



intouch

The Hills Group newsletter
Issue 33 September 2014



Robert Hill

10 November 1939 - 17 July 2014



The afternoon of Thursday 17th July marked the end of an era when Robert Hill, my father and former chairman peacefully passed away. Due to failing health over recent years, and hence not entirely unexpected, nothing can quite prepare you for the loss of such a big personality.

The response to the news has been overwhelming and on behalf of the family and the Company I would like to thank the many hundreds of people who have sent messages.

Truly memorable

Tuesday August 5th, the day of the thanksgiving service was truly memorable. Early on in the day, he was taken on a tour of some of his favourite 'haunts' in Marlborough, before heading off to the Kingsdown Crematorium for a private family service. The thanksgiving service itself took place at 11am at St Mary's Church in Marlborough and was standing room only. Dad never liked funerals as they were probably not entertaining enough for him! Hence our aim was to generate as many smiles as possible along with the inevitable emotion that these occasions create.

The colourfully attired congregation belted out four of Dad's favourite hymns and also enjoyed two wonderful pieces played by friend and jazz saxophonist Pete Allen. Grandchildren Henry, Louisa, and George bravely read poems for Grandpa 'Gruff Gruff'. Two readings were wonderfully delivered by 'surrogate' son Chas Barclay and Dad's great friend and long-time colleague, Alan Pardoe the current Group chairman.

Personal memories

The church was filled with laughter and emotion as my brothers Bill, Jamie and Dave spoke of their own personal memories of Dad followed by my own composition 'Top Man Up Front' in the form of an 'Ode' (see right). Lifelong friend Roger Michaelson delivered the most fantastic tribute (see pages 6 and 7), as did friend and retired vicar Henry Pearson who did such a great job conducting both services. Many present later described how a large butterfly appeared during the service and fluttered amongst the congregation. Some even suggested that this beautiful creature could have been Dad reincarnated! Although in his life, unlike Mohammed Ali, he would never have been described as floating like a butterfly... you never know!

Happiness and celebration

There was certainly an atmosphere of happiness and celebration in the air as the congregation left the church to the sound of Robert's favourite pasodoble 'España Cañí' and Frank Sinatra singing 'Fly me to the moon'.

The celebrations and tributes continued for many hours afterwards at Marlborough Golf Club, as hundreds joined the family for food and a fair amount of fine Spanish wine and Cava. My mother Rosie took the opportunity to make her own wonderfully eloquent tribute to Dad and make some very personal and touching thank yous. This was followed by more jazz by Pete Allen which together with the laughter and warm bright sunshine, appropriately created what can only be described as a 'fiesta' atmosphere. **An unforgettable day for an unforgettable man!**

Michael Hill, Chief executive

Top Man Up Front

An Ode to Robert Hill by Mike Hill

You were stubborn, pontificating and apparently **never wrong**. But you still had the presence the size of **King Kong**.

When it came to presiding near to any kind of bar,

You had to be **the most generous person** by far.



To many **a hero** and top man up front,

Also described as **never knowingly under-lunched**,

Actually lunch was just as important as dinner,

Maybe that is the reason you never got thinner!



We'll never forget your love of national hunt **horses**,

Which had many successes on our country's race courses,

You had a wonderful time seeing the fences they'd ping,

Especially the ones trained by the legend Jeff King.

Though also the horses led by Andy Turnell,

More often than not also did pretty well,

Or was it an excuse to have a quick one in the Bell?,

With your partner in crime in the shape of Atwell.



After Grandpa died you

jacked in the bowls,

And decided to take up a

game with more holes,

Many hours you would play

when you were in the mood,

As long as it didn't interfere

with your **food!**

In your final hours you watched the first day of a major,

And implied to Mum that **if you could you would wager**,

That it would be won by that fantastic young golfer called Rory,

Well you'll be glad to know there's the right end to that story.

You infected the family with **a mad love of Spain**,

Maybe it was just to get away from the rain,

But to many a fiesta you'd make us all go,

Was it just for the bulls or more the vino?



Not just for the anis, cognac, or señoritas,

But for Ponce, El Juli and Jose Tomas,

Who many a time made you jump from your chair,

Madly waving your white handkerchief in the air.

Madrid, Valencia, Jerez and Bilbao,

Were your favourite fiestas - but what do we do now?,

We'll just go with Wardy, who I'll think you'll conclude,

Now knows hundreds of bars we can get some great food.





After dinner speaking you were one of the best,
There were certain jokes that many did request,
The seedy cake story loved by the sand and gravel boys,
And who could forget your joke **'the Real McCoy'?**!

For your years in the business **we can't thank you enough**,
Many were good years, but some were quite tough,
This was made easier with **good men around you**,
Dixon, Parry and Pardoe to name but a few.



But **the bond with your brothers** was a sight to behold,
A three man show on its own if truth be told,
There was nothing quite like the banter between you,
Would it involve laughter or shouting?... Nobody knew.



It was **pure entertainment** of that there's no doubt,
And back at the bar it was all sorted out,
All tantrums forgotten as if nothing'd occurred,
But by then to be honest everything was quite blurred!

