



Jeakins Weir

## Sprinkle of stardust for grand opening

### Harry Potter star officially opens £2.4m extension at Bellbird Primary School

Top of the bill for the opening of the new £2.4m extension at Bellbird Primary School in Sawston, Cambridgeshire, was film legend Warwick Davis – star of box office blockbusters including the Harry Potter and Star Wars franchises.

Warwick attended the grand opening with his wife, Sammy, and daughter, Annabelle. Having cut the ribbon and toured the fabulous new facilities, constructed by Jeakins Weir, Warwick commented: "I was delighted to be invited to officially open the new extension to the Bellbird School – it is a wonderful school and a great pleasure to attend the event."

The extension has increased the school's capacity from 300 to 420 pupils, adding five new classrooms along with toilet and cloakroom facilities. It means the school can now take in two full forms of entry each year.

Warwick Davis  
opens the  
extension with  
the help of  
his daughter  
Annabelle Davis

Photo:  
Keith Heppell



## From Alistair

Welcome to the Winter issue.

It's extremely rare to have a Hollywood star involved in one of our projects. See page 1. Actor Warwick Davis officially opened Bellbird Primary School's new extension in October and brought a touch of glamour to the village of Sawston, Cambridgeshire. Interestingly, the ceremony to mark the start of work featured prominently in the Winter 2018 issue.

It's pleasing to see the completion of another very different project and in a city versus village. We were fortunate to create a new façade to the rear of the historic Leicester Corn Exchange. It's such a recognisable building and grade II\* listed. Our work is the latest phase of a major redevelopment project that has seen the construction of a new food hall, the demolition of the old 1970s indoor market and the creation of a new public square.

In this issue we also highlight our ongoing work for NPH. We've been building homes all over the region since 1973. We take great pride in the quality of our work, the strength of the relationships we build, and the positive impact we make on the lives of individuals and communities.

I hope you enjoying reading our news. It only remains to say - Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2020!

**Alistair Weir,**  
Managing Director

Continued from front cover



The scheme was designed by Pick Everard and overseen by Cambridgeshire County Council's project managers, Faithful and Gould.

Katie Kendall, the school's headteacher, said:

**“ The children are all thoroughly enjoying their new learning spaces in the classrooms. We were so delighted that Warwick Davis could be here to make the opening such a great success. The children were really inspired to meet him.”**



## Scape quiz night

**Raises funds for Leicestershire Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy charity**

A team of budding masterminds from Jeakins Weir took part in the Annual Scape Charity Quiz Night, which raised over £4,000 for Alex's Wish. The quiz was open to teams from Scape Group partners, affiliates and Scape staff, with money raised through quiz entries and a raffle.

The Jeakins Weir team players this year were Sophie Lindsay, James Banaszak and David Sinclair. The victors were the team from framework partner Wates.



Each year, Scape Group's directors nominate a charity for its teams to support. This year's chosen charity was Alex's Wish, which provides vital funds to help bring about new treatments and ultimately a cure for this condition, for Alex and many others who have to live with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. So far this year, Scape has raised more than £17,629 for the charity.

# New wall lights up market square

## Corn Exchange facade boosts Leicester city centre regeneration

Jeakins Weir has completed work on an attractive new façade at the rear of the Grade II-listed Leicester Corn Exchange. The new structure was needed to hide the tangle of vents, fire escapes and ducts that were exposed when the adjacent 1970s-built market hall was demolished.

The hall was taken down to make way for the city's new Market Square, as part of the Leicester Market Regeneration Scheme. The Corn Exchange building was constructed in the 1850s by William Flint, and is currently home to a JD Wetherspoons bar.

The £1.9m contract was awarded to Jeakins Weir by Leicester City Council. The work involved rerouting essential



services at the rear of the Corn Exchange and constructing the elegant new facade.

As well as creating an attractive boundary along one side of the revamped market square, the new facade will be used as a large screen



to show films and other performances. The council has also revealed plans to project stories about the city's heritage onto the wall.

Once work on the wall was completed, Jeakins Weir donated the hoarding boards from the site to local arts group, Graffwerk, which creates vibrant large-scale street art. ([www.graffwerk.org](http://www.graffwerk.org))



# Scape work continues to grow

## Value of completed framework projects set to reach £2m

A contract for Corby Borough Council is the latest to be awarded to Jeakins Weir under the Scape Regional Construction framework. It involves fitting replacement windows and carrying out external decoration works on the Corby Borough Council offices at Deene House, in Corby town centre.

Jeakins Weir Managing Director, Alistair Weir, said: "It's a pleasure to be working on such a prominent and well-known building right in the centre of Corby, and to be making improvements that will benefit local people and council staff. We're always proud to support

local projects and, as a Corby-based business, it's hard to get any closer to home than this."

