

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

WATERFORD GIVEN ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

AJE's new multi-million-pound development has been officially opened by The Princess Royal.

And the company has received a thank you letter on behalf of Her Royal Highness where she spoke of her "admiration for the excellent projects you had already carried out at home and abroad and to hear of current projects in hand."

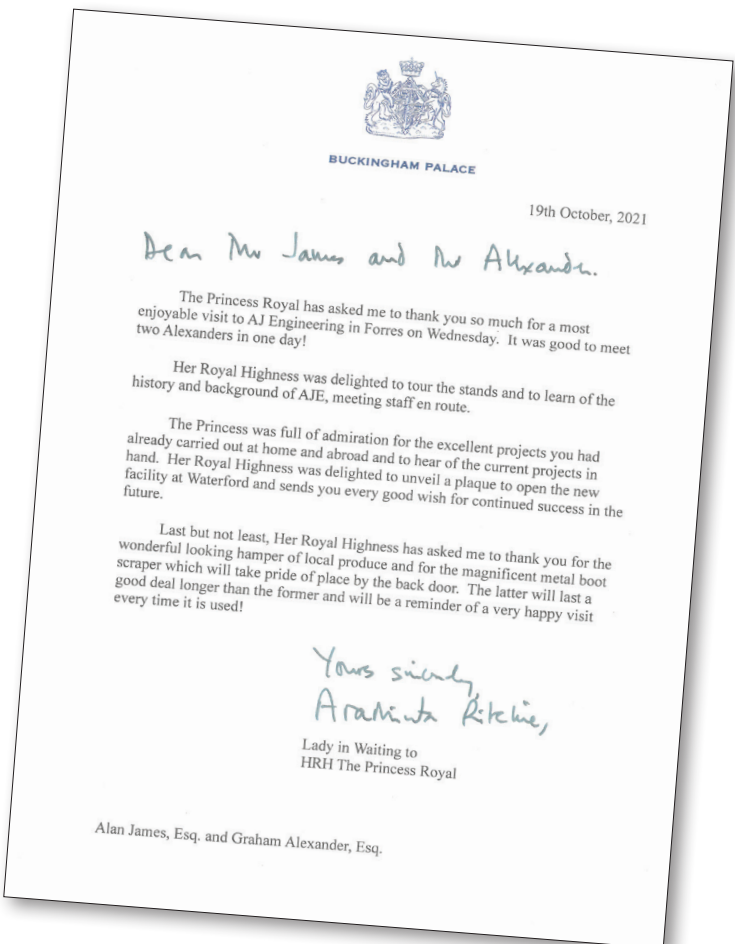
She also mentioned she was delighted to unveil a plaque to open the new facility at Waterford and sent "every good wish for continued success in the future."

The plaque and canvas picture of Her Royal Highness and Managing Director Alan James at its unveiling will now be mounted in a frame made by AJE and will be displayed at the Waterford premises.

As well as opening the Waterford site, The Princess Royal was also shown AJE's HQ at the Greshop Industrial Estate where she met members of staff who spoke about the numerous projects the business has worked on. She was given a tour of the workshop by workshop foreman Clark Hurley and was given an insight into the firm's CNC machine shop.

CNC workshop manager Willie Mackintosh who showed Her Royal Highness around said: "It was a pleasure to be asked to show The Princess Royal around the workshop and share with her some of the tasks we are involved with. She met with all of the team here and we were delighted to find she was actually very knowledgeable about what we do. It was certainly not a normal day for us, but we were glad to be involved."

During the visit, The Princess Royal was presented with a hamper filled with local products and was also gifted a boot scraper which was designed by one of the company's apprentices and fabricated by Graham Robertson.





HIE visits Waterford site

AJE recently welcomed Steve Richards Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Moray Area Account Manager to visit its new multi-million-pound facility at Waterford in Forres. He was joined by Moray Area Manager Stuart Black.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) was fully involved in the development and supported the project with a grant of £420,000 for the investment in the first and second phases.

The £2.5 million development has seen the firm expand its premises by 4.7 acres to a site which neighbours its existing HQ at the Greshop Industrial Estate.

The fully automated equipment which was imported from Italy is now fully operational and will allow AJE to double its production capabilities and employ more staff.

A spokesman for HIE said: "HIE was pleased to support the investment in the new AJE facility at Waterford. It was great to view the equipment in action and see the process efficiencies first-hand. It's excellent to see new jobs and apprenticeships being created during the uncertain times caused by Covid19. AJE is a great example of a local company investing for the future success of Moray and the North and that's why HIE provided financial support."



More outdoor play for pupils

Pupils from a further three primary schools across the Highland region will be able to play and learn outside thanks to an ongoing project by AJ Engineering.

Working for Morgan Sindall on behalf of Highland Council, the team has fabricated and installed extension canopies for Bridgend, Coulhill and Avoch primary schools.

The canopies were fabricated by the team in the main workshop, led by foreman Clark Hurley and were installed on site by Adrian Eastham.

Five similar extensions have already been completed at Obsdale in Alness, Auldearn and Ardersier near Nairn, Kirkhill near Inverness and Duncan Forbes at Culloden.

The project is being handled by Project Engineer Rob Williamson.

Rob said: "This has been a great project. Whilst each canopy design was similar, each site was different regarding canopy dimensions and finished colours, so each school had to be treated as individual designs and projects."