

# APRIL '18 The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## Four-star upgrade after rail audit

AJ Engineering's star rating has improved following an Achilles RISQS audit.

RISQS is the Railway Industry Supplier Qualification Scheme. Buyers of all products and services throughout the GB rail industry use Achilles (soon to be RSSB) RISQS

as its supplier qualification service.

Jazmin Kellas, quality manager with AJ Engineering said: "This scheme helps suppliers sell into the GB rail industry by providing an open, fair and transparent way to be formally recognised as capable providers of products and services.

Suppliers need to be RISQS verified in order to provide products/services to GB rail.

"Our audit took place on March 6 & 7 and we went from a 3-star to a 4-star rating. This is a great result considering it was a tough two-day audit."

# FESTIVAL SUPPORT CAST IN BRONZE

AJ Engineering is involved in another community event which will showcase artists of national and international renown.

The company has become a bronze sponsor of the third Findhorn Bay Festival which will take place from Wednesday 26 September to Monday 1 October 2018.

The festival brings something for all with a vibrant mix of theatre and performance, exhibitions, live music, fine-art, photography, talks and tours. There's an enhanced focus on good local food, community participation and free activities, including Scotland's only Culture Day extravaganza in Forres.

AJ Engineering has particular involvement in a new and unique theatre piece based on the Scottish literary work The Buke of the Howlat which will premiere during the festival. A shrewd and curious tale written in Older Scots at Darnaway Castle in Moray in the 1440s and will

## FINDHORN BAY FESTIVAL

26 SEPT - 1 OCT 2018

be performed in a stunning outdoor setting. The story is brought to life through an inter-generational choir, dancers, circus performers, actors and visual installations.

Being involved in community events which put Forres on the map is an important part of the company's culture. MD Alan James also heads up Forres Events Limited which organises Piping At Forres and this year he will also perform the role of Chieftain!

**Right: Managing Director Alan James is putting his support behind local culture events**





# Bright handrail shows the way

A brightly-coloured handrail will assist access for the disabled and visually-impaired at a key site in Elgin thanks to AJ Engineering.

The company recently supplied and installed a DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant handrail to the underpass at the A96 at the Elgin Bus Station.

The work was carried out on behalf of Bear Scotland.

Wilson Burnett who managed the project said: "This is the first time we have done this type of DDA handrailing. One of the challenges was keeping the underpass open to the public whilst continuing to work, but the project went well. We were on site for two weeks and it involved three members of staff."

A spokesman for Bear Scotland added: "AJ Engineering did a great job of installing the new handrails at the Alexandra Way underpass in Elgin. All the work was done with the underpass still open to the public. BEAR Scotland appreciate that disturbance to the public was kept to a minimum and that all work was done with their safety in mind. We would like to thank all the AJ Engineering staff involved in the job for installing the handrails and for their co-operation with the public."

## March is for maintenance

March has been all about maintenance for one project manager at AJ Engineering who was involved in a maintenance shutdown at Burghead Maltings.

Lead by project manager Allan Martin, one of the challenges was ensuring the job was finished within a tight time frame using specialist materials.

The month-long shutdown involved work on two elevators and a conveyor involving a six-man team working on site. The work involved teams from the workshops at Forres and the CNC department.



## New site puts an end to nightshift

Working through the night is no more at AJ Engineering and it's all down to the acquisition of the new nearby building.

In January the firm expanded to the site formally used by Agrii and as there is more space, it means no more nightshift.

MD Alan James explained: "Nightshift is a fairly recent addition to our workshop production system. The main reason for it was down to the number of workshop-based employees all sharing the same space during normal daylight

hours. Having a nightshift team meant we could increase our number of employees and the workshop overhead cranes and machines were all available. However, the additional space at "Agrii" means we now have no need for nightshift."