Attilio's then Pino's and Godot's and Coles,
Were some of your favourite watering holes,
The same volume of **wine** they are no longer selling,
And now who the heck's going to correct all their spelling?



For the first time this morning you passed them without stopping,
And I thought I could hear, yes I could, a faint knocking,
I'm sure you were trying to say in morse code,
That we really should stop for one for the road!

You told me you wanted to rack up **one more bar bill**,
After this service at the **golf** club up the hill,
All here are invited but you said it's not fair,
That you unfortunately will not be up there.



At Uni you met the most beautiful girl,
Got married and with her you **travelled the world**,
Saw many sites, although most of them bars,
And not stay in hotels with less than 4 stars.

She'll miss you and so will all of us boys,
But the grandkids will still make far too much noise,
Life will go on but it will not be the same,
Now one of life's great players is out of the game.

But don't worry **your Rosie will be looked after and loved**,
As we know you'll be watching us all from above,
For the last thing we want when our time will come,
Is to get a clip round the ear for neglecting our Mum!



Well so long big man,
and thanks for all of the fun,
Adios amigo y torero,
you had a mighty good run,
You can go liven up heaven
with your head held up high,
But **you are alive in our hearts**,
so you will never really die.





Adios amigo

Extracts from Roger Michaelson's tribute –
read at Robert's service of thanksgiving in St. Mary's Church
in Marlborough on August 5th.

“ Well he wasn't Robert when I first met him at Clifton Preparatory School in April 1951. He was plain Bob to me. That was what my grandma Flo called him when enquiring after his health. She loved Bob Hill and after conversation about his wellbeing, she would finish by saying, “Give him my love Roger when you next see him. He's a lovely, lovely boy.”

So the lovely boy and I became firm friends. He was tall for his age and seemed to command a presence in

company of his peers. This was probably because even at his early age, he was a great joke teller. He had an ear for accents from all countries and so was never restricted in his presentation. He made us laugh and we loved it. He was the centre of attraction and he revelled in it. He was always on the stage even when off it and therein lay his raison d'être. He was an actor through and through.

We shared a passion for all sports and at this stage were both in the school teams

for cricket, football and rugby. From memory we won considerably more matches than we lost. There was however one sport that didn't suit Bob. That was boxing. He was not happy when I punched him on the nose during a sparring session, claiming that we were only meant to practise moves and not make contact.

He knew the words of all the songs that were vying with each other for the top spot in the hit parade as well as giving his own rendition at the same time. How he remembered all the words I shall never know. Perhaps it was the actor in him who had to memorise the role, but words became an integral part of his life and led to the ritual solving of the Daily Telegraph crossword puzzle in future years.

I mustn't forget to mention that apart from being known as Bob Hill, his more colourful nickname was Crapper. Let me say straight away that this had no scatological

connotations but merely reflected his use of the word CRAP when referring to anything he didn't like or considered to be unworthy of his support. The nickname was enunciated in the same Wiltshire burr that fitted him so admirably at the time.

His penchant for all things theatrical now became apparent, becoming a director of school revues which normally took place at the end of the school year. It was here that he was able to put a certain John Cleese on the stage for the first time. No one at that juncture had recognised the potential of the future star of Monty Python and Fawlty Towers but Robert as he now wanted to be called gave him a non-speaking part in the show.

University separated us again when Robert chose to remain in Bristol where he met the adorable Rosie who was to become his wife some years later. After their marriage in 1966, children arrived at

regular intervals and by the time Jamie was born in 1974, there were four other boys, Mike, Bill, David and Charles Barclay. For Robert the seventies was also a time to look after the family business. Armed with his accreditation as a Chartered Accountant which he undertook in Bristol after leaving university, he set about reorganising the structure of Hills of Swindon and with the help of a band of stalwarts among whom was Alan Pardoe the present Chairman, The Hills Group was formed in 1990 with Robert at the helm.

And then there was horse racing. As an owner he had lots of fun with horses trained by Jeff King and Andy Turnell. I'm not sure how many winners he had as an owner, at least one, at Stratford because as Max Boyce said when Llanelli beat the All Blacks, I was there!

How then shall I remember him? As a Hispanophile in the extreme. His love of

the corrida, wines from Rioja, sherry from Jerez and Paellas from Valencia knew no bounds. His wife Rosie and his sons speak the language, some as fluently as a native, a rare legacy to find in an essentially English family. As the fun guy he always wanted to be. As the actor who didn't need a theatre to perform. As a gourmet when choosing unknown gems from the wine list. As a gourmand when nipping chips from my plate when he was supposed to be on a diet. All of these yes, but also as a man who cherished his close friends and in whose company he always shone bright. As a family man with a loving wife, loving children and loving grandchildren.

Muchísimo gusto de
haberte conocido.
Adios amigo, Adios.”



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Charlie checks in from Oz

Shareholder Charlie Hill took the opportunity of being over from Australia to attend his niece's wedding and to catch up with cousin Mike Hill for a tour of some of the sites.

