

Carpet recycling: UK hears of US success

OVER 8,000 tonnes of carpets were recycled in the UK last year, according to Kate Chappell of Carpet Recycling UK. She was speaking at the organisation's first annual conference at the NSPCC Training Centre in Leicester, rated as a great success. It was attended by 100 people.

However, it is clear that the UK is some way behind America where

500,000 tonnes cumulative recycling level has been achieved.

The US record was explained by the keynote speaker Frank Hurd, chairman of Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) outlined their success in creating value from carpet materials.

Three members of CARE also attended to share their experiences from carpet collection and sorting to new processes for fibre recovery.

Frank Hurd stressed the importance of outlets to translate recyclates into new products. In break out groups the audience had the opportunity to focus on particular outlets: Energy recovery from carpet wastes; land applications for wool carpets; and roadstone products from bitumen backed tiles.

Representatives from three companies – Shredding Services, Axion Consulting and Cleanstream – later presented first hand experiences and case studies on starting collection, processing,



re-use, and raw material recovery.

Networking opportunities also included displays from machinery suppliers, Bolton University, and recyclers.

The day concluded with a panel discussion on sources of funding and the potential for government support.

Carpet Recycling UK set out the

route towards sustainable funding and stressed the importance of majority support from carpet manufacturers and all other members of the carpet value chain.

A new membership drive supported by an industry based board of directors will be launched in the autumn.

To join Carpet Recycling UK contact Kate Chappell.

■ kate@carpetrecyclinguk.com
■ T: 07787 160169

Crackdown on waste planned

SEVERAL main contractors are reportedly considering charging subcontractors or dropping them from future work if they fail to hit targets for site waste.

Among them are Wates and Bovis Lend Lease which work with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the government's waste quango, to cut the waste sent to landfill by their supply chain.

This follows the government's decision to raise landfill taxes by £8 a tonne every April until at least 2013. At that point the levy will have reached £72 a tonne.

Wates, which aims to send no non-hazardous waste to landfill by 2010, is currently developing a financial system with WRAP to measure subcontractors' performance against 'challenging' waste levels.

Rachel Woolliscroft, Wates' group sustainability manager, says: 'Subcontractors would be incentivised both financially and through increased work on our projects; or penalised financially and through falling down our supplier list.'

Bovis has refused to rule out charging and relegating suppliers and specialists as it works out how to achieve a 70% cut by 2010 in the 600,000 of waste sent to landfill in 2007.

All building projects over £300,000 must have a site waste management plan (SWMP) containing details on the type and quantity of waste generated on site.

Battle against illegal logging hots up

THE London-based Environmental Investigation Agency, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, has vowed to intensify its fight against illegal logging.

EIA is working closely with MEPs, the European Union and other bodies to secure the best possible package of new legislation to prevent imports of illegally logged rainforest timber into the European Union and the UK.

The agency is also continuing to monitor the use of endangered rainforest timber in the flooring sector around Europe, with a focus on merbau wood.

Its investigators continue to work



The threatened merbau tree targeted by illegal loggers

on the ground in Indonesia to document illegal logging, and to follow the timber trail to other

countries in the region and end markets.

They are also gathering information on links between companies and individuals formerly involved in illegal logging operations and the quasi-legal palm oil plantation business.

The Environmental Investigation Agency is an independent organisation committed to bringing about change that protects the natural world from environmental crime and abuse.

It also campaigns against ivory and elephant poaching and the illegal trade in tigers and other Asian big cats. ■ www.eia-international.org

Business in brief

Allied in administration

Allied Carpets is in administration. However, administrator BDO Stoy Hayward quickly sold 51 of its 217 stores, saving 400 jobs. Meanwhile Britain's biggest carpet retailer Carpetright reported a 72% slump in profits in the year to May 2.

Forbo looks positive

Forbo reports that acquisitions made last year, including Bonar Floors, boosted net sales by 10%, although international revenue declined overall during the first six months of 2009, despite a good performance in some key markets.

