

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FORM FOCUS FOR 2019

AJ Engineering has celebrated its 20th year in style with a calendar of events which have put the company and the charities it has been supporting in the spotlight.



In January 2019, the company launched a series of events and initiatives to mark 20 years in business.

One of the main focusses was a virtual bike ride which challenged staff to clock up 21,000 miles, the same distance travelled completing jobs in one year. Support from the bike ride also came from Moray Chamber of Commerce's Chief Executive Sarah Medcraf and the charities that AJE chose to support - the Moray branch of Marie Curie, Diabetes Scotland and Star For Harris.

Other events included the unveiling of an aluminium drum major which is now

a new landmark for the town and taking part in Moray Doors Open Day which saw over 200 people visit the company's HQ to enjoy a tour of the premises, STEM activities, a BBQ, bouncy castle and face painter.

Robbie also employed Ted – a new member of staff to drum up support from suppliers and contractors when out and about on his travels.

Alan James who started the company after being made redundant from William Reid Engineering said it has been a great way to celebrate 20 years in business.

"We had a lot of fun in 2019 celebrating the achievement of 20 years in this industry. It has definitely put a focus on the company externally, but internally, it has also given myself and the staff a reminder of what a great achievement it is to be marking two decades in business. What is even more poignant for me, is that many of those staff members who started with AJE all those years ago are still very much part of the structure of the company now."

Money from the charity activities is still being collected, but the amount raised will be matched by AJE and shared equally between the three causes.

JANUARY

AJE was put in the spotlight by the Lord Lieutenant of Moray Grenville Johnston who visited the headquarters where he was given an insight into the company's operations by managing director Alan James and general manager Graham Alexander.

The two-hour visit included a tour of the premises, meeting members of staff including the company's apprentices and project managers and also being shown the types of projects that the company handles.



MAY

In May, a new contract working on a water treatment works marked the start of a new business relationship for AJE which led to numerous new projects for the firm. Working with Efficient Service Delivery (ESD) on behalf of Scottish Water, the AJE team began work at Whitehilllocks Water Treatments Works at Brechin in Angus. However, this connection led to over 16 further projects throughout the year with ESD, some of which are still underway.

OCTOBER

A project which heavily involved the expertise of AJ Engineering scooped a top award in October. The AJE team fabricated and installed the structural steel and cladding for the Stronelairg substation and we were delighted to learn the building won the Sustainability and Resilience Award at the 2019 Scottish Civil Engineering Awards.



MARCH

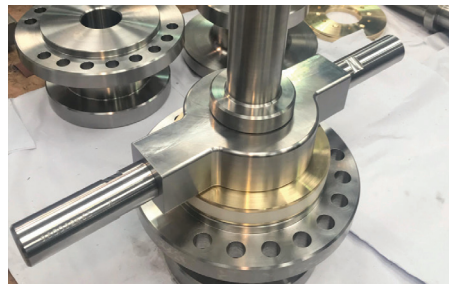
AJ Engineering was crowned Employer of the Year at a glittering award ceremony held in Edinburgh.

The company scooped the award at the 2019 Federation of Small Business (FSB) Celebrating Small Business Scottish Awards held in The Old College in the Scottish capital. AJE impressed judges with their continued investment in their employees and programme for developing and retaining staff.



JULY

In July, the CNC shop secured its biggest financial order with a company that has a long-standing relationship with AJ Engineering. The works which were for two separate projects worth a total of £100K were awarded by a large ROV contractor. AJ Engineering has been working with the Aberdeen-based firm for a number of years supplying ROV tooling components and fabricated items too.



NOVEMBER

A replica of the Kessock Bridge gantry rails was installed at the company's Forres depot so that the new inspection gantry could be tested.

AJE secured the project at the end of 2018 and the gantry underwent hydraulic and electrical installation and testing. The inspection gantry is used to carry out examinations on the bridge.



APRIL

AJ Engineering and NEWCo was once again in the spotlight for Scottish Apprenticeship Week with a ministerial visit, a school tour, and two speaking roles at events focused on the topic. Graduate apprentice Laura Mair visited six Forres area primary schools whilst the staff at AJE HQ were visited by MSP Richard Lochhead, the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science. Bethany Stuart-Bass who is doing a modern apprenticeship in fabrication and welding spoke at DYW Moray's showcase event and general manager Graham Alexander spoke at an event organised by the Scottish Apprenticeship Advisory Board in Glasgow.



AUGUST

The role that AJ Engineering plays in the local region has been showcased to Graham Leadbitter, leader of Moray Council. Graham visited the firm's Forres HQ in his role as Chair of both Economic Development and Chair of the Moray Economic partnership.



DECEMBER

Staff at AJE went 'Festive' by wearing a winter woolly to help raise funds for Save the Children. For the third year, the staff donned their favourite festive garb and raised £200 for the charity.

