

into touch

The Hills Group magazine

Issue 39 August 2016



The awards come 'Homes' to roost

Triple success at LABC Building Excellence Awards - read more on page 4

All in a Days work

Business partnership leads to Cerney Wick bagging plant
- see page 6

Barton Court sale

72 years of Hills' history in West Berkshire
- see pages 12 and 13

A year of giving

How the Landfill Communities Fund helps Wiltshire communities and wildlife - see pages 16 and 17

Contents

03 Group News

- Shareholders visit Hillside development

04 Homes

- LABC awards treble
- Building a bigger team
- New sales and marketing suite at Hillside
- Developments update

06 Quarry Products

- Cerney Wick bagging plant
- Welcome back Ollie
- Apprenticeships
- Darts league winner

08 Waste Solutions

- Trucks trialled
- Tructyre wheel alignment
- HWS at the FM Show
- Re-cycling heroes

10 Waste Solutions

- ILM qualifications

11 Group news

- Marlborough Jazz Festival
- Cricket team
- Obituaries

12 Group news

- Barton Court sale

14 Group news

- Godfrey Philbin retires
- Road safety steering committee
- Health and safety survey results

16 Group news

- Landfill Communities Fund

18 Group news

- Henry Hill work experience
- Calendar photos
- Wiltshire Professionals' Golf Championship

20 Competitions

- Spot the difference - win £25 Amazon vouchers
- intouch 38 competition winner

viewpoint

Time for a breather...!

I must say it has been a whirlwind of excitement in the UK over the past few months. What with the 2016 Euro football championship; the EU referendum and subsequent entertainment provided by Westminster; Andy Murray's amazing Wimbledon triumph and then probably the best two final rounds in Open Golf history, with Henrik Stenson pipping Phil Mickelson to the Claret Jug. Although not such a frenetic pace, life inside Hills continues to create our own stories of success, improvement and change.

Success...

You can read about Homes' phenomenal performance in the LABC Building Excellence Awards (page four), John Warner's darts exploits (page seven) and Mike Webster and his team's fantastic fundraising bike ride to Ghent (page nine).

Improvement...

Well done to all those in Waste Solutions achieving further ILM qualifications (page 10) and to everybody in the Group for the improving health and safety culture (page 15).

Change...

There are two examples of change in this issue. Following a fond farewell to Godfrey Philbin, who has supplied the company with IT development services for over 30 years, Hills now directly employs his two programmers Chris and Paul (page 14).

Barton Court Estate has often been described as the 'jewel in the company crown'. Its sale definitely marks the end of an era. Read more about its history and family memories of the estate on pages 12 and 13.

Best wishes, Mike Hill, chief executive



Publishers Note

intouch is published by The Hills Group Limited.

It is distributed three times a year to employees, pensioners, shareholders and friends of The Hills Group. Each copy of intouch is collated and mailed by Swindon charity Phoenix Enterprises who work with people recovering from short and long-term mental health problems www.phoenixenterprises.co.uk.

Issue No 40 will be published in Quarter 4, 2016.

Please submit news and photographs (if possible) to the communications department, either to the address opposite, by telephone 01793 714977 or via email to info@hills-group.co.uk

The Hills Group Limited, Wiltshire House, County Park Business Centre, Shrivenham Road, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 2NR

Tel: 01793 781200

Email: info@hills-group.co.uk

Web: www.hills-group.co.uk



@HillsGroup



/HillsGroup



The Hills Group Limited

The Hills Group Limited makes every effort to verify all information contained within intouch but does not warrant to its accuracy. No view or opinion expressed within intouch should be considered to be that of The Hills Group Limited, its associated companies or any director or officer in its employment. Please recycle your copy of intouch when you are finished with it.



Pictured left to right: Mike Hill, chief executive; Tony Hill; Tony Preece; Rosie Hill; Alan Pardoe, chairman; Naomi Hill; Bronia Hill; Glenis Hill; Bev Hill; Ian Hill; Lyn Hill; Julie Hill; Emma Shepherd; David Hill; Lance Parry; Nick King, Group director - Homes.

Shareholders visit Hillside development

Following a Hills UK board meeting at County Park, Hills' shareholders headed a short distance up the A419 to visit Homes' Hillside development in Blunsdon.

Group director Nick King took the shareholders on a tour of the busy construction site, which will eventually include 61 stylish dwellings, before the family members enjoyed a lunch at the Pear Tree in Purton. You can read more about Hillside on page five.



