

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

EMPLOYEE THANKED BY COMPANY 'PR MUM' AFTER BIKE SMASH

One of AJE's employees came to rescue of the firm's publicity consultant when her son took a tumble off his bike in Culbin Forest last month.



Lee Binks, the company's business development representative was in the Forest and discovered Claire Doughty with his son Adam who was clearly in distress.

Lee took control of the situation, called an ambulance and then borrowed Adam's bike to meet the ambulance at the entrance to the Forest so he could show the paramedics the location of the incident.

With permission of the Forestry Commission Lee even had to smash a lock off the gate, to ensure the ambulance could gain access.

Claire who has worked with AJE as a consultant for six years said: "I am

indebted to Lee. Adam had clearly hit his head as his helmet was cracked and he was screaming about his arms. My other son was with my friend, but I could hear him getting distressed. It was incredibly stressful. Lee arrived on the scene and immediately took control which was such a relief as all I wanted to do was be with Adam and reassure him. Lee rang the ambulance and then even went as far as cycling back to the car park to meet the paramedics.

"Adam now has two broken wrists, but it could have been a lot worse, and having a friendly face there to help, really did go some way to making a terrifying situation that less bit frightening."

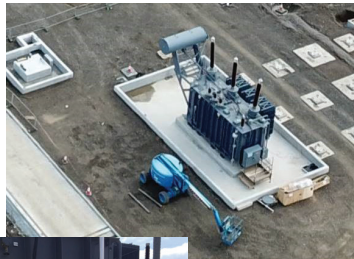
Work life adapts for Covid

Adapting to the current Covid-19 situation has meant project managers have had to make changes to their working practices and this was no different for a recent job led by Wilson Burnett.

Following on from work that AJE did for Siemens at Fyrish and Loch Buidhe Substations over two years ago, the company was called on again to assist at a new site on the outskirts of Rothienorman in Aberdeenshire.

The job was to improve access to two TX Control Cabinets for a Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHET) project where they are constructing a new 400/275kV substation adjacent to an existing transmission line.

Wilson said: "Due to this being a substation site, the platforms had to be made out of GRP. Usually there would have been more time spent on site, but due to the current situation with Coronavirus, the units were fully made off site. Working in this way allowed us to cut down our installation time to just one day on site to install both units."





New director role for Graham

Graham Alexander, the company's general manager has been made a director of the firm.

He was given the position to assist managing director Alan James with the operation of AJ Engineering and its sister company the Northern Engineering and Welding Company located in Fort William.

Graham who hails from Forres and joined the Forres-based firm six years ago will retain his position as general manager.

Speaking of the appointment, Alan James said: "Graham joined AJ Engineering in 2014. Six years on, I am delighted that Graham has agreed to join me

as a director of our group. He has significant civil, construction and project management experience and has helped build the business up since he joined us. His promotion to director will see him provide more strategic direction to the group and help grow and diversify the businesses."

Speaking of his appointment, Graham who is married to Bev and has two daughters said: "I am delighted with my new role. It is a huge compliment that my efforts over the years have been rewarded in this way and that Alan has a belief in me to support him in taking the company forward."

Stairway to Shetland

AN island job led to the NEWCo team doing a full erection and dismantling of two access staircases to ensure everything was in tip top shape before shipping.

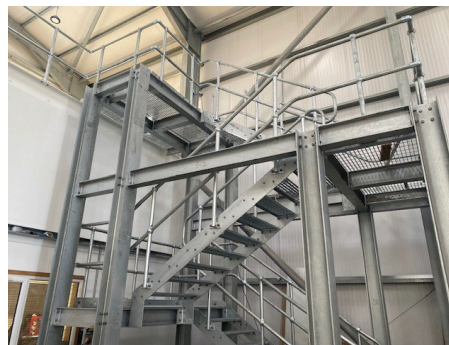
Willie Lawrie was in charge of the project for Michael Pottinger Engineering Limited for a project in Shetland.

It was the first time NEWCo, AJE's sister company had worked with the company.

Willie said: "It is not normal for us to do a full erection of stairs in the workshop, but because this was getting shipped to

Shetland and the client was erecting the staircase himself, we wanted to make sure everything fitted and all pieces were present when shipped.

"The job which involved the fabrication of one internal access stair and mezzanine railing and external fire escape took about three weeks to complete with four men working on the project. Due to Covid, it was a bit tricky getting a slot at the galvanisers in Elgin and we had to send a man up to Elgin to oversee the loading of the staircases once galvanised."



Employees return to work

AJ Engineering is starting to resemble its former self with several employees being taken off furlough and returning to work.

At the start of the Covid 19 crisis 22 were furloughed with a few staying on to support clients who work in sectors which were deemed 'essential'.

However, with new projects starting and existing sites being reopened, the company has taken the decision to bring more people back to work.

Company MD Alan James said: "It has been a very difficult few weeks for businesses and AJ Engineering has been no different. We have had to work within the guidelines and like many other businesses, many of our projects were

halted as sites began to close down. We didn't know when or if things were going to come back on.

"However, things are generally starting to look a lot more positive and restrictions are starting to be lifted which means we can start bringing people back to work. Currently we have 60 per cent of the work force back. We are fortunate to have an extensive site at AJ Engineering which means we can adhere to social distancing and other guidelines which are put in place meaning we can keep our staff safe."

He added: "We are also pleased to report that we are seeing a number of new jobs come our way, there is work that we are tendering for and work that was put on hold is resuming."

Platform taken out of the frame

Equipment which will be used on an oil platform which is in the process of being decommissioned has been fabricated by AJ Engineering.

A trial fit of the WellGear 'Well Intervention' system has taken place at Waterford. The frame will have several functions including replacing ESD valves and conductor recovery.

However, its first project will be the plugging and abandoning of the drilling wells on the Brent Charlie, which is in the process of being decommissioned after over 40 years of service. This follows the decommissioning of Brent Delta in 2011 and Brent Alpha and Bravo which ceased production in November 2014.

Project manager Craig Johnson who worked on the Charlie and Bravo for four years explained: "The initial lifespan of the Brent Field was 25 years but through continuous improvement and investment in the 90s they managed to increase the lifespan of the field beyond expectations.

"The trial fit has gone extremely well so I would like to thank everyone involved in the fabrication and welding of this project, we look forward to working with WellGear more in the future."

Baby news

Huge congratulations to NEWCo Robert Donaldson (Roj) on becoming a dad.

Ruby Alexis Donaldson was born on Monday, June 22 weighing a 5lb 4oz. Mum Lyla-Alex and Ruby are both doing great.