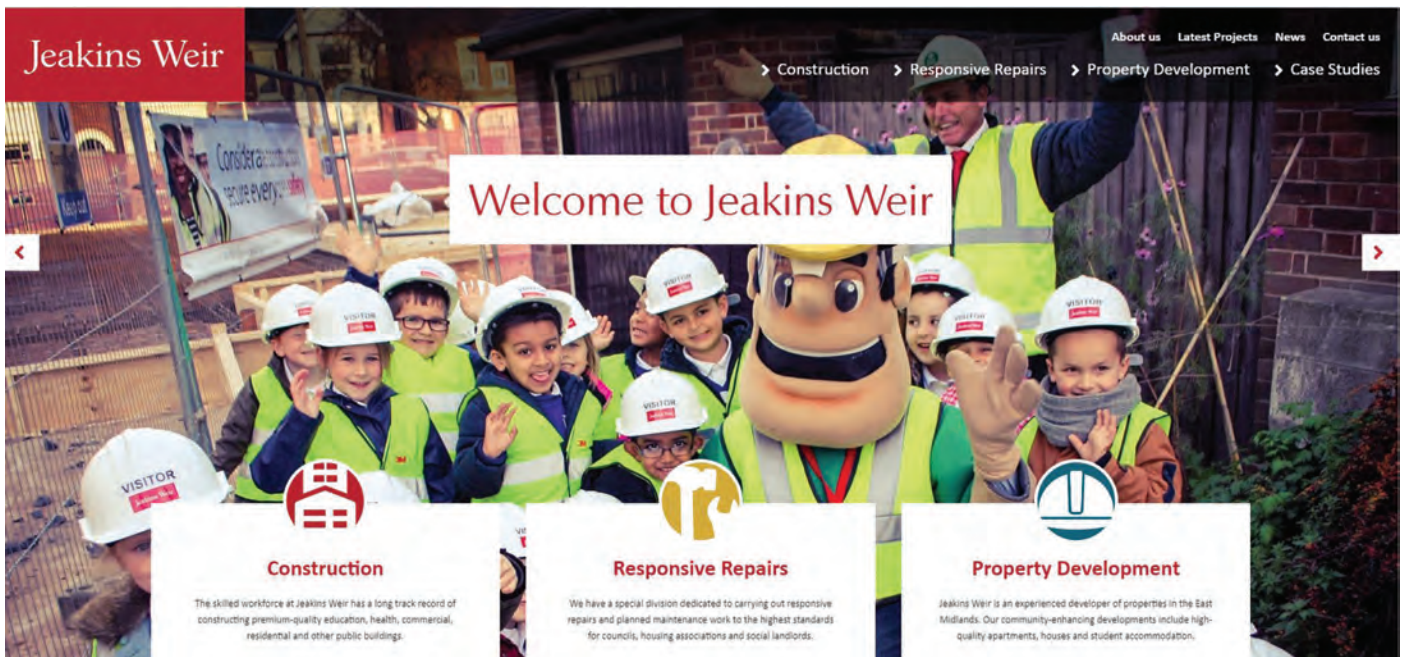


Jeakins Weir has now completed 11 projects under the Scape Regional Construction framework, which replaced the East Midlands Property Alliance (empa) in early 2018. Framework partners provide construction services for public-sector projects across the Midlands and East of England, and Jeakins Weir is responsible for projects in the Midlands, South East region.

Once Jeakins Weir completes all ongoing Scape projects, it will have delivered works worth £2.1m under the Scape Regional Construction framework.



# Bright new website now live



Jeakins Weir has launched a new company website, designed to work seamlessly on all devices, whether mobile, tablet or desktop.

The colourful new site replaces the previous website launched in 2014. It was project managed by Assistant Business Development Manager, Sophie Lindsay, working closely with New Edge Media based in Kettering.

Sophie said:

“ Our website is a vitally important reference source for prospective customers, as well as providing validation to existing customers, partners and suppliers. It’s also very valuable in recruitment. We are excited by the new website and have had a very positive reaction to it.”

For further information visit: [www.jeakinsweir.co.uk](http://www.jeakinsweir.co.uk)

## Raise a cup for a good cause

### The World’s Biggest Coffee Morning event raises £175 for Macmillan

On Friday 27th September, the Jeakins Weir head office in Corby was filled with the enticing aroma of coffee and freshly baked cakes. The team had dusted off their oven gloves once more to support ‘The World’s Biggest Coffee Morning’ for Macmillan Cancer Support.

