

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

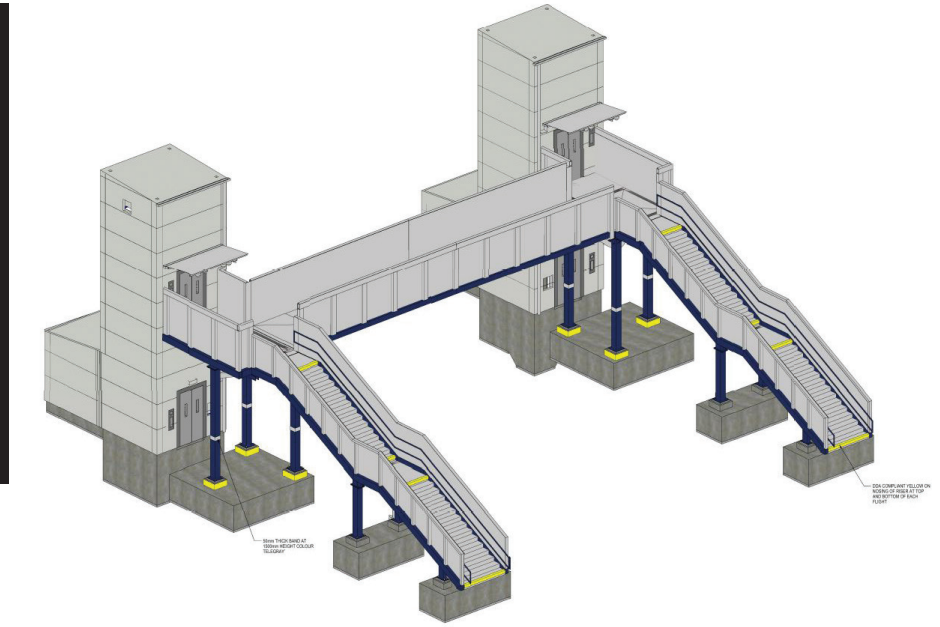
## AJE ON TRACK WITH MORE RAILWAY WORKS

**AJ Engineering has secured more work with BAM Nuttall fabricating and installing a pedestrian bridge at Kintore Station.**

The work is part of the on-going Aberdeen to Inverness Project which has been implemented by Network Rail.

The project worth £350K to the company began in mid-June with Pat Quinn taking control of the fabrication design works. The job is part of the ongoing Aberdeen to Inverness Improvement Project.

Graham Alexander said: "This is a very similar project to what we did at Forres Railway Station. We are engaged with



BAM Nuttall who are working with Network Rail."

Working to designs provided by the customer, the project is being led by Craig Johnston and has a squad of 10 handling the fabrication with a team of six doing the installation.

Graham added: "Our fabrication design works started in mid-June in the drawing office. Pat Quinn who also worked on the Forres project undertook that part

of the project. Now, fabrication in the workshop will start imminently and this is expected to take three months, then the site team will take over to install it. The installation is different to Forres as that railway line was not operational at the time," explained Graham, "however, the installation at Kintore will take place during weekend nights only as the railway line is still live. This will ensure minimum disruption to the users of the railway service."

## Extraction Systems

**The workshop at AJE HQ has had new extraction equipment installed.**

In accordance with the latest Health & Safety Executive bulletin STSU1-2019, the company has made significant investment for the workforce by installing new extraction systems in the fabrication workshop.

The company has bought new portable extraction units which can move around the workshop with the staff. The new equipment ensures the safety and well-being of the workforce.



## AJE's role in region recognised

The role that AJ Engineering plays in the local region has been showcased to Graham Leadbitter, leader of Moray Council.

Graham visited the firm's Forres HQ in his role as Chair of both Economic Development and Chair of the Moray Economic partnership.

He said: "It's important in both of these roles that I have a strong understanding of the business community across Moray. Therefore, it is important for me to visit businesses large and small across different sectors so I can see what they are contributing and what future plans they have. It's also useful as I can see if there are any ways in which we can help."

He added: "I had some understanding of

what AJ Engineering does, particularly the visible projects such as the development at Forres Railway Station and its involvement in the Queensferry Crossing, but it's always useful to make a visit on site and find out more about the company. AJE has an exceptional record in engaging with young people and developing the young workforce and supporting skills development in Moray."

Alan James: "It was great for Graham to visit us to glean a more thorough understanding of what we do at AJE. It was useful to have the meeting and discuss the developments we are making within the company but also the challenges that we face. He was very welcome, and we enjoyed giving him an insight into the company."



Cllr Graham Leadbitter and Alan James

## NEWCo car takes centre stage in strongman contest



**A NEWCo car has become an event in a strongman contest organised by one of its staff.**

The charity event to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care was put together by fabricator/welder Stewart White.

It is the fifth year that Stewart has organised the competition which attracts competitors from all over Scotland and the second year that NEWCo has sponsored it.

There were five events in total with the NEWCo car being used for the 'dead lift.' Stewart explained: "This is an annual event that I have organised for five years. As NEWCo is the sponsor we thought it was a good idea to involve one of its cars. The idea was that the participants had to perform a dead lift and do as many reps as they could in 60 seconds. There was a big difference in what the competitors could manage with some only doing two, but the winner managing 16 reps. The event raised £1000 for the charity."

## STEEL LIFE

**By 1974 I was spending more time in the drawing office. Jim Hunter (Myle's dad and my boss) had moved on to Elbar Engineering at Elgin to manage their steel erection teams.**

Robbie Dustan, who was in charge of the William Reid Millwright department, assumed the role of farm building supervisor and I worked for him going to farm building sites, measuring up for new buildings or setting out buildings due to be erected and clad. William Reid (WR) used David Ross & Sons a local builder to do the concrete bases and builder work. Alan Ross was the boss and his grandson is our very own Davie Ross.

In 1976 I was given the job of drawing up the new WR fabrication workshops at the Greshop Industrial Estate which is now used by Maclean's Bakery. At that time WR operated from St Catharine's Road. The only building which now remains is used by Dickson's as their body shop.

### **Over the pond with the president**

In 1977, WR MD Sandy Dow agreed I could have time off to go to the USA for a four-month exchange visit organised through the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs. Most of my time was spent in Florida and Indiana. At Orlando I got the chance to go Disney World which, at that stage, was only six years old. I also spent time in Washington DC where my hosts, the Future Farmers of America, invited me to go with them



to the White House Rose Garden to meet President Jimmy Carter who, amongst other things, was a peanut farmer.

I came back and relocated to the new drawing office at the Greshop and continued my final year of HNC studies at the Inverness Technical College. Soon I was to be involved in quoting and then managing the WR works at Fort George, Ardersier which was to be the biggest steel fabrication job that WR had taken on. I was to be the WR project manager working as a subcontractor for John Laing Construction and was given a second-hand Ford Escort as my first company car.

*to be continued...*