

# intouch

The Hills Group newsletter

**Issue 31** December 2013



## Sort of the earth

Meet the heroes from the quarry production teams

**Paul Dixon...  
sadly missed**

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**No rest for Waste  
Solutions after  
Center Parcs win**

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**Meet the Octopus,  
Sentinel and Chieftain  
from Hills' past**

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viewpoint

## There was only one ‘Dicko’

It is with regret that we open this issue of intouch with the sad news of the death of Paul Dixon. Paul was one of the company’s most influential servants up until his retirement in February 2008.

Paul was a special character who embodied the Hills ethos with an infectious enthusiasm and inquisitive mind for his work matched with a fast humour and down to earth ‘can do’ attitude. Paul used these strengths to great success whilst managing the waste and quarry businesses and has left a lasting legacy in both businesses that we still enjoy today.

### Lasting legacy

I know for a fact that Paul would be as delighted as I am in the recent performance of the Quarry business with record aggregate volumes and concrete sales. In this issue we focus on the quarry production teams that play a vital role in delivering this success.

The Waste business has also seen success in securing the contract to service the county’s premier holiday destination, Longleat Center Parcs. It is especially pleasing that we are working with customers who uphold similar core values to our own. These types of contracts are the foundation of the collection business and key to growing and securing its future success.

### Past glory

Hills has always prided itself in being one step ahead of the competition by running the most up to date fleet of vehicles and so I was fascinated when Adrian Cypher came to the Marlborough offices to show and talk me through his photo archive of Hills vehicles. Adrian has kindly allowed us to reproduce a small selection of his photos with details of some of the background behind the vehicles and drivers pictured.

### New year

As we approach Christmas and the start of a new year it is always a time of reflection. As we build the business for future success we can only do this if we are on a sound footing and with the company’s heritage and the hard work of all our employees past and present we find ourselves in that position.



**Best wishes,  
Michael Hill, Chief executive**

# Paul Dixon... sadly missed



Paul on his retirement in 2008

Paul joined Hills in September 1982 as sales manager for Hills Aggregates and was promoted to sales director in 1988.

In 1992 Paul became director and general manager of both the Aggregates and Waste Management operations playing a key role in winning the Wiltshire Council waste contract in 1996 and the company’s re-entry into the ready mixed concrete business in 2005.

During his long and dedicated service to the company, his energy and matter of fact approach helped transition the business through an important and somewhat difficult phase of its history.

He was held in great respect and his honesty and integrity and larger than life character will be very much missed by the shareholders and all those who had the privilege to work with and for him. **Mike Hill, Chief executive**



Paul hard at work



Paul celebrates the QSRMC accreditation for the ready mixed concrete business in 2006

## Publishers Note

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# HWS at RWM goes A-OK



Waste Solutions successfully exhibited at the RWM trade show in Birmingham for the first time this year. **intouch** discovers that three frenetic days of networking and new business enquiries are just part of the story.

Pictured L to R: Gary McKinnon, commercial manager; Andrea Pellegam, technical manager; Simon Collins, field sales and accounts manager; Richard Bond, contracts manager.



Simon Collins, field sales and accounts manager talks a customer through the marketing literature

## RWM at a glance

- 13,470 attendees
- 750+ exhibitors
- 6.5% international visitors, from 66 countries.



Richard Bond, contracts manager gets animated with a potential customer

Planning for the Resource Efficiency and Waste Management (RWM) show starts many months before the doors of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham open to trade guests from around the world.

The first decision for commercial manager Gary McKinnon was to choose a location within the NEC floor plan that would maximize the numbers of passing visitors. Once a 5x4m space was secured in a prime site at the junction of two walkways, attention turned to the exhibition stand itself. It was decided to keep the two sides of the stand open to make it as accessible as possible. A contemporary and professional design for the 5x4m graphic wall was developed showcasing the services offered by Waste Solutions in a gallery style presentation of images and video. White furniture and bar stools completed the look. Pre-show marketing to raise awareness of the Waste Solutions stand '18H68' came through various digital channels including the company website, an online profile on the RWM website as well as Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+. A bespoke folder and sales sheets were created for the show as were branded promotional pens and sports bottles which flew off the stand like the proverbial hot cakes!

"The experience was fantastic. There was a buzz the day before the show when setting up the stand, anticipation about what the event may bring, and a real sense that Hills had arrived onto a big stage during what was a really well attended event in terms of both the number of exhibitors and visitors."

Simon Collins, field sales and accounts manager



Andrea Pellegam, technical manager helps an enquirer whilst modelling the Hills promotional sports bottle

