

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo



Bethany as an apprentice



Bethany, now time served, operating the new equipment at Waterford

FORMER APPRENTICE'S NEW ROLE

A FORMER AJ Engineering apprentice is now responsible for the operation of the company's newly installed automated steel fabrication production line.

Bethany Stuart-Bass joined AJ Engineering six years ago as an apprentice fabricator welder but now the 30-year-old is responsible for ensuring the new equipment which was installed as part of a multimillion-pound expansion runs efficiently.

Bethany, who previously featured in the national press to promote AJE's commitment to employing apprentices and trainees said she was delighted to take on the responsibility.

"I am grateful for the opportunity and I am learning a lot. Being asked to be involved in this huge development for the company is an acknowledgement that I am capable. Graham and Alan

have always invested in trainees and apprentices and they are very forward thinking when opportunities like this arise within the company.

"I am working alongside Martin Kemp and between us we will ensure that the machine runs how it should."

She added: "It's been a huge learning curve, but we have been involved from the start. We were there for the install, the training and now the running of the drill and cut line. I really like to learn new things, so this has been a fantastic opportunity. We were given really intensive training and there was a lot to take on board. However, the machine is now up and running fully and has already manufactured quite a few tonnes of steel beams and angles for contracted jobs. It's a great piece of kit."

The installation of the equipment is part

of the £2.5 million development at AJE's Waterford site. The fully automated equipment which was imported from Italy carries out the marking, drilling and cutting tasks on long steel sections allowing our skilled work force more time to focus on complex fabrications.

In March, The Micron told how AJE former apprentice Lee Evans became the foreman of Waterford.

Speaking at the time Lee said: "I did dream of one day progressing through the company and I have always wanted to better myself. I am doing it for my family and my eldest son is proud of my new position. I think having been an apprentice I can help the guys I work with better. I have been there and I know what it's like. I have been in their shoes. That said, I am also learning every day. There is never a day where we don't all learn something new."

Maintenance works at Maltings



Two of the AJ Engineering team have been back to Burghhead Maltings to work on a three-day project.

The work focused on 'Elevator E20' where they replaced the belt and buckets which are the internal mechanism in the elevator casing to lift the product from the kiln.

Overseeing the works was Project Manager Allan Martin, he said: "We have done this work on a couple of elevators at Burghhead Maltings a few years back and we were delighted to be back again. Over time the metal buckets in the elevator wear, with the belt also becoming worn and stretched.

"The replacement involved opening the elevator casing at ground level and removing all the old buckets. We then split the belt and joined to the new belt as we pulled it out from the bottom to feed the new belt around the rollers at the top of the elevator. Once the old belt was pulled out we joined the new belt and attached all the new buckets."

He added: "Previously, we have replaced metal buckets on site with plastic intrinsically safe buckets and reduced the pitch to accommodate the volume but in this case there was no room to reduce the pitch so the client accepted replacing with new metal buckets."

TRAINEE FABRICATOR WELDER OPPORTUNITIES



WE'RE HIRING

AJ Engineering is looking for enthusiastic individuals who may be looking for a career change and seeking a solid opportunity to join our team.

Successful candidates will initially undertake a paid 16-week full-time training course with a guaranteed full-time position on successful completion of the course.

Once qualified, employees will be expected to carry out the duties of a Fabricator/Welder.

Please apply with CV and cover letter to Craig Johnston info@ajengineering.co.uk.

Statue's Blooming

AJ Engineering would like to extend its thanks to the Forres In Bloom team who have once again tended to the commemorative drum major statue to ensure he has 'bloomed' throughout the summer.

The statue was erected as part of the firm's 20th anniversary celebrations in 2019 and since then Forres In Bloom has looked after the planter which forms the base of the landmark.

Managing director, Alan James who has given the group a donation as a thank you for their efforts said: "Once again the statue which marks the entrance to our complex has been awash with colour thanks to the Forres In Bloom team. They work tirelessly throughout the whole town to make sure that it blooms and we thank them for including AJE in their hard work."

The statue which depicts a drum major is fabricated out of aluminium and stands an impressive 17ft above the ground.

A piping related theme for the structure was poignant in more ways than one as Alan James is the current chairman of Forres Events Limited which organised Piping At Forres from 2013 to 2019.

AJ Engineering offered year-on-year support to the event including providing staff members and equipment to help set up the arena and now Alan is also involved with Forres & District Pipe Band in his role of vice-president.



The unveiling of the statue in 2019



The statue in bloom 2021