

JUNE 2022

# The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## BESPOKE CLIFF-EDGE HOUSE BUILD UNDERWAY



**AJ Engineering is delighted to be working on an amazing project with I Miles Contracting, Cameron Webster Architects and David Narro Consultant Engineers to supply and erect approximately 80te of steelwork for a private residential home near Craobh Haven, Argyll and Bute.**

The house is a bespoke design over three levels, nestling into the cliff edge to take full advantage of the views looking onto the Atlantic Ocean and neighbouring Islands.

Managing the project for AJE is Allan Martin who said: "We are delighted to be involved in this project. It is an extremely interesting design allowing us to take full advantage of our

newly installed 'Cut and Drill' line at Waterford in Forres, for the fabrication.

"The location is spectacular, and we have just finished installing the initial ground beams on site with our extremely experienced site erection team. This first phase of the build went incredibly well, the site prepared by Ian Miles of I Miles Contracting was excellent and great team work got the beams in successfully and quickly. Weather in this location is very changeable and "making hay while the sun shines" is critical. We will return to site to erect the main steel in a couple of months after Ian prepares the concrete foundation work. We can't wait to see this next phase get going."

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From left: Kevin and Andrew are enjoying the variety of projects that AJE offers

## NEW STAFF LIKE VARIETY OF LIFE AT AJE

**Two new project managers have started at AJE to meet increased demands on the firm.**

Kevin Smith and Andrew Fyvie have joined the company and both said they are enjoying the variety of works that AJE secures.

Kevin came to the Forres HQ from R&M Engineering in Huntly as he wanted to expand into different sectors as he explained: "I just fancied a change. R&M Engineering specialise in the oil and gas sector and they are very good at it, but I wanted a new challenge in a different industry and AJE is providing that."

Kevin (44) who lives in Buckie with his wife and has four grown up children has thrown himself into the job and is already working on several 'bridge' projects.

He is a time served fabricator/welder and started in project engineering in 2012.

"There are a number of bridge projects underway which I am involved in," explained Kevin, "looking at the history of AJE, it is not surprising as it seems to be something of a speciality for the company. The projects I am working on are all very different and are all in very different locations with one actually being just a five-minute walk from the facility at Waterford where the steel will be fabricated for the project. That project in itself is proving interesting due to the location."

Andrew is enjoying the variety of the projects too. He had been working for BAE Systems in Glasgow doing mainly design work.

However, Andrew who lives in Elgin with his wife and two young children explained he wanted a change: "I enjoyed my role with BAE Systems but it was very desk orientated. I wanted a job where I could get out and about and be able to see a project through from start to finish and AJE is providing that for me. Before I was with BAE, I was previously a project support engineer based at Glenfiddich Distillery and I really wanted to get back to that type of role."

Like Kevin, Andrew is working on three key projects, one in Forres, one in Skye and another in Inverness.

"It's great to be able to get out and about, meet the clients and be more hands on with the projects. I am now involved in the whole process and that is really fulfilling."

## BABY GRACE

MD Alan James and his wife Ainsley are delighted at the safe arrival of grand daughter Grace Catherine Isobel McCaffery on Tuesday April 5, 8lbs 15ozs. All went well for Alan's daughter Erin and son-in-law Andrew, and Magnus who turned two in May, is excited to have a baby sister.

## LONDON CALLING

**AJ Engineering's Business Development Representative is now splitting his time between the firm's Forres base and London with a view to securing new works, particularly in the south of England.**

Lee Binks made the move a few weeks ago to join his girlfriend who is originally from Forres and works in the famous Carnaby Street.

Lee explained how the move came about with full support from AJE's directors.

"I decided to make the move to London for various reasons, one being my girlfriend Katie is living there. I was raised in Findhorn and although Findhorn and Forres are both fantastic locations, I have never experienced life outside of Moray. Having visited London many times, I got a feel for the busy city life and with the covid pandemic making remote working the 'new norm,' I spoke with Alan James and Graham Alexander about maintaining my role, but in a new location and they agreed and I have to say thanks to them for allowing the move."

Lee added: "In my role, there is a lot of networking, presentations, attending exhibitions and seeing new customers, all of which often happens away from our Forres HQ anyway or is also done via the power of Microsoft Teams and Zoom."

Lee explained that the addition of the new Ficep Cut and Drill line which opened last year at AJE's Waterford facility has also increased capacity, meaning the company can seek more work: "The new Ficep machinery has hugely increased capacity. Everything can be done in a much quicker timescale which means we can fulfil higher tonnage contracts."

Lee Binks is embracing the London life

