

# intouch

The Hills Group magazine

**Issue 36** *September 2015*

A close-up photograph of a butterfly with orange and white wings, patterned with green and black spots, perched on a purple flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

## £270,000 grant helps to protect Wiltshire's wildlife

- read more on pages 14 and 15

### **New workshop partnership**

Two year contract for FAUN Zoeller at the Purton workshop  
- see page 4

### **Record sales for Homes**

Sales records are broken as home buyers choose Hills  
- see page 9

### **Setting the standard**

Quarry Products celebrates 10 years of ready-mixed concrete sales  
- see pages 10 and 11



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## Publishers Note

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 The Hills Group Limited

## Butterflies and skateparks

Rarely does the process of how a tax is raised and spent receive praise. However the Government's decision nearly 20 years ago to allow a proportion of the landfill tax raised by operators to be retained and donated to eligible local causes is definitely an exception.

The stunning cover picture of an Orange Tip butterfly on a bluebell relates to a recent donation to local wildlife conservation (which is featured on pages 14 and 15). The accompanying article regarding the donation to a skatepark in Calne demonstrates the breadth of support that is enabled by the Landfill Communities Fund.

### Mixing with the right people

Congratulations to all those involved in the company's ready-mixed concrete business for reaching its 10th anniversary. You can read about how this operation has grown impressively over the last decade to form a very important part of Quarry Products' activities on pages 10 and 11.

### Partnering success

Good business is all about building partnerships and you can read about two diverse examples in this issue. The outsourcing of vehicle repair and maintenance at Waste Solutions' Purton workshop is covered on page 4 – and should lead to cost savings and greater operational efficiency of the truck fleet. On page 12 you can read about how Quarry Products is actively partnering with colleges to develop quarry industry specific courses for potential engineering employees of the future.

### Best wishes, Michael Hill, chief executive



# Sun shines on the shareholder tour

Hills' shareholders enjoyed a busy, sun-drenched day visiting a selection of key operational sites. Following the Hills UK Board meeting shareholders set off to the Cotswold Water Park to see the new Cerney Wick Quarry before calling in to Homes' recently completed development at Battlewell, Purton.

Family members were able to catch-up over a lunch at The Pear Tree restaurant in Purton before further visits in the afternoon to the Lower Compton MRF and Homes' popular Station Meadows development in Calne. Shareholder Nick Hill, commented: "I must say I thoroughly enjoyed the recent shareholders' meeting and tour and found it very informative."



Peter Andrew explains how the Cerney Wick Quarry site is developing.



Shareholders take a look at the impressive properties at Battlewell, Purton.



Shareholders Anna Ozberk and Sarah Scarlett enjoy their tour of the Battlewell development.



Nick King, Group director Hills Homes shows the shareholder party around the Station Meadows development in Calne.



Mike Hill chief executive (right) with his cousin and shareholder Charlie Hill.



## FAUN ...a new workshop partnership at Purton

### ZOELLER

The service and maintenance of Waste Solutions' commercial fleet has been outsourced to vehicle repair and maintenance specialists FAUN Zoeller on a two year contract – with Hills' Purton workshop team transferred over to the employment of FAUN Zoeller.



Pictured left to right are vehicle technicians Huw Treharne, Dave Barrett, Bill Wills and Robert Abel workshop supervisor.

The agreement means FAUN Zoeller has taken responsibility for scheduled maintenance and repairs, MOTs, servicing, LOLER Certification (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations) and on-going task management.

After a comprehensive review it was decided that the most efficient and economical solution would be to refurbish and re-equip the Purton workshop facility. New specialist diagnostic equipment was purchased, so chassis servicing could be kept in house creating further cost savings and convenience. The workshop has also been equipped with an imprest stock facility ensuring that sufficient parts and stock are available at all times. If for any reason stock is not available, FAUN Zoeller can call on a next day delivery service should specialist parts be needed from Germany.

The existing three workshop technicians, one supervisor and one administrator have been supplemented with a further two technicians to support fleet repair and maintenance operations.

FAUN Zoeller also appointed a regional account manager, based at the Purton depot, with sole responsibility for the Hills contract. With the extra team members, shift patterns were adjusted and operating hours extended to offer a more flexible service. Reflecting after the first months of the new contract, Gary McKinnon, commercial manager Waste Solutions said:

**"FAUN Zoeller has enhanced the skills and dependability the Purton workshop was known for. I want to thank all the workshop team members for making the transition from Hills to FAUN Zoeller such a smooth one. Their skills and commitment are helping to minimise down time and to keep our trucks on the road."**

## Treading carefully—TyreWatch system is trialled

Following on from the success of the price per kilometre contract signed with fleet management specialists Tructyre, four vehicles from the Waste Solutions fleet are now trialling an innovative tyre pressure monitoring system – TyreWatch.