Floor firms shape up

Over half of 1,000 floorcoverings companies analysed are rated strong or good financially, despite the recession, says a new Plimsoll survey. Average sales are up 4.4%, profit margins at 3.5%, debt levels virtually eliminated, and sales of £138,000 per employee. But 284 firms are rated 'caution' or 'danger'.

Edel buys finisher

Edel International, Dutch parent company of Edel Telenzo Carpets UK, is to buy its yarn finishing supplier, Yarnco. Based near Edel in Holland, Yarnco will remain independently operated and continue to offer yarn finishing to other carpet and yarn producers.

Pattern for success

Meritmill (UK), manufacturer of carpet pattern books and shade cards, has begun a rigorous lean manufacturing training programme, involving its 90 staff, to increase productivity, reduce waste, improve quality and maximise efficiency.

Worst may be over

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which represents the 30 most industrialised nations, says the recession is near the bottom, but that recovery will be 'weak and fragile' for some time. It forecasts that UK output will fall by 4.3% in 2009 and not grow in 2010.

Confidence levels up

The British Chambers of Commerce reports a rise in business confidence between April and June, but expects unemployment to hit 3.2m next year.

Signs of recovery

The commercial property market is seeing the first signs of recovery, says CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) Monthly Index to June. However, property values are 44% below their mid-2007 peak.

Carpet sector growth expected from 2012

THE UK carpet market is forecast to reach a total of £1,173.8m in 2013, according to a new survey by MBD. Growth is anticipated to resume a year earlier after a dramatic decline during the recession.

The shock forecast is that the carpet market could plunge by a massive 9% this year followed by a further drop of 2% in 2010. This is mainly a reflection of the current economic downturn, the slowdown in the housing market as well as in new construction output. However, the survey also notes that carpets continue to face the threat of substitution by smooth floorcoverings.

The forecast contraction of the carpet market contrasts with increases of 6% and 1% in 2006 and 2007.

Demand from the domestic sector is expected to continue to account for the largest share of the UK carpet market during the forecast period, anticipated to represent 58% of the market in 2013. But carpets will also continue to face strong pressure from alternative smooth floorcoverings, including engineered and solid wood, vinyl and ceramic tiles.

Overall, sales of domestic carpets are forecast to decline by a cumulative 8% in real terms compared with 2008, to £685.5m in 2013.

Contract carpet sales are forecast to decline by 8% in real terms between 2008 and 2013, to £488.3m in the latter year. This is believed to reflect the decision by many companies to delay unnecessary purchases during times of economic uncertainty, and a move towards other forms of flooring.

Tufteds are expected to continue

UK carpet market (£m at 2008 prices)			
	DOMESTIC	CONTRACT	TOTAL
2009	£680.6m	£481.0m	£1,161.6m
2010	£663.1m	£471.0m	£1,134.1m
2011	£668.6m	£475.7m	£1,144.3m
2012	£676.8m	£482.1m	£1,158.8m
2013	£685.5m	£488.3m	£1,173.8m

Source: MBD forecasts

Good news ..

THE 2012 London Olympics and the forecast increases in construction output from 2011 onwards is expected to benefit the contract carpet market.

After a 4% fall in construction this year and negative growth expected in 2010, MBD quotes figures predicting a 2% to 3% annual growth rate in building work from 2011, boosted by the work for the Olympics.

to dominate the carpet market, accounting for a projected 75% of total sales in 2013. However, MBD anticipates that between 2008 and 2010, sales of tufted carpets will decline by a significant 9% in real terms, reflecting the uncertain economic conditions.

However, moderate growth is forecast for the following three years. Nonetheless overall sales are expected to decline by 5% in real terms compared with 2008, to £876.4m (at 2008) prices in 2013. This partly reflects the predicted return to growth in the construction market.

