

intouch

**Waste Solutions diverts
2,000,000 tonnes of
waste from landfill**

- read more on pages 3, 8 and 9



Thanks Wiltshire!
With your help we have diverted two million tonnes of waste from landfill*

*1 million tonnes diverted between 1996-2011, and a further 1 million tonnes diverted between 2011-2017

Wiltshire Council
Waste certainly matters
Working partnerships with Hills

Quarry Products
& the horse
rollercoaster
see page 5

Meet Hills'
musical
maestros
see page 10 & 11

£1,000,000+
support for
village halls
see pages 14 & 15

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VIEWPOINT

Milestone to celebrate

Achievements don't come much bigger! Congratulations must go to all those involved not only for reaching the milestone of diverting two million tonnes of Wiltshire's household waste from landfill, but also for the professionalism and quality of service they have demonstrated along the way. Read more about this 21-year journey on pages 3, 8 and 9.

How many bricks?

On page 4 you can read about the largest housing project Hills has ever embarked on at High Penn Park in Calne, and the impressive statistics associated with the construction of a site this size - which also has positive knock on effects for employment and the local economy as well as creating 200 family homes.

Stars in our eyes!

Well who would have known that Hills employs such an array of musical and theatrical talent! On pages 10 - 11 you can read about a group of people comparable to any line-up on TV's 'Britain's Got Talent' who are working in our very midst! No doubt some have performed in a few of Wiltshire's village halls that Hills is proud to have helped fund over the last 20 years. See pages 14 - 15.

Best wishes, Mike Hill, chief executive



Pictured left to right at the Trowbridge household recycling centre: Darren Cottee supervisor, Henry Newbery recycling manager, Chris Jenkinson and Mick Tucker recycling operatives, and Bob Tapp recycling area manager.

Recycling milestone is in the bag

2,000,000 tonnes diverted from landfill

Waste Solutions reached an impressive milestone in February when it revealed it had diverted two million tonnes of Wiltshire's household waste away from landfill - in a fraction of the time it took to hit the first million milestone.

After Waste Solutions signed the waste management contract with Wiltshire Council in 1996, it took 11 years for the first 500,000 tonnes of waste to be diverted from landfill.

It then took another four years to hit the one million mark in 2011, but with technological advances and more diversion options now available, the two million tonne mark has been hit

just six years later. Mike Webster, Group director Waste Solutions, said: "Since we signed the contract in 1996 we have taken huge strides in improving the way we manage waste and recycling for Wiltshire residents.

"We now divert just over 78% of Wiltshire's household waste from landfill each year and have invested significant time and resources into adopting and developing new technologies to achieve this. We are proud of our contribution towards, and we remain committed to, making Wiltshire a greener place to live and work."

To mark the occasion and to thank Wiltshire residents for their contribution towards the achievement, 10,000 reusable shopping bags were given away through the county's 11 household recycling centres.

Story continues on pages 8 and 9.

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 42 will be published in quarter 3, 2017. 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

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Thanks Wiltshire!

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Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Working in partnership with Hills



'High' hopes for High Penn Park

The construction of Homes' largest ever development is underway at High Penn Park in Calne.

The site, which is near to the Station Meadows development, provides an attractive mix of two, three and four bedroom houses, apartments and coach houses.

The development will comprise of 140 private and 60 affordable homes with sales set to commence later this year. Looking after the build process is site manager, Karl Kaljusko. Nick King, Group



Karl Kaljusko, site manager

director Homes, said: "It has taken some time but we are now delighted to start work on this landmark project. We are confident that the launch of High Penn Park will be just as well received as the Station Meadows development and the forward interest has been very encouraging."

If you wish to find out more about High Penn Park the full brochure can be downloaded from the Hills Homes website: hills-homes.co.uk



Quarry Products supplies revolutionary racehorse training centre

Quarry Products was chosen by contractor Raymond Brown to supply sand and aggregates for the development of Kurt Systems UK's revolutionary new racehorse training centre in Berkshire.

The innovative 1.2km training circuit has been built to monitor every aspect of a horse's performance without the need for jockeys. The track features a monorail hung training system, which sees horses harnessed onto the track, enabling trainers to set the pace and monitor their performance.

The project required a variety of sand and aggregates from Hills including:

- Over 400 tonnes of 0-10mm limestone, mixed with the existing ground to increase the bearing capacity
- Over 2,000 tonnes of silica sand from Calne Quarry, used to form the required consistency for the base of the track.

