



Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to another edition of your National Newsletter.

CMPE NEWS

CMPE National AGM Weekend - 19th to 21st June 2026

The books are closed, the dancing shoes are packed away, and we are still buzzing from the incredible success of our recent 62nd National Annual General Meeting (NAGM), held at the wonderful Stanwick Hotel in Northamptonshire.

We set the tone for the weekend on Friday evening with a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Attendees were treated to a fabulous, comforting British classic—a choice of perfectly crisp fish & chips or a hearty pie & chips. The food was absolutely top-tier, but the entertainment took it to the next level. The brilliant James Reynolds treated us to a fantastic selection of songs that completely won over the room, getting everyone singing along at the tables and dancing well into the night. However when Mustang Sally started to play, our very own Michael Farrington had to take over the microphone, its his song after all.

On Saturday morning, our members gathered for the core purpose of our weekend: the official AGM. Thanks to the focus and cooperation of everyone in attendance, the meeting ran smoothly and was concluded in excellent time. This efficiency gave our members a well-deserved opportunity to unwind, network, and enjoy a beautiful afternoon. The sunshine made an appearance, providing the perfect backdrop for catching up with old friends and enjoying a relaxing drink or, maybe two.

The pinnacle of the weekend was undoubtedly the Saturday night Gala Dinner. The Stanwick Hotel outdid themselves with a spectacular, beautifully presented three-course meal. Once dinner was concluded, The Retro Beats took to the stage, the band was fantastic and had us up dancing, and of course we did the "Hucklebuck"!

While the networking and celebrations are vital, our community's generosity always shines through. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that over the course of the weekend, we raised an incredible £1,255 for Teddies for Loving Care (TLC)! This fantastic sum will go directly toward providing comfort to children in distress in hospitals, and we couldn't be prouder of our members' immense kindness.

An event of this scale doesn't just happen. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to:-

The management and staff at The Stanwick Hotel for their flawless service and hospitality.

Our entertainers, James Reynolds and The Retro Beats, for keeping the energy so high.

Our dedicated committee and members, whose continued support is the lifeblood of the CMPE.

Our Sponsors, M.J.Farrington Ltd, CMPE Wessex Branch, Unipas Services, Wharf Distillery, F and I Groundworks.

Thank You!

Grace Tidbury
CMPE National Secretary.



Gerald Hill, CMPE National Chairman presenting the cheque to the charity Teddies for Loving Care

CMPE Preston & Fylde Branch.

Friday 26th June 2026 the Preston & Fylde Branch went on an evening 2.5 hour cruise along the Lancaster Canal. We had the whole barge to ourselves. It was a pleasant and sunny evening sailing from 6.30pm to 9.15pm.

We were treated to a fish and chip supper and afterwards we had a 60 question quiz which was won by Katherine and Mark Hindle.

The bar on board was open for the whole cruise which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Our congratulations to Kingfisher Cruises for a well organised cruise.



Preston & Fylde Branch members & guests enjoying an evening cruise along the Lancaster Canal



Industry News

Severn Trent picks Tracto for pipe bursting.

As Severn Trent gets underway with renewals under AMP8, it has chosen to use a trenchless technique known as pipe bursting, and tools from supplier Tracto.

In pipe bursting, a new pipe is pushed through a damaged or unreliable old pipe, 'bursting' the old infrastructure into the surrounding ground and replacing it with new, without the need for digging.

AMP8 calls for more use of trenchless techniques, and Severn Trent, with millions of customers to serve, had planned to adopt the technique. The water company turned to Tracto, who supplied four Grundoburst 400G pipe bursting units.

The company selected the units for their flexibility and ability to repair pipes from 2in to 10in. The units feature unique ladder rods, which allow them to tackle bends with a radius up to 35mm.

