

# The review

## Leading by example

**Larkfleet's investment in research and the development of innovative technologies and industry training initiatives is recognised with more awards in 2016.**



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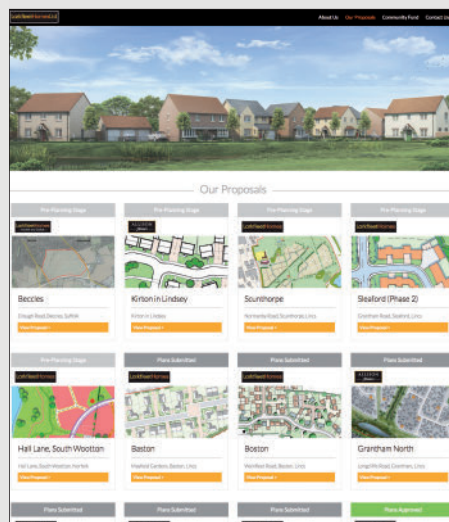
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Lark Energy is generating success, power and academic interest

# Larkfleet online

The Larkfleet Group of Companies has launched refreshed websites for Larkfleet Homes, Lark Energy and the group. We have also added two new sites with the aim of increasing engagement with our local communities about the Larkfleet Community Fund and our planning applications.



[www.larkfleetcommunity.co.uk](http://www.larkfleetcommunity.co.uk) gives details of the Larkfleet Community Fund which can help to pay for new or upgraded local facilities that the community itself decides it needs. The fund will pay up to £500 for each market house built on new developments, up to a maximum of £75,000 for each scheme. The approach is part of our overall commitment to creating sustainable communities and recognises the need to support the integration of new housing developments into existing communities.



[www.larkfleetplanning.co.uk](http://www.larkfleetplanning.co.uk) provides details of all our current planning applications, allowing people potentially affected to see exactly what and where we are planning to build.



[www.easternnewhomebuyer.com](http://www.easternnewhomebuyer.com) Eastern New Home Buyer, sponsored by Larkfleet Homes, has been relaunched and revamped to offer information to people interested in purchasing a new home in the East Midlands or East of England.

## Successful and growing...

Our social media platforms now include successful and growing **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **LinkedIn**, **Instagram**, **Pinterest** and **Snapchat** feeds for some of our individual companies and for the group as a whole.

Our email newsletter, **Building Sustainability**, focuses on our commitment to the use of sustainable construction methods and renewable energy. If you would like to be added to the circulation list,

please drop a line to the group's director of marketing, Helen Jones, at [helen.jones@larkfleetgroup.co.uk](mailto:helen.jones@larkfleetgroup.co.uk).

Our regular blog on the Larkfleet Homes site - <http://www.larkfleethomes.co.uk/larkfleet-homes-on-blogger> - contains a mixture of news about our developments, home buying and decorating tips, company news and light-hearted chat about homes and housing.

**“Digital and social media are a vital part of our marketing mix and they continue to help us engage with many different groups among our potential customers.”**

**Helen Jones**  
Director of Marketing



# New showroom for Deepings

As this edition of Larkfleet Review went to press, Larkfleet company Deepings Building and Plumbing Supplies was in the midst of moving to a new showroom on Spitfire Park in Market Deeping, just a short distance from its previous premises.

The new premises have a similar 'footprint' to the old store but have a much more convenient shape, allowing the company to pack in five times the amount of stock. Over coming weeks the team will be further expanding the range with new showrooms on the first floor for bathrooms, electrical goods, clothing, footwear and power tools.

The move has also allowed the car parking areas to be re-arranged with customers now much more easily able to get to the store from their vehicles, benefitting not just the many regular 'trade customers' but also the DIY enthusiasts who are using the business in increasing numbers.

Hayley Templeman of Deepings Building and Plumbing Supplies said: "The new store is much more 'customer-friendly' with a huge range of products on display – and when we open our new upstairs sales floor we will be able to extend into new product areas in a way that was just not possible in our old premises. Customers will be able to wander around and find what they want.