Under-inflation is the leading cause of tyre failure, as heat can build up which may lead to a dangerous blowout. Correctly inflated tyres last longer and help to maintain fuel efficiency by reducing rolling resistance. As a tyre can lose up to half of its inflation pressure and not appear to be flat, accurate monitoring of tyre pressure is imperative. The TyreWatch system uses a sensor/transmitter fitted on each wheel which provides real time reporting to the driver and transport managers, helping to prevent roadside breakdowns whilst maximising vehicle uptime.

## Trevor Tucks in to farewell meal



Trevor Tuck hands over to his replacement Daniel Everson.

Colleagues said goodbye to long-serving recycling area manager, Trevor Tuck with a farewell lunch at the La Carbonara restaurant in Swindon.

Trevor worked at Hills for 17 years and helped to set up a number of key Waste Solutions sites including the Lower Compton Materials Recycling Facility and the Recyclables Management Facility at Amesbury. Reflecting on his career with Waste Solutions, Trevor said: "I have been with Hills for 17 years and have enjoyed my time working with you all. I would like to thank all my colleagues in Waste Solutions for all the help and assistance they have given me and I wish the Hills Group success in the future."

## Top spot for the Melksham Household Recycling Centre

Congratulations to the Melksham Household Recycling Centre team who recycled 84.2% of the waste received at their site between March and July 2015. Melksham narrowly pipped Trowbridge to the top position in the league table. As recycling manager, Henry Newbery commented: "All of the HRC teams have worked really hard to ensure that members of the public are recycling as much as possible of what they are bringing to the sites and this is reflected in the impressive recycling results."



Nick Goddard, site operative and Robin Pearce, site supervisor at the Melksham HRC site (Shane Flexon, not pictured).

1 Melksham HRC	84.2%	2 Trowbridge HRC	83.95%
3 Warminster HRC	83.6%	4 Marlborough HRC	82.6%

## Team effort secures first three Lots of Wiltshire contract

Waste Solutions has been awarded contracts for Lots 1, 3 and 4 following the procurement process for Wiltshire Council's waste management services.

- **Lot 1: Management of Recycling and Transfer Services** (including the operation of material recycling facilities and waste transfer stations and two household recycling centres)
- **Lot 3: Garden Waste Composting Services**
- **Lot 4: Treatment and Disposal of Residual Waste** (hazardous, non-hazardous, municipal and inert landfill)

Each of these contracts will start from 1 August 2017 and will run for eight years, with the option for the Council to extend each contract by a further eight years.

A dedicated team of Waste Solutions and Group employees worked incredibly hard to put together what were ultimately successful tender proposals for Lots 1, 3 and 4 of the contract. Reflecting on the success, Mike Webster, Group director Waste Solutions said: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in the contract retender bid. Waste Solutions is committed to continue providing the same high levels of service and delivery for the remainder of the existing contract with Wiltshire Council."

A decision regarding the award of contracts for Lot 2 (management of remaining HRCs) and Lot 5 (waste collection services including kerbside collection of recyclate, black bag household waste and garden waste) will be made at a Wiltshire Council Cabinet meeting later in the year.



"The waste segregation exercise was enjoyable, informative and most importantly fun. Dave's knack of being able to turn a fairly mundane (although not all of us share that opinion) subject into an interesting and fun one is a great attribute and should not be underestimated. From a business point of view, waste recycling and segregation is an area we get a huge amount of buy-in which continues to grow from strength to strength."

Rick Pembleton, Support Services Manager, ADSL

## Waste Solutions' educational event praised

Waste Solutions joined other Aspire Defence Services Limited (ADSL) contractors at an educational event held at the Tidworth Oval. Ten teams of six from across Ministry of Defence garrisons visited each contractors' tent to take part in a competitive series of exercises to promote safe and efficient working practices.

Waste Solutions set two timed challenges for the teams. A quiz where contestants had to 'fish' for the correct answers to ten recycling related questions; and a practical waste sorting exercise using litter pickers where contestants had to put different items of waste into the correct recycling containers.

Dave Long MBE, service manager, Waste Solutions commented: "The feedback has been that everyone enjoyed the event and they are looking forward to what we will do next year. I still get people asking me for some of the answers, so it did have a memorable impact."



Dave Long's work as service manager for the Aspire account has attracted praise from the customer and colleagues alike over the years - but it is a little known fact Dave is also a 'Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire' (MBE).

