

JUNE 2020

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

HAT TRICK OF CELEBRATIONS FOR MD

AJ Engineering's managing director has had lots to celebrate in the last few weeks.

Alan James has been appointed as one of four new Deputy Lord Lieutenants for Moray, is in the running for a top award and has also become a grandfather for the first time.

Speaking of the bumper few weeks he said: "It certainly has been an exciting time. Whilst this situation with the lockdown is difficult, it has been great to be able to share some good news.

"The Lieutenancy is leading and has helped set up the Moray Emergency Relief Fund to provide financial and tangible support to those in desperate need in these very challenging Covid 19 times, so to be involved with that, at such a crucial time is very rewarding."

The award nomination comes from The Institute of Directors in Scotland. He is one of six finalists in the director of the year category for small and medium size businesses.

But last but by no means least – the most important news of all.

Alan and his wife Ainsley are delighted to share the news that they have become grandparents for the first time to Magnus James Oscar McCaffery who was born on Saturday May 9. Both Alan's daughter Erin and husband Andrew are very happy.



TRANSATLANTIC CONSIGNMENT ARRIVES SAFELY



Materials which were dispatched on the high seas to a project taking place over 8000 miles away have arrived safely.

The items which involved the fabrication of 134 tonnes of secondary steel left on MV Billesborg from Teeside bound for the Rothera Research Station situated on Adelaide Island to the west of the Antarctic Peninsula.

However, whilst the crossing went well, the weather closed in during the unload and reload and took an unplanned two weeks instead of six days.

Project manager Malcolm Rennie explained: "Our containers were taken off the ship okay but I'm unsure if they have been unloaded yet. The job will start up again in October. It's been a struggle to keep the ground clear with the heavy weather so very little progress was made during the last couple of weeks. Also, because of COVID 19 and worsening weather, non-essential personnel were told to leave to protect the site."

The site includes the Bonner research laboratory, offices and workshops and a crushed rock runway, hangar and wharf.

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New stairs for historic building will bring fresh appeal

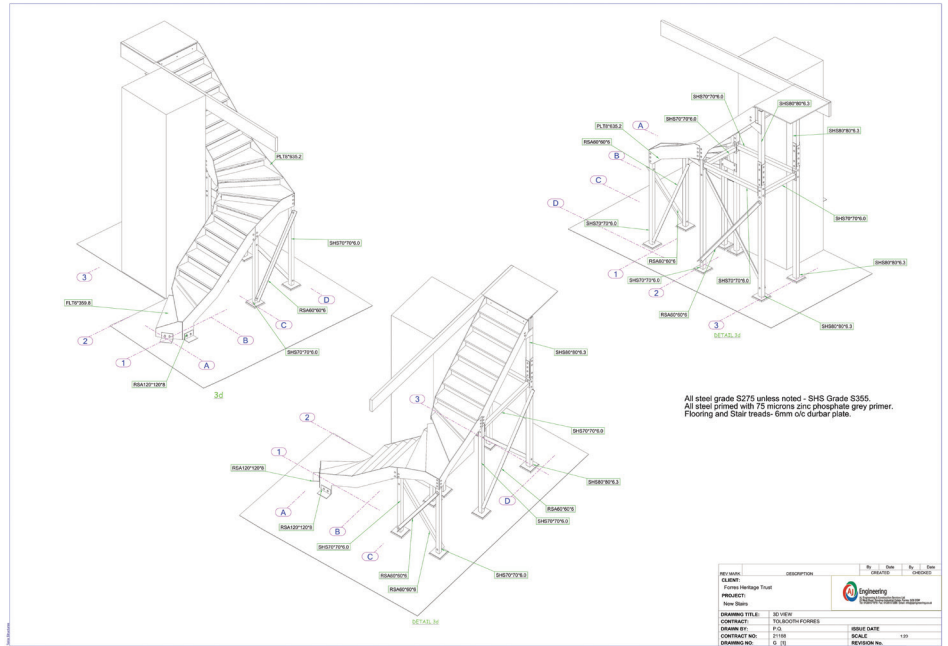
NEW stairs which are part of a much bigger project for one of the most historic buildings in the town will hopefully be installed by the end of June.

AJ Engineering has been contracted by the Forres Heritage Trust to design, fabricate and install a set of new steel stairs which will give access to a walkway around the old clocktower.

The hope is that the development would become a new tourist attraction for the Trust and ultimately the town.

Graham Alexander, general manager of AJE said: "It's all drawn up and the fabrication of the stairway is about to start. Depending on the government restrictions regarding essential work, we hope that we will be able to have the stairs installed by the end of June."

He added: "The Tolbooth is one of the town's oldest buildings and these new stairs will certainly be robust enough to last for hundreds of years to come. The development at the Tolbooth is going to be a fantastic addition and will be another reason for people to visit our great town."



Airport job is on final approach for finish

A £1.4m job at Sumburgh Airport is progressing well and is expected to be finished in July.

The AJE team has been working on three of four hangars at the Shetland-based airport.

Cladding repairs are being carried out on hangars one, two and four and hangars one and two will also become home to new bi-fold doors.

Being led by project manager James Attridge, he explained that communication has been key to the success of the project which began last August.

"The airport and the hangars themselves are still in use, so to ensure the safety of our own crews, but also that of the stakeholders, good, clear communication has been crucial. The working relationship with HIAL and the other stakeholders is very good and so far, we have been able to progress the project well.

"One of the hangars houses a search and rescue helicopter, so the reality for

our team is that we can be working away, the claxon sounds and the search and rescue team need to get the chopper out. However, again by speaking with them directly, we have come up with systems if this should happen."

He added: "The inclement weather has also been a challenge. The weather up there is so changeable. I was up there one day and it was blue skies and sun. Within an hour it had changed and it was like a hurricane. We have to take this seriously. For example, the cladding on the roof is 6m by 1m, and if the wind catches it, it acts like a sail. Also, we have to be very mindful of foreign object debris, as that kind of thing could play havoc with an aircraft engine.

"One of the advantages of the situation right now, is that although the airport is still active, the amount of aircraft coming and going has been massively reduced, so this has allowed us to crack on with the job and at the moment we are on target for a finish in July."



No location too remote for AJE

AJ Engineering is known for being a company that is happy to work in remote locations.

At the moment, there is work ongoing on Shetland, a new project is about to start in Orkney and once the team get the go ahead, a new development will be taking place on Goat Island, Stornoway.

Project manager James Attridge said: "Due to the location and the weather on Stornoway, we are keen to get going as soon as possible on this new contract, but due to the government restrictions relating to the Coronavirus, we are on hold at the moment. I would like to get this job started in the better weather months if possible and hope to get on site by June."

The project is to design, fabricate and install a new building which will become a food processing factory.

The contract is with Lewis Builders on behalf of the Stornoway Port Authority. More to follow.

In the army now

Blowing up steel is not something that AJE normally wants to see, but this month, the company was able to come to the aid of the army.

The company received a request from 38 Engineer Regiment who are based at Kinloss for some steel to use in a training exercise.

We were happy to oblige and were able to offer a number of offcuts for them to practice with.