"Among all the changes, though, one thing we will be keeping is our approach to the business. We will continue to have friendly, expert, staff who can offer detailed and practical advice on selecting the right products and tools for any job, whether you are a skilled tradesman or a first-time DIY customer."

● More news in our next issue!



"The new store is much more 'customer-friendly' with a huge range of products on display"



The new Deepings Building and Plumbing Supplies store can display a wide range of products and equipment.



The new Deepings Building and Plumbing Supplies store being fitted out

## Eco Action Trumps

Larkfleet Homes has sponsored its own version of Eco Action Trumps, the card game with the clever environmental twist!

Mirroring the family favourite card game, trumps, Eco Action Trumps cards each carry a message about what you can do to help the environment whilst you beat your opponent to become eco action trump champion!

The packs are available in the show homes of each of our developments - free of charge - to Larkfleet home buyers. We hope that this fun way of picking up some energy-saving tips will help residents to cut their energy bills while keeping their new homes warm and well lit.

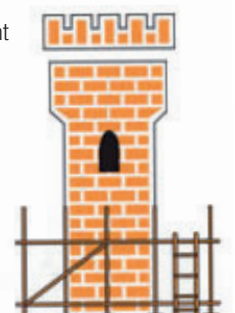


## Building up

The latest company to join The Larkfleet Group of Companies, **CastleBuild Scaffolding**, has been investing significantly in recent months.

It has brought additional talented scaffolders into the business and purchased new scaffolding equipment to meet the strong growth in demand for its services from existing and new customers.

The management team led by Tony Simpson and Lee Sylvester is building on the company's existing reputation for technical and service excellence.





# Awards hat trick



Parson's Prospects' award winning show home.

Larkfleet Homes was shortlisted for the 'Housebuilder of the Year 2016' title in the Building Awards – opening the possibility of the company picking up a hat trick of three such awards this year.



In July the company was named as 'Housebuilder of the Year' in the Construction News Awards and in February it was presented with the trophy as 'Small Housebuilder of the Year' in the HouseBuilder Awards.

Karl Hick, Larkfleet CEO, said: "We were delighted to be a finalist in another Housebuilder of the Year category – and it would have been great to secure our third such title."



Meantime, we have been picking up other awards. Larkfleet Homes won the Show Home Award for the East Midlands in this year's UK Property Awards for the Parson's Prospect show home in Eye.

The Larkfleet Group of Companies has been nominated for an international sustainable business innovation award organised by the Global Cleantech Cluster Association (GCCA), a global membership grouping for cleantech cluster organisations.

Karl Hick, CEO of The Larkfleet Group of Companies, said:

"To be nominated for such a prestigious international award is an honour for Larkfleet. We're looking forward to the results.

**"I believe we are leading the way in showing how high environmental and quality standards can be introduced practically and economically to the highly competitive housing market and across all our companies."**

**Karl Hick** Larkfleet CEO

**Helen Hick**, joint managing director of Larkfleet Homes, won a top title at the recent International Business Awards – known informally as 'The Stevies'.

Helen picked up the 'Bronze Stevie' in the category of 'Woman of the Year' and said: "The Woman of the Year category of the International Business Awards is a great platform for women to be heard. Although the number of females working in the construction industry is still relatively low, awards such as this highlight the opportunities for women.

"It is a great industry to be involved in and this award helps to demonstrate that we are getting it right at Larkfleet where women are employed throughout the company at every level."

# Charity backing



Larkfleet Homes was the main sponsor at this year's annual firework display in Bourne, further strengthening links between the company and local community.

The display was organised by Bourne Abbey Primary Academy PTFA and Bourne & District Round Table and Larkfleet was delighted to be the main sponsor for the second year.

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."

The ongoing campaign at Larkfleet to build local links includes involvement with local education, eco-projects, charity donations and a continued sponsorship programme.



Larkfleet was also one of the sponsors of the NSPCC Strictly Razzmatazz charity dinner in Peterborough. The dinner raised more than £25,000 to support disadvantaged children in the city and the surrounding areas.



# from Larkfleet...

Earlier in the year Larkfleet handed over a cheque for £2,400 to local charity Anna's Hope which offers support and information to parents and children with brain tumours.