When asked about the project Steve Mead, direct sales supervisor Quarry Products, said: "Working with Raymond Brown and Kurt Systems UK has been a great opportunity for Hills to develop its understanding of, and involvement in, the future of the equestrian industry. Being involved in new projects such as this is always exciting."



An aerial view of the training circuit.



The monorail hung training system.

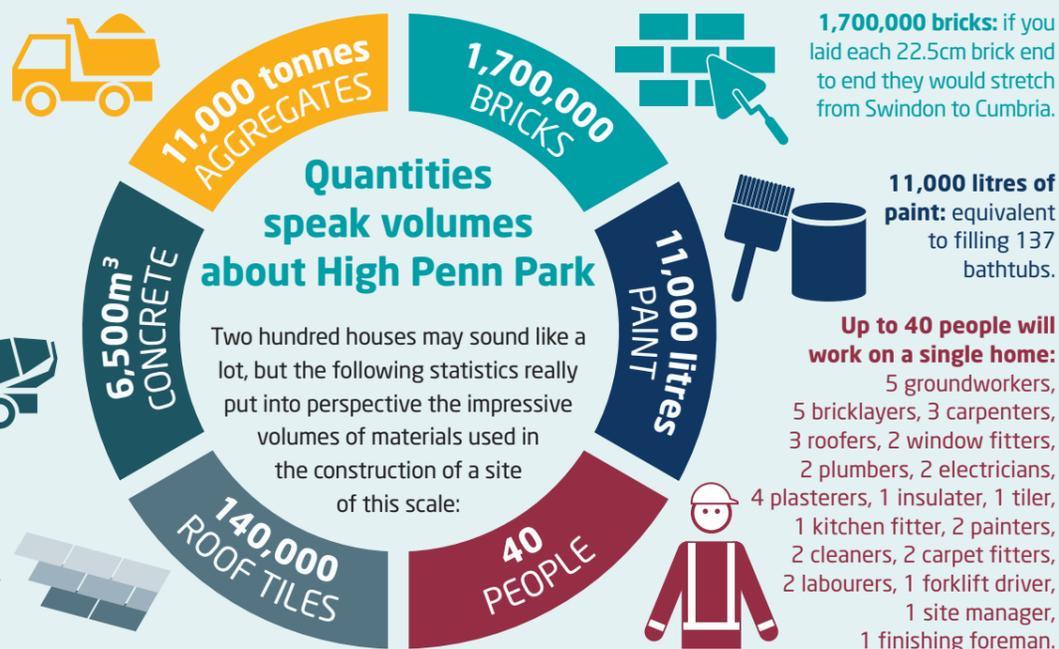
11,000 tonnes of aggregates: equivalent to filling four-and-a-half Olympic swimming pools.



6,500m³ of concrete: enough to fill the Big Ben clock tower one-and-a-half-times.



140,000 roof tiles: if you laid all the tiles together they would cover the whole of Hyde Park four-and-a-half times!



1,700,000 bricks: if you laid each 22.5cm brick end to end they would stretch from Swindon to Cumbria.



11,000 litres of paint: equivalent to filling 137 bathtubs.



Up to 40 people will work on a single home:

- 5 groundworkers,
- 5 bricklayers, 3 carpenters,
- 3 roofers, 2 window fitters,
- 2 plumbers, 2 electricians,
- 4 plasterers, 1 insulator, 1 tiler,
- 1 kitchen fitter, 2 painters,
- 2 cleaners, 2 carpet fitters,
- 2 labourers, 1 forklift driver,
- 1 site manager,
- 1 finishing foreman.



Chinham Farm extension given green light



Phillip Newton, foreman, Donald Emslie, mobile plant operative and Mick Chivers, quarry manager.

Quarry Products has been granted planning permission to extend the existing site at Chinham Quarry, also known as Bowling Green, by Oxfordshire County Council.

The extension will allow the extraction of a further 1.5 million tonnes of soft sand and an additional 0.6 million tonnes of limestone. The mineral will be extracted at a rate of approximately 95,000 tonnes per year and the site will be restored back to agricultural fields with additional woodland areas, native hedgerow planting and meadow grassland.

Peter Andrew, Group director Quarry Products, said: "The extension provides a local source of sand for our customers in the area and secures existing jobs at the site."

The rewards of restoration



A look at the incredible transformations that have taken place at some of our quarries.

Before quarrying activities commence at a new site, Quarry Products will have agreed a detailed plan for the site's future use and appearance once mineral extraction is completed. This is called a site restoration and aftercare plan, and is agreed with the landowner and local residents in public consultation connected with the local planning authority approval process.

