

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo



NEW EMPLOYEES TO MEET INDUSTRY DEMANDS

TWO new members of staff have joined the team at NEWCo to help meet the demands of the busy workshop.

NEWCo are suppliers to a wide range of engineering-based industries both in large scale industrial and private sectors.

And since lockdown restrictions were eased, the workshop has never been busier.

General manager Neil Worsdall explained: "There is a lot of tonnage leaving the workshop to go out to the galvanisers. Since lockdown, we have been very busy particularly in the workshop and to meet this demand we

have taken on two fabricator welders. They are a welcome addition to team and have hit the ground running.

He added: "The works have been varied, but recently we have fabricated the frames and clad three large sheep sheds for a common grazing company and completed the steel and cladding for a structure on the Isle of Skye. There have also been a number of access stairs and platforms for various clients reaching completion."

"It is great to be back and to have the full team in and to be able to assist our existing customers and the many new ones that have also come on board."

Sick kids will benefit from mountain hike

A FORT WILLIAM charity is now thousands of pounds better off after staff from NEWCo scaled Ben Nevis.

Almost £3,000 has been raised for STAR for Harris, a charity close to the heart of NEWCo manager Neil Worsdall.

Neil is a family friend of Tanya and Allan Ross who founded the charity in memory of their son Harris who passed away at just 15 months old after a battle with a cancerous brain tumour.

The money raised will go towards purchasing gift sets for children heading for intense chemotherapy, resources for wards across Scotland, snacks for Glasgow's paediatric oncology ward, and memory casts for families of children who have no more treatment available to them.

Neil said: "We are delighted that we all made the summit and of course back again, but we are even more thrilled that we raised so much for STAR for Harris. I know the turmoil that Tanya and Allan went through and how hard they work now, in memory of Harris to support other families who are facing a similar situation to their own. Us tackling the mountain is nothing compared to what some families are facing."

He added: "That said, it was a difficult climb. We had pretty much every season in one day. There was hail and sleet, sometimes it was cold and other times it was warm. Unfortunately, due to the low cloud, there wasn't much of a view from the top.

"However, we did it and 14 people went up and 14 came back down. We celebrated together with a curry. We had also been donated some bottles of whisky and other things from some customers, so we held a wee raffle and a few of the guys went home with a well-deserved dram." ▶

Tanya said her family were over the moon with the team's efforts: "We just continually feel so heartened at the continued efforts of our wonderful friend Neil and his great team at NEWCo to keep supporting STAR for Harris.

"At a time like this, we haven't been doing our usual fundraisers so to get almost £3000 from the guys is just incredible! We will use the money so valuably, making an important difference to children battling cancer and their families.

"Thank you doesn't seem strong enough to say to everyone at NEWCo for everything they do but hopefully they will appreciate what a difference they continue to make to very special children just as we appreciate what they do so incredibly."



Distance learning no prob for local client

AN AJ Engineering site installer has completed a one-day training course over 450 miles away in order to carry out a job for a Forres-based firm situated just around the corner from AJE's HQ.

AJE is renowned for going above and beyond for its customers and recently had to find a solution to fix leaky gutters which have plagued one of the buildings that forms Mackenzie & Cruickshank Garden Centre.

The garden centre was developed on the site of an old call centre and as MD Alan James explained have been a bugbear for garden centre owner Peter Wilson for years.

"When Peter took on the building, it was a standalone building and the gutters were on the outside. As the site was developed and other buildings were added, that meant the original gutters which were not very well manufactured or installed to a good standard didn't perform and leaked inside the new development.

"Over the years various repairs have been made, but to no avail, until now."

AJE sourced a company in Birmingham, based in the Midlands which provide a system which can line the gutters, but it meant that AJE site installer Aidy Eastham had to undergo one-to-one intensive training in order to ensure they were installed properly.

Alan added: "It just shows how committed we are to our customers that we sent a member of staff on a training course to the Midlands of England for one day, to carry out a job that is situated just around the corner for us.

"But we know how much these gutters have been causing problems for M&C and we wanted to find a solution.

"It's quite clever technology and involves three metre lengths of a membrane coated metal which are fabricated in a "W" shape and they are inserted into the gutters and then the installer pushes down the centre of the W to form a liner inside the gutters. The 3m lengths are then membrane heat welded at the joins to ensure a good seal.

"It is a more expensive option, but hopefully this will fix it once and for all."

Quality result for quality manager

Quality manager, Jazmin Kellas has passed the second year of her graduate apprenticeship with distinction and has just begun her third year of the four-year course.

Jazmin who began working with AJE in 2018 is studying a BA (hons) in Business Management with Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen.

Jazmin said the course has been useful at giving her an insight into different aspects of AJE.

"I'm really enjoying it and there is a lot of what I am learning that I can then relate to AJ Engineering. A lot of what we are doing is based on much larger companies, but I am gaining a good insight on processes that we could put in place at AJE. It's also enabled me to learn about different aspects of business such as the financial and commercial sides."

Jazmin added: "I have just begun the third year and this first module has been about project management and this is insightful as I am able to learn the theory and then look at how it can be applied in real life."

Jazmin will soon be going on maternity leave for the birth of her second child and she said that juggling her daughter, work and the impact of Covid-19 has presented its challenges: "It's not been easy but I just have to get on with it. Covid-19 has made it hard. The course is predominantly online, but I did visit Aberdeen four or five times a year and that was useful to meet up with others doing the same course.

"However, the university is really supportive and the way they do the online learning has been very good. I am looking forward to getting on with my third year although we will see how it goes when also trying to juggle two children under two!"