Homes' new JCB telehandler gets put to good work.



Chief executive Mike Hill explains the site layout to shareholder Emma Shepherd.



Group director Nick King points out the view which a number of the homes at Hillside will enjoy.

Homes secures the treble at LABC Awards



Homes beat the competition to win each of its nominated categories and secure the treble at this year's LABC Building Excellence Regional Awards.

Homes was nominated for five LABC awards across three different categories, including the Best Partnership with a Local Authority Building Control team and the LABC Residential Site Agent of the Year which saw Homes' site managers Ahmet Ibrahim, Jan Pearce and Tim Tippetts account for half of the final six shortlisted.

Homes received the following awards at the LABC Building Excellence Awards 2016:

- LABC Residential Site Agent of the Year - Jan Pearce
- Best Partnership with a Local Authority Building Control team - Hills Homes
- 'Highly Commended' best small new housing development - Tommy's Barn, Church Lane, Bishopstone.

Nick King, Group director - Homes, said: "It is fantastic to see our hard work and commitment to high quality pay off with such prestigious awards. It is a credit to the excellent work that Jan, Ahmet and Tim carry out on a daily basis, each of them deserves it!"



Building a bigger team

Homes has continued to expand its team with the welcome addition of two new employees.

Mark Tinson joins the team as business development manager and will be responsible for acquiring new land, assessing site viability and maximizing project potential at a pre-construction stage.

Russell Byrne joins as commercial manager and will be in charge of managing and implementing all aspects of quantity surveying within the company.

Reflecting on the expansion of his team, Group director Nick King commented: "The two appointments are an important step as we continue to develop Homes' reputation as a successful developer of high quality homes in and around Wiltshire. I'd like to officially welcome Mark and Russell to the team and wish them every success in their roles."



A suite deal

The Homes team has transformed a dilapidated sales cabin into a stylish new sales and marketing suite, which now sits proudly at the entrance to the Hillside development in Blunsdon.

The restoration task was a big one as the cabin had numerous holes in the ceiling, floor and walls.

Following an extensive makeover the sales and marketing suite now looks very different. Oak flooring, downlighters and leather sofas create a very welcoming environment for prospective buyers.

Group director, Nick King unveiled Homes' brand new sales and marketing suite and commented: "It is amazing to see what a little bit of vision and some hard work can achieve. I think this is a great addition to the Homes team and a real credit to everyone involved."



Developments update

In the financial year 2015/16 Homes achieved its highest ever turnover figures and sales continue to be very encouraging.



Battlewell, Purton
All five properties of this popular development have now been sold.

Cowbridge Mill, Malmesbury

Situated just a few short steps from the picturesque River Avon and surrounding countryside; this development consists of 13 substantial two, three and four bedroom homes with parking.



Stembridge Close, Burghclere

Five of the six generously proportioned homes in this beautiful development have been sold, with just plot 4 'The Ash' still available for purchase.



Hillside, Blunsdon

Phase one of this 61 home development on the edge of the Cotswolds, comprises of eight three and four bedroom properties. Four plots have already been reserved.

Queens Close, Watchfield

Homes' latest brochure showcasing the Queens Close development in Watchfield is now available and features new CGI floorplans. Work is progressing well and a number of prospective buyers have already registered their interest.



Business partnership is in the bag at Cerney Wick



Peter Andrew, Group director - Quarry Products; Michael Woodward production director, Day Aggregates and Jonathan Day, managing director Day Aggregates at the Cerney Wick bagging plant.

Quarry Products and Day Aggregates (Days) have traded with each other for many years, but in the last couple of years the collaboration between the two businesses has really taken off due to Days' expanding aggregate bagging business.

As Days' director Jonathan Day explains: "Building a bagging plant at Hills' Cerney Wick Quarry was a perfect opportunity, so both companies grabbed it with both hands and we haven't looked back.

"From the initial meeting it has been an absolute pleasure dealing with Hills who are a like-minded, accommodating, independent company. This means we have been able to react quickly and form a very strong working relationship. Both companies will benefit for many years to come and we think it is a very exciting partnership."

Days' plant at Cerney Wick bags sand and aggregates for customers including Travis Perkins, Jewson and Buildbase.

Peter Andrew, Group director - Quarry Products, added: "The partnership between Hills and Days is mutually beneficial and based on the success of the operation at Cerney Wick we are exploring the possibility of extending the relationship to other Hills' sites."



