

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

DOORS OPEN FOR AJE HQ

AJ Engineering will be opening its doors to the public this month as part of a national campaign. Doors Open Days is Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates heritage and the built environment. It offers free access to over a thousand venues across the country throughout September every year.

The aim of Doors Open Days is to ensure that Scotland's built heritage, new and old, is made accessible to people living and visiting the country on weekends in September.

AJ Engineering decided to take part in this year's Moray Doors open Day as part of its celebrations to mark its 20th year in business.

The company will provide tours, a BBQ, face-painting and bouncy castle, and will also have some hands-on activities for

youngsters to get involved in.

MD Alan James said: "This is an ideal opportunity for us to showcase what we do to the public and to invite people in. We are one of the biggest employers in the town but I think for some, it is still a mystery as to what we actually do here, so to give people access will hopefully unveil some of the mystery."

He added: "I am delighted that we also have the T-Exchange on board. The T-Exchange encourage young people in the use of new and old technologies and are huge advocates for STEM activities. They will be bringing with them some gadgets and gizmos that our visitors will be able to enjoy."

We will be open on September 21st, between 11-3pm with tours taking place at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm.

DOORS OPEN DAYS 2019
30 YEARS



Ted's travels

Ted is continuing his travels around the country with his chauffeur Robbie. Racking up the miles, Ted is spreading the word about our celebratory year and our quest to raise money and awareness for Diabetes Scotland (Moray branch),

Marie Curie in Moray and Star for Harris. Most recently he has been to James Jones & Sons in Aboyne, the Neilston substation and then onto The Dome for a well-earned cuppa. He also spent time with the Islay Express delivery drivers.

So far we have raised just under £600, with Ted's collection bucket still to be counted. You can donate and find out more about the charities by visiting: <https://www.sponsorme.co.uk/ajengineering>

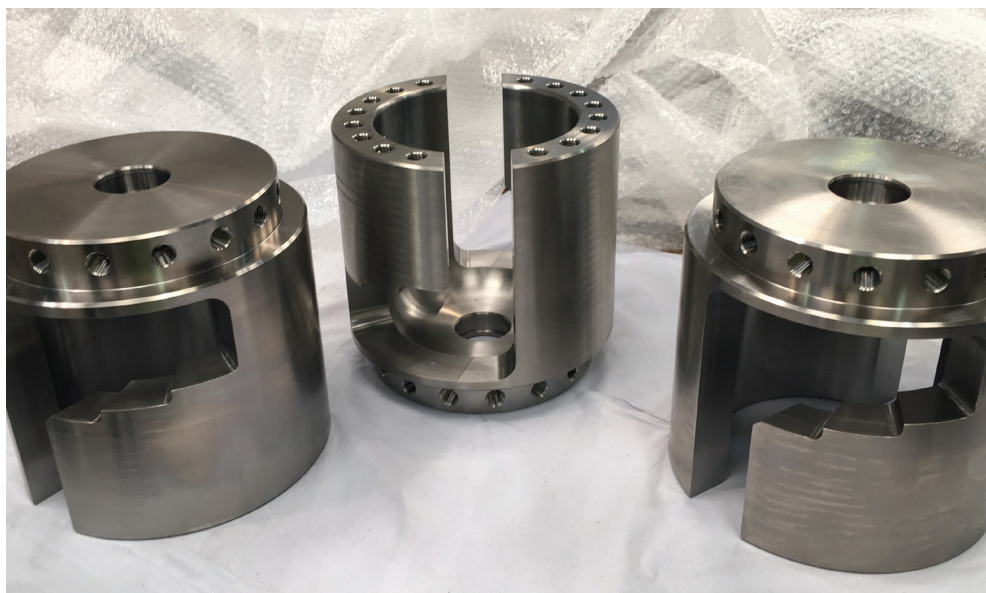


Busy time for CNC team

CNC has seen a surge in orders over the last few weeks with new clients from all sectors and from across the UK.

The work is for an existing company and involves the manufacturing of 10 lot bodies which will be used on an ROV (remotely operated vehicle). There are also other components, all requiring different types of machining currently being manufactured for the same firm.

All of these items – fabricated in titanium will be exposed to extreme pressure in a subsea environment.



Trial assembly on first HWO system complete



The frames partially completed

The first trial assembly of one of two HWO Systems is currently taking place, with some parts almost complete. The project has consisted of the fabrication of various frames which will be fitted to free issue stairs. The continuation of a job first mentioned in July's Micron with the project progressing well.

The work, for a new drilling contractor involves the fabricating and machining a range of components that will make up a system that will be used for well abandonment.

It has involved both the workshop and CNC. The latest part of the project is the fabrication of 14 different frames. Once trial assembled the first system will stand

approximately 10m high, 8 meters long and 3 meters wide. They have had to be built to taught quality requirements in accordance with DNV 2.7-3 & DNVGL-ST-E273.

Lee Binks, business development representative who is working jointly on this project with fabrication manager Craig Johnston said: "We are very pleased with how this project is going. This all began after we completed some smaller projects for this customer and they returned to us for this which is a very large scale project. The relationship with the customer is good, the work is progressing well and we see no reason why this won't continue."

STEEL LIFE

CALM BEFORE THE STORM

Just prior to the Fort George project in 1980 that I mentioned in the August Micron I was married to Ainsley who, at that time, was a music teacher based in Forres. On our way back from honeymoon Sandy Dow, the MD of William Reid (Forres) Ltd., managed to get in touch with me to "ask" if I would drop in past to sort out a new sawmill building that we were building for James Jones near the Teaninich Distillery at Alness. At that time James Jones was expanding and was also in the process of building a new sawmill at Waterford, Forres (what goes around comes around!).

Big bucks

At that time, I was partly involved in a green field site job. It was the building of the Port Gordon Maltings bringing in over a million pounds for William Reid – not small change for the early 80s! The project was being managed by my immediate boss Graham Harvey. The purchase order was a simple bit of paper with the agreed price and no terms or conditions. Graham had it framed and mounted at the William Reid reception at the Greshop Workshop.

Buy-out

William Reid (Forres) Ltd., was a company owned by farmers who were all directors of the company. In 1988 the farmers were bought out by Mr Ewan Buchanan whose hobby was sailing and he was very interested in the pontoons that William Reid fabricated and installed. He split up the company with the agriculture side of the business remaining as William Reid (Forres) Ltd., and the engineering and fabrication departments became William Reid (Engineering) Ltd. At that point I was promoted to Projects Director and joined the other four directors.

He quickly expanded the company by adding Storetec whose MD was Jim Lister and one of their staff members was James Attridge senior. Storetec provided storage and handling systems for bulk materials like grain, silage and powders.

Also, at that time Ewan added the Newmill Engineering Company which was based next to Johnston's of Elgin and had a foundry and also serviced distilleries. By that time William Reid had 100 employees and my responsibility, at 35 years old, was for all the projects undertaken by the enlarged company.

to be continued...