Woven carpets will fare even worse with a steady decline except

for a marginal rise expected in 2012, according to the survey. Between 2008 and 2013, woven carpet sales are expected to decline by a disconcerting 20% in real terms, to £181.2m (at 2008 prices) in the latter year.

This downward trend is partly attributed to the increase of tufted carpets imported from places such as China, which is looking to expand its machine-based production of tufted carpets, as well as the economic downturn.

Needlepunch carpets are expected to remain at 4% of the total carpet market. However, a 16% decline this year, followed by a 2% fall in 2010 are anticipated. This sector is being hit by the slowdown in UK car production.

However the government car scrappage incentive scheme and the more prosperous outlook from 2011 onwards should boost sales of needlepunch carpets, anticipated to increase moderately after 2011. Nonetheless overall the value of the needlepunch sector is expected to decline by 11%, compared with 2008, to £52.1m in 2013 (at 2008 prices).

Contact MBD for details:

■ www.mbditd.co.uk
 ■ T: 0161 236 6845

UK carpet market by construction type (£m at 2008 prices)					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Tufted	£856.7m	£837.0m	£847.4m	£858.9m	£876.4m
Woven	£189.8m	£184.3m	£182.9m	£184.7m	£181.2m
Fibrebonded	£50.8m	£49.7m	£50.4m	£51.0m	£52.1m
Rugs	£12.6m	£12.3m	£12.3m	£12.4m	£12.6m
Other	£51.8m	£50.9m	£54.4m	£51.8m	£51.5m
TOTAL	£1,161.6m	£1,134.1m	£1,144.3m	£1,158.8m	£1,173.8m

Source: MBD forecasts

Industry in brief

Prompt payment bid

The Resin Flooring Association, FeRFA, has signed up to the Prompt Payment Code set up by the Institute of Credit Management and the government.
www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk

NHS backs 30 days

Contractors bidding for a place on Procure 21+, the NHS' revised major scheme framework, must pay sub-contractors within 30 days.

Advice on borrowing

Forum of Private Business (FPB) has launched a new video advice service to tell business owners how to be successful with lenders.
www.smallbusinesschannel.co.uk

Anger on CITB grant hike

The CITB-ConstructionSkills move to cut grant rates by 10% is causing anger. Last year, 23,500 employers claimed grants of £176m.

School building stalled

New Barbour ABI research reveals 35 primary and secondary school projects on hold, awaiting funding of around £122.5m.

Sustainable opt out

The new building regulations do not require contractors working on extensions to improve energy efficiency of the whole building, it has been announced.

Ageism review planned

A government review next year could make it illegal to sack someone who wants to work beyond the retirement age of 65.

Children at play alert

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is warning contractors to be alert for children playing on construction sites this summer.

Too busy for blogs

Over 70% of small businesses don't have time to update website blogs, says a new survey.

Queens award entries

Flooring companies can now apply for the 2010 Queen's awards for enterprise. The deadline is October 30. www.queensawards.org.uk

Minimum wage raised

The minimum wage for workers aged 22 and over rises to £5.80 an hour in October; for 18-21-year-olds it rises to £4.83; and for those 16 and 17 it becomes £3.57.

Architects fees advice

RIBA president Sunand Prasad is urging architects not to cut fees to win work.

Allegations of 'subbie bashing' spark appeal to government

NSCC urges fair pay charter in Scotland

THE National Specialist Contractors Council (NSCC), which includes the CFA among its members, is to ask the Scottish government's procurement chief to consider a Scottish Fair Payment Charter after accusations that contractors have delayed or reduced a high proportion of payments subcontractors.

Reports of pressurising subcontractors, known as 'subbie bashing', have been made to the NSCC by a number of members.

Jo Simcock, senior policy manager of the NSCC, says: 'Prompt payment is the life-blood of small business; without it employers can't invest in their business or in health and safety and training, and ultimately without it businesses will fail.'