A Day Aggregates operative at work in the bagging plant.

Welcome back Ollie

Recent work experience student Oliver Thompson has joined the Quarry Products team as a graduate trainee manager, following the completion of his degree in Applied and Environmental Geology at the University of Leicester.

In his new role, Ollie, who enjoyed a successful three month placement with the company last summer, will assist Andrew Liddle in developing company projects, systems and reports in line with technical compliance and the Quality Control Manual. Ollie will also provide operational support to each of Quarry Products' sites.

On returning to Hills Ollie commented: "I'm very happy to be back, I really enjoy working here and I am very excited about my future with Hills. I'm learning a lot and everyone has been really helpful. Now I'm look forward to making the most of this amazing opportunity."

Andrew Liddle, divisional director for Quarry Products said: "We are delighted to welcome Ollie back to Hills following his placement. Ollie has shown a lot of interest and a good level of knowledge and we look forward to having Ollie as a key member of our team for years to come."



Talking to Wiltshire's students about apprenticeships

Earlier this year, Peter Andrew, Group director - Quarry Products and divisional director Andrew Liddle attended the Chippenham and Lackham College open evenings to talk to students about Hills' exciting new NVQ for aspiring mobile plant operatives (MPOs).



The event gave students the chance to talk to Peter and Andrew about the new apprenticeship and the opportunity to earn whilst they learn at college and as a trainee MPO.

Peter Andrew said: "The open evenings were a real success; they allowed us to talk to existing students about their expectations and discuss what Hills can do to attract students in the future.

"The open evenings provided some really valuable insight into what the students are looking for, before we attend the more popular open days later in the year. Now we are looking forward to the autumn events and encouraging students to enrol the following year."

Warner is a winter league winner

John Warner, transport manager - Quarry Products, recently shot his way into the Wootton Bassett and District Darts League history books when he became the Men's Singles Winter League Champion.

On his way to the title John had to compete against the best darts players from in and around Wootton Bassett. However John successfully dispatched each one, failing to concede a single leg on his way to the top. Congratulations John!





Trucks trialled by HWS

Two 12 tonne DAF refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) have been trialled by Waste Solutions' as it looks to optimise kerbside collections to households located in areas where there is 'narrow access'.

As kerbside recycling manager Paul Hill explains: "The trial will help determine the correct size of vehicle to use in the 'narrow access' areas within Wiltshire and will allow the routeing of the rounds to be optimised and assigned to the correct sized vehicle."

Fleet stays on track with laser-guided alignment



Benefits of correct alignment are:

- Maximised tyre life by up to 50%
- Reducing fuel usage
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Improved driver comfort and safety
- Less stress on mechanical parts
- Reduced risk of tyre overheating



Waste Solutions is minimising tyre wear, fuel consumption and carbon emissions thanks to on-site laser wheel alignment from leading fleet management company Tructyre.

A number of factors can affect wheel alignment including: deteriorating road surfaces; if the wheel nudges the kerb, or if the vehicle may regularly run off-road. Tructyre's highly trained and experienced technicians use sophisticated and regularly calibrated technology to align steering axles to the manufacturers' specifications, and ensure trailer axles are square to the chassis. Nathan Carr, collections and fleet manager for Waste Solutions said: "The Tructrak alignment service from Tructyre helps us to keep the fleet operating as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible."

Buyers tune in to HWS at the FM Show

A new eye-catching display, a selection of new bins and a lucky dip lured visitors to Waste Solutions' stand at the Facilities Managers' (FM) show at the Excel Centre in London's Docklands.



Waste Solutions' sales team was on hand to explain how Hills can help customers cut their waste costs, recycle more and avoid landfill costs.

As Waste Solutions' commercial manager Bradley Collins commented: "The sales administration and communications teams did a great job preparing the stand and promotional items for the show."

"I would also like to thank my sales team who worked tirelessly before, during and after the show, greeting and advising the hundreds of visitors."

"We had some very promising conversations with facilities managers and we are working hard to convert the enquiries into new business."

Re-cycling heroes

Most of us would never dream of embarking on a 300km cycle ride, but a trio from Waste Solutions (Mike Webster, Group director; Nathan Carr, collections and fleet manager and Gary McKinnon, divisional director) did just that – and raised a staggering £10,402 (inclusive of Gift Aid) for charity in the process.