The tour took in visits to the Porte Marsh cardboard and plastic recycling plant, Calne quarry, Station Meadows housing development in Calne and the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre in Westbury. At the end of a busy and informative day, Charlie enjoyed a refreshing drink with his uncle and former chairman Robert Hill.



Charlie Hill takes a closer look at Station Meadows in Calne.



Charlie catches up with his uncle and former Group chairman Robert Hill.

Wedding in the sun...

On May 3rd Adrian Scarlett (great great grandson of Company founder Edward Hill) married his fiancée Susie Bradford at Kintbury Church. The happy couple were joined by family and friends at the church and afterwards in the lovely setting of the nearby Combe Manor for the reception and evening party.



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Shareholders site tour



Peter Andrew, Group director - Quarry Products explains how the new concrete plant at Upwood works to the shareholders.

A number of the shareholders met up in June to have a look around the new refurbished headquarters at County Park and attend a financial and operations update presented by chief executive Mike Hill and chairman Alan Pardoe.

The party then travelled to Hills Homes' Bishop's Farm Mill site in Witney before stopping for lunch at the Bell Inn at Standlake. All were impressed by the stunning location of the Mill as well as the quality of both the renovated and new build sections of the development.

A visit to Upwood Quarry followed lunch, incorporating a tour of the current workings and the recently opened concrete plant at the site.

Shareholder Naomi Hill reflected on the tour saying: "It was a privilege and a great pleasure to join the recent outing. I was conscious of the commitment, enthusiasm

and eagerness of everyone involved in making sure that we understood and enjoyed our day and came away with a renewed vision of what it is to work for a company like Hills, with all its diversity - thank you."



Gavin Walton, business manager - concrete, explains the technology at the new Upwood plant.



Shareholders take a look around one of the apartments at Bishop's Farm Mill in Witney.

Solar so good at company sites



The power of the sun is being harnessed with the installation of solar panels on the roofs of Wiltshire House in Swindon and the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre in Westbury.

The 1,248 solar panels installed by Wiltshire Council on the roof of the Northacre building cover an area equivalent to more than seven tennis courts – making it the largest single-roof local authority-owned solar panel system in the UK.

The photovoltaic (PV) solar panels will generate over 280,500 kWh of electricity each year (the equivalent to

the annual energy use of 85 homes) all of which will be consumed on site at Northacre RRC, powering the mechanical biological treatment process used to turn household waste into solid recovered fuel (SRF). Over a 20 year period it is estimated that the PV solar panels will save Wiltshire Council over £1.5 million, and avoid CO₂ emissions of over 2,720 tonnes. Mike Webster, Group director for Waste Solutions, said: “Investing in energy security is an important step and we are pleased to have been involved in the procurement process with the Council.”

Wiltshire House, the Group head office at County Park, Swindon is also benefitting from the installation of a 37.75kWp solar PV system which could pay for itself via feed-in-tariff payments and reduced electricity bills within six years. In the first year of operation it is estimated that the PV system from Southern Solar will produce 34,466 kWh of free electricity and provide an equivalent saving of 18,233kg of CO₂.

Laying the foundations for an energy revolution

Solar panel farms are an increasingly familiar site across the UK countryside and over the past 18 months Quarry Products has become one of the leading suppliers of specialist aggregates and concrete for their construction.



Quarry Products supply aggregates and ready-mixed concrete for a number of applications at solar farm sites including:

- Primary and recycled aggregates – for road and base construction
- 10mm, 20mm, 40mm stone – for site drainage
- Self-binding path gravel
- Ready-mixed concrete – as a base for generators
- Sand – to lay cables in trenches

Quarry Products has supplied numerous solar farms across Central Southern England – from Middle Moor near Wolverton in Somerset to Castle Eaton near Highworth; High Penn near Calne (pictured above); Ampney Crucis near Cirencester with other sites in Oxfordshire in the pipeline.

As commercial manager Stuart Allen explains: “Our business with solar farms is really taking off. Our mix of quality products and reliable deliveries is winning repeat business from customers which is great news.”



Pictured left to right: Adrian Knowles, finance director; Stuart Allen, commercial manager Quarry Products; Peter Andrew, Group director Quarry Products; Andrew James, Upwood landlord; Julian Sayers, mineral agent; Alan Mackenzie planning and development manager Quarry Products.

Quarry Products Group director Peter Andrew was joined by Upwood landlord Andrew James, Mineral Agent Julian Sayers and key Quarry Products managers to officially open the new ready mixed concrete plant at Upwood in Oxfordshire.

Mr James and Mr Sayers were given a short presentation on the chemistry behind concrete production, before a guided tour of the plant followed by the obligatory photo call. The new facility is

already fully operational, serving customers in Oxfordshire and surrounding areas.

Plant manager Andrew Kinchin commented: “The plant is compact, tidy, efficient and is providing a good quality product to fast growing customer base.

“In the first full month we managed to produce 1,468m³ due to a buoyant market. We have picked up varying types of work but the main supply to date has been for new housing. The responses we have had from customers is that the concrete is of a good quality and that they are pleased to have another independent supplier in the area to help compete with the major suppliers.”

