

**Producer members**

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

**Breedon Aggregates 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)

**Hanson 0845 845 6699**

[www.hanson.biz](http://www.hanson.biz)

**Hugh King & Co 01294 557515**

[www.hughking.co.uk](http://www.hughking.co.uk)

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

(Liverpool)

**Marshall Watts Mix 01262 675383**

[www.wattsmix.com](http://www.wattsmix.com)

**Premier Mortars 0345 3013030**

[www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars](http://www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars)

**RTU 02890 851441**

[www.rtu.co.uk](http://www.rtu.co.uk) (Belfast)

**Remix Dry Mortar Ltd 01329 231200**

[www.remixdrymortar.co.uk](http://www.remixdrymortar.co.uk)

**Smiths Concrete Ltd 01295 278177**

[www.smithsconcrete.co.uk](http://www.smithsconcrete.co.uk) (Oxfordshire)

**Tarmac Building Products 08701 116116**

[www.tarmacbuildingproducts.co.uk](http://www.tarmacbuildingproducts.co.uk)

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**MIA sponsors National Bricklaying Awards**



Winner of the junior section of the Guild's north west region competition, Joe Higginson of Bury College, receives his trophy from the guild's vice president, John Howe (right) and regional chairman, Jeff Dunn.

**Guild of Bricklayers national bricklayers' competitions in 2015 are being sponsored by the Mortar Industry Association (MIA).**

Association members are supplying free of charge, factory-produced mortars for each of the ten regional competitions and for the grand final to be held at the Leeds College of Building on 17 June. MIA has also sponsored a trophy for the ultimate winner.

Competitions are organised by the Guild of Bricklayers and held at colleges around the country offering construction courses. There are two competition grades: junior for new industry entrants with little or no site experience and working towards S/NVQ / diploma level and senior for trainees working towards S/NVQ/diploma level 3.

Each college within a region is allowed one competitor at each level

Four regional competitions have already been held, those for Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, the North West, Wales and the West Midlands.

At a recent MIA executive meeting, representatives of the guild emphasised there is no shortage of quality bricklayers in the UK, contrary to many recent media reports. Their message was simple: if you need a bricklayer contact your nearest college offering construction courses for help and advice.

MIA director, Brian James, said: 'MIA member products play such a fundamental role in the UK construction industry it makes great sense for us to help support the training and development of young bricklayers to ensure we have the necessary skills available to continue to build the houses, schools and commercial buildings we so desperately need.'



The MIA sponsored trophy

## Remix dry silo mortar for Friars Walk shopping centre, Newport



The Friars Walk development

**Treforest-based contractor Millisun has chosen Remix Dry Mortar to provide factory-produced, dry silo mortar to the new Friars Walk shopping centre at Usk Plaza, Newport.**

The £100m, eighteen-month scheme for client Newport City Council, was started in April 2014 and is due for completion in October 2015. Developer Queensberry Real Estate has tasked main contractor Bowmer and Kirkland to construct a shopping centre of 390,000 square feet (36,230 square metres) of retail and leisure space. This will include a full-offer Debenhams store, 36 other retail units, 13 restaurants and a Cineworld multiplex cinema, all supported by a 350-space car park and bus station. Designed to integrate a network of covered streets to create an all-weather destination, the three-storey Debenhams store situated at the north of the development will resolve differences in street levels to encourage pedestrian activity.

The masonry element of the project has a contract value for Millisun of over £4m and has to be completed within twelve months from a site start in August 2014.

The scheme's architectural design was developed by London-based Leslie Jones Architects. The Remix technical department worked closely with the design team consisting of client, Leslie Jones, Queensberry Real Estate and Bowmer and Kirkland, to ensure the right mortar selection to complement the masonry units being used. The team chose a designation iii natural light mortar, designation iii and designation i extra dark black mortar, all supplied to BS EN 998-2 via three, 35-tonnes capacity mortar silos. This will cater for the 32,000 square metres of W D Lewis dense 140mm 7n paint-grade concrete blocks and the 1,900 square metres of Wieneberger Hectic Black bricks that are specified for the works in Millisun's sub contract masonry package.

Paul Sargent of Queensberry Real Estate said: 'Lying between the River Usk and Newport's existing retail core, the scheme aims to reconnect a disjointed part of the cityscape and create a cohesive, attractive and accessible urban space. Construction is on target for the first shops to open on schedule and the initial retail fit outs are already underway. This bears testament to the commitment and capabilities

of the contractors and their suppliers. The scheme is of enormous importance to the city of Newport and we are delighted to be able to play our part in regenerating the city centre and foresee, on completion, the creation of approximately 1,200 jobs which will be worth around £15m in salaries per year to the local economy.'

Millisun managing director, Chris White, said: 'We have specified factory-produced dry silo mortar from Remix as it contains a guaranteed cement content, controlled air and workability aid contained within guaranteed mix proportions which will provide us with a durable mortar less susceptible to frost attack and exhibiting superior resistance to rain penetration which was a concern at design stage due to the exposure to the elements of the development's eastern flank.'

Remix commercial manager Mark Leveson said: 'Millisun recognised that specifying the use of factory-produced mortar at Friars Walk would be of paramount importance due to the site's exposed location near the River Usk which meant that the integrity of the mortar and its durability needed to be of the highest quality. Millisun has decided that this would be best achieved by using dry silo mortar from Remix and not by providing the material by other more traditional means.'

## MIA exhibits at Eco Build



MIA demonstrations at Eco Build

**Block laying demonstrations at the MIA exhibit within the Concrete and Masonry Pavilion at this year's Eco Build exhibition in London drew great interest from visitors.**

Trainee bricklayers from Barking & Dagenham College demonstrated their skills on a stand that also showed a mini dry mortar dispensing silo/mixer and a range of standard details for where floors go into walls, with weatherproofing and thermal requirements

## New home registrations up

**New homes registered in the UK increased by 23% in the rolling quarter December 2014 to February 2015 compared to the same period last year, says the NHBC.**

A total of 36,505 new homes were registered compared to 29,681. The private sector recorded 28,139 registrations compared to 21,373 (+32%) a year ago with the public sector showing a marginal one per cent increase with 8,366 new homes compared to 8,308.

NHBC chief executive, Mike Quinton, said: 'We are very pleased that the growth we saw throughout last year has continued into 2015, with our latest figures clearly showing that registrations are up on 2014 levels for the last three months, which is great news for the industry.

'However, we have been clear that we are building way below the level of homes that our country so desperately needs, therefore it is important that we keep up this momentum.'



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