It was the fifth year that Jeakins Weir had supported this nationally coordinated event. The funds raised

help Macmillan to provide specialist healthcare, information and financial support to people affected by cancer.

The sale of coffee, tea and cakes in Corby raised £175. This brought the grand total raised by Jeakins Weir through ‘The World’s Biggest Coffee



Morning’ over the past five years to almost £1,700.

The winner of this year’s hotly contested ‘Cake Off’ competition was Leah Findlay, with her irresistible banana bread.

# Fixing the tree for MBC

## Long-term relationship results in festive fix-it for Melton Mowbray

Jeakins Weir has a long-standing relationship with Melton Borough Council (MBC), which covers a rural area of north-east Leicestershire. The relationship stretches way back to 2005, when the company began a responsive repairs and maintenance contract with the council, which ran until 2012. More recently, Jeakins Weir has taken on several projects with MBC through the Scape Regional Construction framework.

These have included three projects to improve the communal areas of sheltered accommodation in the region, fire risk assessment works and even devising a solution to securely support the Christmas tree in Melton Mowbray town centre. Temporary works to secure the tree were completed in time for the Melton Mowbray Christmas weekend and lights switch-on, with permanent works to be completed in due course.



# Building homes for happy lives

## Working with NPH to enhance communities across Northamptonshire



Since securing its first contract under the Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) framework in November 2018, Jeakins Weir has developed a strong working partnership with NPH. So far, the company has completed two house-building projects, and is currently on site at five more locations. To date, the combined contract values has reached £9.95m.

NPH is wholly owned by Northampton Borough Council and is responsible for managing the council's housing services. Its aim is to provide homes that enable people to live happy and healthy lives in enriched communities. Under its contractor framework, it plans to deliver more new-build residential units over the next four years.

Jeakins Weir recently joined other framework contractors, NPH staff and stakeholders for an away day in Northampton, where they discussed priorities for meeting the social housing needs of local people. It was a great opportunity to collaborate, build relationships and share ideas and expertise with NPH and specialist contractors, helping to find ways of improving the delivery of framework services.

Jeakins Weir has completed the following projects with NPH to date:

- Northfield Road, Duston, a suburb to the west of Northampton – 5 houses.
- West Oval, Kings Heath, two miles north of Northampton town centre – 3 houses, 1 bungalow.

Alistair Weir, Managing Director of Jeakins Weir, said:

“The partnership with NPH enables us to use our housebuilding expertise to make a positive impact on the lives of people throughout the Northampton area. We are delighted to be working with NPH to create essential new homes that will build vibrant communities in the region.”



# Building for the future

## Investing in the next generation of construction-industry professionals

Jeakins Weir is investing in the future of the construction industry by supporting apprentices and students, and providing training and development opportunities for staff.

Rhys Jones has recently started work as a plumbing apprentice on the company's responsive repairs contract for Grand Union Housing at Flitwick in Bedfordshire. Grand Union Housing Group is a leading provider and developer of affordable housing and related services in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire.

Rhys is studying for an NVQ Level 2 in Plumbing at Bedford College. The course will give him all the training in domestic heating and plumbing he needs to start work in the industry.

The company is also hosting Quantity Surveying student, Callum McKenzie, on his work placement from Nottingham Trent University. Callum will return to university in September 2020 to complete his final year of study.

Finally, Assistant Business Development Manager, Sophie Lindsay, has completed the industry-standard NEBOSH Health and Safety at Work Qualification, which gives her the skills to identify and deal with hazards and to help reduce accidents. Next, Sophie will be tackling the National General Certificate in Construction.

## Everyone saw us there

### Fun and informative day out among the dinosaurs

The responsive repair team were out in force in September to support a friends and family fun day at the Roarr! Dinosaur Adventure Park in Norfolk. Victory Housing Trust organised the event to engage with its tenants and, as well as the fun, it held consultation workshops on topics close to the heart of residents. The Jeakins Weir stall was busy throughout the day with excited visitors of all ages.



### About Jeakins Weir:

Jeakins Weir is a Corby-based construction company operating throughout the Midlands. Its operations cover three main areas: Main Contracting, Responsive Repairs and Maintenance (for council owned properties and housing associations) and Property Development. The business was formed in 1973 and is still privately owned. Today Jeakins Weir employs 200 people across the business.

Over the past 46 years Jeakins Weir has built, renovated and extended many hundreds of schools, hospitals, leisure facilities, offices, houses and other public buildings in the region. It currently has long term Responsive Repair contracts with housing associations and councils located in Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Bedfordshire representing nearly 20,000 homes.

For further information visit: [www.jeakinsweir.co.uk](http://www.jeakinsweir.co.uk)

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