Ringling the changes in direct sales

In response to increasing call volumes, Quarry Products’ team of direct sales executives has been expanded. Steve Mead, DSE supervisor and direct sales executive Matthew Pope have been joined by Clare Hillier and Karl Hooper (pictured right).



Of course Matt passed

Congratulations go to Matthew Pope, Quarry Products direct sales executive, who has achieved the nationally recognised Certificate in Construction Materials from Derby University.

The distance learning course is supported by the Institute of Quarrying and the Institute of Asphalt Technology and includes modules about construction materials made with aggregates, bituminous mixtures and ready-mixed concrete. As Matt said: "I am already putting some of what I learnt from the course to good use answering customer enquiries, so it's been really useful."



LeRoc Blocks – make the business connection



Quarry Products has established an innovative business relationship with LeRoc (who specialise in precast concrete products).

A special C40 concrete mix which is 30% stronger than most other similar products is supplied to manufacture the 'LeRoc Block' product. The finished blocks are also sold through the Quarry sales teams.



LeRoc Blocks have an interlocking design, which can be combined to create retaining/partition walls, flood defences, aggregate/recycling bays and a range of other applications.

Scarce Damselfly colony at Shorncote

A small colony of the rare Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly, *Ischnura pumilio*, has been found at Shorncote Quarry by ecologist, Gareth Harris of the Cotswold Water Park Trust's CWP Dragonfly Atlas Project.

The Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly is a specialist damselfly relying upon small temporary wetland features. This species has been recorded infrequently in the CWP since the 1980's but typically only 1-2 individuals are recorded every few years.

They typically associate with the temporary shallow pools sometimes found in the bottom of gravel pits. As Gareth explained: "Remarkably, a small colony of this species was found in mid-June. The size of the colony was something of a surprise since we normally find very small numbers in the CWP. A colony of 14 adults is a great record and I'm hopeful this colony can thrive at the CWP and take advantage of additional suitable habitat as it becomes available."



Blue-tailed Damselfly. (Photo courtesy of Gareth Harris)

On-site defibrillators increase survival odds



Henry Newbery, recycling manager - Waste Solutions receives the defibrillator at the Honeyball HRC from David Wilmut, Community Responder Officer - Wiltshire, South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

Three automated defibrillators have been donated to Waste Solutions by the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and are now in-situ at the Honeyball and Purton Household Recycling Centres and also at the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre in Westbury.

It is an encouraging statistic that cardiac arrest survival rates can be as high as 75% if good cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is started immediately and a defibrillator is used in the first few minutes.

The defibrillators are fully automatic and talk the user through each step of the process. It will check the vital signs of the patient and only shock if necessary. The location of these units has been recorded by the ambulance service, so that in case of a heart attack in the vicinity the 999 caller can be directed to the nearest unit.

A number of staff have already taken a training course on the use of the machines with further staff training planned for later in the year.

Show time for Waste Solutions

Waste Solutions took to the road this summer to target the agricultural and facilities management sectors at key trade shows.

The Facilities Show is the world's leading event in facilities management and over 15,000 people visited London Dockland's Excel Centre this year. The first time visit to the FM show proved to be a successful one for Waste Solutions, generating numerous positive leads and enquiries which are being followed up.

The AgriiFocus Summer Arable Event was a held at Aldbourne near Marlborough and provided a unique opportunity to showcase Hills PAS100 compost to approximately 400 farms from across the South West of England. As Hills Steve Palmer, waste solutions consultant explained: "Hills PAS100 compost was well received, generating positive feedback on the product and we are currently following up sales enquiries from farms in the local area."





Dr Michael Green from Devizes Lions and Waste Solutions foreman John Chapman with some of the spectacles ready for the journey from Calne to Chichester.

Almost 190kg (11 bags) of used spectacles from Wiltshire's Household Recycling Centres are on their way to improve the sight of people as far away as Nepal, India and South America thanks to a joint initiative between Lions Club International and Waste Solutions' staff.

Waste Solutions were initially approached by Dr Michael Green from Devizes Lions Club Welfare Committee, who suggested donating the glasses to the Chichester Lions branch, where spectacles, frames and lenses from across the UK have been sorted and graded by Lions members and volunteers for more than 30 years. John Chapman, foreman at the Porte Marsh RMF,

drove the 11 bags of spectacles directly to the Chichester Lions club facility. The largest single delivery of used spectacles they have received.



One of the eleven bags of spectacles that were collected across Wiltshire's Household Recycling Centres.

From Chichester the spectacles go on to a number of organisations including the Missionary Optical Society and Medico France (who further sort and grade the spectacles) before they are sent for distribution at eye clinics, in some of the poorest parts of the world including Africa, India and South America.

Top four performing HRCs separated by just 0.46%

The team at the Warminster Household Recycling Centre (HRC) have returned to the top of the league tables recycling 83.93% of all the items they received between February and June 2014. As you can see it was a very close run thing with just 0.46% separating the top four teams. A big well done to all the HRC teams.

1. Warminster	83.93%
2. Trowbridge	83.85%
3. Melksham	83.68%
4. Marlborough	83.47%



Warminster HRC team L to R: Christian McKenna, Julian Dutton, site foreman, Colin Miles and Terry Riggs.

