

DECEMBER '17

# The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

**By the time you read this, Christmas will be just around the corner and the break from work will be well-deserved for us all.**

Reflecting on our past year at Forres we have had our busiest year ever and some of the highlights were: Stronelaig GIS Building – our biggest building and at £3 million our largest project.

Forres Railway Station where we supplied and installed the pedestrian railway bridge and passenger building. This is the largest amount of work undertaken at the Forres Station since 1863 and a local company involved – us.

Working for SPIG of Italy in installing equipment for an air-cooled condenser at Boston in Lincolnshire.

The new Norbord production line – assisting various contractors on site with installing the new plant.

And of course, we supplied and installed the pedestrian bridge over the River Nevis just below Ben Nevis.

Meanwhile, at the moment, we have steelwork on a boat heading for Bird Island in South Georgia – not a lot of companies can say that!

Due to this surge in work we had to increase our staff numbers to cope including apprentices, three male and two female, with one of these being a graduate level apprenticeship for Laura Mair who is getting the best of both worlds –

**See over**

from MD Alan James



The steel structure at Stronelaig was AJ's largest project to date.

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# Christmas message

Continued

practical training with us while being an undergraduate affiliated to Heriot-Watt University. Also among this group we have Bethany Bass who is attending Moray College UHI.

At Fort William during this year our sister company NEWCo had a new General Manager join them. Neil Wordsall is local to Fort William and has joined us at an interesting time with Liberty taking over the Aluminium Smelter and investing in updating the building infrastructure and the smelting process which is all good news for NEWCo. Liberty is also going into the production of Alloy Car Wheels in 2019 and this huge enterprise should provide many opportunities for local companies including NEWCo. They also have had a very busy year at the BSW sawmill.

We also provided our 3m x 12mm steel cutting guillotine to NEWCo which gives them greater flexibility in sheet metal cutting.

Overall, and looking forward to 2018, AJ Engineering and NEWCo have a very promising future. In the meantime, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone at AJE and NEWCo for all their hard work and wish them all, and their families, a very Happy Christmas.

## Christmas lunch

Forres-based staff are invited to a Christmas lunch at the British Legion on Dec 22 at 1pm for 1.30pm start.



**Above:** A new pedestrian bridge was installed over the River Nevis creating access for the disabled to the mountain path on Britain's highest mountain.

**Below:** Pieces to make a new walkway for the British Antarctic Survey travelled 8000 miles to South Georgia near the South Pole.



We welcomed two new members of staff last month who have joined us from North Sea engineering firm MacKellar Sub-Sea Ltd which closed its doors at the end of October.

Apprentice machinist Scott MacKillop (22), pictured left, who is now in his fourth year will complete his "time" with AJ Engineering.

He said: "It's great to be at AJ, the work

is very similar to what I have been doing and I am pleased that they were happy to continue supporting my apprenticeship."

Whist 24-year old welder Robert Donaldson added: "I approached AJ Engineering with my CV when I found out about the problems at MacKellars and got the position. It's great. I have been working on a 50,000-litre water tank. The move here has been great."



Everyone is being encouraged to 'Go Festive' and wear a seasonal winter woolly to help raise funds for Save The Children.

Quality manager Jazmin Kellas is encouraging all staff to don their favourite festive garb on December 15.

She said: "I absolutely love Christmas and any opportunity I can get to wear my Christmas jumper I grab it. I saw the campaign for Save The Children and thought I would spread a little festive joy around the AJ HQ by getting colleagues to join me."

Staff are asked to wear something festive and donate £2 which will be given to the charity. There will also be sweepstakes throughout the day.