

JANUARY 2021

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

HAPPY HOGMANAY!



Welcome back to a new year – 2021 and I do hope that despite the Covid restrictions which changed at the very last minute, you all had a great Christmas and, for a time, were able to relax and enjoy the break.

Coming back to a full lockdown wasn't the start to 2021 that anyone wanted although I expect it has not really come as a surprise to many. For us at AJ Engineering and NEWCo, at the moment, there are not too many changes. We are still able to operate under the new restrictions and we are liaising with our customers and staff to ensure that everything is handled in the safest way possible. Hopefully, this spring the end of Covid will be in sight as this pandemic has certainly had an effect on us all.

Brexit also seems to have been forgotten about over the last few days, but the team here is aware that it may well have its influence upon us. Time will tell if our suppliers will be able to continue their European 'next day-ish' deliveries, and at the same price?

There are always challenges in business, but two important things remain constant and true and that is **Customer Service** and **Quality Staff**. By your actions and support we have grown our customer base so that we are not so reliant on any one customer sector. To make us more efficient in structural fabrication we will soon have our new drill and cut line in operation at Waterford, Forres. Also, very shortly, our websites will have undergone a significant make over to showcase the good work that we are doing now and in the future.

At AJE we are now entering our 22nd year of business and our good friends and near neighbours James Jones Timber Systems started at exactly the same time and both companies have grown up together. For our first three years we were actually tenants of theirs as some of us will recall!

These are interesting times but with your help and assistance we look forward to continuing our growth plans during 2021 so that we can provide the job security and opportunities for our existing employees along with any new employees who will be needed to support the business and broaden our offering.

To the year ahead!

Alan James

FESTIVE FUNDS RAISED FOR KIDS

Seventeen staff members went 'Festive' in December by wearing a winter woolly to help raise funds for Save the Children. For the fourth year, the staff donned their favourite festive garb and made donations to the charity. £100 was raised via donations and the company has matched this bringing the total to £200.



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3D tech nets fish factory work



A YEAR long project to create maintenance access platforms for a fish feed factory has been completed with AJ Engineering harnessing the use of 3D surveyor technology.

Working for client MOWI who have created the new factory at Kyleakin on Skye to produce feed for their salmon farms throughout Scotland, Ireland, Norway and the Faroe Islands, AJ Engineering was tasked with designing, fabricating and installing the complex's access platforms.

However, the design of the building saw the company using the services of Caintech Ltd who were able to produce

complex 3D plans which enabled AJE's draughtsmen to create the drawings.

Graham Alexander, company director explained: "Without using the skills and services of Caintech Ltd designing the access platforms would have been near on impossible. We have worked with Caintech before but we have never used this service that they provide and it was absolutely crucial for this project."

He added: "Once fabrication drawings had been produced, everything was built in the workshop and then transported to Kyleakin. It has been quite a labour-intensive project and has led to lots of install hours. There were 10 people in

the workshop and then we have had a number of people on site including the team from NEWCo. Everyone has worked so hard."

The factory encompasses a main process building and various other production buildings forming the £125M facility. The main structures were constructed using steel braced frames with precast concrete floors and horizontally composite cladding systems for external and internal walls. Foundations were created with various piled solutions due to the nature of the ground and the large forces exerted by the 40m high Main Process building.

New surveyor role a first for AJE

AJ Engineering has employed a senior quantity surveyor which is the first post of its kind in the company's 21-year history.

Lee Shylan joined the company at the start of December and the role was created as the company continues to grow.

In October, Robert Williamson also joined AJE as a project engineer.

Hailing from Aberdeen, Lee joined AJ Engineering after returning from New Zealand where he worked for four years for John Jones Steel as a Quantity Surveyor/Estimator. JJS is one of the country's leading structural steel fabrication and erection companies capable of delivering 4200T projects.

Lee said: "My role here will be to support the project managers with some of the financial and contractual aspects of projects. It's a new role for AJ Engineering, but ultimately, I am here to take a bit of the burden from the project managers and allow them to concentrate on managing their projects. A Quantity Surveyor can also assist with improving project margins and managing risk for the business. I was attracted to AJE due to its diverse clients, expansion plans, forward thinking culture and its involvement in the

renewables sector. I like the company ethos and it has a great structure and want to be part of their journey."

Rob joined AJ Engineering after a career in the army. He retired as a Regimental Sergeant Major in 2018 from 39 Engineer Regiment situated at Kinloss Barracks.

He had previously made contact with AJE when he left the army in 2018, so was delighted when he was approached to join the team in November.

He said: "After leaving school, I worked for 18 months for a sheet metal work company and then joined the army where in my early days I trained as a welder.

"Since leaving the army, I have been employed within a number of roles in operations/project management and project engineer. I was delighted when approached by AJ Engineering when a Project Engineer role and opportunity arose. I am really enjoying the role, due to how diverse each day can be. I have had a mixture of office and site work so far, which suits me down to the ground, as I love getting my hands dirty too. I am really excited for my future in the company and the new challenges that lie ahead."



Rob Williamson



Lee Shylan