One of those builders in question later issued a statement implying that one of the disputes about payment was the result of below-standard work by subcontractors.

The firm reportedly added: 'We always adhere to a policy of best practice and demand the highest standards of work from our subcontractors. Regrettably there are rare occasions when subcontractors fail to deliver work of the required and agreed standard.'

'As a direct consequence, payment can be withheld until such times as the work is completed to the required and agreed standard and specification.'

The Glasgow Sunday Herald, which reported on this matter, quotes Andy Willox, Scottish policy convener of the Federation of Small Business Scotland, describing late payment as 'the hidden handbrake on Scotland's small business economy'.

He concludes: 'Late payment is one of the top causes of business failure and those firms handed large public contracts should be expected to treat their subcontractors with respect and pay them on time.'

■ www.fairpaymentcampaign.co.uk

Grim outlook, says products body

THE outlook for the construction industry deteriorated sharply over the second quarter of 2009, according to the Construction Products Association (CPA).

It expects output to fall by 16% in 2009, compared with the April forecast, which indicated a 12% decline. Prospects for 2010 are also worse with a further 5% fall forecast compared to 3.4% the last survey.

No significant rise in construction output is now expected until 2012 and by the end of 2013 the industry will recover only to the 1999 levels, says the CPA.

CPA chief executive Michael Ankers says: 'Although the private sector housing market has experienced some small improvement over the last few months, such is the scale of the downturn that we are still only forecasting there will be 72,000 new

'Government investment is the only bright spot'

— Michael Ankers, CPA chief executive



houses built this year, the lowest figure since 1924 and over 20% below the number started in 2008.

'The sharpest falls in output are in the commercial and industrial sectors with investment in new office, retail and industrial building having halted. Output on commercial work will fall by more than 40% in just two years.'

'The only bright spots are the continued investment by government in its education and health programmes. Without these the industry would be in an even worse state.'

'The real concern is that with the current state of the public finances,

cuts in these government funded schemes are almost inevitable after the next election and it is very doubtful that there will be any significant recovery in private sector investment to fill the gap.

'The impact of the recession on the construction industry has already been devastating, with hundreds of thousands of jobs lost and people with key skills leaving the industry.'

'Manufacturing capacity has also been severely reduced and lack of skills and capacity will be a serious constraint on the pace at which the industry can recover.'

Other key CPA forecasts are:

■ Offices construction to fall by 50% in less than two years.

■ Retail new build to fall by 42% by the end of 2010.

■ Industrial construction in 2011 to be worth less than half its value in 2007.

Delighted customer wins a free tiling job

STEVENAGE resident Ian Moore asked tiler Andy Howard to do his kitchen, after finding him on www.tilerworld.com

Ian then posted a rating of Andy's work and was automatically entered in the monthly free draw, which he won, the prize being the £320 cost of the project. Ian was delighted with Andy's work, saying: 'The job was done perfectly with excellent products used.'

Each month, one lucky customer wins the value of their tiling, up to £1,000. The site allows consumers to find professional tilers in their area and compare each one's ratings from previous customers.

Over 6,000 fixers have already registered with the site.

They can upload photographs of their work. The site is free to use for both tilers and their customers.

■ www.tilerworld.com



Ian Moore (left) and tiler Andy Howard

Industry in brief

New to CFA council

New CFA Council members elected are Karl Brannigan of Ultrafloor (Instarmac Group), Alan Dewhurst of Business Flooring, Beverley McFarlane of Tyndale Flooring and Tony Mathe of Hillside Contracts.

CFA welcomes recruits

New Contract Flooring Association members include contractors Sees Flooring of Ongar in Essex and Russell Flooring of Halifax; manufacturer Morrells Woodfinishes and consultant Pete Thomas.