Dave was awarded his MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list of 1993, for 'outstanding contribution and excellence to the unit and regiment' (Royal Pioneers) in his role as Training Sergeant Major at the regimental Depot Headquarters.

## Commercial sales update

It's been a busy time for Waste Solutions' sales team. Here are some of the latest developments:

- Valuable contract secured to supply a range of waste and recycling bins at the £26 million Cirencester Retirement Village.

- Expansion of waste management work with Churchill Contract Services at the Regents Circus development in Swindon.
- Main waste management supplier supporting Britannia Construction at the Swindon Orbital Retail Park redevelopment.
- Contracts starting with three new schools in Chippenham, Royal Wootton Bassett and Malmesbury.
- Recent new business win managing asbestos transportation and disposal for Maylarch Environmental.

## Cerney Wick – progress report



The washing plant takes shape at Cerney Wick.

As we go to press, the 85 hectare Cerney Wick Quarry, in the Cotswold Water Park is nearing completion with commissioning trials underway and the first sales expected in a matter of weeks.

The aggregate washing plant will be capable of processing 180 tonnes per hour of extracted materials and will produce concreting aggregates and sand for supply to the local market and Hills' own concrete plants. **Look out for an update on our latest quarry in the next issue of intouch.**

### What will Cerney Wick Quarry produce?

10mm, 20mm & 40mm aggregates

0-4mm concrete sand

0-2mm fine washed sand



The weighbridge and office are now in place.

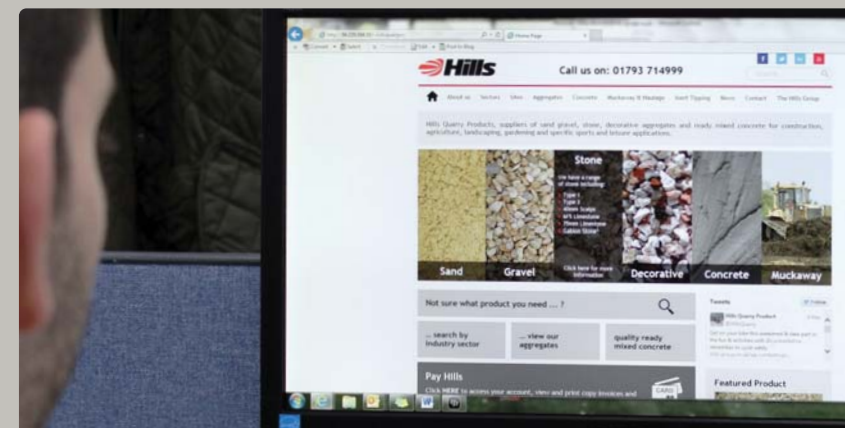
## New Quarry website generates customer enquiries

[www.hills-quarry.co.uk](http://www.hills-quarry.co.uk) - Quarry Products' website was relaunched in May with a fresh, contemporary design and visitors to the new site are spending longer browsing, viewing more pages and sending more sales enquiries.

Clear product photography is complemented by examples of typical uses. There is a new section showcasing the products

supplied to the various industry sectors Quarry Products serves, including construction, agriculture and builders merchants. There's even a concrete calculator which works out how much ready-mixed concrete you will need.

Commercial manager Stuart Allen said: "The new website looks very professional and has been very well received by our customers. The 'add to enquiry' feature is proving particularly popular attracting numerous sales enquiries every day. Customers can simply click on the products they are interested in, add their contact details and one of the telesales team will call them back."



### New Vs previous Quarry website:

- The average sessions per month (the number of times the website is visited) has increased by 60%
- Visitors are spending longer exploring on the site
- Visitors are also looking at more pages on each visit.



# Developments **update...**



## **The Orchard, South Marston**

Construction is progressing well at the site with two of the four plots already reserved and a number of prospective buyers having already registered their interest.

## **Stembridge Close, Burghclere**

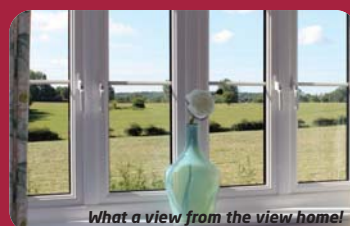
Following the release of Hills Homes' latest brochure, three of the six plots have already been reserved as the foundations begin to set in this charming rural village.

## **Station Meadows, Calne**

All properties in phases one and two of this popular development have now sold, with just a few houses remaining in phase three.

## **Battlewell, Purton**

Two of the four bedroom family homes are already reserved at this development. The 'Pry' view home is open from 10.00am - 2.00pm every Saturday.