A 'NEET' idea – The Repair Academy



The Repair Academy is a social enterprise start-up which aims to reduce waste; provide skills and training for young people who are not in education, employment or training 'NEETs'; and offer affordable goods to low-income households across Wiltshire.

Partnership

The Repair Academy was formed earlier this year as a partnership between Waste Solutions, Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Community First, Kennet Furniture Recycling, Waste Not Want Not, Wiltshire College and Swindon College. The initial phase of the project involves staff at Melksham, Devizes and Marlborough HRCs identifying suitable furniture, white goods and bric-a-brac and setting these aside for donation to The Repair Academy.

Training and skills

Items are then transported to the Repair Academy building at Porte Marsh where they are repaired and refurbished to return them to use as high quality goods by trainees and volunteers, primarily those designated as NEET. The partnership with Community First means that The Repair Academy will be able to

Doug North joins as project manager

The Repair Academy has taken another positive step forward with the appointment of its first project manager, Doug North.

Doug has extensive experience in working in the voluntary and community sectors and was keen to point out that: "The Repair Academy is a fantastic opportunity within Wiltshire to help unite the voluntary and community sectors even more. Having spent time working in a similar role I could not resist the opportunity that the Repair Academy has presented. With the capability of saving tonnes of usable items from landfill, to then be used for training and development, and finally ending up in a household which could not normally afford these same basic, refurbished items, makes a fantastic prospect."

"It's going to be a challenging year getting the project operating to capacity, but with the continued support of the partners involved, I have every confidence that it will be a success."



reach many 'at risk' individuals, providing them with transferrable training and skills. Partnerships with Swindon and Wiltshire Colleges will provide further traineeships, allowing students to continue working with The Repair Academy with the intention of securing apprenticeships or job interviews.

Families in crisis

Once items have been refurbished, they will be distributed through Kennet Furniture Refurbiz and Waste Not Want Not, existing charities that help local people and provide goods at a low cost to benefit families in crisis and low-income households throughout Wiltshire. Goods will also be distributed through Community First's town centre pop-up shops.

Visit www.repairacademy.org to find out more.



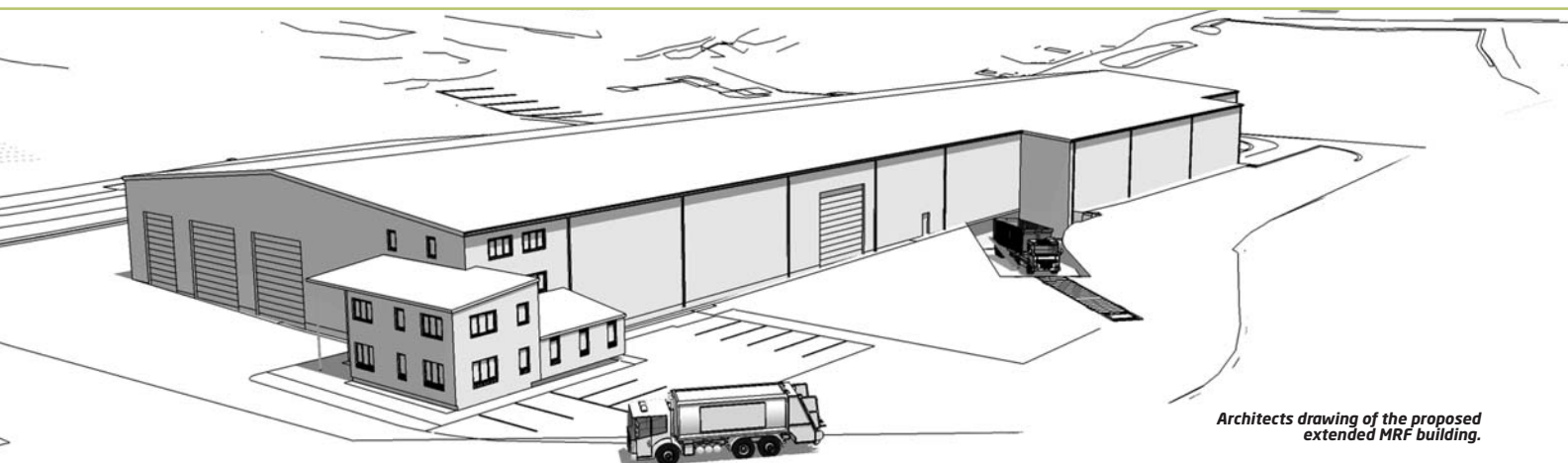
A trainer explains the principles of electrical wiring in a cooker to a young student.



MP Brooks Newman, Minister for Civil Society, praised the Repair Academy on a recent visit with Doug North and volunteer engineer Paul Bentley (right).



Wiltshire Council leader Jane Scott OBE and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust chief executive Gary Mantle officially open the Repair Academy at Porte Marsh.



Architects drawing of the proposed extended MRF building.

