



## Larkfleet invests in the future with new apprentices

**Housebuilder Larkfleet Homes has recruited 12 new apprentices as part of its continuing investment in training and skills development.**

The youngsters – 11 male and one female – are all aiming to qualify either as bricklayers or carpenters.



They will work on building sites with the company's contractors – including Belmont, Kestrel and Chris Morse – which will be paid by Larkfleet Homes to employ them.

The apprentices will undertake formal training and study at a number of colleges in the area, including Peterborough Regional College, New College Stamford, Grantham College and University Academy Holbeach. The apprenticeship programme is backed by the Construction Industry Training Board.

Builders' merchant Travis Perkins provided all of the apprentices with a 'starter kit' of tools and equipment to equip them for their new careers.



Larkfleet Homes chief executive Karl Hick said: **“We are delighted to see these young people start their building industry careers with Larkfleet.**

“The industry must invest in training and skills if it is to meet the needs of the future. Building is becoming increasingly complex and technical. We need a workforce that can operate confidently in this new environment.”

## Forces Help to Buy

The government's Forces Help to Buy scheme allows servicemen and servicewomen to borrow up to 50 per cent of their salary (up to a maximum of £25,000) interest-free, to buy their first home or move to another property on assignment or as their families' needs change. The money can be used towards a deposit and other costs such as solicitor's and estate agent's fees.

The scheme was due to end in 2018 but has been extended to December 2022.

**Forces Help to Buy is available to regular forces personnel who**

- Have completed the pre-requisite length of service.
- Have more than six months left to serve at the time they apply.
- Meet the right medical categories.

Servicemen and servicewomen can apply for the loan online through the Joint Personnel Administration system and can seek advice on their application through their Chain of Command and personnel agency.

Forces Help to Buy can be used alongside Help to Buy when you buy a new home from us.



Backed by  
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## Larkfleet sponsors fireworks

Larkfleet Homes was the major sponsor of Bourne Fireworks 2019 that took place at the Manning Road Playing Field in Bourne on Saturday 2 November.

Gates opened at 4:00 pm and the bonfire was lit at 4:45 pm. There was a children's firework display starting at 5:15 pm and the main fireworks started at 6:30 pm.

As well as the fireworks there was live music, a variety of food stalls, a beer tent, fairground rides and more.

The event was organised by Bourne Round Table and Bourne Abbey PTFA.

It is the fifth successive year that Larkfleet Homes has sponsored the display. Karl Hick, Larkfleet CEO, said: **“At Larkfleet we believe in supporting our local community and sponsoring the annual Bourne firework display is a great opportunity to continue on this route.”**





## Larkfleet's Solar Steam deal

The Larkfleet Group of Companies has signed a contract with Richfield Engineering of Kenya under which Richfield will manufacture Solar Steam plants for Africa, the Middle East, South East Asia and India.

Larkfleet's patented Solar Steam technology produces heat from solar radiation using plastic Fresnel lenses. Fresnel lenses are more flexible in optical design and less expensive to manufacture than conventional mirrors.

Worldwide, the demand for heat in industry represents 76 per cent of the sector's total final energy consumption and 57 per cent of this energy is needed at low or medium temperatures. Solar Steam has been developed to meet this vast demand from industry.

A particular target is the provision of reliable thermal energy for steam, hot water and cooling used in processes for the agricultural sectors. The greatest increase in demand for food, energy and water is in the 'sun belt' regions of the world which have the largest populations. Many food growers and processors in these regions are hampered by the lack of a reliable grid connection to run refrigeration plant and must rely on expensive on-site generation using fossil fuels.

The Solar Steam system might also be used to desalinate sea water or purify polluted water to produce clean drinking water.

The Fresnel lenses of the Solar Steam system focus the sun's rays onto a metal tube filled with water or other fluid which is heated by the concentrated solar radiation. The frame carrying the lenses rotates to track the movement of the sun through the sky during the day using a fully automatic system.



From left to right: Jitu Brahmabatt, managing director of Richfield Engineering; Helen Hick (managing director of The Larkfleet Group of Companies) and Karl Hick (chief executive of The Larkfleet Group of Companies) at the contract signing in Nairobi.

Karl Hick, chief executive of The Larkfleet Group of Companies, said: **"The potential market for Solar Steam is huge. Our deal with Richfield Engineering will allow us to tap into this by using Richfield's substantial experience of high-quality engineering manufacture and its extensive international business network."**

## The Larkfleet Group of Companies was delighted to be a major sponsor of the first-ever Bourne CiCLE Festival.



The group sponsored the men's cycle race which took a 174 km route around the twists and turns of the South Kesteven countryside, starting and finishing in Bourne. It was contested by approximately 140 of the UK's top male cyclists

and was watched from the roadside by several thousand spectators.

The festival was organised by South Kesteven District Council and a spokesman said: **"We couldn't run events like this without**

**support from sponsors like The Larkfleet Group of Companies."**

Following the success of this year's festival the council is now planning to make this an annual event.