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The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

ISLAND MUSEUM UP FOR AWARD

The Scapa Flow Museum at Lyness which underwent a £4.4million refurbishment involving teams from both AJE and sister company NEWCo, has been announced as a finalist by The Art Fund for this year's Museum of the Year award.

It has been shortlisted along with The Burrell Collection (Glasgow), Leighton House (London), The MAC (Belfast), and the Natural History Museum (London). The winning museum will be announced at the British Museum in London on 12 July and will receive £120,000.

Staff from AJE and NEWCo worked on the project which involved the enhancement of interpretation and displays, the creation of a building to be used as an exhibition space, café, toilet facilities and information areas. The team also worked on the restoration of the existing pumphouse and boiler house and the NEWCo team had to repair and make a replica of two steel chimneys which were historically significant to the project.

Orkney Islands Council secured a grant of £1.155 million from The Heritage Lottery Fund for the project.

Scapa Flow served as a sheltered harbour for British ships during war, with some 12,000 people once stationed off the Orkney isle. Lyness became the naval headquarters in Orkney during 1919 before works were undertaken to further enlarge the base in the 1930s.

New additions to the museum include a Virtual Reality display, and renewed audio visuals which have been developed to tell the history of Scapa Flow and its modern-day role in Orkney.

The building was shortlisted in The Galvanizers Association Galvanizing Awards (GAGA Construction Awards). It was put forward for the award by LDN Architects who worked on the museum and the award looks to recognise innovation in the use of hot dip galvanising.

Galvanised steel was used extensively in the museum's extension and restoration, including its new climate-controlled space. It has also been utilised in the A-listed pumphouse, chosen for both its aesthetics, and the practical benefits of the material in Orkney's challenging climate and location.

Art Fund director Jenny Waldman said: "The five Art Fund Museum of the Year 2023 finalists are at the top of their game, offering inspirational collections and programmes for their communities, for visitors from across the UK and around the world. From transformational redevelopment to community involvement to addressing the major issues of today, the shortlisted museums may operate at very different scales, but all show astonishing ambition and boundless creativity. Each is a blueprint for future innovation in museums."



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End in sight for water project

Scottish Water is investing £5.6million in Forres sewage works with AJE playing a key role in the improvements.

The main part of the project which began in 2020, involves refurbishing the existing works, including mechanical and electrical equipment at the site being upgraded or replaced to increase capacity.

The work at the Invererne Road site for contractor ESD on behalf of Scottish Water, is expected to be finished this autumn.

The Forres Wastewater Treatment Works currently serve a population of around 14,500 people and the upgrade will mean the depot is able to continue to meet the needs of the growing community while protecting the environment.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: "A number of key assets on site were identified for refurbishment or replacement and upgrading, these included new sludge storage capacity on site. Once work is complete the Forres Waste Water Treatment Works will have capacity to serve up to 17,000 people."

Leading on the project for AJE is Wilson Burnett, M&E Technical Services Manager. He said: "AJE has a long history of working on different wastewater projects and this one has been straightforward. Our role has included refurbishing the eight existing biological filter beds, including new penstocks to control the flows. We have also installed new access steelwork to the penstock chambers and to the new inlet works area, where debris and grit will be screened out of the incoming wastewater."

The works for AJE also include the construction of a new bridge over the Mosset Burn to create a new access road to the site. The new route will remove the requirement for Scottish Water to access the site through Christie Elite Nurseries via a level crossing on the railway line.

Project manager, Kevin Smith is handling this part of the project where AJE will be fabricating and installing the bridge.

Working for Livingston-based Cleantech Civils on behalf of Scottish Water, AJE is providing two main girder beams and 24



Above: New Sludge storage tank and external pipework. Below: Two new main sludge Pumps and pipework to the new Tanks.



cross beam sections for the bridge which will be 16 metres long and 8 metres wide.

It is expected that the installation of the bridge will take place at the start July.



Off-shore conference shows industry boom

AJE Director Graham Alexander and the company's business development representative Lee Binks attended RenewableUK's Global Offshore Wind 2023 conference in London at the end of last month.

Global Offshore Wind 2023 (GOW) is the UK's largest meeting place for everyone involved with the offshore wind industry and offered world-class speakers and networking opportunities. It also gave an insight into the latest project achievements, market trends, innovations and ambitions for the sector.

At the conference, Energy Minister Graham Stuart underlined his commitment to continue to work closely

with the offshore sector to deliver more jobs and investment into the UK.

Graham Alexander said: "It was very interesting to attend, and it was reassuring to see the amount of work being put into off-shore wind. It is being taken seriously. Of course, working in this sector is not new to us. Over the years, we have worked on many projects, but it is great to have been at this conference to see first-hand how this sector is developing and growing. It's a sector that is gathering pace and AJ Engineering intend to stay ahead of the game and ensure we can offer competitive services to those in the market for what we have to offer."

Hangar steel up ahead of time

The striking white steel (see image) rising from the ground against the stunning sea and sky is the frame for a hangar for a new spaceport.

AJE has been working with SaxaVord Spaceport for its site at Unst in the Shetland Islands.

In February, SaxaVord announced that construction of the UK's first vertical launch spaceport would begin in March after it received planning approval from Shetland Islands Council.

In April, we told how AJE was working on the detailing of the steel and cladding and now, with the project proceeding at pace, the steel for the new building is up.

Graham Alexander, general manager and director with AJE said: "The project is going really well. We have two teams working on site; there's an early morning squad and afternoon team, which means we can work for the best part of the day and take advantage of the longer daylight hours. At the moment, the project is ahead of schedule and this to some degree has been helped by the amazing weather."

The privately-funded spaceport will consist of three launchpads at the Lamba Ness peninsula in Unst, allowing for the launch of small satellites into either polar or sun-synchronous, low-earth orbits.

SaxaVord have plans to achieve 30 launch events per year and the site will support launches by a range of launch service providers (LSPs) supporting industries and services including telecommunications, media, weather and defence.

