

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## TRAINEE SCHEME LEADS TO FOUR NEW EMPLOYEES



L to R: Garen Benzie, Josh Smith, Martin Kemp and Ross Morgan

**Four new fabrication welders have begun work at AJE Engineering after competing a 16-week training course at Nigg Skills Academy.**

Josh Smith, Garen Benzie, Ross Morgan and Martin Kemp have received their SVQ Level 2 in fabrication and welding.

Nigg Skills Academy is a not for profit company which opened in March 2012 to address the shortages in the key skills of fabricating, pipefitting and welding within the energy industry. The organisation works with key employers and industry qualifying bodies, the academy has developed vocational qualifications to meet these increasing industry demands.

Graham Alexander said: "This is the first

time that AJE has engaged with one of the programs that Nigg offers and the four trainees have completed their training and now have the opportunity to demonstrate what they've learnt and continue learning on the job."

He added: "AJE has a history of investing in young people, but until now they have tended to be school leavers who come in on our apprenticeship schemes. However, this new collaboration has allowed us to take on employees who are looking for a change of direction from their existing careers or jobs and give them an opportunity to learn a new skill."

Josh Smith (21) said he was delighted with the process: "I had been in the

merchant navy but found it wasn't for me. I had some experience in welding, but when I saw the job advert for AJ Engineering jumped at the chance. There was lots of practical work on the course which was great and the advantage for the four of us, was that we knew we had secure jobs at the end of it."

Garen added: "I had been working with a hydraulic firm in Elgin as a labourer but there was no guarantee of being able to progress, so like Josh saw the opportunity here. The team at AJE is great, everyone gets on and it's great that after completing the course, we can walk straight into a job and put what we have learned into practice."

# MAIDEN 'VOYAGE' FOR BRIDGE GANTRY

**A project on a landmark bridge which AJE announced it had secured this time last year has been completed.**

Contracted by The Spencer Group, AJE was tasked with fabricating a replacement of the inspection gantry for the Kessock Bridge.

And at the end of last month, the inspection gantry took its first run on the rails under the bridge which connects the Highland capital to the Black Isle.

The inspection gantry is used to carry out examinations on the bridge and the

contract which was worth £300K involved all the skillsets that the firm boasts.

Project manager Wilson Burnett said he was delighted to get news that the gantry had made its maiden voyage.

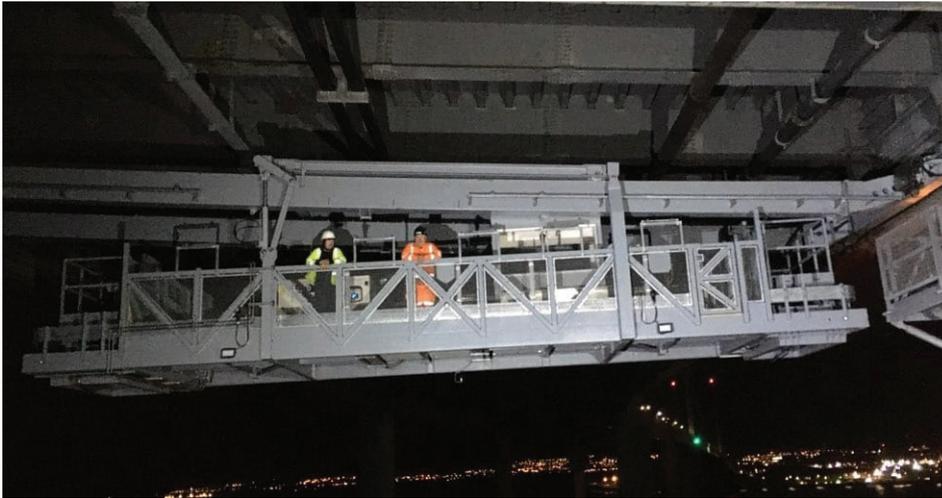
"AJE technically signed off this job just before Christmas, but I received word last week from The Spencer Group that the inspection gantry had made its first proper run on the rails under the bridge."