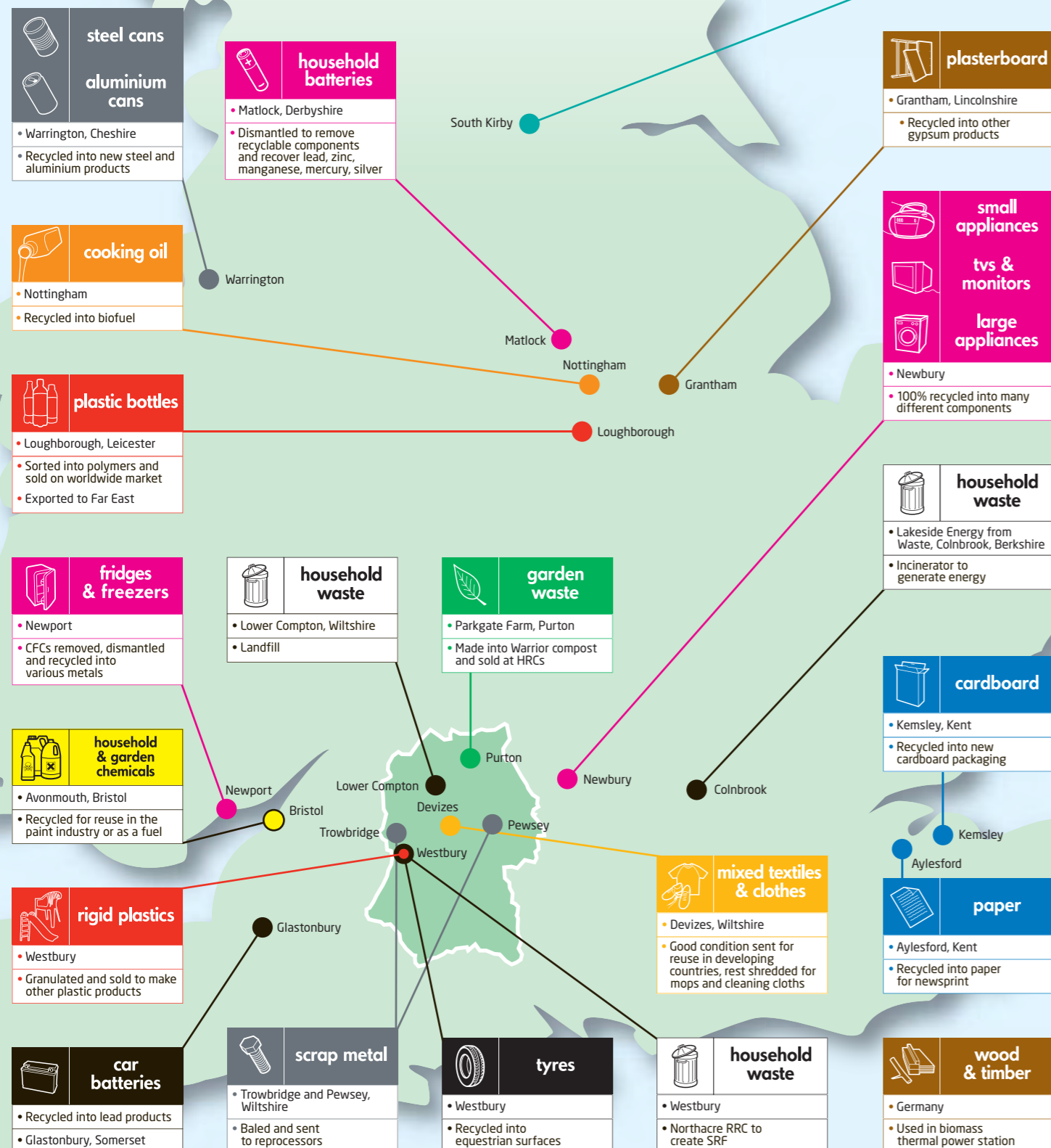
After a day setting up, the show finally opened and the Hills stand attracted plenty of interest with visitors often queuing to get on to the stand to speak to one of the Waste Solutions sales team.

Reflecting on the show, commercial manager Gary McKinnon said: "I'd like to thank the Waste Solutions team for their hard work both setting up and during the show. Over the three days we received a lot of enquiries across all areas of our business which we are now following up. Exhibiting at RWM has really helped to raise the profile of Hills and improve awareness of our brand and services amongst our target audiences. The show was a great success and we will be attending again in 2014."

# Annual Service Review maps out recycling destinations

Ever wondered where your household waste and recycling goes to?

The 2012/13 Wiltshire Municipal Waste Contract Annual Service Review is available to download from Waste Solutions' website and features a map showing where Wiltshire's waste was processed in the past year. As you can see, waste types such as rigid plastics, scrap metal and garden waste are processed within Wiltshire, but other types such as paper and mixed glass need to go to specialist recycling processors across the UK.



## Celebrating the movers & improvers



Pictured L to R: Cliff Carter, recycling manager (joint annual winner); Julie Basford, telesales operator (quarterly winner); Rachel Hardwick, contract bid manager (quarterly winner); Mike Webster, group director Waste Solutions; John Chapman, Porte Marsh supervisor (joint annual winner); chief executive Mike Hill; Daryl Taylor, environment manager & Jon Sartin, kerbside LGV driver (quarterly winner).

The Northacre Resource Recovery Centre in Westbury hosted the Move to Improve annual awards event - where John Chapman, Porte Marsh supervisor and recycling manager Cliff Carter shared

top honours and each received £300 for their ideas.

John suggested installing a second NIR (near infrared) separator at the Porte Marsh RMF to save running some cardboard material through the line twice in order to fully remove plastic contamination. Cliff's was a simple but effective idea of fixing a full length

mirror in the reception area of the MRF to remind individuals about their own important role in ensuring health and safety standards are maintained.

The overall winners were joined by quarterly winners Julie Basford telesales operator, Rachel Hardwick contract bid manager, Daryl Taylor environment manager & Jon Sartin kerbside LGV driver.