*"The Fox" house type at Battlewell, Purton.*



*The completed phase 2 of area of Station Meadows (and below).*



## **Cow Bridge Mill, Malmesbury**

Building work hasn't even begun and a number of prospective buyers have already registered their interest in this exclusive development. A stylish brochure is in development showcasing the 13 new homes.



## Buyers are sold on Homes' quality

Hills' homes are proving very popular with advance reservations suggesting that sales for 2015/16 are going to be close to pre-recession levels. This builds on the results for 2014/15 which saw annual sales of Hills' homes at the highest level since 2007.

Group director Nick King commented: "We take pride and care in designing our housing developments using quality materials to create highly desirable homes. We are pleased that homebuyers recognise this and that we are experiencing this level of interest

and demand. It is fair to say that the government's Help to Buy scheme for property values under £600,000 has helped stimulate demand, along with the changes to Stamp Duty which came into force on 4th December 2014."



**Home sales in April 2015 totalled an impressive £2.75 million**



# Setting the standard

The ready-mixed concrete business celebrates 10 years

Quarry Products' first ready-mixed concrete plant takes shape at Shorncote in 2005.



Quarry Products' ready-mixed concrete business is celebrating a decade of trading. Since the first concrete plant opened at Shorncote Quarry in October 2005, the business has gone from strength to strength and now boasts five state-of-the-art production plants supplying customers across central southern England, from Oxfordshire to Dorset and Somerset to Berkshire.

The company had a brief foray into the ready-mixed concrete sector in the 1980's as 'Hills Readymix'. In 2005 the board decided to once again enter the market, rebranding as Hills Concrete Limited under the stewardship of the late Paul Dixon as general manager. The industry recognised accreditation of QSRMC membership (Quality Scheme for Ready-Mixed Concrete) was achieved at the first time of asking - giving customers a mark of quality assurance which continues in the modern business.

From 'Mini-mix' deliveries for smaller applications to specialist concrete pumping projects (see pictures right), Quarry Products' ready-mixed concrete business continues to seize opportunities when they arise.

Group director, Peter Andrew was keen to praise the Quarry Products team: "The concerted efforts of a tight-knit team from sales and the office staff, through to the concrete operations and our dedicated franchisee drivers has seen the ready-mixed concrete business thrive in a competitive marketplace. Our shared commitment to give our customers the very best products and service leaves us well placed to maximise future opportunities."



## Ready-mixed concrete business in numbers:

- In the first full year of trading (2005/06), Shorncote and Lower Compton plants supplied 65,000m³ of ready-mixed concrete
- In the last full year of trading (2014/15), 5 plants supplied 166,000m³
- The ready-mixed concrete business started with four mixer trucks servicing one plant - there is now a fleet of 20 franchised mixer trucks and Quarry Products' own mixer.

### Significant projects include:

- Infrastructure support for the Olympic sailing venue in Weymouth
- Town centre redevelopment Dorchester
- Redevelopment of former RAF Lyneham base
- New St Johns School, Marlborough
- New complete farm unit for the Rothschild family.

# Newbury Concrete Plant

New and improved!

Quarry Products' ready-mixed concrete plant in Newbury has reopened following a substantial refurbishment programme.

The brand new plant operates with both a dry batch and pan mixer offering a wider product range and a more complete service for customers in Newbury, Berkshire and the surrounding areas. Whilst the Newbury plant still offers the usual reliable delivery service, customers can now load their own vehicles with ready mixed floor screed and semi-dry concrete mixes with loads as small as 0.5m³ available.

- Increased cement capacity from 80 tonnes to 180 tonnes
- Increased production capability from 22m³ per hour to 60m³ per hour
- 2m³ pan mixer facility expands product range to include traditional screed, collections and other value added products
- 24/7 working available

Concrete business manager Stuart Cordy, said: "We would like to thank our customers and owner driver, Ivan Hannington for bearing with us during the works. The investment means we now have a state of the art concrete batching facility which is delivering increased volumes and new products to our customers and better returns for Hills Quarry Products. In addition noise and dust suppression and water recycling efficiency have been improved."





# New curriculum will help train tomorrow's engineers

Quarry Products will play a leading role in helping to shape the engineers of tomorrow following a partnership agreement with University Technical College (UTC) Swindon.

UTC Swindon is one of 30 UTCs across the country helping to fill the UK skills gap through the provision of high quality technical education for 14-19 year olds interested in pursuing an engineering career.