The intrepid cycling adventure from Kent to Ghent in Belgium took place over three days in May and was in aid of Kirkwood Hospice. Mike took on the challenge in memory of his sister-in-law. He said: "Gary and Nathan were already doing the cycle ride, but I found out my sister-in-law was dying of cancer in a hospice, so I went to see her and told her I was going to raise £5,000 for the hospice. Sadly she died the next day."

"Gary and Nathan kindly agreed to put their sponsorship in with mine and I really appreciate their help."



Leading the way with ILM qualifications



Back row from left to right: Stuart Gill, supervisor; Melanie Beswick, HRC site supervisor; Tanya Cripps, transport supervisor; John Pearce, depot supervisor; Jessie Bunce, HRC site supervisor and Steve Smith, foreman with their ILM 'Leadership and Management' certificates. Front row from left to right: Tony Smith, shift supervisor; Chris Wheeler, shift supervisor; Terry Paget, site manager; Phil Barton, lecturer; Steve Burns, divisional director Waste Solutions; Robin Pearce, HRC site supervisor; Paul Dark, foreman; Kevin Archer, HRC site supervisor.

Waste Solutions has prepared its managers for the challenges of management in the evolving waste industry with an ILM Level 3 Certificate in Leadership and Management.

The Level 3 Certificate in Leadership and Management provides those with management responsibilities but no formal training,

with the key skills required to lead others through organisational change and other pressures, including motivating and engaging their teams and managing relationships.

Divisional director, Steve Burns commented: "It is important that we give our managers everything they need to be able to confidently deal with whatever situation may arise. Congratulations to everyone who passed!"

Praiseworthy performance!

"I would like to thank the crew for patiently waiting for cars to overtake. They were very courteous."
Mr AH (member of the public)

"I just wanted to let you know that I think the level of service I receive is excellent and very efficient."
Mrs SB (member of the public)

Kerbside

"One of the guys at the recycling centre helped me with my fridge freezer and garden waste. He was extremely pleasant and helpful."
Mrs SK (member of the public)

"Lovely, friendly approachable staff. Thank you."
Mrs CW (member of the public)

HRCs

"I would like to compliment you on how efficiently and reliably you are in sending information to us on time and in reconciling the self-bill and raising queries. Hills is one of the best suppliers to deal with due to this"
Miss LB (customer)

County Park sales

Trowbridge takes the top spot in the recycling tables

Congratulations to the Trowbridge Household Recycling Centre team of Michael Tucker and Chris Jenkinson (recycling operatives) and Darren Cottee (site supervisor) who have once again made it to the top of the league table by recycling an impressive 83.96% of the waste they received between February and June 2016.



% of waste recycled between February 2016 to end of June 2016

- 1 Trowbridge HRC 83.96%
- 2 Marlborough HRC 82.92%
- 3 Melksham HRC 82.82%
- 4 Warminster HRC 81.64%

Marlborough Jazz Festival

Hills has sponsored the Marlborough Jazz Festival since its inception in 1986, and this year was no exception.

The Lamb Inn courtyard was once again adorned in Hills' branding, before the open-air venue played host to an exciting mix of musical talent including the Dave Betts Latin Jazz Quartet and Built For Comfort. All those who attended, including some familiar faces, had a great time.

John Bordiss ©



Pictured left to right are: John Warner, transport manager and Stuart Allen, commercial manager (both Quarry Products); Adrian Knowles, financial director (captain); David Horton, customer; Neil Watts, transport co-ordinator Quarry Products; Dave Bevan, financial director; Gary Mulcock, LGV driver; Simon Allen, landfill manager; Morgan Allen and Jack Daly.



Hills' cricket team – it's not over 'til it's over

It's been a challenging season so far for the band of brothers who make up Hills' cricket team.

Despite four defeats and just the one win so far this year, the team of Hills' employees, supplemented by the occasional 'ringer', has enjoyed the after work matches against suppliers and local companies.

As long-serving player John Warner explains: "Each year we bring our cricket whites out of retirement for a series of friendly limited over matches. What we might lack in quality, we make up for in enthusiasm."