The charity was inspired by Anna Olivia Hughes, who tragically died from a brain tumour aged only three years and eight months, and was set up by Anna's parents Rob and Carole Hughes and her five godparents in October 2006. It provides a specialist children's neuro oncology nurse who works closely with children and their families throughout their treatment at the Children's Cancer Unit at Addenbrookes Hospital and helps coordinate support at home and school.



All Larkfleet Homes sales offices took part in the world's largest coffee morning at the start of October to help raise money for the Macmillan cancer charity.

Visitors to show homes were invited to make a donation in return for a cup of coffee and a cake while staff at Larkfleet HQ baked and sold cakes to colleagues. Every pound raised has been matched by another from the company so in total we donated more than £500 to Macmillan.



Left to right: Shine CEO Kate Steele, Benny Bear and Helen Jones of Larkfleet at the start of the fundraising campaign.



Larkfleet's cheque for £2,400 is handed over to Carole Hughes (centre) by Larkfleet Homes joint managing directors Adrian Evans and Helen Hick.

## Time to Shine

Larkfleet Homes and Allison Homes are jointly sponsoring a virtual balloon race to support people affected by spina bifida and hydrocephalus (a build-up of fluid on the brain).

The race, organised by Peterborough-based charity Shine, offers people the chance to watch and track their balloon as it races to the (virtual) finish line.

Shine has been running fund-raising balloon races for about 40 years but moved them into the online world in 2009 because of concern about the environmental impact of balloons littering the countryside. People can buy a 'virtual balloon' which can then be decorated, tracked and even have its journey influenced on social media!

The Shine computer takes account of real-world weather conditions and factors such as the amount of gas in each balloon as it continuously calculates the position of each race entrant following the online 'launch'. The winning balloon is the one that travels

furthest on the virtual map.

Larkfleet is sponsoring Shine's Benny Bear New Year Balloon Race. Benny Bear is the Shine 'mascot', a character who has hydrocephalus and works with children to raise awareness of the condition and its impact.

Asif Shaheed of Shine said: "The sponsorship from Larkfleet provides essential funding which allows Shine's team to contact companies and individuals across the country and encourage them to buy a balloon in the race."

If you would like to buy a balloon in the race you can do so at [www.tiny.cc/bennyup](http://www.tiny.cc/bennyup) until the start of the race on 3 January 2017.

Helen Jones, director of marketing at Larkfleet, said: "We are delighted to sponsor The Benny Bear New Year Race as part of our programme of support for local communities and charities.

"Shine is an amazing charity and the balloon race is a fun way to raise money for a serious and worthwhile cause."



Strictly Come Dancing favourites Anton Du Beke and Erin Boag wowed guests with three amazing dance performances before posing for a picture with our CEO Karl Hick and Larkfleet Homes joint managing director Helen Hick.



# Garden village plans go



Larkfleet Homes held public exhibitions at the Haycock Hotel, Wansford, near Peterborough during October to explain the thinking behind the plans for a possible garden village at Sibson, near Peterborough, which would include 2,500 new homes.



The consultation events allowed us to explain the ideas in more detail and to listen to the views of local people. There is also an on-line survey for people to offer thoughts and feedback.

The government is currently looking for appropriate sites for a new generation of garden villages across the country. Huntingdonshire District Council has submitted an Expression of Interest to the government to explore a new garden village of 2,500 homes, plus employment land, a school, health services and shops at Sibson Aerodrome. The council has been working with the owners of the land and Larkfleet Homes which is the

prospective developer.

The Expression of Interest means that the potential opportunities that a garden village might create need to be explored further. It is not a commitment to develop the site.

Daryl Kirkland, group land director at Larkfleet Homes, said: "We are excited about the opportunity at Sibson. The creation of a brand new village gives us the chance to build the infrastructure and community services that so often cannot be provided in smaller developments.

"A key feature of our plans for Sibson is to create housing that meets the needs of local people

and can be reserved for them. We would include starter homes for young people who often can't afford to live in the villages they were born in and bungalows or smaller houses for older people who don't need the family home any more but want to continue to live in the neighbourhood.