Quarry Products has devised a broad ranging curriculum (see right), which will help UTC Swindon students prepare for the world of work through a series of quarry industry-specific projects. Quarry Products' managers will be lecturing at the £10 million state-of-the-art UTC facility later this year, whilst students will visit quarry sites as part of their course.

Peter Andrew, Group director - Quarry Products who has been the driving force behind this initiative said: "Our industry has a problem recruiting young engineers, as they are choosing other career paths as a result of not understanding what we do or how we do it. The partnership with UTC Swindon is an important first step in addressing the lack of training for engineering roles in the quarry industry which will hopefully help us to recruit talented work-ready young people."



Watch an interview with Peter Andrew, Group director - Quarry Products (filmed for UTC Swindon TV) on Hills' YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/TheHillsGroup](http://www.youtube.com/TheHillsGroup)

## Quarry Products and UTC Swindon syllabus

1. Introduction to the Mineral Products industry
2. Identifying a quarry
3. Planning and design
4. Setting up a new quarry
5. Operating a quarry
6. Restoration and aftercare
7. Added value products
8. Concrete technology
9. Concrete production
10. Asphalt technology.



UTC Swindon students will be visiting a number of Quarry Products' sites as part of their course.

**Wiltshire College**  
Working towards apprenticeships  
In addition to developing the UTC Swindon curriculum, Quarry Products is also liaising with Wiltshire College, Lackham to explore the potential of developing quarrying-specific apprenticeships for roles including mobile plant operatives. Look out for more news on this in future issues of intouch.



**University of Derby**  
Committed to professional development  
Quarry Products is equally committed to training existing employees. A close relationship with University of Derby's Centre for Mineral Products Professional Development has seen a number of employees achieve work-based professional qualifications in subjects including concrete technology and construction materials.

# Ollie says hello to Quarry



An undergraduate studying Applied and Environmental Geology at the University of Leicester, has joined Quarry Products on a three-month work experience placement.

Oliver Thompson with Andrew Liddle, divisional director for Quarry Products.

Oliver Thompson who lives in Swindon, contacted Quarry Products with the aim of gaining some industry experience within a quarry environment. A detailed three-month programme was established for Ollie's placement including deployments to a number of quarries, and activities introducing him to areas of the business including environmental, technical, sales, accounting and haulage.

As Ollie entered the last month of his placement with Hills he said: "I have really enjoyed this experience. Interacting with everyone across the quarry division and being involved in the weighbridge and data sampling processes has given me invaluable experience and a real feel for the industry. I learn a lot about materials such as oil, gas and metal at university, so it has been really interesting to understand more about aggregates and quarrying and I am hoping to learn as much as I can before I go back to university."

## Wessex FM visit Woodsford

The team at Woodsford Quarry got a visit from the radio station Wessex FM to acknowledge their fundraising efforts for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance on 'Bring A Pound To Work Day'. As you can see the Woodsford team were delighted to help such a worthy cause!