Hills looks to restore former quarrying sites sympathetically and in keeping with the surrounding environment and their geological features. Sites can be returned to a number of uses such as a mix of agriculture, lakes or new woodland, creating a varied and bio-diverse habitat. In many instances this is coupled with providing public access to areas that were once restricted.

One recent success following restoration work carried out by Hills in partnership with the Cotswold Water Park Trust is the reintroduction of the Water Vole (*Arvicola Amphibius*), which has seen its dwindling numbers in the region significantly increase in particular at restored sites at Swillbrook Lakes and Clattinger Farm.

Hills does not wait until all quarrying activities at a site are complete before starting the restoration process, but phases restoration over the life of the site, progressively restoring quarried areas. When an area has been restored it is placed into aftercare, this helps encourage wildlife to the area as soon as possible and reduces the amount of land under extraction at any one time.

Peter Andrew, Group director Quarry Products, said: "Hills is committed to restoring the land it uses to a high standard and works closely with partner organisations such as the Cotswold Water Park Trust and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to deliver areas that encourage new wildlife and bring a benefit to local communities."



Andrew Parkinson - Vole on Twig

Bowling Green/Chinham Farm Quarry, Oxfordshire



The final restoration will create two natural habitat lakes, with a wooded area and a low-lying saddle which will connect the two lakes when there are high levels of rainfall.

Woodsford Quarry, Dorset



Since extraction began it has been progressively restored back to Grade A agricultural fields with a small area of wetland.

Tubney Wood Quarry, Oxfordshire



Following the extraction of 1.5 million tonnes of sand the site has been progressively restored to arable land and, working with The Forestry Commission, 15,000 trees have been planted to create small broadleaf woodland areas with open glades and wide grass tracks.

During and after photographs taken from different areas/angles.

2,000,000 tonnes diverted.

20 milestones over 21 years. One great team effort...



To celebrate Waste Solutions' amazing achievement of diverting two million tonnes of waste away from landfill since 1996, we take a look back at some of the milestones of the Wiltshire Council Municipal Waste Contract.



1996 Chairman Alan Pardoe (right) signs the 20 year Wiltshire Municipal Waste Contract.



1997 The Waste Warrior brand is launched to spearhead recycling efforts.



2003 Multi-material kerbside collections are implemented beginning with 57,500 households in eight towns.



2004 Lower Compton compost production achieves PAS100 certification.



2007 500 Cherry trees given to the public to celebrate diverting 500,000 tonnes from landfill.



2009 Kerbside recycling vehicles delivered with the new Hills and Wiltshire Council partnership logo.



2010 The contract to supply 50,000 tonnes of residual waste per year to the Lakeside Energy from Waste plant commences.



2011 Contract signed to build Wiltshire's first mechanical and biological treatment plant in Westbury - The Northacre Resource Recovery Centre (Northacre RRC).



2011 In response to Wiltshire Council's strategy to harmonise waste and recycling services, Waste Solutions redesigned the Lower Compton MRF and submitted plans for a number of new facilities.



2011 The 11th and most recent household recycling centre opens in Marlborough.



2011 Waste Solutions' employees celebrate diverting 1,000,000 tonnes of waste from landfill through reuse, recycling and recovery.



2011 Construction starts at the £20 million Northacre RRC in Westbury.



2012 Waste Solutions' employees celebrate recycling 150,000 tonnes of newspaper and magazines.



2012 Sorting equipment including an optical separator is installed at the Porte Marsh Recyclables Management Facility to process cardboard and plastic bottles.



2012 The purpose built 90m x 150m composting facility at Parkgate Farm, Purton opens.



2012 The 18 month project to build the Northacre RRC finishes.



2013 The Amesbury Recyclables Management Facility opens after a five month fit out.



2013 Commissioning at the Northacre RRC completes, signalling the start of a 25 year contract with Wiltshire Council to convert 60,000 tonnes of household waste each year into fuel for Energy from Waste plants.



2014 The Repair Academy opens at Waste Solutions' Porte Marsh site - providing training opportunities for young people and new life to reusable items left at HRCs.



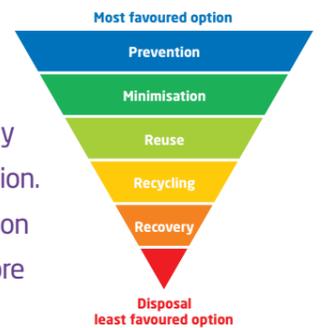
2017 2,000,000 tonnes diverted from landfill!

