

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

Mortar and Screed Company Ltd 01952 224202
www.mortarandscreed.co.uk

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

Remix Dry Mortar 01329 231200
www.remixdrymortar.co.uk

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

Tarmac 03701 116 116
www.tarmac.com

Future housebuilding on the up?

While government announcements appear to suggest a firmer future for new housebuilding in the UK, a recent statistical report indicates a slowing trend.



Philip Halling / Building site, Bude

New MIA Chairman



Stuart Russell has been appointed MIA chairman following Steve Large's completion of his chairman's term. Stuart has some 27 years experience in

the industry and has been with CPI Mortars since 1999. He is now the company's UK commercial manager.

Congratulating Stuart on his appointment, MIA manager, Mick Russell, said: 'In welcoming Stuart as chairman I would like also to thank Steve Large for his help and commitment as the previous chairman and wish him well in his extended role within the CEMEX group.'

In the UK government's 2019 spring statement, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, announced a guarantee of up to £3 billion of borrowing by housing associations in England to support construction of 30,000 new homes through the Affordable House Guarantee Scheme.

He also announced that £717 million from the Housing Infrastructure Fund will be used to 'unlock' up to 37,000 new homes in four identified areas. These are Old Oak Common in west London, Didcot in Oxfordshire, Cambridge and Cheshire.

In making the announcements, Mr Hammond said this would put the UK on track to raise housing supply to its highest level since 1970 by the end of the current Parliament (2022) and to reach 300,000 new homes a year by the mid-2020s, compared to the current figure of 220,000.

However, NHBC figures to the end of February 2019 show a 7% decrease in new housing registrations compared to the same month in 2018. This year 7,550 were registered in the private sector (9,080 in

2018), with 3,171 in the affordable sector (2,495 in 2018).

For the rolling quarter, between December and February, 34,199 new homes were registered compared to 34,723 a year ago – a decrease of 2%. During this period there were 23,105 new homes registered in the private sector (26,562 in 2017/18: -13%) and 11,094 in the affordable sector (8,161 in 2017/18: +36%).

NHBC chief executive, Steve Wood, said: 'Continuing the trend from January we are seeing strong numbers in the affordable sector but an understandable drop in the private sector amid the ongoing Brexit uncertainty.'

MIA manager, Mick Russell, said: 'Continued high use of factory-produced mortar suggests house building in the UK remains strong but we do need government to ensure general infrastructure development takes place including funding for essential elements such as schools and doctors surgeries to meet future needs.'

CPI gains Barratt Supplier Excellence Award



Barratt Homes, the 5-star rated national housebuilder, held its annual supplier conference in Birmingham on 19th March this year.

CPI was delighted to be recognised with a Supplier Excellence Award for Outstanding Partnership during 2018.

Barratt chief executive, David Thomas, noted CPI's consistent high scores on Barratt's supplier service system and recognised in particular the service offered up to his company during the period of limited availability in the south west of England.

CPI operates from nine dedicated factory locations spanning the length and breadth of the country and is ideally placed to offer a nationwide service to all Barratt regions.

CPI commercial manager, Stuart Russell, commented: 'We are delighted to achieve this award in recognition of outstanding service levels and partnership with Barratt Homes and my thanks go to all the CPI team for making this possible.'

Guild of Bricklayers skills competition – MIA continues sponsorship

MIA is again sponsoring the Guild of Bricklayers annual skills competition for industry trainees.

MIA manager, Mick Russell, said: 'This is the fifth year we have supported the guild by supplying mortar through our members for all competition stages. We badly need a future skilled workforce and we are pleased to be able to play a part in stimulating interest amongst young bricklayers.'

The guild runs nine regional competitions for brick laying trainees studying at accredited colleges. 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.

As Mortar News is published, four regional competitions have been completed. This year the College of Liverpool is venue for the finals to be held on 20 June.

NEW CEMENTS IN BS 8500

British standard for the specification of concrete, BS 8500, has been updated and now permits the use of composite cements. The Concrete Centre's updated guide, *Specifying sustainable concrete*, details the changes and provides information about the sustainability of concrete and its constituent materials. Copies of the guide may be downloaded from the publications section of www.concretecentre.com.



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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.