"We share the government's view that garden villages could make a significant contribution to solving the country's housing crisis, providing attractive and accessible places for people to live and work. The creation of new settlements offers the opportunity to build infrastructure and services from the start and create sustainable, vibrant communities."

A website with details of the Expression of Interest has been launched – [www.sibsongardenvillage.com](http://www.sibsongardenvillage.com).

The government will announce which sites it has chosen as potential locations for garden villages later this year. If Sibson is selected, the council and Larkfleet Homes would work closely with local people and businesses to develop the proposals in more detail and to address the issues and opportunities that have been identified. We would then jointly decide whether to submit a formal planning application, potentially in late 2017.

## Experts discuss crisis solutions

Experts on planning, development and building gathered in Peterborough to discuss solutions to the nation's 'housing crisis' – the shortage of homes caused by the fact that the UK is not building enough new properties to meet the needs of a growing population.

The event was the second in an annual series of conferences organised by The Larkfleet Group of Companies.

Speakers included Lord Matthew Taylor, president of the National Association of Local Councils, Simon Machen who is corporate director of Peterborough City Council, and Tim Watton, technical director of planning consultancy RPS.

Lord Taylor spoke of the possibility that new garden villages could become a 'third leg' of development alongside redevelopment of former industrial land and additions to existing urban settlements. He stressed the potential benefits of garden villages for permitting the funding of infrastructure such as schools and community facilities as part of building new sustainable communities. He welcomed the fact that the government had embraced this concept and that garden villages are now part of national housing policy following an announcement in the budget in March of this year.

He told the conference: "Garden villages create long term investment opportunities aligned to development of social infrastructure. By aligning the economic interests of



# on show



## Debate housing solutions



Speakers at the Larkfleet conference – left to right: Simon Machen (Peterborough City Council), Tim Watton (RPS), Lord Matthew Taylor, Karl Hick (CEO, The Larkfleet Group of Companies).

builders, government and residents, they can make a substantial contribution to solving the housing crisis.”

Simon Machen talked about several innovative new initiatives that Peterborough City Council is undertaking to encourage the building of new homes which is, he said, the only long-term solution to meeting the housing needs of the city.

He told the conference: “Local authorities need to move beyond their traditional roles as regulators of the planning and development system to become facilitators – and even developers – in order to meet the needs of their communities.”

Tim Watton talked of the impacts of new planning legislation and the tension between neighbourhood plans drawn up by local communities – which now have a statutory role in the planning system – and the need for local councils to

meet targets for house building.

Karl Hick, CEO of The Larkfleet Group of Companies who opened the conference, said: “It was a very interesting event with some lively questions from an expert audience.”

More than 70 people attended including councillors and officers from several local authorities, architects, planners, builders, surveyors and others involved in the housing industry.

Lord Matthew Taylor speaking at the Larkfleet conference.



## New South West plans



Shaune Hicks, head of construction for Larkfleet Homes South West.

As part of our plans to expand into the South West of England with the launch of Larkfleet Homes South West we have made a new senior appointment.

Leading the team for the South West will be head of construction Shaune Hicks.

He will be advising on future land purchases and building strategies for the new company and will be managing the day-to-day operation of projects. He has gained valuable experience in similar roles, most recently with Taylor Wimpey Exeter and previously with Crest Nicholson SW.

Meanwhile, on the far side of the country,

Larkfleet Homes Norfolk and Suffolk is extending our activities from the furthest west to the furthest east of England.

Adrian Evans, joint managing director of Larkfleet Homes, said: “We are delighted to welcome Shaune to the team.

“Larkfleet Homes is at a very exciting stage of development with our initial plans for growth announced late last year now coming to fruition right across the country. We look forward to working with Shaune on our first sites in the South West at the same time as we are announcing our first developments in Norfolk.”

- Larkfleet Homes South West has established an office in Exeter and can be contacted on 01392 314050 or through [enquiries@larkfleethomes-sw.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@larkfleethomes-sw.co.uk).



# On site



Computer generated image of Parson's Prospect.

Larkfleet Homes and Allison Homes continue to expand their operations with homes being sold in more and more places.