Public consultation for scaled down Lower Compton plans

The Benson Memorial Hall in Compton Bassett was the setting for a public exhibition where Waste Solutions presented significantly scaled down plans to extend the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) building at the Lower Compton site near Calne.

This public exhibition was part of a pre-planning consultation giving local people the opportunity to have their say on the proposals prior to the submission of a new planning application later in the year.

A dedicated website www.hills-group.co.uk/lowercompton has also been created providing detailed information on the scaled down 2014 plans and a comparison with the previous



Local residents get their questions answered at the public exhibition.

2011 proposal. As we go to press a date for the submission of the planning application has yet to be confirmed.

Responses tested in emergency exercise

Waste Solutions' technical services team organised an emergency simulation and accident investigation exercise at the Lower Compton site to test the company's emergency procedures and business continuity plans in the event of a major incident.

As environment manager Daryl Taylor explained: "Our business needs to drive down the likelihood of accidents occurring, and to minimise the risks to people, customers and the environment should an accident occur. If the incident is serious and prolonged, we have developed Business Continuity Plans to ensure that we are able to continue to provide a service to our customers."

Team managers, supervisors, other staff and a representative of the Fire and Rescue Service, were initially given a tour of the site before returning to the MRF meeting room to work through a series of desktop exercises based on a fictional fire in the woodchip stockpile that developed into a major incident.

Reflecting on the exercise Tom Clifford, kerbside collection supervisor commented: "It was an interesting exercise and it truly demonstrated how the actions and reactions of any one department can greatly affect the other departments and 'site users'. Hopefully we can learn from the issues raised and put into place preventative actions, should a real life situation occur."

The Waste Solutions management team has committed to review its Business Continuity Plans following the exercise.



Out with the old and in with the new at Barton Court



After over 20 years of use the old weighbridge at the Barton Court was replaced with a new one during a four day refit.

It's estimated that approximately 12,000 tonnes a year has gone over the old weighbridge. That's nearly quarter of a million tonnes in its lifetime. As transport supervisor Neil Luce explained: "The new weighbridge is part of a number of renovations that are happening at Barton Court. With the help of a great team the site has improved its recycling rate as now less than 30% of the waste coming through the gates ends up going to landfill."

Triple certification success for Northacre RRC



The Northacre RRC in Westbury is the latest Waste Solutions facility to achieve certification of its Quality, Environmental and Health and Safety Management Systems to the three international standards of ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS18001.

This means that the company has demonstrated that it can manage the facility to comply with legal requirements, minimise risks to people and the environment, and provide a quality service to its customers.

Reflecting on the award, environment and quality manager Daryl Taylor said: "This is a significant achievement for all concerned and demonstrates that we have the ability to

successfully manage new waste management technologies to a high standard. The certifications will give us a valuable competitive edge when looking to secure new business.

The auditor expressed a high level of confidence in the management of the process. The ongoing efforts of plant manager, Simon Thomas and his team have been pivotal in this success."

Homes' movers – farewell Colin & hello Andrea



Colin Woodhouse and his wife Shirley look to the future at his farewell lunch.

Andrea Andrews has replaced Colin as development manager.



Colin and Group director, Homes Nick King reflect on his time at Hills.

After more than 17 years of service, former development manager Colin Woodhouse has left Hills Homes to start a well-earned retirement.

To mark Colin's outstanding long service, past and present colleagues and suppliers joined Colin and his wife Shirley for a farewell lunch at Coles Restaurant in Marlborough. Colin has been replaced by Andrea Andrews (pictured top right) who has been actively involved in a number of developments including Barn Cottage and Old Farm Barn at Bishopstone, and the five new dwellings at Purton.

Reflecting on Colin's time with Hills, Group director for Homes Nick King said: "Colin was a very popular member of the team and he made a significant contribution over the years. Andrea has come in and quickly established herself as an indispensable part of our team, continuing the high standards of work that Colin will be remembered for."

Site seeing – meet the site managers

The site managers are often the unsung heroes of a successful development - managing a wide variety of trades and subcontractors in all weathers to meet budget and time deadlines whilst ensuring that Hills' sites remain safe places to work. Here are the team who are transforming footings into finished homes across central southern England:



Ahmet Ibrahim, site manager - Bibury.



Darren Cawkwell, site foreman and Karl Kaljusk, site manager at Station Meadows, Calne.



Tim Tippetts, site manager - Bishop's Farm Mill, Witney.



Jan Pearce, site manager Purton.

'The Bricks' and more to, for Bishop's Farm Mill

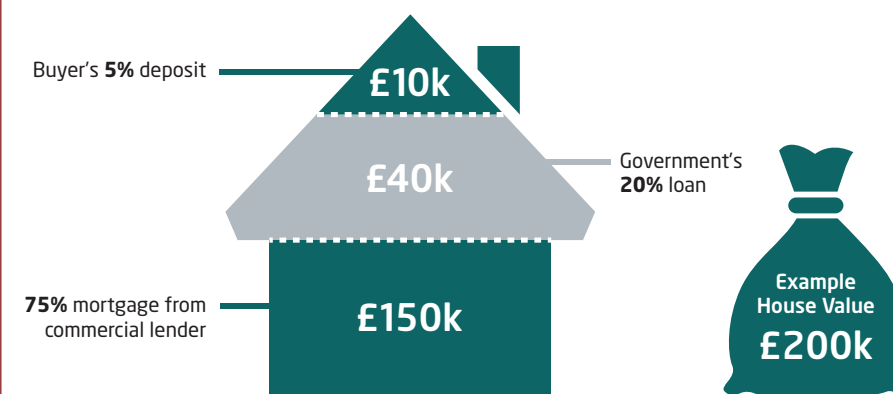
Homes' stunning refurbishment of Bishop's Farm Mill in Witney has been attracting the attention of award judges and as well as prospective buyers.