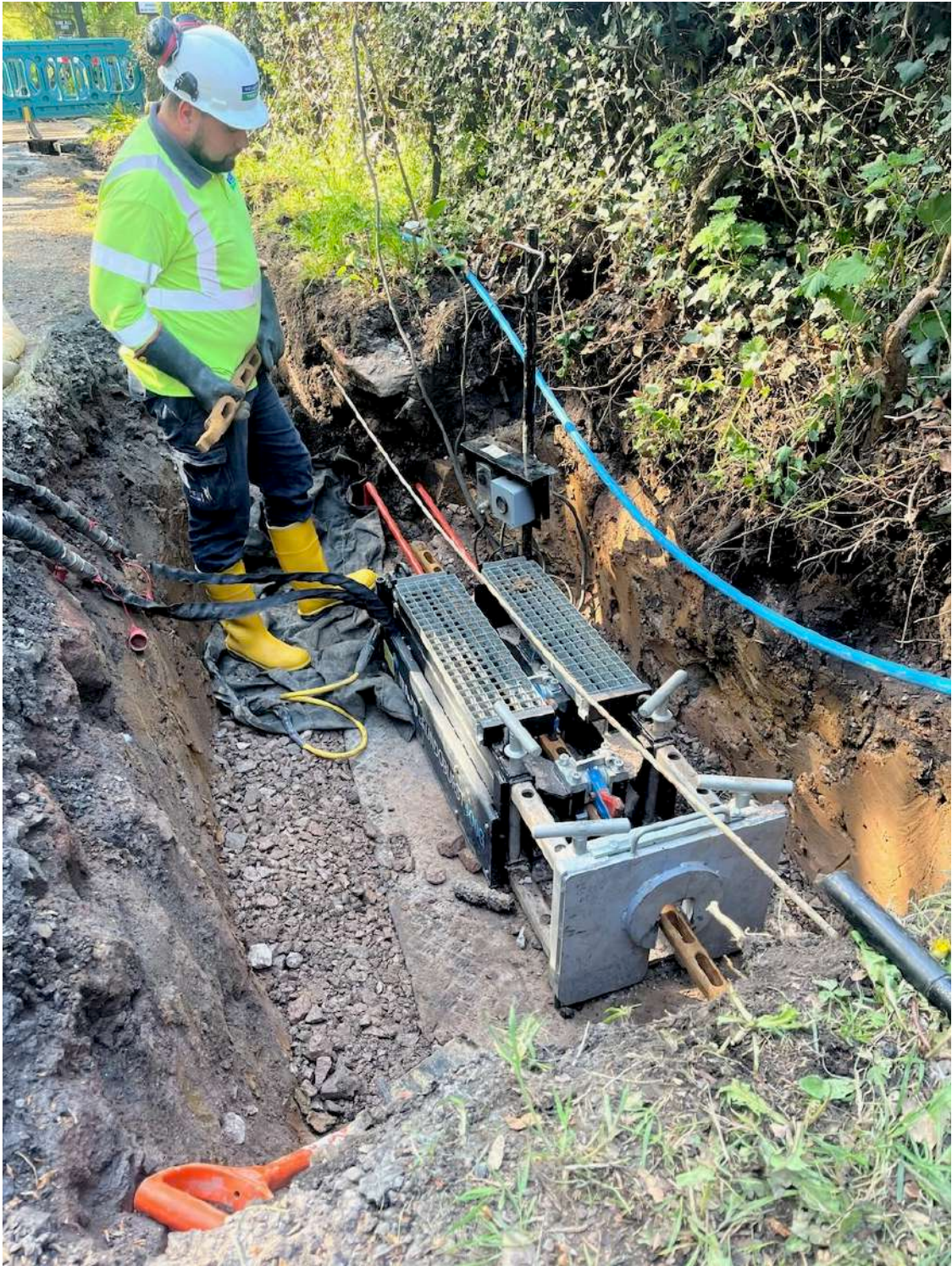
A total of 150 operators were trained at Tracto throughout 2025 and bursting operator, Arnie Bailey, a highly qualified trainer, demonstrator and trenchless consultant has also since supported the teams on site to help with the initial bursts.

At Bagnall in Stoke on Trent, one of the new machines has completed 950m of pipe renewal services along a road with aging infrastructure and severe burst pipe issues. Lawrence Twiddy, Severn Trent network construction manager for Staffordshire, attended the machine training and also arranged for practical support on the first burst.

"Arnie was very knowledgeable and competent and was really helpful in assisting us with the first burst in Bagnall," Twiddy says. "The team has successfully burst the whole job now and are extremely happy with the kit. This technique and rig will be a revelation for us over the coming four years left in AMP8."



Above: A Grundoburst 400G pipe bursting unit



Above: Severn Trent at work in Bagnall



Ausa launches 9t dumper with new safety system.

Ausa has launched a 9t reversible dumper, the DR902AHG, and a new safety system, Ausa AI Vision, offering improved person-detection.



The DR902AHG is an all-new reversible dumper combining a 9-tonne payload capacity with safety systems designed to improve visibility and protect workers around the machine.

Ausa AI Vision comes standard on the new 9-tonne model and will be available as an option on other dumpers across the AUSA range, extending the technology's benefits to a wider range of customers and applications.

"Dumpers are among the most widely used machines on construction sites; historically, though, the visibility limitations around the machine have created challenges for equipment operators and crews," said Albert Hidalgo, Ausa's R&D director.

"With the launch of our new DR902AHG and the introduction of the Ausa AI Vision safety system, we are taking a significant step forward in helping operators identify hazards, protect workers on the ground and create safer job sites. This technology reflects Ausa's commitment to leading the industry through innovation."