As this issue of Larkfleet Review went to press we were selling on sites in Eye and Thorney (both near Peterborough), Weldon (Northamptonshire), Stamford, Baston and Bourne in Lincolnshire, Hempsted (in Peterborough), Oakham (Rutland) and Whittlesey (Cambridgeshire).

Within the next few weeks we will be starting sales on sites in Doddington (Cambridgeshire), Greetham (Rutland) and Colsterworth and Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire.

We have new developments and planning applications in a number of areas including the South West of England and Norfolk, through our two new brands, Larkfleet Homes South West and Larkfleet

Homes Norfolk and Suffolk.

Larkfleet Homes South West has started work on a new development of 44 houses in Creech St Michael. Larkfleet Norfolk and Suffolk has submitted an application for more than 900 new homes with a proportion of affordable housing in Beccles, Suffolk.

In order to boost the number of affordable homes that we can develop we have linked with Heylo Housing, a residential property company which is backed by a local authority pension fund investment. Larkfleet has signed a five year contract to deliver affordable shared ownership homes across the country. Initially, the agreement covers our key operational areas of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Rutland but both parties recognise the potential of expanding the contract to link with our plans to expand across the south west, Norfolk and Suffolk.



Computer generated image of Doddington Grange.

## Larkfleet continue development for

# Elevating house to beat flood risk

The Larkfleet Group of Companies has applied for planning permission to build an experimental house that could rise on jacks above flood waters. If tests are successful the house could provide a model that would enable housebuilding on thousands of sites across the UK which at present cannot be developed because of the risk of flooding.

If planning permission is granted by South Holland District Council, Larkfleet plans to build a three-bedroom detached house in Weston Hills, near Spalding, Lincolnshire that can be raised up to 1.5 metres above ground level by eight mechanical jacks.

Work on constructing the house, which will sit on a steel ring beam in place of conventional foundations, could begin early in 2017. Experiments with raising and lowering the house – including testing long-term maintenance and operation of the jacking system – will run for up to five years.

Because the house will be of modular steel-frame design it can then be disassembled and re-erected on another site on conventional foundations as a family residence.

It is anticipated that houses of this design would be jacked up well ahead of the arrival of flood waters, based on advance warnings from organisations such as the Environment Agency. However, the mechanical jacking system – powered by a central motor, gear box and drive shafts – could lift the 65 tonne house to the full 1.5 metre height above ground in less than five minutes.

Rooftop solar panels and a battery would provide the house with some continuing electricity supply when raised above the ground and the water and sewage would remain connected through flexible hoses. However, it is not envisaged that residents would remain in occupation during floods. Instead, the householders would pack up, lock up and jack up the home before taking refuge in temporary accommodation on higher ground elsewhere.



# Willingness to invest in research and development for new housing.



Karl Hick, CEO of The Larkfleet Group of Companies, said: "The elevating house effectively eliminates the risk of flood damage to homes so that more land across the country can be approved for future home building. This will help to tackle the 'housing crisis' that is being caused by the demand for new housing far exceeding the supply."

UK and international patents for the 'elevating house' are pending.



## 'Grid neutral' housing

Larkfleet Homes is fitting out one of the new houses it is building at Bourne Heights in Lincolnshire with a series of technological innovations to make it a 'grid neutral' dwelling – it will generate all the electrical power it needs.

Photovoltaic (PV) solar cells on the roof of the house and conservatory will provide electricity even on cloudy days and the power that they produce will be stored in a battery pack in the garage of the house. The battery will provide power at night, when the sun is not shining, and during the day at times of peak demand.

It will also provide power to charge an electric car in the garage overnight.

At times of peak sunshine, electricity from the PV panels will be used to heat water in addition to powering domestic appliances. Excess power will be exported to the grid. During winter the house will draw from the grid – but over a year as a whole will export as much (or more) electricity as it imports.

As well as generating power the technology in the house will minimise its use with high levels of insulation and energy-efficient appliances and lighting being installed.

Larkfleet company architect Mark Croker said: "The objective is to take a standard Larkfleet house and make it self-sufficient in electricity."

