

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.'

REMIX HELPS KICK-START PONTYPRIDD REGENERATION

Cardiff-based contractor Willmott Dixon chose Remix Dry Mortar to provide factory-produced dry silo mortar for the recently started Taff Vale redevelopment project in Gelliwastad, Pontypridd.

The £38m scheme for client Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council aims to revitalise a previously run down former shopping precinct to act as a catalyst to drive further regeneration in the strategically important town of Pontypridd. The development will provide 14,693 m² of office space for over 1,000 people, a striking gateway building incorporating a 21st century library, leisure and fitness centre, community facilities, a promenade along the River Taff and public realm and highway works.

The architectural and interior design was developed by Cardiff-based DarntonB3 architects. The Remix technical department worked closely with the design team consisting of Willmott Dixon, DarntonB3 and the client, to ensure the right mortar selection to complement the masonry units being used. The team chose a designation iii natural yellow mortar, supplied in accordance with the requirements of BS EN 998-2 via one 35- tonne capacity mortar silo. This will cater for approximately 240,000 Petersen Tegl D71 facing bricks and Creswell Black T2



engineering bricks required for the masonry element of the scheme.

Managing director of Willmott Dixon in Wales and the West, Neal Stephens, said: 'We are delighted to have been appointed for this flagship project for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and together we will create an exciting new chapter for Pontypridd's future. We will also support the council's vision to inject new prosperity into the region by using local businesses whenever possible during the build programme, we want to leave a lasting legacy that we will all be proud of.'

Willmott Dixon design manager, Will Jones, commented: 'The significance of this project was not lost on the construction team who worked diligently throughout to deliver an imaginative design where aesthetics are of paramount importance to the finish of the buildings. The provision of factory-produced

dry silo mortar from Remix will help achieve the consistency required which might not have been possible by providing the material in other more traditional means.'

Remix commercial manager, Mark Levenson, added: 'Willmott Dixon at Gelliwastad realised the importance of specifying factory-produced mortar to achieve the required material quality on such a prestige project. We are pleased to be able to lend them our support to help bring in the masonry package of the development on time, to specification and within budget.'

Guild of Bricklayers skills competition – MIA continues sponsorship

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

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 of 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.



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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.