



# **Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers NATIONAL NEWSLETTER**

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**Welcome to another edition of your National Newsletter.**



**The National Officers wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year**

**We hope to see you at Branch and National Events in 2026 and we thank you for your continued membership and support to the CMPE.**



**CMPE Wessex Branch**

Wessex Branch will be holding their Annual Christmas Party on Saturday 13th December 2025.

This is always a very enjoyable occasion and reservations are being taken by Angie Farrington who can be contacted at [info@mjfarrington.co.uk](mailto:info@mjfarrington.co.uk)

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**Glasgow Branch**

The Glasgow branch had their Christmas meal to round off the year at the Riva in Bothwell, Lanarkshire. Not everyone could attend but the majority of the members were in attendance.

The meal was sponsored by Versatile Plant Ltd and a great night was had by all.



*From left to right: **Hugh Brown, Allan Toal, Adam Bruce, Willie MacFadyn, Davie Black, John McGrath***



## **Preston & Fylde Branch**

The Preston & Fylde branch had 32 members and guests enjoying a night fun and games at their annual Christmas Party. The meal was a three-course festive meal, followed by the Bar Steward who sang for 45mins or so, this was followed by Ian Quinns usual raffle display raising £170. The quiz went on throughout the evening which had the usual arguments about the answers. Everyone had good and enjoyable evening, even if we didn't solve the Marzipan or Icing dispute.











**CMPE**

**62nd NAGM Weekend**

**19th—21st June 2026**



**The Stanwick Hotel**

West Way  
Stanwick  
Northants  
NN9 6QY



The current National Vice Chairman Gerry Hill is pleased to host the 62nd NAGM of the CMPE at The Stanwick Hotel.

Nestled amidst the breathtaking Northamptonshire countryside, The Stanwick Hotel is a charming gem that combines the allure of a mock Tudor house with the elegance of bespoke renovations. With two acres of landscaped gardens, a restaurant, bars and built around two beautiful courtyards.

Rushden lakes shopping centre is just 4 miles for anyone wanting to explore.

**Costs:**

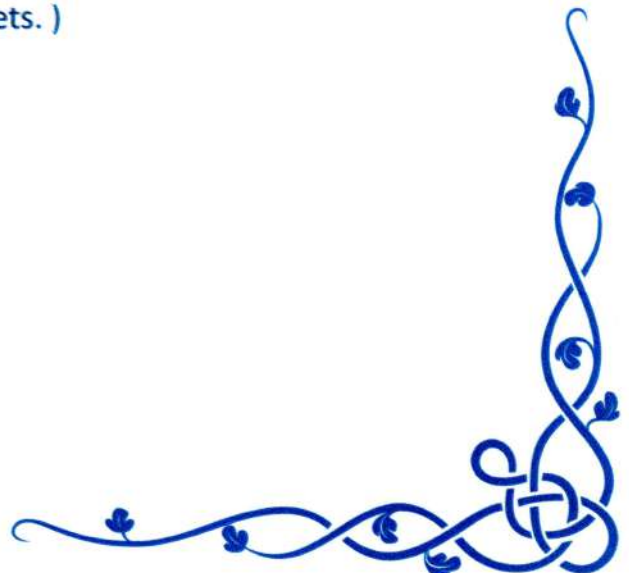
(Weekend costs do not include Dinner Dance Tickets. )

Couples weekend £350.00

Single weekend £295.00

Saturday night B&B £125.00

Dinner Dance Tickets £45.00 per person.





More information regarding this weekend shall be circulated when more details are available. However we are taking bookings from now.

The CMPE National Annual General Meeting Weekends are a great way to socialise and are always an enjoyable experience. Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

#### **How to Book:**

Please email or phone Grace Tidbury to book your room and advise of any dietary requirements.

[cmpesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:cmpesecretary@gmail.com)

07473 264539

Payments should be made to:

The Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers

Sort Code: 20-42-58 Account No: 30801135

Reference: Your name DD26

#### **Costs:**

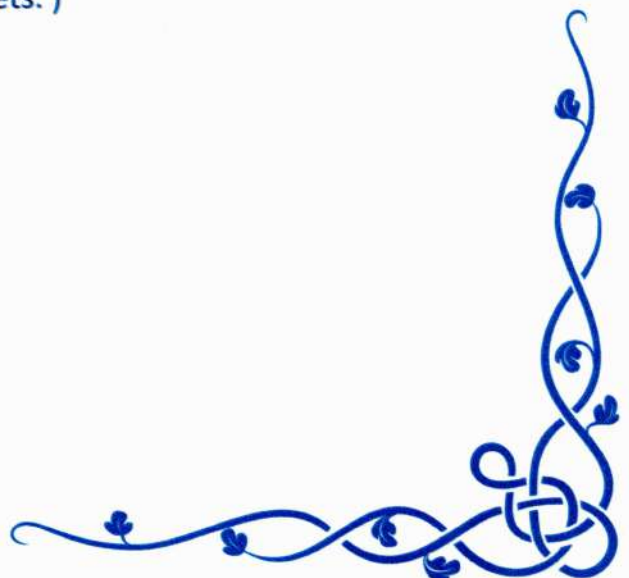
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## Industry News

### **Illegal workers pulled off Vistry site.**



An immigration enforcement operation resulted in 17 men being removed from a construction site in East Sussex last month.

A Home Office immigration enforcement team and Sussex Police officers attended a Vistry house-building site in Bexhill on 12th November, where they detained 17 men of Albanian, Georgian and Indian nationalities deemed to be working illegally.

According to the BBC, a civil penalty referral notice was also issued to the employer, which means a fine of up to £60,000 per worker if found to have employed illegal workers.

The report quoted a Home Office spokesperson who said that four of the men had been detained for removal from the UK while the remainder were placed on immigration bail.

The Home Office says there has been a 63% increase in illegal working arrests in the past year in the UK.

Chief immigration officer in the southeast, Harry Taylor, said: "This operation sends a clear signal that we are coming down hard on illegal working and there is no hiding place from the law."

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### **Fox drops Hurt brand.**



Hurt Plant Hire has officially rebranded to Fox Brothers (Leyland) Ltd, trading as Fox Group.

When Blackpool-based haulage contractor Fox Brothers' acquired Clive Hurt Plant Hire and sister company CMP Plant Hire in September 2020, it was the start of a transformative period of growth by acquisition.

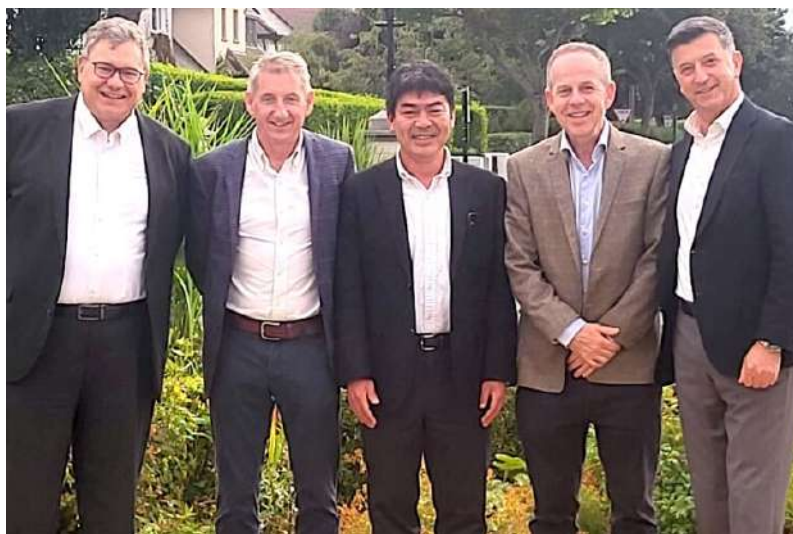
Now the Hurt name is being dropped.

The rebranding of Hurt Plant comes a year after Stellex Capital Management acquired a majority stake in Fox Brothers.

“This rebrand marks a proud milestone in our journey,” said Paul Fox, chief executive of Fox Group. “Hurt Plant Hire has been a valuable part of our group since 2020. Bringing it under the Fox name is not only the natural next step but a strategic move that supports our continued growth, strengthens our market presence, and delivers greater value to our customers.”