- Vs Zurich insurance (Lost)
Hills 98-7
Zurich 99-5 with 3 balls to spare
- Vs Nationwide (Lost)
Nationwide 140 - 5
Hills 126 - 7
- Vs Erlestone World XI (WON!)
Erlestone 125-5
Hills 126-6 with 4 balls to spare
- Vs National Trust (Lost)
Hills 126 - 8
NT 127 - 4 with 12 balls to spare
- Vs Halcrow (Lost)
Hills 100 all out
Halcrow 134 - 5

Obituaries

Since the last issue of intouch two popular former employees have sadly passed away.

Sheila Jones joined Hills (Hills of Swindon as it then was) straight from school at the age of 16 and worked for the company all her working life as a secretary to both Grahame Hill and Robert Hill, and to

current chairman Alan Pardoe. Sheila passed away peacefully and unexpectedly at Springfield Court Care Home on 6 June 2016, aged 76 years.

As chief executive Mike Hill reflected: "Throughout her career and in retirement, Sheila followed the fortunes of the Hill family and the company. She attended weddings and christenings - she's my brother Jamie's Godmother and Sheila, 'Miss Jones', will be remembered by her former

colleagues and several generations of the Hill family with huge affection. It's like the end of an era and she will be greatly missed."

Albert Edward 'Burt' Shurmer worked for Hills as an LGV driver from 1958 until his retirement in 1994. Hills pensioner and Burt's former boss Cyril Hares remembers him fondly as "a very reliable worker, and you couldn't wish for a better bloke." Burt passed away peacefully on 28 July 2016, aged 87 years.

Barton Court sale marks the end of an era...

The Hill family's 72-year association with the Barton Court estate near Kintbury in Berkshire came to a close this year, when an agreement was reached to sell the remaining area of the site to Sir Terence Conran.



Ted and Pat Hill with son Charlie (centre) enjoying a walk in The Avenue at Barton Court.



Fond memories

"Barton Court holds many fond memories for the family and acquaintances. This is especially true for Pat Hill who in 1955 moved to live on the estate in Barton

Gables with her late husband Ted who ran the farm. They brought up their four children there: Sarah, Charles, Emma and Anna, before moving to the Spinney House which they had built in 1973. "The family shoots were hosted by Ted

at Spinney House and guests included many friends, customers and suppliers. These gatherings were legendary - more for the oxtail soup, lardy cake, joke-telling and port, than for the shooting itself!" Mike Hill, chief executive.



A shooting party at Barton Court in 1987. Ted Hill (back row, second from left); Tony Hill (back row, fourth from left); Robert Hill (back row, centre); Richard Hill (back row, second from right); Peter Hill (front row, third from right).

The Barton Court Estate was purchased by the Hill family in 1944. Their £16,000 investment secured 256 acres of land (with the potential for gravel extraction), three miles of trout fishing, six cottages and Barton Court House - the current home of Sir Terence Conran.

During World War II Barton Court House, with its 80 rooms, was let to the army. When the army vacated, Purton Stoke School (which Edward, Richard and Beverley Hill all attended) relocated to the building and this was where former chairman Robert Hill received his early schooling.

When the estate was purchased outright it created numerous opportunities for the family and the business. Relatives spent holidays at East Lodge enjoying the scenery, fishing and shooting, whilst Grahame Hill and his son Edward farmed the fertile land.

Hills had been digging some of the gravel-bearing land before the war. However aggregate extraction at Barton Court reached its peak in the post-war years, meeting the demand from house and road builders.

As the Hills business diversified into skips and waste management in the late 1960s and 1970s the empty gravel pits on the site were infilled with skip waste.

In more recent times Hills' association with Barton Court has been through the waste management centre, which was situated just

off the A4 between Newbury and Hungerford. The site serviced Waste Solutions' collection operation across west Berkshire and offered a range of skips and containers.

The transfer station sorted recyclables for re-sale and was open for local businesses to dispose of waste which was recycled where possible. Barton Court closed as an operational hub in December 2015 and is now subject to an extensive restoration and aftercare programme which is detailed below.



Sir Terence Conran and chief executive Mike Hill celebrate the completion of the Barton Court sale.

Restoration plans



Existing site.

Waste Solutions' Barton Court site at Kintbury in Berkshire stopped receiving commercial waste and was closed in December 2015.

Planning applications have been approved to return the two main areas of the site back to pasture and wildlife habitat through a five year restoration and aftercare scheme. The scheme will see the transfer station area restored to paddock (CGI of the proposed restoration

shown below) and the other area of the site will be re-profiled and restored to grass ley with potential for a bee habitat. New hedges will be planted across the site and will include a mix of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, Field Maple and other species.



