



November 2008

NEWS FROM THE QUARRY IN KILKENNY AND THE FACTORY IN STRADBALLY, LAOIS

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Fantini chain saws can cut stone without water and grind up the cut stone to a fine powder.

Cutting tips are a new technology called PKDs Polycrystalline Diamonds.

Approximate cutting speed is 8 m² per hour.

This saw can cut to a max. of 7 metres depth.

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Two Fantini Stone quarry chain saws opening up the new top area of the quarry.



Threecastles Quarry in October 08

Tony Bergin keeping a close eye on the new Fantini.

Cutting side by side

In August, a second Fantini chain saw arrived from Italy and immediately was put into production at the quarry in Threecastles. This will speed up our production of block and help us open the new top section of the quarry. This is where the old monumental beds are and we will be quarrying beds now that have not seen the light of day in the last 40 years. The stone quality is superb and with the new chain saw, it will mean a steady supply of 1st choice monumental Threecastles limestone.

This new chainsaw is a major investment and our two 10 ton Fantini's are the only two of their kind in Ireland. They are the Rolls Royce of Quarry saws and their output and reliability make them well worth the money.



PJ Lalor , 45 years service in the quarry and still going strong.



Five AXIS CNC sawing Technology now in Stradbally .

In March 2007 we received our first Quadrix CNC saw .

One year later in March 2008 , we installed our second CNC saw.

The saw can cut in Circles !

It can cut horizontally , vertically and up to 45 deg angle .

It can engrave letters.

It can carve in bas-relief.

It's accuracy is spot on.

It opens up possibilities in stone work that were not achievable before

We can take CAD drawings and feed them into directly into the saw and away it cuts.

If you can draw it in CAD we can cut and shape it .

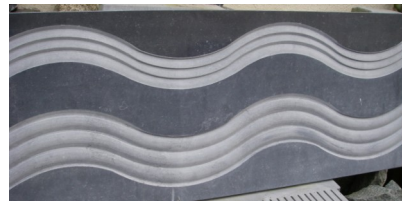
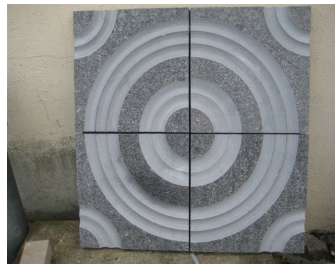


The "Quadrix SPD" is a numerically controlled 5-axis bridge swing, milling and shaping machine.

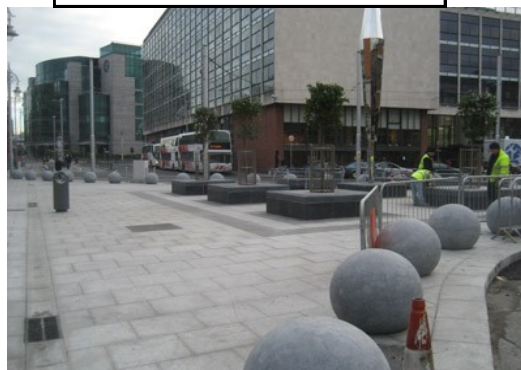
The quadrix SPD can cut orthogonal, oblique, circular, elliptical and inclined cuts as well as straight, concave and convex shaping work. The worktable is a fixed bench, which reduces downtime otherwise due to the need to rotate the table when making orthogonal or non-square cuts. This machine delivers products cut with the utmost precision.

The disc motor is an electro spindle whereby it can accommodate diamond discs of various diameter (600-1100), diamond tools can also be fastened by means of an "ISO 40 Cone" to allow you to do milling, engraving and bas-relief work. This machine can perform 3D jobs such as hollows, shower trays, sinks, bas-reliefs, engravings and columns with lathe. CAD generated files can be transferred to the machine via a USB drive. The Control Panel is a touch screen colour monitor and user friendly. If you can draw it this machine can produce it whether in limestone, granite or marble. Finally with a skilful and enthusiastic operator the Quadrix SPD has no boundaries.

New designs, patterns and profiles now possible with the CNC Saw



33 of 800mm Spherical Bollards made with this Saw (Store St , Dublin)



Solid limestone details profiled on this CNC saw

**THREE
CASTLES**

SINCE 1730



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The Pellegrini Machine - Flaming , Bushhammering and Texturing



A new addition from Pellegrini to the Stradbally operation .

The primary function of this machine is finishing raw sawn slabs to a “dark mottled” finish called flamed and also a lighter coloured “rough/speckled “ finish called bush hammered. The flaming process is very fast approx. 10-15 m2 per hour and has only one operator. The slabs are loaded onto a motorized table and are fed through the flaming machine, where they are processed and washed under high pressure . At this stage the slabs are fed onto another table where they are unloaded and ready for production. There is no down time as this process is continuous. All you need is plenty of raw material.

This machine can also be set up with special equipment for finishes such as chiselling, scratching and various degrees of bush hammering (soft, rough, speckled etc.). The maximum width of stone this machine can process is 2000cm wide & lengths can vary. It can flame as small as 2cm up to a max of 20cm and from 2cm to a max of 15cm for bush hammering.

Flamed finish is used for paving stones and also for wall cladding . Recent flamed cladding work was 1500 m2 for Tesco in Maynooth . In Limerick over 1000m2 was used for pedestrian paving in the city centre.

Limestone has the unique ability to change colour and texture through different surface finishes. New technology is making this possible at affordable costs.



New LOGO for Europe's Best Blue Limestone

Jimmy Mc Keon started quarrying in Threecastles in the early 1960's. There were two quarries at that time and over time they have merged into one large quarry.

The new logo highlights the proud tradition of the area of Threecastles, Co Kilkenny. It uses the landmark Threecastles Bridge, and the 3 castles themselves which were located close to the bridge in the grounds of the old parish church of Odagh.

THREE CASTLES

SINCE 1730



KILKENNY LIMESTONE

Our quarry is located in Threecastles which has a rich tradition in quarrying limestone.

The earliest documented reference we have is in 1730 when the first machinery worked by water power was used for polishing limestone. Indeed this was the first application of mechanical power for stone processing in Ireland!

In the 1800's stone from this quarry was shipped to London for the internal restoration of Wells Cathedral 1869-76

Monumental Limestone

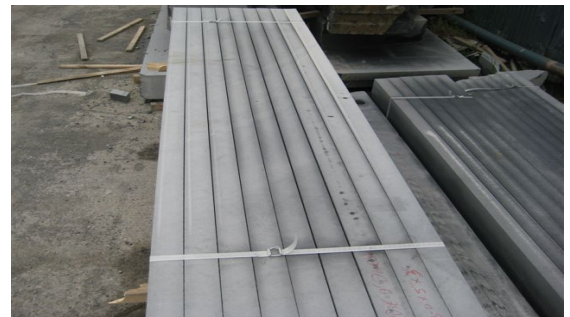
McKeon Stone is an established supplier for the past 60 years, producing top quality monumental limestone. Now with the introduction of our new Fantini Saw in our Threecastles quarry we have opened up some of the old monumental beds of limestone which are very much sought after as they are of superb quality. Also with the purchase of the 5 new saws in our Stradbally manufacturing plant we have reduced our production time.

Now is an excellent time to purchase our monumental quality limestone for all your requirements. Or if you wish you may select a monumental block in our production plant at Stradbally and from this block we can produce your order.

Our production time is two weeks from date of order.

Contact Michael or Andrea on
05786 25151

**Pallets ready
for shipping
with our new
Threecastles
Logo.**



Monumental Kerbs

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