The household recycling centres opened in...

- 1996** Warminster and Salisbury (from Wiltshire Council)
- 1997** Everleigh
- 2000** Stanton St Quintin
- 2001** Purton
- 2003** Melksham, Trowbridge and Honeyball
- 2004** Devizes
- 2004** Amesbury
- 2009** Warminster site relocates
- 2011** Marlborough



"It has taken a real team effort from Waste Solutions' employees and suppliers, Wiltshire Council and the residents of Wiltshire to divert 2,000,000 tonnes of waste away from landfill since the start of the contract. The Waste Solutions team are justifiably proud of this amazing achievement and I would like to thank everyone for their contribution. Looking ahead we will continue to invest in the latest technology, maintaining our focus on environmental sustainability and the principles of the waste hierarchy, enabling even more waste to be diverted from landfill." **Mike Webster, Group director Waste Solutions.**



Hills' musical maestros – the inside track...

Here is a glimpse of some of Hills' very own past and present musical maestros.

Erik MacGill, operations manager Waste Solutions, actually began his career as a musician playing the trumpet and studying at the world renowned Royal Academy of Music in Glasgow alongside the likes of Evelyn Glennie who played at the opening of the London Olympics 2012.

In addition to becoming National and European Jazz Champion, Erik played trumpet in three of the top ten ranked brass bands in the world, including the famous Syd Lawrence orchestra. Erik has also performed live on popular television shows such as 'Morecambe and Wise' and 'You Bet' as well as recording the likes of 'Babe - Pig in the City' for Phil Collins and the well known theme tune to the hit TV series 'Ground Force'.



Bruce McRobert-Thompson, Devizes HRC supervisor Waste Solutions, is currently in rehearsals for the Trowbridge Amateur Operatic Society's production of Made in Dagenham.

Bruce will be playing the role of Ron Macer from Tuesday 16 May - Saturday 20 May at the Arc Theatre in Trowbridge. For more information visit: taosmusicaltheatre.co.uk



Richard Swatton (second left), sales representative Quarry Products, who plays the drums for The Dirty Smooth has taken his passion for music to the next level by setting up his own festival, with a group of friends in Minety.

As well as developing community spirit and promoting grassroots music, the proceeds of the three-day festival will go to local charities including Naomi House and Jackspace Hospice and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. With a wide variety of music, workshops and activities on offer, early ticket sales have been promising and suggest the three-day festival will attract around 500 people each day.

For more information visit: minetyfestival.co.uk



Daryl Taylor, environment manager Waste Solutions, is the musical director of the Pewsey Male Voice Choir.

Founded in 2006, the popular choir sing for the fun of it with the aim of bringing their audiences the same pleasure and by doing so successfully have been instrumental in raising thousands of pounds for charities.

For more information visit: pewseymvc.org.uk

Emma McArdle (nee Parfitt), fleet and insurance coordinator Group, was just 11 when she made it on to London's most revered stage, in the West End musical Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

Emma was a key member of the Kentwood Choir where, with her school's permission, she would rehearse and perform four shows a week alongside the likes of Phillip Schofield in front of some incredible audiences including the Prince and Princess of Wales at the Royal Variety Performance. Unfortunately this didn't get Emma out of doing her homework.



Moments of fame... above youngsters from the Kentwood Choir on stage in the West End with Phillip Schofield in Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat
Right: The stars of Joseph, five years on. From the left: Tracy Gough, Carrie-Marie Tilling, Liz Avery, Sara Hobbs, Irene Kahan, Louise Onslow, Tina Bennett, Simon Rumbold, Emma Parfitt

Liz Carr, senior credit controller, and Alex Penny, human resources assistant, are both members of the four-piece band One Last Stand.

Alex who has recently joined the company, is the rhythm guitarist and lead singer, whilst Liz plays the bass guitar. Together they rehearse with the rest of the band at least once a week and have a number of performances scheduled this year.



Unearthing new opportunities

A group of college students recently enjoyed a tour around Shorncote as part of Quarry Products' bid to recruit the next generation of employees.

The tour was held to promote Quarry Products' new apprenticeship scheme for trainee mobile plant operatives.

Peter Andrew, Group director Quarry Products, said: "Quarrying is not an industry that many people are familiar with, yet the products we produce are essential for everyday life through their extensive use in a number of industries including construction." Student, Marcus Taylor attended the tour with his mother Tracey who said: "The visit to



Quarry foreman Tony Stepp and graduate trainee manager Ollie Thompson, with potential apprentices Ben Pike and Marcus Taylor.