NSCC stands out

The National Specialist Contractors' Council has been short-listed for the Trade Association Forum (TAF) best practice awards for its e-brochure on pre-qualification via the Builder's Profile. www.nsc.org.uk www.buildersprofile.co.uk

Online job matching

A new job auction site allows smaller firms to compete with bigger ones bidding for local jobs. Subscription starts at £5.99 a month. www.ejobdone.co.uk

Fewer call for help

Calls to the National Federation of Builders helpline have fallen since March when 167 members sought advice on redundancy.

Tenders 'are being cut'

Small contractors are reducing tenders to 'dangerously low levels', says a new survey from consultancy Rider Levett Bucknall.

Workloads still falling

Despite talk of recovery the Federation of Master Builders survey for April to June finds 49% small-to-medium builders suffering declining workloads. Only 3% reported an increase.

High costs of red tape

Small construction firms, including flooring contractors, lose £1.1bn annually due to government-imposed red tape, says the Forum of Private Business.

Architects are gloomy

Over 92% of over 4,000 architects across Europe are pessimistic, says the Architects' Council of Europe. But most UK architects surveyed are 'slightly more positive'.

Job loss forecast

Over 450,000 construction jobs could be lost next year if output declines by 12% as forecast, says the Construction Skills Network.

CFA man is elected president of NSCC

PAST president of the Contract Flooring Association (CFA) Hamish MacGregor has been elected as president of the National Specialist Contractors' Council (NSCC).

Hamish is md of MacGregor Flooring Company, which he founded in 1985 following a management buyout.

He has been active in the flooring industry for many years and a leading member of the CFA.

He succeeds Simon Bottomley, of Balsham Buildings, a member of the Rural and Industrial Design and Building Association (RIDBA), who has led NSCC since November 2006.

Commenting on his new role,



Hamish MacGregor vows to focus on progressing the fair payment campaign, easing pre-qualification via the Builder's Profile and promoting training and apprenticeships

Hamish says: 'It is an honour to be elected to the position of president, and I look forward to working with members to take NSCC from strength to strength.'

'The focus of my presidency will be on progressing NSCC's three key issues, the Fair Payment Campaign, a solution to the problem of prequalification via

the Builder's Profile, and safeguarding the future of the industry by training the workforce and in particular apprentices.'

David Jones of Classic Excel, president of the Association of Interior Specialists (AIS), was elected senior vice president of the NSCC.

■ www.nsc.org.uk

Latham celebrates first anniversary in Scotland

OVER 100 customers and 25 suppliers recently attended a celebration of the first birthday of the Scottish depot of timber and panel products distributor **JAMES LATHAM**.

Although the company is over 250-years-old, the Scottish depot, just off the M8, was formed last year.

David Landsburgh, site manager, comments: 'The support from our suppliers on the day was fantastic, with some travelling from as far afield as Italy and Holland!'

Sika and Bona were among suppliers which gave presentations throughout the day with demonstrations on laying Bausen flooring using a no nails gluing system and finishing untreated floors.

A helicopter ride over Glasgow and surrounding area was enjoyed by 20 lucky customers whose names came up in a prize draw.

■ www.lathamtimber.co.uk ■ T: 01698 838 777

RIGHT: Latham's top brass at the first anniversary of the Scottish depot - from the left, Chris Sutton, director; David Landsburgh, site manager (Scotland); David Dunnow, group finance director; Andrew Wright, director; & Peter Latham, chairman



Instarmac staff raises £3,000 for charity

STAFF of **INSTARMAC** recently presented a cheque for £3195 to the Gentlemen's Night Out (GNO), a charity which supports individuals and organisations and to those that do not have the ability to raise funds themselves.

All money raised by GNO goes directly to beneficiaries without any deductions for administrative or other overheads.

