

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

YEAR OF 'WHEELY' GOOD CELEBRATIONS AHEAD



AJ Engineering will celebrate its 20 years in business with a calendar of events including a virtual bike ride covering 21,000 miles the same distance travelled completing jobs in one year.

And all staff are being encouraged to get involved.

The schedule of events and in particular the virtual bike challenge will raise money for three charities – the Moray branch of Marie Curie, Diabetes UK and Star For Harris.

Alan James started the company after being made redundant from William Reid Engineering and he said he was looking forward to the year ahead: “Twenty years in business is a massive achievement for anyone, but I think in this industry it’s definitely something to celebrate. It’s important we take a step back and acknowledge the hard work of everyone that has been involved with the success of the company.”

Throughout the year other events will include taking part in Scottish Apprenticeship Week and Moray Doors Open Day which will incorporate a family and customer fun day as well as being open to the public.

There are some other initiatives also still in the planning – so watch this space.

“We have tried to create a mixture of events. Some are just for

fun, like the family and customer day as part of the Moray Doors Open Day,” explained Alan. “Other events will be to showcase what AJ Engineering is all about.”

The charities that the company is supporting have also been carefully chosen and anything raised by the staff will be matched by the firm.

“We thought hard about which charities to support,” explained Alan. “Diabetes UK was an obvious choice for me. I am diabetic, but I only found out when I was setting up the company. I had to have a medical and that’s when I got the news. Marie Curie is also a great choice and we know the money will stay in the local area. We have had members of staff who have been affected by cancer whilst Star For Harris is the chosen charity of our sister company NEWCo which is based in Fort William.”

The bike challenge organised by Alan Stewart has kicked off and the bike is currently located in the board room.

Alan S has sponsor forms for those wanting to take part. Participants can be sponsored per mile or for a one-off donation. Alan S can provide you with all the details.

Alan said: “We hope that the staff embrace this as being a bit of fun as well as being an opportunity to raise a bit of cash for three worthwhile charities in AJ’s 20th year. I have no doubt that amongst some members, there will be a bit of friendly rivalry.”

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AJE beams up project in demanding lead time

OVER 1km of welding has taken place on a job to fabricate beams which will be shipped to the Netherlands.

It was all hands-on deck in the workshop to complete the project which once completed had to be craned out of the workshop.

The contract involved the fabrication of two 9Te plate girder beams along with

seven traverse beams.

AJE secured the work as they have previously worked with the customer and have a proven track record in delivering the completed works in short and demanding lead times.

The beams are 15.2m long and had to be manufactured from profiled plates and welded together using a splicing

technique. The splices are staggered along the beams so there are no major weaknesses in any areas.

The beams will be used as part of a skidding system and are currently being shipped to the Netherlands where they will sit beneath a 200Te structure used for different types of Well operations.



New work with repeat customer

AJE has been awarded a contract with Liberty British Aluminium Ltd to modify their existing Butt Press Machine which is located in the Rodding Room at the Lochaber Smelter.

Manager Graeme Paterson is in charge of the department and was the client for the installation of the TAC unit as reported in the October 2018 edition of The Micron.

Due to the successful completion of that project, he has now engaged with AJE to alter the Butt Press to allow larger Carbon Butts with the Stems attached to fit into the machine to have the degraded old Carbon pressed off the Stems. All prior to the Stem refurbishment and new Carbon Butts being fitted.

Stems with Carbon Butts attached prior to being "Butt Pressed off".



AJE on tour

Laura Mair (above), AJE's graduate apprentice will be going on tour around Forres for this year's Scottish Apprenticeship Week which takes place in March.

Laura also recently became a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) ambassador and, in that role, she will be visiting seven of the Forres area primary schools with STEM-orientated workshops.

Laura said: "I was keen to get involved with the STEM organisation as I think it's important to inspire the next generation to take an interest in these sectors. I have always been interested in engineering, so becoming an ambassador was a natural fit for me. STEM subjects need a push, particularly with girls, so I hope that I can play a small part in changing the perception of what STEM means and how it could play a part in someone's future."

She added: "The STEM organisation has a great amount of resources, so I will be taking loads of hands-on activities to the schools which will be great fun, but educational as well. It will be great to be able to showcase what we get up to at AJE too."

AJE in running for top Employer award

AJ Engineering is in the running to be crowned Employer of the Year at an award ceremony celebrating the success of business across Scotland.

The company has been shortlisted as a finalist for the Scotland Area Awards with the Federation of Small Businesses.

The FSB reports that for this year, entries came from a variety of businesses and sectors showcasing the "amazing small business talent across Scotland."

AJE has now been invited to the Scotland Final on Thursday 21 February at the Edinburgh University's Playfair Library. There they will join dozens of other small businesses as the FSB announce the

cream of the crop for 2019 in Scotland.

AJ Engineering is in the running alongside Robbie Fluid Engineering Ltd, Tree of Knowledge, and SnapDragon.

Other categories include; Family Business of the Year, Micro Business of the Year, International Business of the Year and Start-up Business of the Year.