## **McHale to buy Marubeni-Komatsu and become UK Komatsu distributor.**



Above: Shown left to right are Tito Baldan (Komatsu), Tim Shanahan (McHale), Tadashi Maeda (Komatsu), Michael McHale and Göksel Güner (Komatsu)

Ireland's Mchale Plant Sales has entered into an agreement to acquire Marubeni-Komatsu Ltd along with the sole rights to distribute Komatsu construction and utility equipment across the UK.

After more than 50 years of trading, Japanese trading conglomerate Marubeni is selling its UK construction machinery distribution business to Mchale Plant Sales, one of Ireland's leading distributors of construction, quarrying, recycling, forestry and agricultural equipment.

To support the transition, Komatsu Europe will take a minority shareholding in Mchale Plant Sales.

Following completion of the transition on 1st January 2026 (subject to regulatory approval), the company plans to trade as Mchale Komatsu in the UK.

Redditch-based Marubeni-Komatsu Ltd was founded in the UK in 1972 as the sole distributor for Komatsu construction and utility equipment.

Its most recently filed accounts show a 22% fall in turnover in the year to 31st March 2024, from £213.6m to £167.4m, with pre-tax profit slipping from £7.7m to £4.5m.

Michael McHale, chairman of Mchale Plant Sales, said: “This is a proud moment for our team. The Komatsu brand has been central to our success in Ireland for many years, and with our enhanced distribution reach we are now in a position to bring our customer-focused approach, experience, and dedication to excellence to the UK. We look forward very much to working with our new colleagues to deliver on our plans.”

McHale Plant Sales says that it plans to maintain all existing distribution branches, ensuring continuity of service for customers, while investing further in customer support.



It also said that it will continue to honour all existing warranties and maintenance contracts.

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## **Thwaites expands factory.**



*Above: Cutting the ribbon on the new building*

Site dumper manufacturer Thwaites has expanded its production capacity by 15% with a new factory building.

A new 4,000 sqm production building is in the final stages of commissioning at the Thwaites factory in Cubbington, near Leamington Spa.

Constructed by Midlands regional contractor Interclass on budget and on time over a 71-week build programme, the facility is on course to be fully operational in early 2026. It will house the production and parts teams, reducing movement between

the two supporting functions, improving efficiency and increasing production capacity by 15%.

Thwaites described it as the most significant factory investment in its 88-year history.

The new factory has been fitted with 1,483 roof solar panels, potentially delivering up to 33% of the sites future power needs, as well as 36 electric vehicle charging points for employees and visitors.

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## **HE Services places £25m Komatsu order.**

HE Services (Plant Hire) has ordered more than 250 new Komatsu machines.

The £25m order with dealer Marubeni-Komatsu is one of the biggest that HE Services has ever placed and represents a substantial fleet upgrade.

The 250+ new machines range from compact 1.5-tonne excavators to 49-tonne models, and will be used to replace and upgrade the existing fleet across the hire company's nationwide network.



Plant and transport manager Richard Stevens said: "This investment demonstrates our ongoing promise to provide the highest standard of machines to our customers. Komatsu equipment is known for its performance, reliability and operator comfort. These new additions will further strengthen our ability to serve the growing demands of the construction and infrastructure sectors throughout the UK."

Deliveries of the new machines will take place in stages, continuing into next year. As they arrive, the machines will be distributed across HE Services' network of 11 depots, including Ashford, Cardiff, Durham and Daventry.

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## **Komatsu hails versatility of its new compact loader.**

Komatsu Europe reckons that its WA170M-11 is the most one of the most versatile wheeled loaders on the market in the 10-tonne weight class.



Komatsu's latest compact wheeled loader has multiple loader linkage options to boost its versatility.

Before it entered mass production, Komatsu intensified its testing programme, extending the standard 100 hours of testing to a 500 hour trial.

Developed and produced by Komatsu Germany GmbH in Hannover, the WA170M-11 is now available with two different loader

linkages following rigorous testing. In addition to the classic Z-kinematics, Komatsu is offering its Tool Linkage kinematics, known from larger models, for the first time in this class.





## **Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers**

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