## Trowbridge top the table

Congratulations to the Trowbridge Household Recycling Centre team who have topped the latest recycling rate tables.

It was a close run thing, but as recycling area manager Bob Tapp said: "Trowbridge HRC used to be in the lower end of the league but with a lot of hard work and combined team effort they have managed to get to the top. It's a great effort."

1. Trowbridge 83.6%
2. Melksham 83.4%
3. Warminster 83.2%
4. Marlborough 83.0%



Pictured (left to right) are: HRC operatives Darren Humphries, Michael Tucker, Philip Austin, Chris Jenkinson and Darren Cottee HRC supervisor.

# Core values help Center Parcs contract win



November saw the start of Waste Solutions' new three year contract with Center Parcs Longleat Forest Village near Warminster for general and recyclable waste collections.

Simon Collins, field sales and account manager Waste Solutions shakes on the new deal with Oliver Mann, operations manager at Center Parcs Longleat Forest Village.

The contract will focus on maximising recycling performance with a target to achieve zero waste to landfill. Gary McKinnon, commercial manager, said: "Center Parcs was looking for a cost effective service with innovative solutions. Our extensive experience in delivering similar successful services at other self-contained facilities will be hugely beneficial for this contract.

The contract provides a weekly collection of mixed recycling and glass, a twice weekly collection of general waste and call-off servicing of on-site compactors along with skips and rollonoff containers. Transport for the contract is provided from the Lower Compton transport depot with

all materials taken to the Amesbury transfer station for sorting and onward transfer to processors. Any materials that cannot be recycled are used to generate energy either through energy from waste (EfW) plants or as solid recovered fuel (SRF) at the Northacre resource recovery centre in Westbury.

Simon Collins, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the contract, said: "We are working closely with Center Parcs' site management team to establish the success of the increased availability of recycling services and we will be offering suggestions on educational initiatives for staff and guests to reinforce recycling habits."

"Our core values of family ethos and commitment, honesty and integrity; innovation; service and quality and enjoyment offer an excellent fit with Center Parcs' values and a sound basis upon which to delivery service excellence and develop a successful long term working relationship."

Gary McKinnon, commercial manager.

## Sites update

The Homes team are busy at a number of sites across the region. Here's a summary of how things are progressing.

### Mendip Gardens, Holcombe

Construction work is now complete. Of the ten properties four are occupied and one is under reservation.

### Station Meadows, Calne - phase one of this major development, 32 homes:

Construction progressing well across the site with show home area at an advanced stage and roofs in place on plots 1, 2 & 3. Available for sale from early 2014.



Computer generated image showing an area within phase one of the development plus the sales folder for Station Meadows

### Bishop's Farm Mill, Witney - a mill conversion and extension creating seven apartments:

Extensions progressing well, internal walls erected to existing mill building, internal fit out to follow. Completion due early 2014.



Computer generated image showing one of the top floor two bedroom apartments



Computer generated image showing the barn conversion at Bishopstone

### 1 & 2 Church Lane, Bishopstone - two detached four bedroom homes:

A conservation area planning issue relating to the existing barn has delayed progress but is being resolved.



Computer generated image of one of the Purton plots

### Purton - five detached family homes:

Resolving planning consent condition prior to starting work on site.

### Blunsdon:

An outline planning application for up to 61 dwellings was submitted to Swindon Borough Council in August and validated in September. Homes is optimistic of a favourable outcome.

## Homes' Southrop development wins 2nd award

Homes' has scooped a second major award for their stylish development in Southrop, Gloucestershire, in the space of a year. Stonesfield Close received the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Gloucestershire Award 2013 for its design, benefit to local people and the environment.

The award was presented to Nick King, group director of Homes, by Viscount Bledisloe on behalf of the CPRE Gloucestershire. The judges described it as "...a very pleasing and attractive small scale development whose design has created an interesting addition to the village scene."



Nick King, group director Homes receives the award from Viscount Bledisloe.

# The sort of the earth

– **intouch** meets the heroes in quarry production



Shorncote (L to R) all mobile plant operatives unless otherwise stated: Derek Woodward, Martyn Swadden, Andy Dyer, Rod Smart, earthmoving foreman; Danny Houghton, quarry manager; Les Young, Richard Smith, Tony Stepp, foreman; Barry Needs, Rob Paget.



Woodsford (L to R): Marcus Dredge, foreman; Terry Swain and Robert Pound, mobile plant operatives; Steve Bowman, quarry manager; Peter Stone, mobile plant operative (contractor)



Upwood (L to R): Jack Dobson, contractor; Gareth Crosby, mobile plant operative; Dave Wakefield, contractor; Mick Chivers, quarry manager.

From Oxfordshire in the North of the region to Dorchester in the South, the dedicated Quarry Products production teams harness the power of man and machine in all weathers to meet the demand for aggregate products across six quarries. **intouch** takes a look at these heroes and the places they work.

Whilst extracting stone, gravel and sand in all weathers takes very particular skills sets whether operating a 360° excavator or dealing with customers at the weighbridge – it is perhaps the adaptability and hard work of the quarry production teams that is particularly commendable. As production manager Andrew Liddle commented: “All employees on quarry sites can slot into various roles at any given point to get the job done and keep on track. This also extends to basic maintenance tasks.