LABC Warranty area surveying managers were so impressed with their visit to the site that Bishop's Farm Mill has been shortlisted in the 'Refurbishment Development of the Year' category for the national 'The Bricks' awards. 'The Bricks' recognise and reward sites that reflect the highest quality and excellence in construction. The final awards ceremony will be held in London later in the year. Fingers crossed for another Hills Homes accolade.



Helping to buy Hills' homes

Properties at Homes' Bishop's Farm Mill, Witney and Station Meadows, Calne developments are available to purchase through Help to Buy.



Help to Buy is an equity loan scheme where the Government will lend up to 20% of the cost of a new-build home, so the purchaser only needs to find a 5% cash deposit and a 75% mortgage to make up the rest. Another benefit is that loan fees are not charged on the 20% loan for the first five years of owning the home. Example: for a home with a £200,000 price tag (see left).

Bishopstone & Battlewell

brochures beckon buyers



State of the art CGI's give prospective buyers a remarkably real impression of the final property (Old Farm Barn shown).

As construction work at the Bishopstone and Battlewell, Purton sites progresses well the two developments have been captured in stylish sales brochures.

Bishopstone consists of two detached houses (Old Farm Barn and Barn Cottage) constructed with a weatherboard finish above brick plinths in an attractive no-through road on the edge



The covers for the two Bishopstone brochures highlight the exceptional views next to the properties.

of Bishopstone. Old Farm Barn is a four-bedroom detached home of about 2300ft² with adjoining barn providing garage and ancillary storage, whilst Barn Cottage is a four-bedroom detached home of about 1,660ft² with attached double carport.

Battlewell in Purton is a stylish development of five four-bedroom family homes constructed from mellow reconstituted stone. There are three house types being built on site: The Pry (2 plots), The Hyde (2 plots) and The Fox (1 plot).



Left to right are CGI's of the three house types at Battlewell, Purton: The Pry, The Hyde and The Fox.



Sales update

All ten units at the Mendip Gardens development in Holcombe, Somerset have now been

sold. As we go to press two of the seven apartments at Bishop's Farm Mill are reserved whilst at Station Meadows in Calne buyers have completed on two plots, with one exchanged and seven plots reserved.



The completed 'Dunster' houses at Mendip Gardens.

Forthcoming developments

A number of sites are at the early stages of development including Yew Tree near South Marston, Swindon and Burghclere on Berkshire/Hampshire border.

The Yew Tree development will consist of 1 x four bedroom and 3 x five bedroom stylish detached family homes adjacent to a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve. The Burghclere, Harts Lane development will consist of six dwellings on generous plots: 2 x two bedroom; 1 x three bedroom and 3 x five bedroom homes. It is envisaged that both developments will be available for sale in 2015.



A computer generated image of the Yew Tree development in South Marston.

Shining performances at 34th Hills Wiltshire Professionals' Golf Championship

18 of Wiltshire's best golfers took on the course at Marlborough Golf Club in glorious sunshine competing for the 34th Hills Wiltshire Professionals' Golf Championship.

After the first 18 holes, Kelvin Aitken from Chippenham Golf Centre led the field with an impressive three under par round of 69. Despite a triple bogey on the first hole of the afternoon round, subsequent birdies ensured that Aitken reached the turn with his three shot cushion intact. However, dropped shots on the 12th, 13th and 16th holes opened the door for first time competitor Ross Langdon from South Cerney Golf Club.

As the wind picked up Langdon put together a tremendous afternoon round of four under par, the highlight of which was an amazing drive on the Par 4 16th hole which left his ball just nine inches from the hole for a tap-in for an eagle. Both Aitken and Langdon birdied the 18th giving Langdon victory by one shot.

The Hills' amateur competition with Hills staff and guests playing in teams of 3 was no less exciting. Mike Webster's team claimed the overall prize with an impressive points total of 88. The individual prizes went to Ed Dodd (nearest the hole) and Gavin Walton (longest drive).



The day was made extra special when Robert Hill made an unexpected visit to the tournament he started sponsoring some 34 years earlier.

Ross Langdon from South Cerney Golf Club - winner of the 2014 Hills Wiltshire Professionals Golf Championship.



THEM OAKS

1888

1

YARDS

513

PAR 5

501

S.L. 9

401

Hills

Quality Products

Waste Solutions

Quality Homes

Quality Homes

Quality Homes

Quality Homes

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Mike Hill, chief executive presents the prize for overall points winners (amateurs) to: Richard Brown of Tradebe, Allan Ball from Smiths of Gloucester & Mike Webster, Group director Waste Solutions.