Instarmac staff participated in sponsored events, dress down days and even employee charity calendars to continue to raise

money for this charity.

www.thegentlemensnightout.co.uk

BELOW: (Left to right): Matthew Coleman & Carl Brown (production operatives),

Angeline Marsh (sales co-ordinator), Lynne Flavell (marketing co-ordinator), James Warwick (materials technologist) and Arnie Kaplin, GNO chairman



The UK in brief

Ardex gift to college

Ardex has donated high visibility vests to Northumberland College for wall and floor tiling students in Level 1 and 2 NVQ courses.

Big Shots cashes in

Sponsorship of the Furnishing Trades Benevolent Association (FTBA) annual Big Shots clay pigeon shooting competition raised over £10,000. www.ftba.co.uk

Environmental award

InterfaceFLOR is one of the 12 companies recognised in the 2009 Business Commitment to the Environment (BCE) environmental leadership awards.

Wobbly floor worries

Dampers have reportedly had to be fitted to the top floor gallery of a new £24m West End office block. The opening was delayed because the floor apparently vibrated when people walked on it. The effect was described as like being on the wobbly Millennium bridge.

Stability 'will return'

Public sector construction project starts are forecast to stabilise in second half of 2009 as promised government investment begins to filter through, says the Glenigan Index for June.

America most attractive

The United States offers the best opportunities for UK construction firms, according to new research. Other countries with good prospects include Canada, China, Japan and Saudi Arabia.

Wood for carbon storage

An international conference on carbon storage in wood products will be held in Brussels on September 1. Email for details: roadmap@cei-bois.org

Have you heard?

Many ready to sacrifice

Over half of employees would rather work reduced hours than see colleagues made redundant, according to new research covering 30 global organisations. It's argued that it is more cost effective to reduce a salary by 5% than to make 5% of the workforce redundant because there are no severance payments; it also prevents a possible exodus among survivors, in some instances creating losses much greater than the cuts achieved through the layoffs.

Amtico is fined £75,000 after worker loses finger

AMTICO has been fined £75,000 (and ordered to pay costs of nearly £25,000) after an employee lost a finger and suffered severe burns and crush injuries to his hand while working on unguarded heavy machinery.

Coventry Crown Court heard that this was the company's third safety breach in six years. After the two previous incidents in 2003 and 2006, involving guarding and injured hands, Amtico had been fined £10,000 and £40,000 respectively.

Ian Burrige, aged 44, was injured in September 2007 while he was trying to clear a blockage in a calendar

machine, which comprises heated rollers that stretch the vinyl flooring. His left glove became caught between the high-speed rollers, resulting in his injuries.

The court was told that the fixed guarding on the machine had been removed because frequent access was needed into the internal workings.

Amtico apologised for the accident and said it had now complied with the HSE's improvement notice.

The machine in question has since been guarded and an interlock added to prevent it from working at dangerous speeds while blockages are being cleared.

Customer service: 'Kiss goodbye to clients who don't get no satisfaction!'

KEEPING clients happy is vital to avoid losing valuable business, says new research from independent invoice financier



Jason Heath
Bibby Financial Services.

Jason Heath, Bibby's construction finance specialist, describes client satisfaction as the holy grail for firms wanting to survive the downturn. Despite the focus on reducing costs, he recommends investment in customer service levels.

While two thirds (65%) of bosses in construction are actively pursuing new business to ride out the recession, 49% appreciate the importance of protecting existing revenue by raising customer service levels. In fact, 35% are increasing hospitality spend as a means of retaining existing customers.

Furthermore, 54% of bosses surveyed are also trying to balance the books by negotiating better terms with their own suppliers. And over a third (37%) are now more transparent with clients and

35% of construction firms are increasing hospitality spending

customers, for example by revealing future business plans.

However, managing late payment and improving cashflow remains a

major concern for 57% of small and medium sized construction firms.

Jason Heath, explains: 'The important thing is for bosses to look at all aspects of cashflow, whether they need to tackle increasing late payment, or change their pricing structure to stimulate client interest.'

Landsdon expands in North East

LANDSDON has opened another distribution centre, Carpet and Flooring, Gateshead, to give the North East a 24 hour delivery service.