CGI of proposed restoration.

Steering community groups towards safety

Do you know any volunteer groups or community organisations looking to start a road safety initiative, but without the funds to get the scheme off the ground?



How's My Driving? has introduced a steering group with the purpose of giving out grants to individuals or clubs who are passionate about road safety.

As a proud supporter of the scheme, Hills is encouraging clubs, schools, individuals and not-for-profit groups in Wiltshire to apply for funding.

For example, if your children's school needs funds to buy high-visibility gear for a new walk-to-school scheme, or your

youth group wants to film an awareness video - invite them to take advantage of this opportunity. **More details on how to apply for a grant can be obtained from info@howsmy.co.uk**



The How's My Driving? steering group discuss the community road safety initiative.

Accounts software stalwart Godfrey retires



Godfrey Philbin and daughter at his farewell lunch

Older intouch readers may remember Godfrey Philbin from the days at Kingshill - when he ran the computer department. Since

those days Godfrey continued to provide IT development services to The Hills Group through his own company, Kenelm Systems, until his retirement this summer.

To celebrate Godfrey's retirement and his contribution to The Hills Group, finance directors Adrian Knowles and Dave Bevan took Godfrey and his family out to lunch near his Market Drayton home.

Following Godfrey's retirement Kenelm programmers Chris Beckett and Paul Bell have become Hills employees and will work from home.

Dave Bevan commented: "I am really pleased to have Chris and Paul on board as Hills staff members. Both have produced efficient, reliable coding solutions to cope with our ever evolving computing needs over the years and I have no doubt that they will continue to provide the programs we will need to support the business operations of Quarry Products and accounts. I am convinced that having direct control over the development of these systems can be a major advantage to Hills."



Finance director Dave Bevan shows Chris Beckett and Paul Bell around County Park.

Reflecting on Godfrey's contribution Dave commented: "I would like to express my thanks to Godfrey for his long years of often brilliant work. His wit and capacity to work hard and play hard are undiminished as Adrian and I discovered at our recent lunch. Anybody who knows Godfrey will know what I mean - a living legend!"

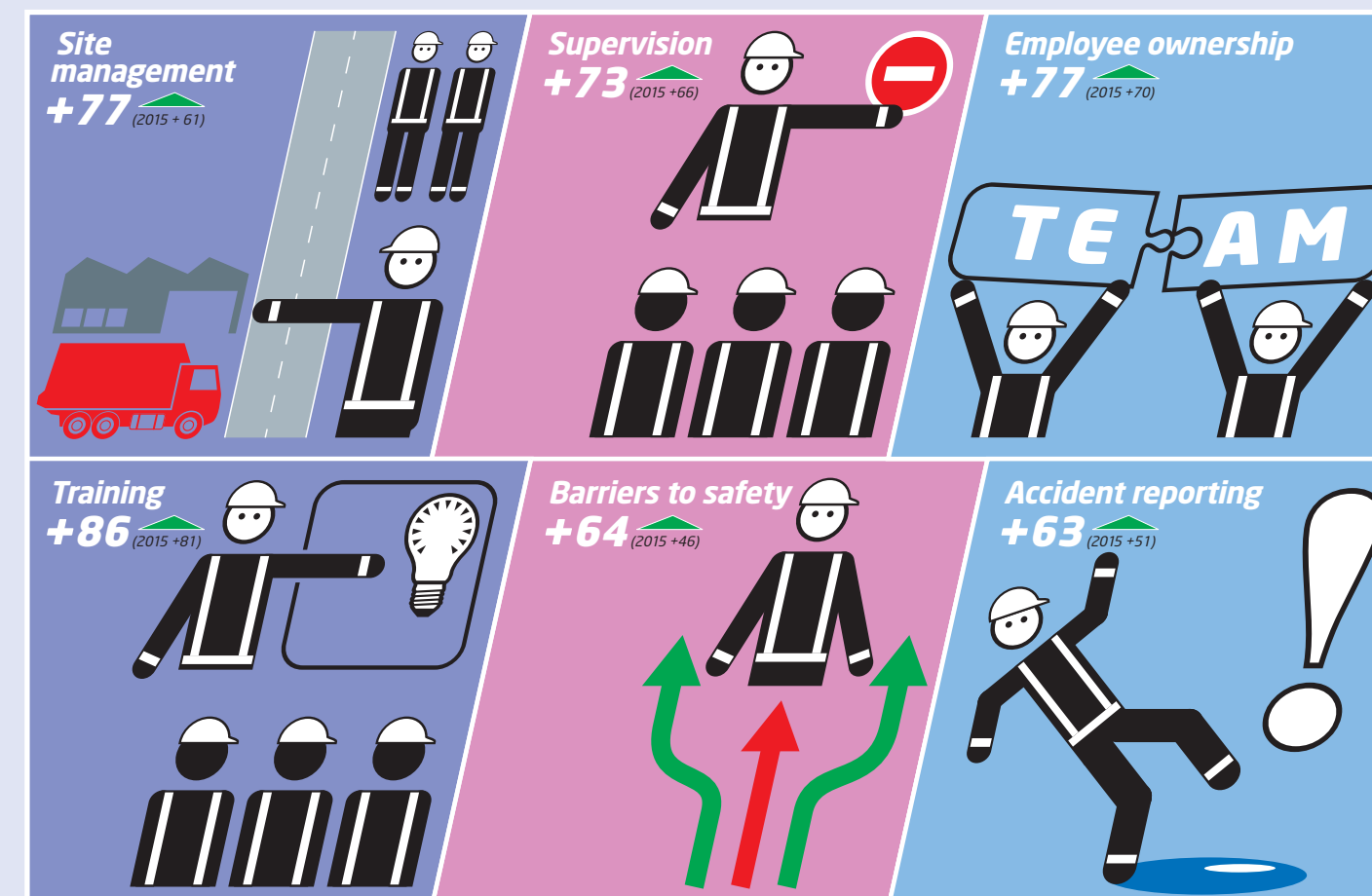
THE RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING POLICY