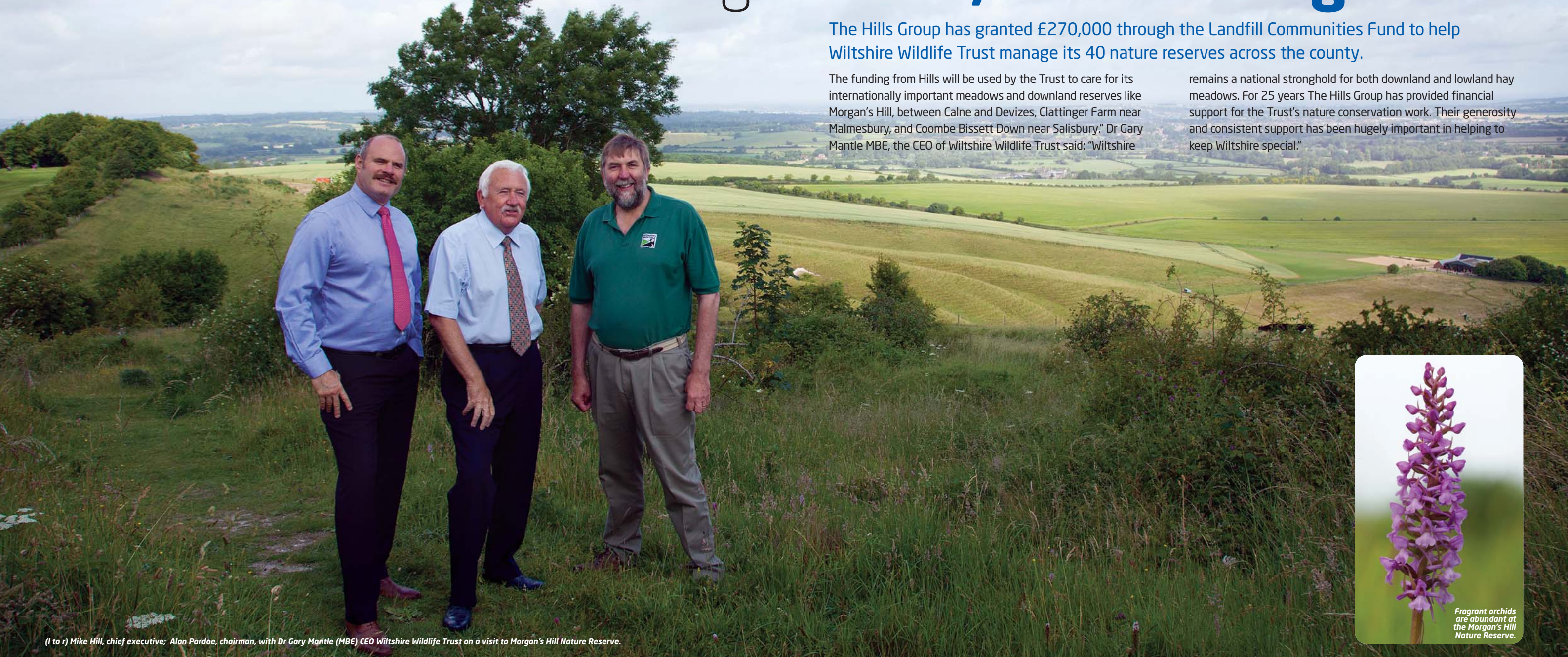


# Wiltshire's wildlife reserves get **£270,000 funding boost**

The Hills Group has granted £270,000 through the Landfill Communities Fund to help Wiltshire Wildlife Trust manage its 40 nature reserves across the county.

The funding from Hills will be used by the Trust to care for its internationally important meadows and downland reserves like Morgan's Hill, between Calne and Devizes, Clattinger Farm near Malmesbury, and Coombe Bissett Down near Salisbury." Dr Gary Mantle MBE, the CEO of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust said: "Wiltshire

remains a national stronghold for both downland and lowland hay meadows. For 25 years The Hills Group has provided financial support for the Trust's nature conservation work. Their generosity and consistent support has been hugely important in helping to keep Wiltshire special."



(l to r) Mike Hill, chief executive; Alan Pardoe, chairman, with Dr Gary Mantle (MBE) CEO Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on a visit to Morgan's Hill Nature Reserve.



Fragrant orchids are abundant at the Morgan's Hill Nature Reserve.

## Calne skaters bowled over with Hills' grant



Calne's skateboard and scooter enthusiasts test their skills at the finished skate bowl.

A £50,000 Landfill Communities Fund grant from Hills has helped turn dreams of a skate bowl in Calne into a reality.

Steve Burns, divisional director Hills Waste Solutions, said: "Previous consultation with the young people of Calne had identified that they needed a skatepark facility in the town and for Hills it is a real pleasure to see that they have achieved this with our help."

William Kay, Wiltshire Council youth development co-ordinator, Calne, said: "To see the young people's hard work realised through the construction of a new skate bowl is fantastic. Good times!"

Calne Mayor Howard Marshall added: "For three years the youngsters have worked hard as a group to achieve this. They are policing it and maintaining it themselves."



Steve Burns, divisional director, Waste Solutions (2nd left) presents a plaque celebrating the opening of the Calne Skate Bowl to Jake Brock chairman of the bowl project and Calne Town Mayor Howard Marshall with Mary Hardwidge grants officer for Community First (right).



# Showing our support

In addition to Landfill Communities Fund grants, Hills also supports a number of local sports teams and community arts events with direct funding. **intouch** takes a look at a selection of this year's sponsorship deals:



## Calne Town Football Club

The start of the 2015/16 season saw Hills extend its sponsorship deal with Calne Town Football Club for a fifth consecutive year. Simon Gardner, chairman of Calne Town FC said: "Hills' continued support since 2010/11 has been a key contributor in maintaining the heartbeat of this football club."



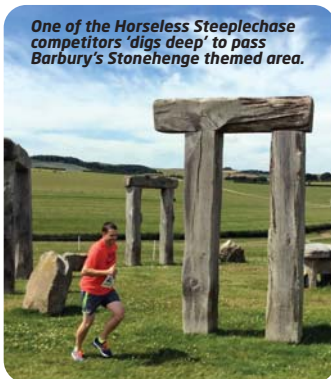
## Westbury RFC & Marlborough RFC

Hills' commitment to the Westbury community was extended this year with a kit sponsorship deal for Westbury Rugby Football Club (RFC). Hills' logo will appear in a prominent position on the players' shorts. Hills has also renewed its longstanding shirt sponsorship deal with Marlborough RFC.