Ausa AI Vision combines five strategically positioned cameras, artificial intelligence and radar technology to help eliminate blind spots, identify nearby workers and provide real-time visual and audible alerts. Designed specifically for dumper applications, the system continuously monitors the area around the machine and supports operators in making more informed decisions while manoeuvring and transporting materials.

A radar unit installed on the skip side complements the camera system. While AI Vision focuses on detecting people, the radar identifies objects and obstacles around the machine. The radar extends the detection range beyond the camera system's 5-m coverage, dynamically adjusting warning distances based on machine speed to provide operators with additional reaction time.

The DR902AHG is designed for a variety of applications, including road construction, industrial developments, infrastructure projects and large-scale construction sites outside urban environments.

Alongside its 9t payload capacity, it offers a reversible driving position and swivel-skip configuration. It is powered by a 55.4kW Deutz engine.



Roadhouse sticks with JCB for new homes

Roadhouse Building & Civil Engineering director George Light's family has been buying JCBs for forty years. He stuck with the British manufacturer when he needed a fleet to build 181 new homes in Rochester.

The company recently went on a shopping spree at dealer Greenshields JCB. Their haul included JCB 18Z-1 and 35Z-1 mini excavators, 145XR and 220X tracked excavators, a 540-140 Loadall telescopic handler, three-nine-tonne site dumpers, a compaction roller and a tracked Dumpster. The company performs its own civils and groundwork, and the new fleet will support every stage of the new build development, Manor Farm, from earthworks through to final finishes.

For director George Light, the connection with the manufacturer has a personal element. "My family has bought JCB for 40 years. I remember in the 1990s Lord Bamford gave me a personal tour of the original JCB factory and what stayed with me most was the respect he had for every single employee and how important he said it was to look after your people. That's something I've carried into Roadhouse.

"We've tested other manufacturers over the years, but we've found that no one can beat JCB for build quality, reliability and the level of sales and aftersales support. The performance we get is excellent and our operators really value the comfort, controls and versatility of the machines."



Amey launches long lasting barriers with Hill & Smith VRS.

Amey has partnered with Hill & Smith VRS to launch an innovative barrier system on National Highways maintenance projects that promises to reduce the need for repairs and reduce roadworks.

The first installation of the barriers is now underway across the Amey National Highways maintenance and response portfolio. Installation will take place as part of a phased programme, allowing the new technology to be integrated into planned maintenance activity with no additional disruption to road users.



The new system uses advanced pre-galvanised steel, offering greater durability and corrosion resistance than traditional barriers. This extends the lifespan of the asset, reducing the frequency of repairs and replacements that can lead to lane closures and delays.

By reducing maintenance needs and improving long-term performance, the solution will help keep roads open for longer, supporting more consistent journeys for road users. It also offers lower embodied carbon and fewer site interventions over its lifetime, contributing to National Highways' net zero ambitions.

Andy Jinks, regional director, Midlands, at National Highways, said: "Improving journey reliability while reducing the environmental impact of our network is a key priority for National Highways. Innovations like this developed and delivered in partnership with our supply chain help us reduce the need for maintenance interventions, minimise disruption for road users and support our net zero ambitions.

"The introduction of longer-lasting, lower-carbon materials plays an important role in how we continue to evolve the network to meet future demands."



Atlas Copco launches mobile charging station.

Atlas Copco has launched a mobile towable rapid charging station, the FCS 220-240, delivering 232kWh, over 220 kW DC and 50 KW AC outputs, and weighing 3.5t.

The mobile charging station is designed for electric vehicles and equipment such as excavators, loaders and trucks. It is IP55 rated for dust and water, and aims to be easy to transport and deploy.

Customer tests have shown that the FCS 220-240 can deliver up to five additional operating hours per day for a single hour of charging. Multiple connectors enable simultaneous charging of multiple machines, increasing overall site productivity.



The unit also features charge-to-recharge capability, allowing it to be recharged via grid connections, EV infrastructure or generators while continuing to supply power. This ensures continuous operation even in demanding or remote environments.

Dynamic Load Management allows the system to balance charging demand with auxiliary power requirements, including up to 50 kW AC output for additional site loads.

The system also features multi-level user access, allowing site managers and rental companies to define permissions for different users, from basic operation to full system configuration. This makes it easier to manage multiple contractors on busy worksites or control access across rental fleets, ensuring safe, efficient and accountable use of the equipment.

Integrated RFID authentication enables secure, on-machine access control, with the option to support payment and user management via OCPP protocols. Remote monitoring and management further allow rental companies to track usage, adjust settings and support customers in real time.





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