

MARCH 2020

# The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo



## AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH



**TWELVE workers from NEWCo will be putting their best foot forward next month, when they scale Ben Nevis to raise money for a local charity.**

The team have taken on the challenge to raise money for Star For Harris, a cause close to the heart of general manager Neil Worsdall.

Neil has continually supported the charity as he is a friend of the family who founded it in memory of their son Harris who passed away at just 15 months old after a battle with a cancerous brain tumour.

The NEWCo team will also be joined by accounts manager Liz Flatt and fabrication manager Craig Johnston who are based at AJE's HQ in Forres.

Neil said: "We are all really looking forward to the challenge. There are probably four or five of the team who

have done it before. Some of the lads were talking about wanting to do it, so we thought it was a good idea to do it as a group, and also raise money for Star For Harris at the same time."

Neil an avid hillwalker added: "I'm confident that we will manage it. It can be a long slog and a toughie, but I am sure we will crack it. We are all reasonably fit. Myself and another couple of the experienced guys will do Ben Nevis the week before, just to check the conditions."

The walkers have all been issued with sponsorship forms and NEWCo supplier Highland Industrial Supplies has offered a prize to the person who raises the most money.

"This just adds that we bit more competitiveness amongst the team,"



explained Neil, "and we thank HIS for their contribution."

In 2017, teams from AJE and NEWCo were involved in the construction of the Glen Nevis bridge which gives access to walkers and tourists to the famous mountain.

The 139 foot long bow arced pedestrian bridge was fabricated by the team at AJE and was installed with support from the NEWCo team.

The bridge was so big that it had to be driven down to the Glen Nevis Visitor site in Fort William from the Forres depot in several sections and was bolted together on site.

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## PROJECT TO GO LIKE CLOCKWORK

**PLANS are in place to turn a historic Moray landmark into a tourist attraction and AJE Engineering is involved.**

If given the green light, visitors to the Tolbooth situated in the centre of Forres High Street will be able to access an external walkway around the old clock tower, giving them views over the town and surrounding area.

The project which is in its first phase is being progressed by the Forres Heritage Trust which owns the building.

Phase one will be for AJE to design, fabricate and install new stairs which will eventually allow people to access the walkway.

George Alexander, chairman of the Trust which also looks after Nelson's Tower explained: "It is a little-known fact that there is a narrow walkway around the clock, and until now only a privileged few have ever gained access, but it is the

aim of the Trust to make access safely available to tourists and locals alike.

The Trust still has to seek permission from Historic Environment Scotland, Moray Council Building Control and Moray Council Planning for the whole renovation.

However, an application has been lodged with Moray council to replace the wooden stairs.

"We have a very long way to go with this project," explained George. "This is a building with huge historical importance for the town and the region, so we want to make sure that we do everything by the book and make sure whatever we do, is in keeping with the building and most importantly safe for those who will access the walkway."

The project has received £9375 from the Town Centre Regeneration Funding which was allocated for 'alterations to the outside gallery around the clock tower.'



The clock face seen from the inside



George Alexander, chairman of the FHT on the wooden steps which will need to be replaced

## WATERWORKS CONNECTION SPRINGS MORE LEADS

**A DOZEN water-related projects are currently underway by the AJE team for Efficient Service Delivery cementing the firms' relationship and the hope that the initial project which began last May would lead to further work.**

Last May, AJE announced it had secured the new contract with ESD on behalf of Scottish Water, and that it was hoped this would lead to further projects.

Now, there are 12 projects on the go as AJE general manager Graham Alexander explained: "We continue to deliver a good service to ESD and the scopes of the projects are quite varied which is giving the AJE team an opportunity to demonstrate its structural, mechanical and metalwork capabilities.

"From that first connection last May when we began working at Whitehilllocks Water Treatments Works at Brechin in Angus we have continually secured further works with ESD across the country."

Other project locations include: Ardersier, Tain. Fochabers, Inverurie, Westhill near Aberdeen and Uig on the Isle of Lewis.



An artist's impression of the new hotel

## STEELWORKS FOR NEW FOUR-STAR HUB

**THE STRUCTURE of a new four-star hotel which it is hoped will connect guests to the magic of the island it is situated on, is being put in place by the AJE.**

Led by project manager Allan Martin, AJE will be supplying and erecting the steelwork for the Bracken Hide Hotel on the Isle of Skye on behalf of Curley Concepts, the principle contractor.

The development comprises the main hotel building (The Hub) which will be complemented by 27 luxury en-suite cabins which will sit scattered across the landscape. The Hub will have a large reception and entrance area complete with a full-size lemon tree, a restaurant, a whisky bar and a family lounge with games and a screening.

There will also be a separate sauna building.

AJE is involved in the steelwork for The Hub and sauna.

Allan said: "This is the first time we have worked with Curley Concepts and its certainly an ambitious project with unique designs. We are contracted to fabricate the structural steelwork for the Hub and an additional portal frame sauna building. The total steelwork weight is approximately 70te."

He added: "AJE will begin fabricating this month (March) and installation of the structural steel is due to happen at the end of April/beginning of May. We have done several projects on the Isle of Skye before, so see no reason why the location will present any challenges."