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Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

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

**CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090**  
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**Hugh King & Co 01294 557515**  
www.hughking.co.uk

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

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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.'

# Hugh King & Co becomes part of Tillicoultry Quarries



On 26 October 2018 Hugh King & Co became part of Tillicoultry Quarries Ltd, bringing with it a whole range of new products and services.

Hugh King was established in 1853 and operated from a small yard in Irvine harbour in Ayrshire as a coal and sand merchant. Throughout the late 20th century it supplied Scottish foundries with moulding sand and the local glass works with sand for the manufacture of green bottles. It moved to its current site in Kilwinning in 1979, taking over the valuable silica sand deposits at Hullerhill and allowing the expansion of the business into new and emerging markets.

With the on-site availability of a sand drying plant from the traditional foundry industry,

the company was well placed to venture into the expanding dry silo mortar and render market. With the availability of white silica sand from Hullerhill and brown sands from the quarries at Newhill and Garnock, the company is able to produce an extensive range of coloured renders and mortars for the UK house building and construction market giving Hugh King a unique versatility within the market. Now supported by the wider Tillicoultry Group, the whole construction package of concrete, asphalt, mortar and render can now be offered.

In addition to silo-based products, Hugh King manufactures a wide range of bagged renders and mortars for general building use and specialist adhesive and repair mixes for stone and tile bonding and concrete repair markets. These are packaged through an automated filling system on to a robotic stacker and transferred on to rack storage for onward distribution across the UK.

The name of Hugh King is to be retained but a subtle rebranding of the silos to incorporate some of the features of the Tillicoultry Quarries logo is giving a fresh, invigorated look to company. Other than that it is business as usual!

## 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](http://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.