“We are fortunate within the production team, as there are a number of individuals who have been with the company for many years and it is a true reflection of their commitment and dedication to the operations, which has made the division what it is today.”

This ‘can do’ attitude is complemented with a commitment to the highest standards of health and safety in what is statistically one of the most dangerous industries. Employees are kept up to date with all the necessary vocational health and safety and mobile plant operation qualifications as administered by the MPQC (Mineral Products Qualifications Council). The Hills Year of Health and Safety initiative and near miss reporting books also help to create what is in effect, an early warning system to highlight risks and hopefully avert accidents.

Due to the geographical spread of Hills’ quarries and the unique geological strata at each site a wide variety of aggregates are quarried. Summarised opposite is a sample of typical production processes:

## Limestone



The 360° excavator breaks up the limestone rock strata into more manageable chunks

The crusher makes light work of turning the raw stone into the 6F5 product

The final product is loaded onto an eight-wheeler ready for delivery to a customer

## Sand and gravel



A 360° excavator breaks down the bank of aggregate whilst a loading shovel heads to the screener

The screened material (minus oversize rocks) travels 2.5kms to the main plant

At the main plant the aggregate is washed and sorted into various sizes and grades

The washed end products are stockpiled ready for transportation off site

## Our quarries at a glance

### Shorncote

- processing Cotswold gravel deposits since 1989
- currently producing around 300,000 tonnes per year of washed sand and gravel products

### Calne

- processing fine lower green sand for many years
- producing around 90,000 tonnes per year of a 2mm washed fine sand mainly for concrete, equestrian, animal bedding and construction markets

### Woodsford

- operational since September 2009
- produces around 150,000 tonnes per year of washed flint sand and gravel products as well as flints as a decorative material

### Tubney Wood

- has produced a high quality dry screened sand for either mortar, plastering sand or asphalt uses
- reserves now exhausted and in the final years of restoration

### Upwood

- replacement for the Tubney Wood operation, to continue the supply of good quality mortar, plastering and asphalt sand
- currently producing around 55,000 tonnes of sand per year along with dealing with 10,000 tonnes of mixed limestone products

### Bowling Green / Chinham Farm

- operational for over 20 years and extended into a neighbouring area to the East called Chinham Farm
- producing around 50,000 tonnes of dry screened building sand per year for the local Oxfordshire market since 2006.



Calne (L to R): Wayne Clifford, mobile plant operative; Mark Padfield, mobile plant operative; Ian Southgate, quarry manager.



Bowling Green/Chinham Farm (L to R): Kevin Hester, site foreman; Donald Emslie, mobile plant operative.



Tubney Wood (L to R): Nigel Draper, mobile plant operative; Gary Child, weighbridge/quarry mobile plant operative.

# Quarry Products in safe hands

In the last issue of **intouch** we reported on Peter Andrew's promotion to the position of general manager for Quarry Products. Since then, Peter has been busy strengthening his management team with two appointments.

Stuart Allen has been promoted from concrete business manager to the position of commercial manager and is responsible for all sales activities and concrete production from Hills' quarries and concrete plants. Reflecting on his new role Stuart said: "It's an exciting time to take on the commercial manager role with opportunities in emerging markets like solar farms whilst trying to expand our position in more established sectors like agriculture and construction. It's been a busy year and credit should go to our sales teams, business managers and admin support for developing new business relationships and to our production and transport teams for keeping up with demand."



Stuart Allen, commercial manager Quarry Products and Peter Andrew, general manager Quarry Products



Stuart Cordy who rejoins Hills as business concrete manager

Stuart Allen's previous position has been filled by a face that many within Hills will recognise. Stuart Cordy left Hills in 2006 when he was business manager for the Shorncliffe concrete plant. Stuart re-joins Hills as

business manager for the Lower Compton and Woodsford concrete plants. As Stuart said: "It's great to be back and to be made to feel so welcome by the old and new members of the team. Our concrete business has come a long way since the hand written ticket days of 2006. During my time away it has been great to watch the expansion of Hills Concrete within the ready mixed concrete industry with a fifth plant at Upwood coming online shortly."

# Quarry Products high standards, responsibly sourced

The publication of a 'Responsible Sourcing & Efficiency Plan' and the roll out of the CE marking materials register is not only helping Quarry Products to prove the quality of its products and sensitivity of its production processes, but it is also helping to attract new customers.

As construction companies are required under BES6001 to source sustainable materials from suppliers - Quarry Products has worked with consultants, Land & Mineral Management, to publish a Responsible Sourcing & Efficiency Plan that gives contractors the reassurance that Hills' construction materials (aggregates and concrete) are responsibly sourced.

As Peter Andrew, general manager for Quarry Products said: "The Responsible Sourcing and Efficiency Plan is a crucial tool in attracting business from large scale construction projects. Construction contractors preparing tenders can see that Hills' products are responsibly and sustainably sourced and that any social, environmental or economic impacts have been minimised." The Responsible Sourcing and Efficiency Plan is available to download from [www.hills-quarry.co.uk](http://www.hills-quarry.co.uk).



## Tried and tested source

You may be familiar with the 'CE' mark on items like electronic equipment which is a key indicator of a product's compliance with European Union safety, health and environmental legislation. Construction materials do not escape this requirement and production manager Andrew Liddle has completed an eight month project working with testing consultants ACS to produce CE declarations of conformity and marking for all Hills' aggregate products.