The Responsible Purchasing Policy applies to all employees and managers and provides guidance on how suppliers, contractors and business partners are selected to work with The Hills Group of Companies. The policy also includes details of how Hills complies with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.



The results are in for this year's health and safety culture survey

For the second year in a row Hills' employees were asked to take part in The Hills Group health and safety culture survey. A total of 342 employees took the time to complete the survey, which saw an increase of 22 responses and an overall improvement of 23% in the combined Group-wide results from the previous year.



Site management improved by over 26% and supervision increased by more than 10% compared to the previous year. Combined with employee recognition of the company's investment of time and money into training at +86, these results suggest that the initiatives implemented to address the shortcomings identified in last year's survey are having a positive effect.

Our Safer For All newsletter has received positive feedback from employees and has also been recognised externally as an excellent example of health and safety communication having won the CIWM award for 'Delivering Health and Safety Best Practice'; it was also a shortlisted finalist in the PRmoment.com internal communication awards and has recently been shortlisted for the CIPR South West's best internal communications campaign.



Landfill Communities Fund

Thirty-two community and environmental projects across Wiltshire received a total £687,000 boost over the past year as a result of Hills working in partnership with Community First, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Cotswold Water Park Trust.

The funding for these projects was made available through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Whilst the funds available through this tax credit scheme have decreased significantly, as a result of the Government's successful drive to reduce waste to landfill, Hills continues to work with its partners to ensure that the maximum amount of funding is available for all communities across Wiltshire.

- Arts and heritage projects - £15,000 / 1 project
- Community and environment projects - £379,142 / 12 projects
- Kids play areas projects - £25,000 / 2 projects
- Sports facilities - £95,746 / 8 projects
- Village halls - £80,300 / 9 projects.



A £5,000 Landfill Communities Fund grant gave Chippenham Cricket Club new practice nets.



A £4,000 grant was given to buy modernised equipment for a kids' play area in Wilcot.



The Corsham Brunel Shed refurbishment project received a £4,000 grant to create a craft workshop for the community.



The Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal Trust received a £9,655 grant towards the Boswell work boat.

A stylish brochure has been produced to celebrate the unique 25 year partnership between The Hills Group and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT).

In the words of WWT chief executive Gary Mantle: "Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is just one of the many organisations to have benefited from The Hills Group's support through the Landfill Communities Fund and through the generosity of the company itself to help us achieve our vision of a sustainable future for wildlife and people."



A £10,000 donation was made to Jones's Mill, a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust project to help to protect and improve diverse habitats. Jones's Mill, photo by James Prior, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

COMMUNITY FIRST Community First (CF) is a Devizes based charity which administers Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) applications on behalf of The Hills Group. Applicants may be charities, community organisations, parish or town councils. Individuals and private companies are not normally eligible for LCF funding. CF help groups to complete application paperwork and also help to identify suitable projects.