However, the new technology being tested in the house extends beyond energy to water conservation. Among the 'gadgets' that will be installed is a smart water meter which will – among other things – turn off water at the mains if it detects unusual flow patterns that indicate a leak. Another gadget will detect the water level in a bath or basin and turn off the taps to prevent flooding if they have been left unattended.

The water-related technology also includes a heat exchanger which will take energy from waste bath water and use it to heat fresh water.

## Plan submitted for 'can-float' houses



Larkfleet is a partner in a company that has submitted a planning application for a new community of more than 200 homes on the shores of a lake in Theale, Berkshire – including 24 flood-resilient 'can-float' homes.

The lake forms part of the flood attenuation system for the area and water levels could rise considerably in certain conditions. In the event of the level of water in the lake rising above the shore line the 'can float' houses do just that – rising with the waters like giant house boats.

As well as housing, the development proposals include a new sailing club and areas for nature conservation.



Larkfleet company Lark Energy has expertise in a range of renewable energy technologies, including solar photovoltaics (PV) and biomass. It is a major developer of solar farms and roof-top solar panel systems for warehouses, factories and other large buildings.



## Lark Energy in top five

Lark Energy has been ranked as one of the top solar farm developers in the UK.

Solar Power Portal, a leading renewable energy intelligence resource, carried out research ranking companies based on sites that have been brought online into the power grid or accredited. The overall ranking was calculated by cumulative megawatts finally connected.

Lark Energy was ranked as number five in the top 20 solar power companies in the UK. It has been so successful because, unlike many firms which simply administer the planning process then sell 'shovel-ready sites', Lark Energy does everything from early development to the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) work.

For example, Lark Energy Generation recently built solar PV installations of 1.1 MW on two former landfill sites in North Wales. They were constructed in record time and successfully employed innovative technology and designs for what would have previously been unfeasible sites, given extremely hilly terrain and the inability to penetrate much into the ground because the landfill's capping membrane had to be fully protected.

Lark Energy Generation is also developing tailored gas-fired CHP embedded generation products and services which deliver exceptional cost and carbon savings.



Ketton Solar Farm 12 MWp

## Lark Energy moves

Lark Energy has expanded into new premises with all its staff moving into Southfield House, the office block adjacent to Larkfleet House, headquarters of the Larkfleet Group of Companies in Bourne, Lincolnshire.

Originally based in premises in Market Deeping, Lark Energy's expansion had seen different divisions of the business move into different locations to accommodate growing staff numbers. Now they have all been brought together again under one roof.

Karl Hick, CEO of The Larkfleet Group of Companies, said: "This is a great step forward for Lark Energy. The company has made large strides and has grown from



nothing to more than 50 staff in just over five years.

"We are delighted that we have found premises in Bourne. Larkfleet has been based in the town for many years, so for Lark Energy to move closer to 'home' is particularly pleasing."

Although still relatively young, Lark Energy has already won a number of awards aimed at the renewable energy sector including categories at the Solar UK awards, The Solar Power Portal Awards, the Green Awards and the Green Apple Awards.



# Generating power – and money

A unique project built by Lark Energy has started to generate renewable power – and money for the residents of Swindon.

The Swindon Community Solar farm in Wroughton was developed by Public Power Solutions (PPS), a company wholly owned by Swindon Borough Council. The solar farm was built on low grade farm land owned by the council.

Lark Energy was appointed to manage and build the solar farm which has now been connected to the grid. It can generate enough electricity to supply the equivalent of 1,200 typical homes and save around 2,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. The site will be managed to promote biodiversity, with the land around the panels remaining in agricultural use and with sheep grazing for part of the year.