The level of detail in the CE declarations is impressive as it covers variables such as 'particle density', 'resistance to abrasion' and 'durability against freeze thaw'. As Andrew reflected: "It's been a painstaking process preparing the CE declarations but it gives our customers further confidence that they are buying quality products from a tried and tested source."

# A brighter outlook Quarry Products help with hospital garden makeover

When a request came in from an NHS Adolescent Inpatients Unit in Swindon asking if Quarry Products could help with a garden makeover project, general manager Peter Andrew didn't have to think twice.

Four tonnes of locally sourced 20mm Shorncliffe gravel were delivered to the Marlborough House Unit in Swindon transforming an untidy patch of grass into a relaxing garden of tranquillity for the young psychiatric patients.

Reflecting on the donation, Peter Andrew said: "We receive a lot of requests and we obviously can't help every good cause, but it was clear that a relatively small amount of our Shorncliffe gravel could make a real difference to some very deserving people."



# Swedish pulling power for Quarry Products

Quarry Products has continued to invest in Volvo trucks, adding three new eight-wheel rigid tippers to the fleet.

As John Warner, transport manager explains: "Our experience of Volvo trucks has been very positive over the last two years with fuel economy in particular delivering some significant savings. All the new Volvo trucks have been fitted as standard with the latest safety devices to assist drivers and our attendance at two cycling events this year has been well supported by Volvo as well as Quarry Products staff. We look forward to continuing a very healthy working relationship going forward."



# Dorset Show 2013

Quarry Products once again exhibited at the Dorset County Show with a 4m mini-mix truck, the ever popular colouring competitions and 'guess the weight of an Ammonite fossil' attracting visitors.

Looking back on the show sales representative Terry Newsham commented: "Having attended the show in our first year at Woodsford to promote who we are and 'enrain' ourselves with the local community, we feel that after three shows we have seen people both in and outside of 'the industry' coming back to chat, browse our products and have a go at our ever popular competitions.

"I am grateful to my colleagues from Swindon who came down to help out. The show was definitely much larger than any of them had anticipated."



The Quarry Products team at the Dorset County show (L to R): Peter Andrew, general manager; Lucy Harding, sales office supervisor; Terry Newsham, sales representative; Lynn Daniels, PA to general manager; Matthew Pope, direct sales executive and Grant Carter, concrete operations assistant.



Rosalie Ansell, proudly presents her winning colouring and her Toys'R'Us voucher



Mr and Mrs Rhodes, winners of the 'guess the weight of the fossil' competition



## Lee's truck is a shining example

Franchisee driver Lee Roberts kept up his impressive record of awards and accolades when his truck was 'highly commended' in the Best Kept Rigid Construction Vehicle category at the Wessex Truck Show. Well done Lee, another polished performance!

# Near miss reporting makes a big difference

## SAFER FOR ALL

2013 / 14 THE YEAR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

The launch of the company's new near miss reporting procedure as part of the Year of Health and Safety initiative has been a great success and is already having a positive impact on work place health and safety.

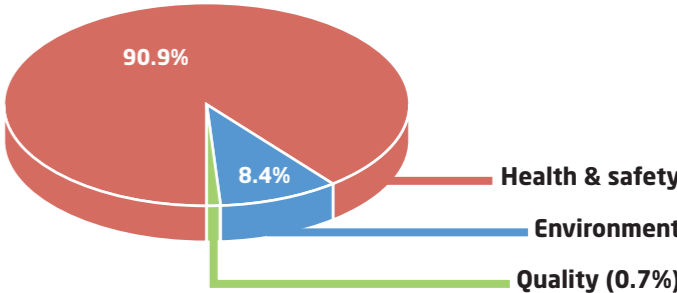
To date 679 near miss reports have been registered and immediate action taken in over 94% of cases. As you can see from the charts to the right, the majority (90.9%) of reported near misses have been health and safety related with unsafe conditions the most frequently reported.

Actions taken include improvements to site infrastructure to remove trip hazards, revisiting and updating risk assessments, issuing PPE and changes to both on and off site operating procedures. Details of all near misses are published on eTouch.

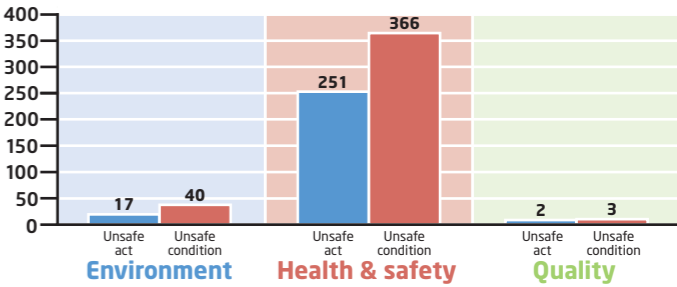
Commenting on the new procedure chief executive Mike Hill said: "The fact we are now capturing near misses is a major improvement in the company's health and safety procedures. The reporting of near misses is not about blaming or accusing work colleagues of bad practice, but recognising that by taking immediate action or making small changes to everyday work activities can lead to a significantly safer work place for all.

Look out for more details on near misses on the new health and safety notice boards being introduced at the company's larger sites.

