

## Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

**Anglian Lime Company 01787 313974**  
[www.anglianlime.com](http://www.anglianlime.com)

**Breedon Southern Ltd 01332 694000**  
[www.breedonaggregates.com](http://www.breedonaggregates.com)

**CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833**  
[www.cemex.co.uk](http://www.cemex.co.uk)

**Cornish Lime Company 01208 79779**  
[www.cornishlime.co.uk](http://www.cornishlime.co.uk)

**CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090**  
[www.euromix.com](http://www.euromix.com)

**Hugh King & Co 01294 557515**  
[www.hughking.co.uk](http://www.hughking.co.uk)

**John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067**  
(Liverpool)

**Marshall's Mortars & Screeds**  
**0345 3013030**  
[www.marshall's.co.uk](http://www.marshall's.co.uk)

**Mortar and Screed Company Ltd**  
**01952 224202**  
[www.mortarandscreed.co.uk](http://www.mortarandscreed.co.uk)

**Remix Dry Mortar 01329 231200**  
[www.remixdrymortar.co.uk](http://www.remixdrymortar.co.uk)

**RTU 02890 851441**  
[www.rtu.co.uk](http://www.rtu.co.uk) (Belfast)

**Tarmac 03701 116 116**  
[www.tarmac.com](http://www.tarmac.com)

**Watts Mix 01262 675383**  
[www.wattsmix.com](http://www.wattsmix.com)

# More support for Guild of Bricklayers skills competition



Regional heat underway at Warwickshire College, Rugby.

The Guild of Bricklayers national skills competition for trainee bricklayers is underway, supported again this year by MPA Mortar producer members who are supplying mortar for the regional events.

By the end of April, seven events had taken place out of the total of 10 regional competitions planned, running up to the final on 22 June.

At each regional competition, students, in junior and senior categories, are given up to six hours to construct a brickwork model from drawings supplied. Industry judges mark the work and winning competitors from each heat go forward to compete in the national finals.

This year's final will be held at Rodbaston College, Penkridge, Staffordshire.

## Nearly Golden

Notwithstanding two lost years through the COVID pandemic, the 49th annual mortar industry annual lunch is being held in London in May this year.

Plans are already well underway for a special event to mark the events golden anniversary in 2023 so please pop a note in next year's diary. It is planned that it will be held on Thursday 4 May, again in London.

## Towards net-zero cement manufacture

A world first was achieved in the UK towards the end of last year when a cement kiln at Hanson's Ribblesdale works was operated using a wholly net-zero fuel mix.

During a demonstration, the proportion of fuels in the kiln's main burner was gradually switched over until it was entirely powered by biofuels and hydrogen.

Described as being a significant milestone on the route to net zero-carbon cement manufacture, it reflected the work of cement manufacturers carried out over many years to replace fossil fuels with waste-derived alternatives. To date, this work has contributed to a 53% fall in the carbon impact of UK concrete against a 1990 baseline.

# CPI supports NHBC training initiative

A selection of dry mix mortars has been donated by CPI EuroMix to support the NHBC with its apprenticeship programme at Tamworth, Staffordshire.

By supplying a silo of its lime sand mortars to the scheme, CPI EuroMix has demonstrated its commitment to helping train a new generation of bricklayers. The initiative will help address the UK's construction skills shortage, which is crucial to the country's future building requirements being met.

CPI EuroMix commercial manager and chairman of the MPA Mortar executive committee, Stuart Russell, said: 'The NHBC has developed a superb training facility. It should be commended for initiating such a scheme and with our donation of vital building materials, CPI EuroMix is proud to have made a meaningful contribution to its success.'

The NHBC training hub in Tamworth, Staffordshire supports more than 100 apprentices each year. As part of the scheme, trainees have access



NHBC training hub at Tamworth.

to on-the-job learning modules through the use of building structures on large covered concrete slabs. It's hoped the programme will inspire similar industry-led initiatives, providing youngsters with the skills and realistic work experience they need to pave the way for a long and successful career in construction.

'Having only seen the pre-set-up location it was great to finally witness the NHBC training hub up-and-running and the apprentices in action,' said Stuart Russell. 'It will be absolutely crucial to helping close the industry skills gap and building the better-quality homes the UK desperately needs. The realistic on-the-job experience it offers will be priceless to trainees taking part in the scheme.'

## A new learning text has been introduced by MPA

Learning text 14, *Cleaning brickwork*, has been written because it is vitally important that fresh brickwork is not high-pressure jet washed.

The practice is sometimes used on newly completed units on building sites to remove mortar splashes to improve appearance for sale. The problem is that this is carried out by first applying dilute hydrochloric acid to the brick faces, which is then jet washed off.

This damages the face of the mortar joint and nullifies the skill of the bricklayer who has worked to create a clean, smooth finish to the joint, bringing the cement to the front

of the joint, sealing the mortar and creating a solid, finished surface. Jet washing with acid, usually too close to the face work, blasts off the sealed joint and also the face of the brick. This leaves the joint exposed, worn and open to the elements and potentially liable to further damage.

*Cleaning brickwork* outlines measures to be taken to ensure cleaning of fresh brickwork is carried out in a safe manner. It is downloadable from the MPA Mortar website, [www.mortar.org.uk](http://www.mortar.org.uk) under the learning texts section of technical information.



essential materials  
sustainable solutions

Gillingham House  
38-44 Gillingham Street  
London, SW1V 1HU  
Tel +44 (0)20 7963 8000  
Fax +44 (0)20 7963 8001  
[info@mineralproducts.org](mailto:info@mineralproducts.org)  
[www.mortar.org.uk](http://www.mortar.org.uk)

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