

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Anglia Lime Company 01787 313974
www.anglianlime.com

Breedon Southern Ltd 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

Marshalls Mortars & Screeds
0345 3013030
www.marshalls.co.uk

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

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

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

Tarmac 03701 116 116
www.tarmac.com

Tillicoultry Quarries Ltd 01294 557515
www.tillicoultryquarries.com

Watts Mix 01262 675383
www.wattsmix.com

Mortar Industry 2024



Michael May.

Chairman of the executive committee of MPA Mortar, Michael May, looks at the successes and the challenges facing the industry.

A strongbox of mortar information

For more information on factory-produced mortar, including technical data sheets, learning texts and standards go to the MPA Mortar website at www.mortar.org.uk

It is pleasing to be able to report the successes that have been achieved within the industry over recent years. Significant strides have been made in reducing its environmental impact through the adoption of lower carbon cements and the use of alternative fuels. Recycling much of its returned product also reduces the need for new raw materials as well as minimising waste. We have also seen companies within the industry exploring and implementing new technologies.

The mortar industry plays a vital part in the UK construction industry supply chain, contributing significantly to the national economy while it supports a large number of jobs.

But there are challenges ahead.

The push towards net zero emissions by 2050 is a major challenge. I have mentioned our successes in this area above but we need to go further, adopting

more new energy-efficient technologies and processes to lower emissions from production and transportation.

Labour shortages are also a concern. The construction industry has a shortage of skilled workers. An ageing workforce and the reduced influx of skilled workers from the EU because of Brexit are impacting on the delivery of masonry structures.

Inevitably, rising prices have affected the industry. Inflation has driven up costs of materials, energy and labour while global supply chain issues have led to shortages as well as adding to project bills.

But the mortar industry is strong, experienced and recognised for supplying quality products. Moving forward, we will continue to work to overcome these challenges through investment in training, embracing new technologies and developing more sustainable practices.

Coloured mortars from CEMEX key to London project



The Oval Village development.

Wide mortar colour choices offered by CEMEX played a key role in the construction of Oval Village, an apartment development in south London..

Total development includes 1,309 new apartments split across two sites - Oval Gas Works and Kennington Lane - and overlooks the Oval cricket ground. Built in partnership with Berkeley Homes, Keltbray and Lee Marley, the architectural aim was to create a vibrant new community in the heart of south London, with spacious green areas, a central plaza, retail spaces and easy access to residential facilities.

Mortar colour choice played such an important role because the architects were keen to ensure the new buildings blended in seamlessly with existing local structures, including the Oval cricket ground. To achieve this, CEMEX provided a collection of pre-mixed mortar samples for comparison against the bricks, followed by material for a brick slip sample panel. When the architects had made their choice, sample bags were sent to site to enable large sample panels to be made to give a more accurate visual representation of how the bricks and mortar matched on a larger scale.

Four 33-tonnes silos were located on site to handle the bulk of the 1,000 tonnes of mortar supplied, although some material was also supplied dry in one-tonne premixed bulk bags. Mortar colours supplied included natural, black dark, Doveholes white and Braintree light.

Fast bricklaying at Super Trowel event



Super Trowel underway at Milton Keynes.

Summer saw the second-ever Super Trowel event, this time held at the Marshall Arena in Milton Keynes. It was organised by Brick Jackets, Joe Short, Bricklayers Social Club, Ashley Francis and Hertford College tutor Jack Dawson.

Fourteen teams of bricklayers and hoddies, who had their own competition on set up before the main event, were lined up against one another

in a one-hour, speed laying session.

This year there was also a junior competition, which the organisers are hopeful will grow next year. MPA Mortar member CPI Euromix supplied the mortar for the contestants from two outside silos. There was also a display silo in the venue, where CPI staff were available to talk all things mortar.

Bricklayer Charlie Collison won the event for the second time, breaking his previous year record by over one hundred bricks, taking the final count to 710 bricks laid in one hour.

A lifetime achievement award was given to Peter Roberts who has designed Brickwork Tutors Toolbox training aids, including one on mortar with help from MPA Mortar manager Mick Russell. These training aids are used by colleges and NHBC for brickwork students, but

they are also good for refresher tests for more seasoned bricklayers.



essential materials
sustainable solutions

First Floor
297 Euston Road
London NW1V 3AD
Tel 0203 978 3400
info@mineralproducts.org
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 industrial sand industries.