He added: "The whole system was tested here at our HQ, and it was then taken apart and shipped to the site in three

lorries where it was reassembled by our team. Then the electrical contractor came in, reconnected all the electrics and we got word that the gantry had made its first journey of 80 metres."

The existing inspection gantry was over 30 years old and had been condemned. As well as being able to inspect the bridge, the new gantry will also be crucial for painting the bridge which is expected to take place over the next three years.

However, it won't be breaking any speed records, a round trip of the bridge takes three hours!!!



## AJE FOCUSED PIC WINS AWARD

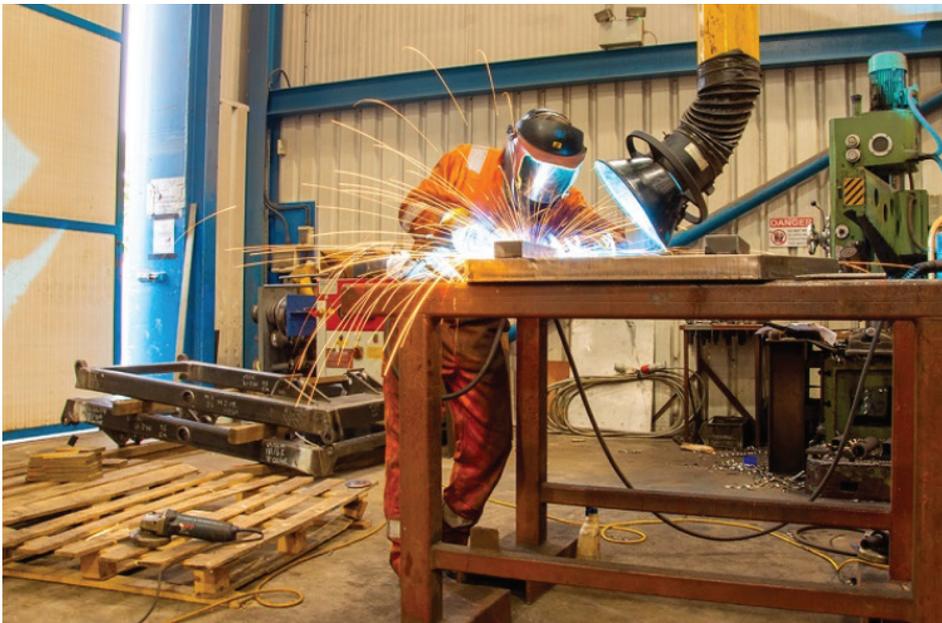
**AJE employee Bethany Stuart-Bass was the focus of a picture which has gone on to win an award.**

Local photographer Morven Mackenzie won the best sector image award in the Johnston Carmichael Chartered Accountants 'Capture the Moment' photography competition.

The competition, which was launched to celebrate the firm's long-established relationship with the Moray and

Highland regions and received over 190 entries relating to a range of Johnston Carmichael's key sectors; agriculture, food & drink, oil & gas, hospitality & tourism and construction.

Entries were reviewed by a panel of expert judges including local photographers, artists and journalists. The photo shows our employee Bethany Stuart Bass welding out some blocks in the workshop.



## SEARCH FOR A LOCAL HERO IS ON...



**AJ Engineering is involved in a local award ceremony which honours the heroes of Moray and Banffshire.**

The company has sponsored the Secondary School Teacher of the Year Award in the Moray and Banffshire Heroes 2020 which is being run for the second consecutive year. The celebration will take place in May at the Mansefield Hotel in Elgin.

The awards recognise Heroes in the Moray and Banffshire area who make a real difference to the communities, healthcare, education, safety and wellbeing.

MD Alan James said: "AJ Engineering is proud to have a great track record of investing in young people through various schemes including our apprenticeship programme which has been running for 20 years, indeed since the day the company was founded.

At the heart of this has to be great teaching and support for young people at school level, so we are pleased to be part of this wonderful award which will recognise the dedication and hard work of teaching across the region."