Laura Gillicead, branch manager, says: 'These are difficult trading times for any business servicing the construction industry and therefore we are particularly proud of our initial results.'

'The flooring industry experience of the team at Gateshead totals over 55 years and this, together with the support, experience and brand strength of the wider Landsdon Group is the secret of our success.'

■ www.cfscarpets.co.uk ■ T: 0844 824 3121



Fermacell opens UK distribution centre

XELLA Dry Lining Systems, which manufactures of Fermacell gypsum fibre board, has opened a 110,000sq ft UK distribution centre in Immingham, North East Lincolnshire, to serve builders' merchants nationwide.

Norfolkline Logistics will provide international and domestic transportation, as well as UK warehousing.

Bill Barker (pictured right) has been appointed as Fermacell's national builders' merchant account manager. Bill has six years experience in the sector, primarily as a branch manager with the then Manchester depot of Murdocks, later acquired by Wolseley.

Tim Deathridge, general manager of Xella Dry Lining Systems (UK), comments: 'The Immingham centre will enable us to will enable us to deliver a single pallet upwards to anywhere in the country within 72 hours, whilst offering a next day service for accessory

orders. Despite the current economic downturn we are looking for substantial growth in this market over the next 12 months.'

Fermacell board is 100% recycled and recyclable, designed to improve the overall BREEAM rating of a building. ■ www.fermacelldrylining.co.uk

■ T: 0870 609 0306



Products in brief

Vinyl eco-calculator

The European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute (ERFMI) has a free online tool to calculate EPD (Environmental Product Declarations) data for most types of resilient flooring on project, building type and durability. www.erfmi.com

Pergo license offer

Pergo is offering its fold-down technology for glueless flooring under license to all manufacturers of laminate flooring. Pergo's PerfectFold Clip can reportedly be used with any known click system. www.pergo.com

Ageing wood concept

Wood You Like has introduced a non-toxic ageing wood concept for oak flooring designed to bring back the original patina of original oak parquet floors (or floorboards) after sanding. www.woodyoulike.co.uk

Ardex grout colours

Ardex-Flex FL grey rapid setting flexible grout now has 32 colours. The colour range was wrongly attributed to another Ardex product in the June issue due to a typographical, for which we apologise. T: 01440 714939 www.ardex.co.uk

Polysafe A rating

The BRE Green Guide A rating has been awarded to the entire Polysafe range of sheet vinyl safety floors from Polyflor. www.polyflor.com

Stone Circle online

Manufacturer of natural stone products Stone Circle has a new website. www.stone-circle.com

Tile website launched

Tile and stone retailer Tile Depot has launched a new website. www.thetiledpot.co.uk

Floor slates launched

Welsh Slate has launched a range of flooring slates from 10mm to 80mm thick in a variety of sizes, www.welshslate.com.

Course on using stone

The Stone Federation Great Britain has a two-day course in London on using stone in building on November 4-5. T: 01303 856123

US wood industry

The US hardwood flooring industry includes fewer than 100 manufacturers, with combined annual revenue of about £1bn producing around 500m board feet (mmbf), comprising strips (80% of the market), planks, and parquet, says a new report.

OBE for CPA chief executive

MICHAEL ANKERS,

(right) chief executive of The Construction Products Association has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday honours list for 'services to the construction industry'.

During 20 years in the industry Michael has been director at the Chartered Institute of Building and chief executive of the Brick



Development Association. In 1999 he set up the Construction Products Association, joined by 23 major companies in the industry and 43 sector trade associations, representing over 85% of the £40bn UK construction products industry.

Michael is also a member of the 2016 Zero Carbon Task Group and is non-executive director of the British Board of Agrément. Until the end of last year he was chairman of the CBI Trade Association Council.