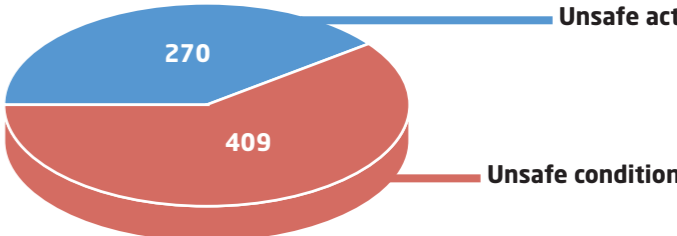
Percentage of near misses by category



Number of near misses by type and category



Total number of near misses reported to date by type



## 'Managing safely' – IOSH graduates

In the Year of Health and Safety, a group of senior Waste Solutions' managers have successfully completed and passed the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) 'Managing safely' course.

The IOSH 'Managing safely' course is a nationally recognised and respected certificate designed to give managers the knowledge and tools to handle health and safety issues. The course covers subjects such as assessing and controlling risks; identifying hazards; investigating accidents and incidents, and protecting the environment. Congratulations to all those who passed the course.



The graduates pictured (L to R) are Chris Boyd, Lower Compton depot manager; Alex Henderson, company secretary; Andrea Pellegrini, technical manager - Waste Solutions; Steve Burns, divisional director - Waste Solutions; Mike Webster, group director - Waste Solutions & Neil Luce, transport supervisor - Waste Solutions

# The story of how an Octopus, a Sentinel, a Chieftain and an Earl have kept Hills trucking...

When an impressive photo archive of Hills' trucks through the years arrived out of the blue at the Marlborough office, it highlighted the diverse array of vehicles which have been a familiar sight on Wiltshire's roads since the 1920's.

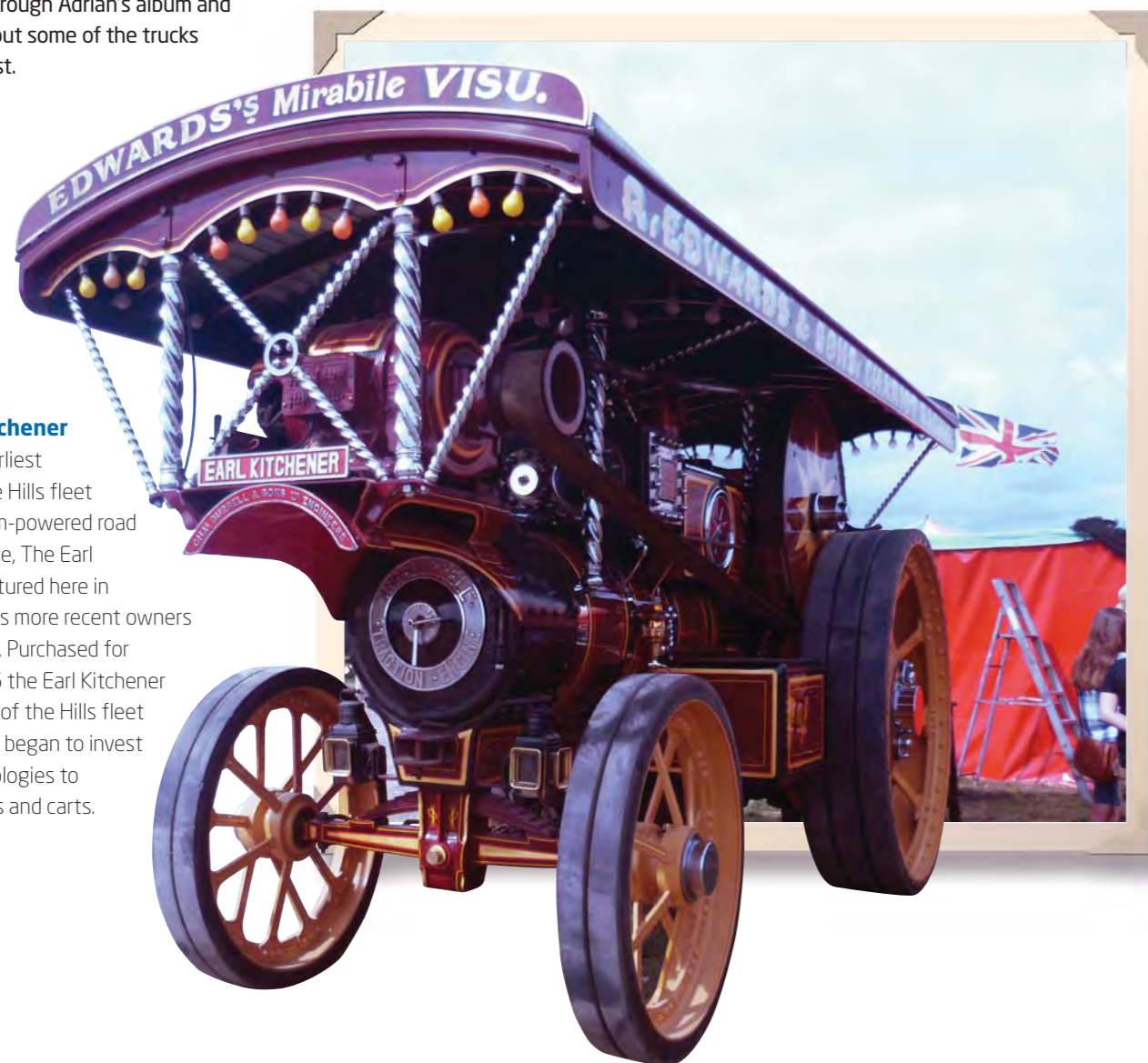
The benefactor was Adrian Cypher – a former LGV driver and true truck aficionado with an encyclopaedic knowledge and a personal archive of around 250,000 truck photographs. Adrian was never directly employed by Hills but he did play a key role of sorts in the company's past as he and his Leyland 'Bison' 6 wheeled tipper removed around 600 tonnes of soil for the footings of Ailesbury Court in Marlborough. Intouch takes time out to look through Adrian's album and reminisce about some of the trucks from Hills' past.