Community counts to the tune of **£1 Million**

Forty five projects across Wiltshire benefited from over £1,026,100 worth of grant monies made available from the Hills Group via the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) in 2013/14 – including 13 community and environmental projects, 5 kids play areas, 15 sports facilities and 12 village and community halls.

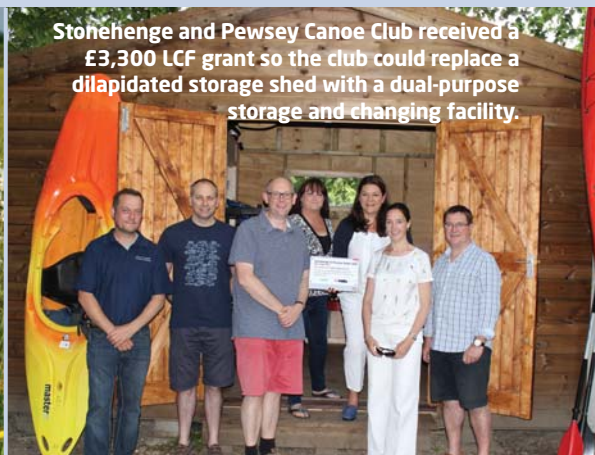
The projects stretch across the length and breadth of the county with grants ranging from £3,000 up to £30,000. As chief executive Mike Hill, said: "The Landfill Communities Fund is an innovative tax credit scheme that allows us to work with registered environmental bodies to deliver projects which improve the lives of communities living near landfill sites. We ensure that the maximum amount of funding is made available through this scheme each year and work closely with our partners Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Community First and the Cotswold Water Park Trust to distribute the funds as widely as possible."



Freshford & Limpley Stoke Community Association. A £15,000 LCF grant enabled FLiSCA to double the café floor space and re-equip the kitchen.



The Hills Group continues to support the grassland restoration project at the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Blakehill Farm nature reserve.



Stonehenge and Pewsey Canoe Club received a £3,300 LCF grant so the club could replace a dilapidated storage shed with a dual-purpose storage and changing facility.



A £10,000 LCF was donated to help create a BMX bike track for the young people of Bromham and neighbouring communities.



Semington village hall benefitted from a £12,000 LCF grant which helped to modernise the existing toilet facilities and to create a disabled toilet.



Rachel Hall, HR assistant and Chris Boyd, depot manager (Lower Compton) discuss job opportunities with a visitor to the jobs fair.

Working in Wiltshire

Rachel Hall, HR assistant and Chris Boyd, depot manager Lower Compton attended the 'Living and Working in Wiltshire' jobs fair in Tidworth – an event run to help people leaving the armed forces find new careers.

There were over 350 attendees on the day and the Hills stand received plenty of enquiries.

Rachel said: "The event was well organised and provided Hills with a useful opportunity to discuss skills and experience with a range of potential new employees."

Spot 10 differences & **Win £75***

To win this fabulous prize all you have to do is spot the 10 differences in the two photos from this year's Hills Wiltshire Professionals Golf Championship at Marlborough Golf Club.

When you have circled the 10 differences on the bottom photo add your name and location and then either scan and email your entry to darren.goddard@hills-group.co.uk; or send via the internal post to Darren Goddard in the communications department, Wiltshire House, Swindon.

If you would like a separate sheet to complete your spot the difference on please email darren.goddard@hills-group.co.uk with your request.

*One4all shopping vouchers

Entries must be received by Friday 14 November

Name: _____

Location: _____



1 to 9 adds up to **£75 for Barry O'Connor**

The Sudoku puzzle proved a popular competition in the last issue of intouch. Barry O'Connor, kerbside loader based at Lower Compton was picked out in the blind draw of correct entries – winning £75 of One4All shopping vouchers. Well done Barry. Five minutes work for a £75 win is 'sum'-thing special.

4	7	3	6	5	8	9	2	1
6	8	1	7	9	2	3	5	4
9	2	5	3	1	4	8	6	7
8	9	4	1	2	7	6	3	5
2	3	6	4	8	5	7	1	9
5	1	7	9	3	6	2	4	8
7	5	9	2	4	3	1	8	6
1	4	2	8	6	9	5	7	3
3	6	8	5	7	1	4	9	2

Sad passing of Dave Barnett

Long-serving LGV driver Dave Barnett passed away on Friday 22nd of August 2014. Dave began his Hills career in May 2001 and was a popular member of the team at the Lower Compton site. A £130 donation for Dorothy House Hospice was made at Dave's funeral service following a collection amongst his colleagues. Nathan Carr, transport manager commented: "Dave had a genuine desire to do every task to the best of his ability. He could always be relied on to help you out at short notice and would be prepared to give anything a go. He spent quite a lot of time driving a trade waste vehicle as part of the Aspire contract and was held in high regard by all who had dealings with him including Aspire helpdesk and office staff. He will be sadly missed by all and our thoughts are with his family and friends."