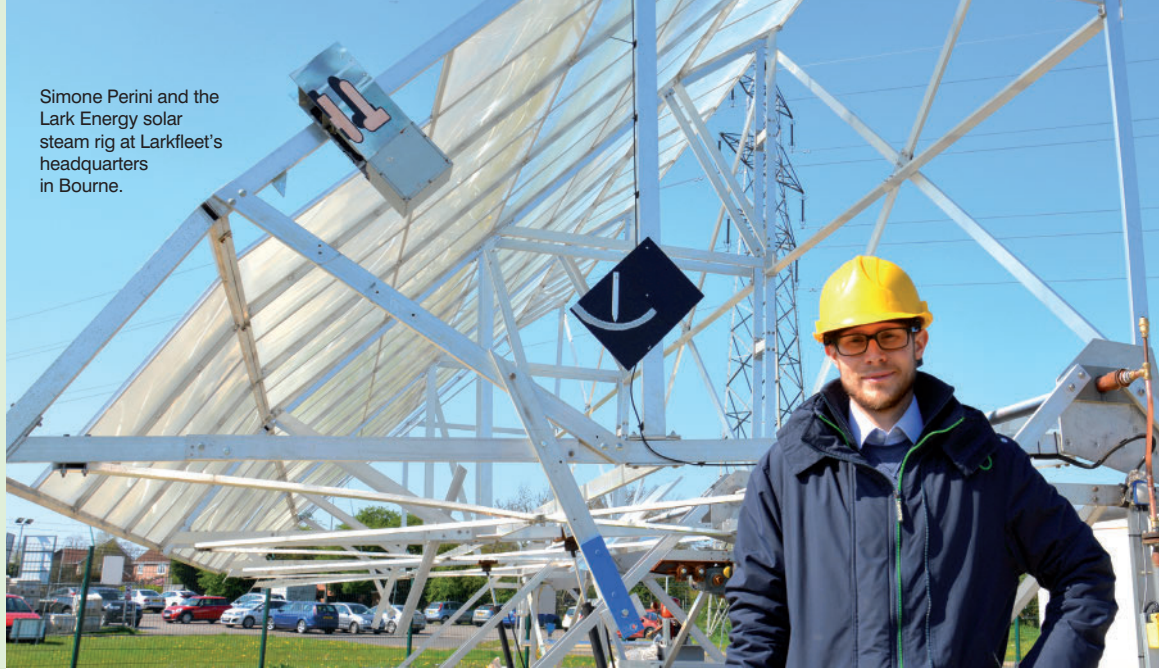
Paul Adams of Lark Energy said: "This is exactly the sort of project Lark Energy is keen to be involved in."

**"We were able to offer our extensive experience and expertise in the construction of this large solar farm project, which will ultimately benefit the local community in a number of ways."**

Uniquely, this project has been funded by a blend of public sector and community investment devised by PPS. The £4.8 million construction cost of the project was met by a £3 million investment from Swindon Borough Council plus £1.8 million raised from direct investment from the public through 'Council Solar Bonds' structured by Abundance Investment. In future, 65 per cent of the distributable profits from the solar farm will go towards funding local community initiatives, with the rest going to the council.

Lark Energy is involved in a number of large-scale solar farm projects throughout the UK.

Simone Perini and the Lark Energy solar steam rig at Larkfleet's headquarters in Bourne.



## Solar steam generates academic interest

Renewable energy technology developed by Lark Energy is to be the subject of a research paper being written by leading academics.

Dubbed 'solar steam', the Larkfleet technology concentrates the power of the sun's rays to heat water to create steam which can be used as a sustainable energy solution in industrial processes.

As part of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) researchers based at Lark Energy and Cranfield University are exploring the possibilities of the new technology. The results of their research will be submitted to peer-reviewed academic journals for publication later this year.

KTPs enable businesses to improve their productivity and competitiveness through government-funded partnerships with colleges and universities. A KTP is a three way partnership between the business, an academic institution and a recent graduate. The recent graduate is employed at the business and brings new skills and knowledge.

The academic institution benefits by having involvement in research projects and the publication of research papers. The business gains access to academic expertise that it wouldn't normally have in-house.

Dr Christopher Sansom,

**"Our research is looking into how solar steam can have a positive impact on the generation of sustainable and renewable heat."**

Associate Professor in Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) at Cranfield University, said: "An Innovate UK funded KTP is an excellent opportunity for an academic institution and a company to not only solve current technology problems but also to innovate and explore new opportunities of mutual interest."

"As a result of our KTP Cranfield University and Lark Energy continue to collaborate on solar steam for industrial process heat, water treatment, and desalination applications world-wide".