Mike Hill, chief executive meets Adrian Cypher at the Marlborough office.

## The Earl Kitchener

One of the earliest vehicles in the Hills fleet was the steam-powered road traction engine, The Earl Kitchener (pictured here in the livery of its more recent owners Edward's Fair). Purchased for £800 in 1916 the Earl Kitchener was the start of the Hills fleet as Edward Hill began to invest in new technologies to replace horses and carts.



## Sentinel S4 WV 4104

The images of the Sentinel shown above were taken outside the Sentinel works at Shrewsbury prior to being displayed at the Commercial Vehicle Show at Olympia in 1934. The vehicle then travelled straight from Olympia to the yard at Swindon where it was used to carry gravel from the South Cerney pit. Thanks to The Sentinel Drivers' Club for supplying the images and to Graham Vanstone for his meticulous photo-retouching.



## Commer Superpoise 4x4

The wonderfully named 'Superpoise' was formerly a military vehicle that Hills converted to a mobile workshop complete with welding equipment to support the plant hire business.



## Albion Chieftain

Following the 1953 Road Haulage Denationalisation Act, Hills obtained an A licence meaning they could quite literally carry anything, anywhere. The impressively titled Albion Chieftain was one of the main workhorses during this period of opportunity.



## ERF 'Kleer-View' KV-Cab

The striking looking ERF KV-Cab caused quite a stir at motor shows in the mid 1950's with its futuristic styling. The wrap around windscreen glass gave the driver a clearer view as the brand name suggests but with the less desirable side effect of the glass occasionally popping out!



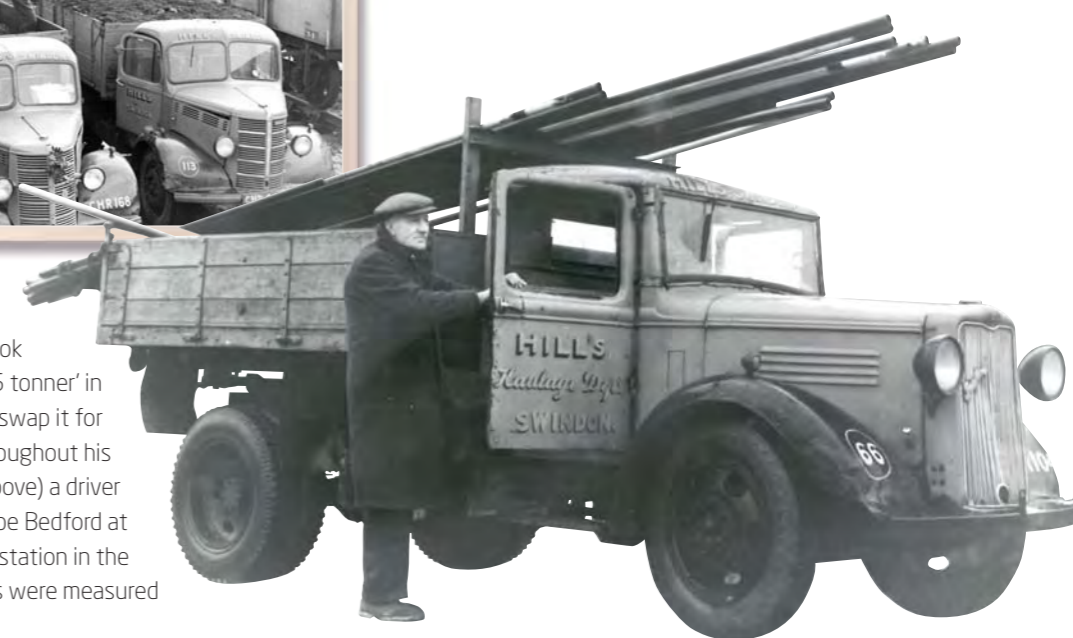
## The Leyland Octopus (8 wheeler)

Just as modern day franchisee driver Lee Roberts keeps his Mercedes Actros in pristine show-winning condition (see page 14) – Doug Wheeler drove the pictured Leyland Octopus from new, taking huge pride in his truck's appearance before leaving the road to become supervisor at the South Cerney pit.



## Tom Stroud and his Bedford

(Pictured right) Tom Stroud a real character from Hills' past, who took delivery of his trusty 'Bedford 3.5 tonner' in 1936 and apparently refused to swap it for newer more advanced trucks throughout his entire employment with Hills. (Above) a driver levels his load of ash on his O-Type Bedford at (Royal) Wootton Bassett railway station in the late 1950's, at a time when loads were measured by volume rather than weight.