Shorncote Quarry was extremely interesting and the history and geological facts surrounding quarrying in this area was a real surprise and a subject that most people know very little about. Thank you to all involved that took time to show us around."



Quarry Products' health and safety committee with the Sir Frank Davies (health and safety) Trophy, back row: Matt Pope, sales representative; Dan Leighfield, foreman; Kevin Hester, foreman; Richard Smith, mobile plant operative (visiting committee member); Grant Carter, concrete plant manager. Front row: Lynn Daniels, PA to the Group director Quarry Products; John Warner, transport manager (and committee chair) and Keith Taylor, LGV driver. Not pictured Tony Stepp foreman and Jim Reed, concrete plant manager.

The role of the health and safety committees – Quarry Products

The employee-led health and safety committees play a crucial role in keeping Hills' sites 'Safer For All'.

The first in a series of profiles, takes a look at the work of Quarry Products' health and safety committee. As transport manager and committee chairperson John Warner explains:

"Quarry Products' committee was formed in 2008 and comprises of a cross section of all functions within the division: quarry and concrete operations, haulage and sales. The committee is the most

visible example of the company's ongoing consultation with employees and provides a forum to discuss health and safety issues and initiatives – some of which are passed on to the Group board for consideration.

"Many site-specific and company-wide issues are covered ranging from local site and welfare conditions, accidents and incidents, near miss reporting, to more in depth subjects such as use and application of defibrillators on site. This year, all committee members will be actively involved in the 2017 MPA South West Health and Safety Day, an event which will be sponsored by Quarry Products."

Marlborough top the table

Marlborough household recycling centre (HRC) sits atop the recycling league table for the period October 2016 through to February 2017 with an impressive recycling rate of 80%.



Kevin Archer, site supervisor and Julie Pye, recycling operative at Marlborough HRC.

The team at the Trowbridge HRC were a close second, recycling 79.7%. Recycling manager Henry Newbery said: "I'd like to congratulate all 11 sites on their impressive performance."

I'd also like to thank all our HRC employees for their help implementing Wiltshire Council's van and trailer permit scheme."

HRC recycling rates October 2016 to February 2017



Boxing sponsorship is all a-bout local sport

Hills has shown its support for boxing in Swindon with a sponsorship deal for local boxer Kelly Morgan, and funding for Scrapers Boxing Gym and Community Fitness Centre.

Kelly turned professional in 2015 and currently holds the World Boxing Council silver middleweight belt. Chief executive Mike Hill commented saying: "Hills is very pleased to support Kelly and to help her fulfil her dream of becoming a world champion."

Kelly trains at Scrapers Gym and a donation from Hills has enabled the gym to purchase a boxing ring skirt for their new 20ft x 20ft competition ring. As Olivia McCann, Scrapstore and Scrapers Gym



Pictured in front of the Hills branded ring skirt are: Olivia McCann, Scrapstore and Scrapers Gym project manager; Mike Hill chief executive; professional boxer Kelly Morgan and Steve Cooney, head boxing coach.

project manager explains: "We provide access to fitness equipment so community groups including young people and those on low incomes can improve their health and fitness. The ring looks great with the new boxing skirt and we are extremely grateful to have the support of such a well known Swindon company."

Webb wins Robert Hill Trophy

Talented young golfer Charlie Webb, aged 16, has won the Robert Hill 'Junior of the Year' Trophy at the recent Marlborough Golf Club awards.

Charlie has been a member at Marlborough for over four years and is at school in St Andrews where he is part of the Elite Golf Team and is studying for the International Baccalaureate. He was thrilled to receive the trophy and said: "I am so delighted to have won the Robert Hill Trophy and extremely proud to be Junior of the Year. It is a great incentive for young golfers."



Rosie Hill presenting the Robert Hill Trophy to Charlie Webb, winner Marlborough Golf Club Junior of the Year 2016. Charlie also received a £100 bursary.



Calne Rugby Club chairman Chris Austin celebrates the floodlight funding with Mike Webster, Group director Waste Solutions and Mary Hardwidge, grants officer Community First.

Lights go on at Calne RFC

A £1,411 Landfill Communities Fund grant from Hills has enabled Calne Rugby Club to purchase six floodlights.