Karndean md stands down

MARTIN BELL,

(right) who was md at Karndean for 17 years, has left the company to pursue his other business interests. Mark Sefton, who is Karndean's global ceo, will be acting md at Karndean in the UK until a new person is recruited.



Calvin follows his dad to F Ball and is still there after 25 years

CALVIN HAMBLETON (right), warehouse operator at F Ball and Co, receives a gold watch from the company's chairman, Geoffrey Ball, as a token of appreciation for his 25 years of dedicated service and hard work.

Calvin, who is 43, joined the company in 1984. His father, Terry, was also employed by F Ball for 28 years, until his retirement in 2004.



PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE

Edel Telenzo's Midlands representative **JIM OSBORNE** has now added Northern Ireland to the territories he covers. The Dutch company employs a further nine agents covering the rest of the UK. Jim used to work for Northern Ireland-based carpet manufacturer Spence Bryson before they closed in the 1990s.

Steico has appointed **CRAIG COLLIGAN** as regional sales manager for the North of England, Scotland and Ireland. Craig has extensive timber industry experience in both manufacturing and distribution, over 11 years, including regional technical sales management positions with Boise Engineered Wood Products, Egger UK and Arnold Laver. He has a degree in business and international marketing at the



Jim Osborne



Craig Colligan



Austin Simmons



Holger Burkhardt

University of Northumbria.

AUSTIN SIMMONS has been appointed as chief executive SATRA, the research and technology centre, succeeding Richard Turner who retired at the end of June. Mr Simmons was deputy chief executive from 2007. He will be only the seventh person to hold the position in SATRA's 90 years.

HOLGER BURKHARDT is the new head of marketing at Hamberger Flooring. Before

starting at Germany's biggest parquet manufacturer, Holger Burkhardt was Head of Marketing & Communication at Weidmüller Interface GmbH & Co. KG, and was in charge of Brand Communication and Public Relations at Rodenstock GmbH, amongst others.

CARL VERSTRAELEN is the new chief financial officer of Balta Group. He was previously CFO of Amylum Group, Lhoist Group and Agfa HealthCare.

Events in brief

Scottish Italian night

CFA Scottish region has an Italian night, including a meal, at Hamilton Park Racecourse on August 12. Doors open at 3.50pm. Contact the CFA. T: 0115 941 1126

CFA Anglia region date

CFA Anglia region meets at Altro in Letchworth, on September 16 from 1.30pm with a buffet lunch. T: 0115 941 1126

Recycling exhibition

A recycling and waste management show is on at the NEC, Birmingham, from September 15-17, featuring over 500 exhibitors and seminars. www.rwmexhibition.com

FTBA golf date

The FTBA 2009 golf championship is on September 17 at The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield. It is a singles Stableford handicap competition. T: 020 7256 5954 or email: info@ftba.co.uk

Grand Designs is coming

Grand Designs Live Birmingham is at the NEC, Birmingham from October 9-11. T: 0871 230 5586 www.granddesignslive.com

AICA conference

The Association of Independent Construction Adjudicators (AICA) has a conference on October 29. www.aica-adjudication.co.uk T: 0844 249 5353

Domotex 'interest up'

Domotex, the international trade fair for carpets and floorcoverings, in Germany (January 16-19, 2010) is receiving 'strong interest' from companies wanting to exhibit, say the organisers. www.domotex.de

World visits Dubai

Almost 90% of the 215 exhibitors at Domotex Middle East last May were from abroad. The show, which drew 5,000 visitors, takes place again next year from May 10-12. www.domotex.de

TWO NEW CARPET TILE QUALITIES

CANASTA: A heavy contract nylon structured loop pile carpet tile in 12 stocked colours

PATIENCE: A heavy contract nylon cut pile carpet tile in 8 stocked colours

Checkmate

Contract Carpets Specified With Confidence

Checkmate Carpets Ltd, Bridge House, Bridge Street, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1HT Tel: 01787 477272 Fax: 01787 476334