## Barbury International Horse Trials and Horseless Steeplechase

Hills sponsored events for both four legged and two legged competitors this year. Hills sponsored the Stonehenge fence at the prestigious Barbury International Horse Trials and was also one of the main sponsors of the Horseless Steeplechase in which runners take on the same Barbury course as the horses.



## Marlborough Jazz Festival

The Hills Group has sponsored the Marlborough Jazz Festival since its inception in 1986 - and The Lamb Inn was once again bedecked in Hills' branding to host an eclectic mix of musical talent over three nights.

One of the highlights was the high octave Chicago-style blues quintet 'Built for Comfort'. A great time was had by all.



# Sponsored events coming up...

Hills is also sponsoring two community music and arts festivals this Autumn.



25th September - 11th October

Hills is sponsoring the festival for a third year.

For more information visit [www.wmafestival.co.uk](http://www.wmafestival.co.uk)



1st - 11th October

This year is the 40th anniversary and promises a diverse programme of local and international talent.

[www.calnemusicandartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.calnemusicandartsfestival.co.uk)

# Golf round-up



## The 30th annual Hills Wiltshire Junior Golf Championships

A record 69 young golfers from various clubs across Wiltshire took part in this year's Hills Wiltshire Junior Golf Championships at Broome Manor Golf Club on 27 August.

In the Boys Championship three players pencilled an impressive

score of 75 to force an exciting three-hole play off which was won by 14 year old Kyle Campbell, Wrag Barn GC (centre).

Seona Mauchline, High Post GC (right) won the Girls Championship with a gross score of 77, seven shots ahead of her closest rival.

The best nett score came from 13 year old Sebastian James, Wrag Barn GC (left) who carded 67.

## Hills' guests enjoy their time in the sun

Ten teams made up of Hills' employees and guests took to the course for 18 holes between the Professionals' rounds.



The quality of play wasn't quite up to professional standards but everyone thoroughly enjoyed their day. The team captained by Waste Solutions' commercial manager Gary McKinnon (above right) won the overall team prize whilst the longest drive competition was won by James Lodge from Tuckwell & Sons and Gary Brown from Image Styles was nearest to the pin.

## Play-off gives Langdon second win at Hills Wiltshire Professionals' Golf Championships

Perfect conditions prevailed at Marlborough Golf Club for the 35th staging of the Hills Wiltshire Professionals' Golf Championships, as 26 of Wiltshire's professional golfers took part in the 36 hole competition.

Ross Langdon of Gloucester Golf Club (previously South Cerney Golf Club) and Andy Beal of Salisbury and South Wiltshire Golf Club faced each other in a sudden-death play-off to determine the winner.

After 36 holes Langdon and Beal both finished on level par to force the play off over holes 10 and 18. Langdon's birdie on the par 5 10th hole secured him a two-shot victory.







## 'Top Man Up Front'

It is little more than a year ago that our former chairman Robert Hill passed away, marking the end of an era for The Hills Group.

Robert's charisma and leadership will be long remembered, as will the pivotal role he played shaping and developing the company. A canvas print of Robert hangs in the head office lounge area which is named after him, together with a plaque showing the Ode which chief executive Mike Hill wrote and read at the service of remembrance.

## Obituaries

### Geoffrey Cottle

Shareholder, Beverly Hill shares his recollections of a company stalwart who sadly passed away this year.

"Geoffrey Cottle joined Hills following the company's decision to enter the waste disposal sector. Geoffrey was involved in this new activity from day one, setting up the main landfill sites at Badbury and Purton brickworks. With his usual enthusiasm, sense of humour and leadership qualities he directed the plant operators and drivers involved to the satisfaction of the local inspector of landfill sites.

Over time he devised methods which came to be accepted by the authorities as best practice for later landfill sites. This in itself was a tribute to Geoffrey's capability, expertise and success in landfill site management. He will be remembered with affection and gratitude by all who knew him."



Geoff Cottle visited Wiltshire House in November 2014 to present chief executive Mike Hill and Group director, Waste Solutions Mike Webster with a painting of the old Badbury brickworks.

### Dave Wakefield

We were also saddened to hear of the sudden death of longstanding Quarry Products' contractor Dave Wakefield. Dave was never directly employed by the company yet over 40 years of service he became an indispensable member of the team and a good friend to many Quarry Products' employees. Group director Peter Andrew commented: "Dave was one of the nicest, most dependable people you could possibly meet. We were all shocked to hear that Dave had passed away and our thoughts are with his family."