## Full steam ahead

after coach refurbishment

Journeys on Wiltshire's only standard gauge railway are now available to wheelchair users following the completion of a four year project to renovate a 1959 railway coach to provide disabled access.

The Hills Group provided £27,000 of funding for the project through the Landfill Communities Fund and the coach is named LAURA, after the wife of The Hills Group founder, Edward Hill.



Alan Pardoe chairman (third from left) and Mike Hill chief executive (centre) celebrate the launch of 'Laura' with the Swindon mayor Nick Martin

Dedicated railway volunteers overcame severe weather conditions and what seemed like an insurmountable number of repairs to convert the old 'corridor style' coach into an open and integrated one with full wheelchair access including an on board toilet for disabled train users. Michael Hill chief executive said: "I am so impressed with what has been achieved

by the enthusiastic group of volunteers to deliver this project. They have had many setbacks along the way, but their sheer determination has ensured that this marvellous railway experience can be enjoyed by all. Hills is proud to have supported this project and it is very special that my great-grandmother's name is carried on the coach."

## Spread some festive cheer with...



**£500**

Christmas charity poll

In addition to the many charitable donations the company makes throughout the year - rather than sending Christmas cards, we are going to make donations to three fantastic local causes (see below) but your votes will decide who gets what!

**doorway**  
Moving on from Homelessness in North Wiltshire

- Homeless drop-in centre based in Chippenham helping people on first steps into work and sustaining a tenancy
- Registered Charity No. 1137757

[www.doorwayproject.org.uk](http://www.doorwayproject.org.uk)



/doorwayproject



- Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Movement. Supporting children and parents in Swindon & Marlborough
- Registered Charity No. 292318

[www.calmcharity.org](http://www.calmcharity.org)



/pages/CALM-charity



- Specialist college in Westbury offering day and residential courses for young people with learning difficulties
- Registered Charity No. 273924

[www.fairfieldopportunityfarm.ac.uk](http://www.fairfieldopportunityfarm.ac.uk)



/pages/Fairfield-Farm-College-Farm-Shop-Cafe

There is a total of £500 up for grabs - £300 to the overall winner and £100 each to the two runners-up. Your votes will decide which charity benefits the most!

So please cast your vote on the Hills Group Facebook page: [f /HillsGroup](https://www.facebook.com/HillsGroup)



Mike Hill chief executive presents All Cannings with their award for best kept medium village.

## Competition sponsorship celebrates the 'best kept' in Wiltshire

The Hills Group were the sponsors of this year's CPRE Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition. The annual competition is run by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and judging criteria includes tidiness, cleanliness, presentation and village community spirit.

Following a summer of judging Burbage, All Cannings and Teffont beat off competition from 47 other villages to win the categories of 'best kept' large, medium and small villages respectively. As part of Hills' sponsorship the first 30 villages to enter the competition also received 10 bags of Warrior Compost to help their flora flourish.

Mike Hill, chief executive said: "These villages are a great example of what can be achieved when communities work together."



## The move to County Park

As we go to press the first phase of work to refurbish Wiltshire House, County Park as the new home of The Hills Group of companies is due to commence. The refurbishment, due to be completed in March 2014, will create new offices, meeting rooms and an upgraded canteen area for the staff currently based at both Wiltshire House and Marlborough offices.

Speaking about the move, Mike Hill, chief executive said: "I am very excited about the opportunities and synergies of bringing us all under one roof - creating a dynamic work place and making the free flow of ideas between departments easier and more immediate. Savings from closing the Marlborough office will be invested long term to further improve the company's IT infrastructure and create a pleasant, vibrant work environment for all staff at County Park that supports The Hills Group's core values."

Keep up to date with developments via eTouch.



## The Word is... Linda has won £50!

Congratulations to Linda Ritchings, weighbridge operator at Shorncote who scooped £50 of vouchers after her word search competition entry was pulled out of the draw. Thanks to all those who entered and why not take on our Spot the Difference challenge. It could be your time to win!



Linda receives her £50 of vouchers from publications and online officer, Darren Goddard.

## STOP PRESS: **intouch** - PRide of the South West

**intouch** magazine scooped the gold award for 'Best Internal Publication' category in the 2013 South West Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) PRide Awards, announced at a black-tie dinner at The Bristol Hotel in Bristol on 22 November.

The CIPR Pride Awards recognise outstanding public relations in the UK regions with a national panel of industry experts assessing the shortlisted entries and choosing the winners.

**intouch** was described by the judges as: "An engaging and readable internal magazine, well written and thoughtfully produced, with interesting and relevant content. Innovative use of social media drives reader engagement."



# Spot the 10 differences to win £75!\*

To celebrate Waste Solutions' successful attendance at the RWM'13 show, we're giving you the chance to win a fantastic £75 of vouchers in time for Christmas.

To win this fabulous prize all you have to do is spot the 10 differences in two pictures of the Waste Solutions stand.

When you have circled the 10 differences add your name and location and then either scan and email your entry to [competition@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:competition@hills-group.co.uk); or send via the internal post to Darren Goddard in the communications department, Marlborough. If you would like a separate sheet to complete your spot the difference on please email [competition@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:competition@hills-group.co.uk) with your request. \*One for all shopping vouchers

**Entries must be received by Friday 20 December**

**Name:**

**Location:**



Keep up to date and keep in touch via [twitter](#) @HillsGroup and [facebook](#) /HillsGroup