To apply for a LCF grant for a community project in Wiltshire:

- visit www.communityfirst.org.uk and download an expression of interest form

To be eligible for LCF projects must:

- meet basic ENTRUST criteria (ENTRUST is the government's LCF regulator)
- be located within 10 miles of a landfill site
- be accessible to the general public for a minimum of 104 days per year
- find 11.386% of the total grant applied for from a source other than LCF money or the applicant.

Henry's Hills experience

Henry Hill, the son of chief executive Mike Hill, has spent the past five weeks gaining work experience and getting to grips with all things Hills. Following his time with each of the divisions, here is a summary of Henry's experience in his own words:

"My work experience began with Quarry Products, visiting the various sites and learning about the production of aggregates and concrete. Then we went to County Park to see the administration and haulage side of operations.

Afterwards I joined Waste Solutions and visited the various operational sites including Purton, Lower Compton and Northacre to learn about the facilities and services we provide. It was really interesting to learn about the importance of compliance and spend an afternoon on a collection with the kerbsiders.



"During my time with Homes I was shown each stage of the development process. At County Park I also spent time with human resources and communications - and it was interesting to discover the variety of work these teams are responsible for."

At the end of his experience Henry commented: "I would like to thank everyone who has spent time with me over the past five weeks. This has been a great experience, I have gained a good understanding of each division and I really enjoyed learning about the various stages of planning that goes in to everything and the science behind facilities such as the MBT."

Snap up the opportunity! Your photos in Hills' 2017 calendar

We need your photographs of Wiltshire's wonderful flora, fauna, landscapes and architecture to make the 2017 Hills calendar extra special.

As you can see, we've already received some fabulous photos from Hills' employees, but we need more.



So get snapping with your camera or smart phone and look through your existing photos - and your image(s) could be gracing next year's calendar pages. The photos must be your own and not the intellectual property of another person or organisation. The calendar will go to print in October this year. Send your photos via email to info@hills-group.co.uk.

Forster secures title at 36th Hills Wiltshire Professionals' Golf Championship

Barry Forster of North Wilts Golf Club won the 36th staging of the Hills Wiltshire Professionals' Golf Championship held at Marlborough Golf Club. Perfect conditions prevailed throughout the day and 20 of Wiltshire's professional golfers took part in the 36 hole event.

Forster's birdie on the 16th gave him a one under par finish for the afternoon round and an overall score of two under par for the day to secure the title. Between the professionals' two rounds, teams of Hills' employees and their guests took to the course in a greensomes competition.





Spot 10 differences to win one of 'fore' £25 Amazon vouchers!

To be in with a chance of winning one of the four £25 Amazon vouchers, just spot the ten differences in the two photos from the 36th Hills Wiltshire Professionals' Golf Championship which was held at Marlborough Golf Club in July.

When you have circled the ten differences on image B), add your name and location and then either scan and email your entry to info@hills-group.co.uk or send via the internal post to the communications department at County Park. A competition entry sheet can also be printed from eTouch. Entries must be received no later than Friday 14 October, 2016.

Name _____

Location _____

James Deft-ly answers 5 to win £50 of Amazon vouchers



Congratulations to James Defty, sales and accounts team administrator - Waste Solutions who was the lucky winner in the intouch 38, 'answer 5 to win £50' competition.

James correctly answered all five questions, which in case you were stumped were:

1) Waste Solutions' food waste service offer 120 and 240 litre bins. **2)** 61 homes will be built at Hillside, Blunsdon. **3)** Honeyball HRC recycled 71.07% of the waste received between November 2015 and January 2016. **4)** Quarry Products received 78 feedback forms and letters during the Fullamoor Quarry public consultation. **5)** 50% of the UK's lowland chalk grassland is in Wiltshire. Well done James!

Woodsford Quarry EURO 2016 doughnut glory!

Portugal's 1-0 victory over the Euro 2016 hosts France, meant that Woodsford Quarry in Dorset secured the bragging rights and a whole load of doughnuts as winners of the Hills Group Euro 2016 sweepstake.



Keep up to date and keep in touch via [@HillsGroup](https://twitter.com/HillsGroup) [f /HillsGroup](https://facebook.com/HillsGroup) [in The Hills Group Limited](https://linkedin.com/company/HillsGroup)