

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000
www.breedonaggregates.com

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833
www.cemex.co.uk

Cornish Lime Company 01208 79779
www.cornishlime.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090
www.euromix.com

Hugh King & Co 01294 557515
www.hughking.co.uk

John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067
(Liverpool)

Marshall Watts Mix 01262 675383
www.wattsmix.com

Premier Mortars 0345 3013030
www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars

RTU 02890 851441
www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

Tarmac 03701 116 116
www.tarmac.com

New guidance on hot and cold weather working

A data sheet covering hot and cold weather working is under development by the Mortar Industry Association.

Hot and cold weather working, will be published as a further data sheet in the series that can be downloaded from the resources section of the MIA website, www.mortar.org.uk.

In both hot and cold weather, masonry construction requires builders to consider how conditions may affect the quality of the finished masonry. Indeed, faced by extreme weather conditions, a builder may have to use special construction techniques or protective measures to ensure that masonry is not adversely affected.

The challenge in hot weather is the evaporation of water from the mortar. Without sufficient water, the bond between the mortar and masonry unit may be reduced. On the plus side, the increased rate of hydration of the cement and favourable curing conditions in warm, humid weather

will help develop masonry strength if sufficient water is present at the time of construction.

Information on hot and cold weather working is already available in the MIA learning text series under summer working in part 11, Construction. A whole section covers summer laying of masonry units, protection and good practice.

With winter working, problems can arise when the ambient temperature at the time of laying is less than about 4°C because mortar strength and hydration take place above that temperature level. It is therefore recommended that mortar construction should not take place when the air temperature falls below 3°C unless the mortar temperature can be maintained at a minimum of 4°C until it has hardened. This could mean working in heated enclosures.

Again, advice is available in MIA learning text 11, Construction, this time in the winter working section. Further help can also be found in MIA data sheet No 7, Factory-produced mortar for use at low/freezing temperatures.



MIA sponsors National Bricklaying Competition



Senior category winner Henri Couch, stands by his winning project piece after the southern heat of the Guild of Bricklayers competition, held at Fareham College.

MIA is sponsoring the heats and final of the Guild of Bricklayers 2016 competition by supplying mortar for all events through its producer members.

The guild runs nine regional competitions for brick laying trainees around the country. Students compete in junior and senior categories and are given up to six hours

to construct a brickwork model from drawings supplied. The work is marked by industry judges and winning competitors from each heat will compete in the national finals to be held at Petroc College, North Devon, on 29 June.

At the end of April, five heats had been completed.

Factory-produced success at Brick Awards 2015

No less than 14 of the 21 projects which drew awards at the Brick Awards 2015 used factory-produced mortars, a testament to the quality and consistency of the product.

Among winning MIA members were CPI Euromix, Hugh King, RTU and Tarmac.

MIA sponsored the Architect's Choice category for the second year, an award which gives designers the opportunity to present a consensus choice from the short-listed entries. This year's award went to the Shields Centre, Glasgow. The project is described as



The Shields Centre, Glasgow.

being strikingly modern but that brick gives a heart to the building.

MIA executive committee chairman, Steve Large with awards presenter Nick Knowles, presented Jonathan McQuillan of architects Anderson Bell + Christie with the award. Brickwork contractor was McCann Builders, Wienerberger supplied the bricks and CPI Euromix was the factory-produced mortar supplier.

The Whitworth Gallery at the University of Manchester won the 2015 supreme award as well as that for the best public and educational building. The judges said: 'This building has tremendous architectural quality and its use of brick as an ornamental narrative device as well as a robust skin is exceptional. The level of finesse in the brick detailing coursing jointing and patterning demonstrates a resurgent craft approach to building that is worthy of celebration across the whole construction industry.'

Architect was MUMA and brickwork contractor, Cara Brickwork. Northcot supplied the bricks, including a very impressive number of handmade matching specials. CPI Euromix supplied the mortar.

MIA exhibits at Ecobuild



Apprentices from Grangewood Brickwork Services building demonstration corner details in brick and blockwork at Ecobuild 2016.

MIA took part at Ecobuild at the Excel Centre, London, in March as part of the Concrete and Masonry Pavilion.

As well as having a mini dry mortar dispensing silo/mixer on site, the association also arranged daily brick and block laying demonstrations at the High Performance Housing feature. Apprentices from Grangewood Brickwork Services built demonstration corner details in brick and blockwork while British Precast product groups were partners in the feature.

MIA director to stand down



Brian James

he moves towards retirement.

Brian has looked after the MIA for 18 years as it has developed from the Mortar Products Association as part of the Quarry Products Association and then being integrated into the MPA.

He has played a major role in developing the MIA's wide range of technical literature, introducing the mortar.org.uk website and, more recently, developing a strong

Brian James, MIA director, is to stand down in May as he lowers his responsibilities with the Mineral Products

Association (MPA) as

relationship with the Guild of Bricklayers and sponsoring its national bricklaying awards by supply of mortar from producer members.

MIA executive committee chairman, Steve Large, said:

'We will miss Brian's persistence, tempered with a sense of humour, that has made the MIA the recognised specialist association in all matters relating to mortar and mortar construction. We thank him profoundly for his efforts over so many years and wish him well in the future, especially when he finally retires.'

Brian's MPA colleague, Gearoid Kennedy, will take over management of the association. He already looks after the British Lime Association so there is great synergy between the two product areas.



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mortar
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MIA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.