

JANUARY 2022

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

HAPPY NEW YEAR & HERE'S TO 2022!

AJE and NEWCo are companies that focus on looking ahead but it's easy to forget how well we have done, so to set us up for 2022, we felt it was important to take a look back over 2021 to the achievements we have made.

When we started looking we were reminded of just how many highs there have been.

Enjoy the read and may we wish you a very happy and healthy year ahead.

JANUARY

AJE announced the appointment of a senior quantity surveyor which was the first post of its kind in the company's 21-year history.

Lee Shylan joined the company in the role which was created as the company was continuing to grow and still is.

We also announced the arrival of project engineer Rob Williamson. He retired as a Regimental Sergeant Major in 2018.

Over the course of the year, his logistics skills have been crucial to the running of the company, in particular for the visit by The Princess Royal and in the planning for the Antarctica-based project.



FEBRUARY



The company announced that all employees at AJE and NEWCo would be provided with life assurance.

Director Graham Alexander and Managing Director Alan James have provided the AIG policy to full time, part time and fixed term contract workers between the ages of 16 and 69.

In a letter sent out to all staff Graham said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has for many understandably led to real worry about health and financial security. It is for this reason that Alan and I have decided the company will provide a life assurance policy so that, should the worst happen to us, while employed with AJ Engineering and NEWCo, our families will get some financial support."



MARCH

Former apprentice Lee Evans became foreman of the new site at Waterford.

Lee secured an apprenticeship in 2007. He spoke to the Micron to mark Scottish Apprenticeship Week.

He said: "I was going to go into the army, but I needed a trade so started a pre-apprenticeship in fabrication and welding at Inverness College. As part of my course, I had to do two days a week and I applied to AJ Engineering. At the end of my first year, Alan offered me an apprenticeship. I jumped at the chance as I knew that an apprenticeship was one of my best options."



APRIL

April was an extremely busy month and projects included the completion of steelworks for a new four-star hotel on the Isle of Skye, plans being drawn up to supply and install cladding for a nursery building also on Skye, and the pouring of the concrete flooring at Waterford.

Work also began on Goat Island on Stornoway to design, fabricate and install a new building for the Stornoway Port Authority and a complicated project on a maintenance depot for trains got underway at Craigentenny in Edinburgh.



JULY

There was another significant step forward at Waterford with the equipment being installed.

The fully automated equipment, which was imported from Italy carried out the marking, drilling and cutting tasks on long steel sections allowing AJE's skilled work force more time to focus on complex fabrications. The installation has seen the company able to increase its work output.



OCTOBER

Alan announced staff could continue to work from home. Excellent directorship given the situation at the end of 2021.

We were also involved in story of Wester Ross's importance to Arctic Convoy efforts during WW2 by designing, fabricating and installing aluminium frames that display three mosaics designed by local pupils.

We also began fabricating safety barriers for the Tolbooth in Forres. They have since been installed and the clocktower will be opened to the public later this year.



MAY



May saw the start of works to a historic visitor centre which included the installation of a repaired and replica chimney. Teams from AJE and NEWCo were working on the project in Lyness on the Island of Hoy.

The NEWCo team played a significant role in this project with two existing steel chimneys with historical significance being transported to their Fort-William premises where the team repaired one and fabricated a replica of the other.

AUGUST

A four week internship gave secondary school student Lucy Paul an insight into AJE and showed the company's commitment to inspiring young people into engineering.

The company became involved with Career Ready, a national charity which believes that every young person deserves the opportunity to kick-start a rewarding future.



NOVEMBER

The top story for November had to be the visit by The Princess Royal who visited our Forres complex and officially opened the multi-million- pound facility at Waterford.

Her Royal Highness was shown AJE's HQ at the Greshop Industrial Estate where she met members of staff who spoke about the numerous projects the business has worked on and was given an insight into the firm's CNC machine shop.



JUNE

A more unusual story was the lead this month, but it was one that shows that AJE is invested in the local community. The story covered the fact that the company supported a gull management trial in the Pilmuir Primary School area of Forres. The one-year pilot is being joint funded by AJE, the Forres Common Good Fund and the school itself.

Gull nesting is prevalent in that area of Forres and it's hoped that the removal of nests and eggs will allow residents and landlords to take action to prevent ongoing nesting.

SEPTEMBER

Maintenance contracts are a big part of what AJE does and a team were back to Burghead Maltings to work on a three-day project.

The work focused on 'Elevator E20' where the team replaced the belt and buckets which are the internal mechanism in the elevator casing to lift the product from the kiln.

Overseeing the works was Project Manager Allan Martin, he said: "We've done this work at Burghead Maltings a few years back and we were delighted to be back again."



DECEMBER

A team from AJE set off on an epic commute – to Antarctica. A number of them travelled aboard the RRS Sir David Attenborough. The team arrived just before Christmas and will be working at the British Antarctic Survey's Rothera Research Station.

The team are working on behalf of main BAM Nuttall who recently secured a 10-year, £500m contract to upgrade and extend BAS's polar research stations. We look forward to numerous updates from the team over the coming weeks.

Also in December – our MD Alan James was crowned as regional director of the year 2021 for Highlands and Islands in the Institute of Directors (IoD) Scotland awards. Congratulations Alan!