## Hills history brochure updated

A new brochure 'The Hills Group, from the ground up' has been produced celebrating the company's rich 115 year history.

This publication is a substantial update on a brochure originally produced in 2000 to celebrate Hills' centenary. 'From the ground up', focuses on the formative years which shaped The Hills Group, as well as exploring the current businesses and looking ahead to the future direction of the company. The brochure includes some amazing photographs from the Hills archives including a brick delivery lorry from the 1920s and a Hill family portrait from 1943 (shown right). The full brochure is available to download from the Hills Group website.



## Getting to know... Dawn Jennings



In a new feature, **intouch** will be profiling a Hills employee in each issue to find out a little more about what they do both inside and outside of work. In the first of the series we get to know Dawn Jennings, who has worked as an accounts assistant at the Swindon office for a year.

### Describe your role...

I work as part of the purchase ledger team on the ground floor of Wiltshire House, County Park (turn left at reception) and report to finance director Dave Bevan. What takes up most of my time is the processing and payment of

Hills Group invoices for all expenses/costs and services. I am also responsible for cross charging costs, reconciling inter-group accounts and delivery tickets to invoices for Hills Homes. This all requires meticulous attention to detail especially when preparing the Hills Group monthly accounts and management reports.

### Dawn's life in the fast lane...

I went to my first Formula 1 GP in 1995. I was immediately hooked and have continued to go to races at Silverstone. I have also been to races in Belgium and Spain. In 2010 I visited Melbourne Australia to watch the race and was thrilled that Jenson Button won there. This October, I am travelling to Austin, Texas to watch the Grand Prix.

If you would like to feature in an **intouch** 'Getting to know...' profile, contact the Communications team or email [info@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:info@hills-group.co.uk)

## Question time...

### What's your favourite food?

Anything chocolatey.

### If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would buy?

Annual pass to all F1 races for a year.

### What's the one piece of advice you would give others about life?

Someone said to me once: "Travel whilst you can. Climb the mountain and don't just sit and look at it."

### What is your dream car?

Aston Martin DB9.

### What was your first job?

Waitress in a fish and chip restaurant.

## Swindon Town ticket deal extended

Hills has extended its exciting discount deal with Swindon Town FC for home matches at the County Ground during the 2015/16 season.

Hills' employees are able to purchase tickets for friends and family with adult tickets priced at just £10, over 65's £4 and under 15's £3. It's bound to be another rollercoaster season at Swindon so don't miss out. Email [info@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:info@hills-group.co.uk) for more information.

## Hills support pre-match Wembley mosaic



The Hills Group joined forces with other Wiltshire businesses to fund a pre-match display for Swindon Town's League 1 playoff final at Wembley.

Sadly the 'STFC' mosaic didn't inspire the team, as they were comprehensively outplayed by Preston North End, finally losing 4-0. Waste Solutions' divisional director and lifelong Preston fan Steve Burns (pictured top-right) gave a brutal but accurate summary of the game: "Your boys were never in the game and we thoroughly deserved the victory." Well done Preston (and Steve).





## Spot the 10 differences to win one of four £25 vouchers!

To be one of the four winners all you have to do is spot the 10 differences in these two photos from this year's Hills Wiltshire Professionals Golf Championship at Marlborough Golf Club. The image shows eventual winner Ross Langdon teeing off in his play-off versus Andy Beal.

When you have circled the 10 differences, add your name and location and then either scan and email your entry to [info@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:info@hills-group.co.uk) or send via the internal post to the Communications Department at County Park. If you would like a separate sheet to complete your spot the difference on please email the same address with your request. **Entries must be received by Friday 23rd October, 2015.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_



## Sam scores with spot the ball guess

Waste Solutions' administrative assistant Sam Douglas was the only one of 70 spot the ball competition entrants to correctly guess that the ball had been removed from square G11. Thanks to all who entered and enjoy spending your £75 Tesco voucher Sam!



## 'Allo 'Allo Mike

'I will say this only wince'...  
your eyes are not  
deceiving you, this  
really is chief  
executive Mike Hill  
dressed as Officer  
Crabtree (the  
bungling  
'undercover'  
English agent  
masquerading as a French  
gendarme) from the  
1980s/90s sitcom 'Allo 'Allo.

Mike 'trod the boards' for three nights with the Broad Hinton Amateur Dramatic Society in their recreation of the popular show. Clearly this was a role Mike could get his teeth into!