The Lark Energy/Cranfield University KTP research is looking in part into the potential for energy companies to increase renewable heat input and reduce energy costs. For example, industrial facilities that use fossil fuels to provide the thermal energy required for their processes can instead install the Larkfleet solar steam collector to generate low carbon heat.

Lark Energy's solar steam system works by focussing the sun's rays through a Fresnel lens

array onto a tube which contains water. The water is heated to create steam which can be used in industrial process heating and cooling applications.

The angle of the lens array can be adjusted through a vertical axis to track the sun and is seated on a circular track which allows the array also to follow the sun's progress horizontally across the sky. By tracking in both planes, the system maintains maximum levels of solar radiation concentrated on the tubes.

Simone Perini, Cranfield KTP graduate and renewable energy development engineer at Lark Energy, said: "Solar steam builds on existing ideas about using solar radiation to generate heat and takes them a step further."

"Our research is looking into how solar steam can have a positive impact on the generation of sustainable and renewable heat."

■ A new website - [www.solarsteam.co.uk](http://www.solarsteam.co.uk) - has been set up specifically to provide news of the project.



# Supporting GPUTC

The Larkfleet Group of Companies is a major supporter of training initiatives, not just through our own apprenticeship and graduate recruitment programmes but also through support for local colleges and sponsorship of the Greater Peterborough University Technical College (GPUTC).

We are now working closely with GPUTC, a brand new technical education facility at the Park Crescent campus in Peterborough. The state-of-the-art facility opened in September this year and houses separate engineering and construction workshops, science and computer labs as well as social and communal areas.

We are one of only three local 'employer sponsors' and have been involved right from the outset of the project, donating both cash and expertise to help get the college started.

Larkfleet CEO Karl Hick sits on the college steering group. Investing in the future of the construction industry by



supporting local young people keen to take their first steps has always been part of Larkfleet's ethos and this partnership takes this to the next stage.

90 students from GPUTC recently visited a number of industry-related sites with Larkfleet as part of our ongoing commitment to support the training of the next generation of construction professionals.

Their tour included a Larkfleet Homes housing site in

Oakham, the Larkfleet offices in Bourne and a solar farm at Hanson Cement works which was built by Lark Energy, part of The Larkfleet Group of Companies. Hanson also gave the students a tour of the cement works.

The visits offered students the opportunity to develop their interest in engineering or building and the specialisms in which they would like to advance.

# Investing in the future

Larkfleet Homes continues to invest in the future of the construction industry with its latest intake of young apprentices.

As part of a CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) apprenticeship scheme, Larkfleet is helping three budding young construction students gain invaluable experience whilst they study.

All three apprentices will work with Larkfleet's sub-contractors on developments across the East of England and East Midlands.

Larkfleet Homes joint managing director Helen Hick commented:

"Larkfleet is committed to investing in the future of young people and has been running construction apprenticeships for many years. I am delighted that we are able to help these students gain on-site experience and expertise, which will give them an excellent start to their careers in construction."

# New joint MD

Larkfleet Homes has appointed Helen Hick to the new post of joint managing director.

Helen has been instrumental in the running and growth of the business since its inception. This new appointment acknowledges the depth of her experience and knowledge, not only as part of the company but also within the industry as a whole.

Helen is a key player on the team at Larkfleet having helped husband, Karl, create and establish Larkfleet. Her previous role was human resources and

office management director but her brief has always been far reaching and included many informal aspects which have not necessarily been covered by a job title. For example, her intuitive eye for design and style means she has created a role as the interior designer for all of Larkfleet Homes' show homes. Helen's 'opposite number' as joint managing director of Larkfleet Homes is Adrian Evans who joined the company last year after 15 years as managing director of Persimmon Homes, East Midlands Division.



# Welcome aboard

Since the previous edition of Larkfleet Review we have been delighted to welcome several new senior staff including:

- **Neil Dallamore** and **Emma Rafaluk** at Lark Energy.
- **Daryl Kirkland, Sam Hart, Alex Powell, Hannah Guy** and **David Morris** at Larkfleet Homes.
- **Mark Eustace** at The Larkfleet Group of Companies.



*...better, because we care*

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