Club chairman Chris Austin said: "We are very grateful to Hills for helping us purchase our fantastic new floodlights. Training in the darker months was challenging as the previous lighting was so poor. The new lights will help us get more people playing rugby." Mike Webster, Group director Waste Solutions, said: "The floodlights will enable the Calne community to use the facilities to their full extent and will hopefully encourage more people to get involved with the club."

£1,000,000 granted to village halls in Wiltshire



Pictured in the impressive refurbished hall are from left to right: Peter Boggis, project manager, Alan Pardoe and Mike Hill (chairman and chief executive of The Hills Group, and seated) Cara Voelcker, project lead, Mary Hardwidge of Community First, Nick Greene, chair of the Parish Council and David Boydell, treasurer.



Stanton St Quintin village hall before the renovation.

Funding from The Hills Group for village and community halls reached the £1 million mark at the end of 2016 with a grant given to the Stanton St Quintin Parish Hall project.

Hills has worked with Community First over the past 14 years distributing grants via the Landfill Communities Fund and has so far seen 96 village and community halls being transformed across Wiltshire. Chief executive Mike Hill said:

“Village halls are a valuable asset to any community as they provide facilities for social, educational and recreational activities for all ages. It has been wonderful to see how many communities have benefitted from this funding over the years.”



Countdown presenter Nick Hewer attended the opening of the Old Town Community Centre in Swindon following a £50,778 Landfill Communities Fund grant.

Mary Hardwidge, grants officer for Community First, said: “We work closely with communities to maximise the benefits from the Landfill Communities Fund grants given by Hills. The grants are used to update community spaces, making them accessible to all, and it certainly creates a great community spirit when there is a local venue that everyone can use and feel proud of.”

Whilst the refurbishment of the Stanton St Quintin Parish Hall is not yet complete following the grant from Hills, Cara Voelcker, project leader, was very excited to learn that their project had triggered the significant milestone.

Cara said: “The new windows, which Hills kindly paid for, are now installed and the rest of the work is almost complete, having been funded by our community fundraising and other organisations. We are delighted and had it not been for Hills’ and Community First’s support, the project would never have got off the ground!”



Cricklade residents show their appreciation after securing a £46,196 Landfill Communities Fund grant to help pay for repairs to the roof of Jenner Hall.



Local communities across the length and breadth of Wiltshire have received Landfill Communities Fund grants towards village halls and community facilities. As the map above shows, some villages have benefitted from more than one grant.



The Hills Group donated £40,000 through Landfill Communities Fund grants to help refurbish Compton Bassett village hall.



A £15,000 Landfill Communities Fund grant created a new kitchen at Purton village hall.



John Edwards kerbside loader, Paul Beale agency loader and Paul Bowden agency driver.

Waste Solutions' kerbsiders come to the rescue

Whilst out on a collection round a Waste Solutions kerbside crew came to the rescue of a Wiltshire resident when they noticed smoke coming from a garage.

The crew, consisting of John Edwards, Paul Beale and Paul Bowden were collecting in the Firsdown area in Salisbury, when they saw the smoke and acted quickly to raise the alarm with the occupant Ms Lewis.

At first Ms Lewis dismissed the incident as steam coming from an oil burner. The crew wisely advised Ms Lewis to take a look where they discovered the garage full of smoke, before contacting the fire service who attended and extinguished the fire.

Ms Lewis has since contacted Hills to express her gratitude towards the crew. Ms Lewis said: "I am so grateful they were there. When they first knocked I was fast asleep, but thankfully they persisted and prevented a potential disaster. Their actions probably saved lives not just property."

Solve the sudoku and resolve the riddles to win a £50 Amazon voucher...



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

...or complete just one of the challenges to be in with a chance of winning one of two x £25 Amazon vouchers.

Get your grey matter in to gear and answer these five random riddles...

- Q1** What can travel around the world while staying in a corner? **A** _____
- Q2** What kind of room has no doors or windows? **A** _____
- Q3** What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries? **A** _____
- Q4** Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly? **A** _____
- Q5** What has a head and a tail, but no body? **A** _____

Can you fill in the blanks of the 9x9 grid so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain only one instance of each of the numbers 1 through to 9? No two numbers in the same column, row or 3x3 grid can be the same. There is only one right answer. Good luck!

Once you have completed one or both of the challenges, add your name and location (below) then either scan and email your entry to info@hills-group.co.uk or send via the internal post to the communications department. Entries must be received by Friday 26 May 2017. Reminder - you will need to successfully complete both challenges to be in with a chance of winning the £50 voucher.

Name: _____ Location: _____