team.

John said: "I've come from a company where the focus was on volume, so it will mean a change in mindset for me to become a bespoke builder, producing smaller developments of high quality."

"It's a credit to Bob when you look at the standard of the houses that Hills builds. His influence over the years has instilled that pride into all involved. I'm sure I'll have different ways of doing things to Bob and I hope to bring my own ethos on how things should be achieved, while maintaining the high standards he has set."

John has three children; two daughters and a son, and similarly to Bob, he's also a keen golfer, sometimes playing off a handicap of 10. So it seems that they have more in common than a love for the building industry.



## Enter our **spot the ball** competition

To mark our sponsorship of Calne Town FC, we've got a competition where you can win £50 cash.

Work out in which square of the grid the ball is on and send your answer by email to: [competition@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:competition@hills-group.co.uk) or by internal mail to the communications department.

Entries to be received by Friday 10 February.

One entry per employee. The winner will be drawn at random from all the correct entries received.

The winner will be announced on Monday 13 February.



Photo: David Gillett

## New arrival

Congratulations to Gavin Walton, business manager for concrete, and his wife Amy, on the birth of their daughter Lily Louise who was born on 23 November 2011 weighing 8lb 8oz.



Lily Louise Walton

Kerbside loader Mathew Riches came to the aid of a Warminster woman when her tumble drier went up in flames.

Mathew was doing his usual kerbside rounds when the elderly woman ran out of her house, calling for help.

Mathew said: "I heard the woman calling and knew she needed help, so I just reacted instantly. I firstly made sure the lady was uninjured and out of immediate danger, and then moved the drier into the garden as quickly as possible before calling the fire brigade."



Ken Webb, kerbside collection supervisor, said: "What Mathew did was good. He showed courage and we're really proud of the way he helped this woman."

## Welcome

A warm "Hills" welcome to the following employees who joined the company between August 1 and December 31.

<b>Nathan Smith</b>	Direct sales executive
<b>Adam Moody</b>	Kerbside loader
<b>Shaun Hayward</b>	Plant supervisor
<b>Terry Riggs</b>	Recycling operative/Relief MPO

**Phillip Haakerson**  
**David Jarvis**  
**Alison Dixon**  
**James Defty**  
**Ian Southgate**  
**Mark Padfield**  
**Wayne Clifford**  
**Kellie-Anne McCarthy**  
**John Doody**  
**Stephen Lewis**  
**Hannah Green**  
**Matthew Pope**

Driver's mate  
 Kerbside loader  
 Transport coordinator  
 Sales team administrator  
 Quarry manager  
 Quarry operative  
 Quarry operative  
 Weighbridge clerk  
 Production manager  
 LGV driver (compost)  
 Publications and online officer  
 Direct sales executive