

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## NEW STAFF WELCOMED TO AJE HQ

**FIVE new members of staff have been welcomed to AJ Engineering over the last few weeks.**

Two CNC machinists, an apprentice machinist, a fabricator welder and a project engineer have all joined the company.

Scott Mann and Jack Stone are now working in the CNC shop alongside apprentice Ethan Hurley who is undertaking an NC and SVQ Level 2 in his first year of an apprenticeship which will take four years to complete.

AJE took on Ethan as an apprentice to meet a skills gap in the industry as fabrication manager Craig Johnston explained: "It's great to have a full team in the CNC shop which is busy but not an easy skill to recruit in. We were delighted to welcome Scott and Jack who both have previous experience, but there is a lack of skilled CNC machinists which is why we decided to take on an apprentice as well. The CNC shop is an important part of the overall AJ Engineering structure so it's key for us to ensure that we have a future workforce."

Earlier this year AJE installed two upgraded CNC machines to meet customer demand.

The fabrication workshop has also seen the addition of fabricator welder, Ewan Stuart, whilst a new project engineer Stuart Munro has also joined the team to meet demands in the water sector.

Last month we told how NEWCo, AJE's sister company based in Fort William had taken on two new members of staff again to meet the demands of the busy workshop.

## STATUE BECOMES SOCIAL MEDIA SENSATION



**If it's good enough for the Duke in Glasgow, then it's good enough for the Drum Major in Forres.**

Recently our aluminium drum major became the talk of Facebook when he was given an extra accessory in the form of a traffic cone. A picture was snapped of our statue and circulated on popular Facebook page Forres: Then and Now.

The post attracted over 40 comments and over 100 likes with opinion divided of the actions of the culprit.

Some saw the funny side with one Facebook user commenting: "That actually looks cool and I wouldn't have noticed the statue before. It definitely is more eye catching now." Another said: "Wonder if he's single ha ha," and another commented: "All good statues get hats."

However, there were others that didn't see the funny side. One said: "Disrespectful," whilst another said: "This isnae Glasgow, get 'at doon fae there!"

Opinion may be divided but it certainly put the statue in the spotlight and now it seems more people know where to find him!

But a word of caution... the statue is not made for climbing on. It's not safe to do so and AJE's CCTV picked up exactly who it was who played this prank!

## MD'S ROYAL HONOUR NOW OFFICIAL

**It was a right royal day in the office at AJE HQ earlier this month.**

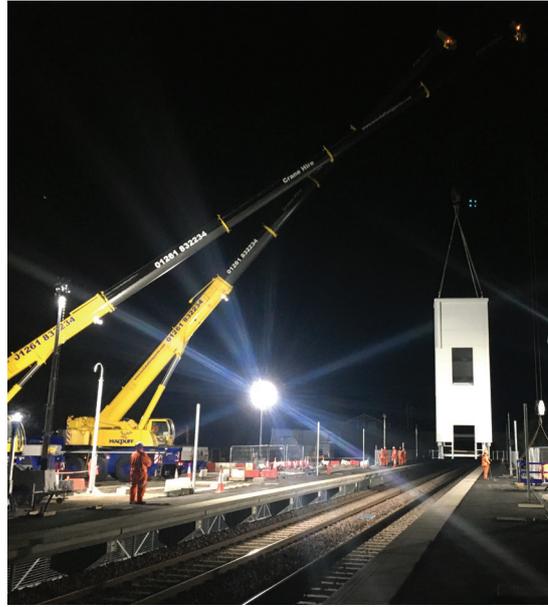
MD Alan James was presented with his Certificate of Commission as a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Moray by the Lord Lieutenant of Moray, Major General Seymour Monro.

We were first told of Alan's role back in May when his appointment was confirmed by the Queen.



Lord Lieutenant Seymour Monro with Alan James

## AJE waves off railway project



**Trains are back on track to Kintore after almost 60 years as the town's new £15 million station became operational.**

The project was the culmination of a multi-agency project funded by Transport Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans; built by Network Rail and will be managed by ScotRail.

AJ Engineering played a key role in the project as the team was responsible for fabricating and installing the lift shafts and pedestrian bridge that connects the two platforms.

AJE Engineering has secured the work with BAM Nuttall back in 2019. Pat Quinn

took control of the fabrication design Working to designs provided by the customer.

The project was led by Craig Johnston and had a squad of six handling the fabrication with a team of three doing the installation.

Craig said: "We are all delighted to see the Kintore Station now fully operational. It has been a long haul job for us after being stalled due to COVID 19 which meant we couldn't get on site for a while, however it was great to see it being opened and we were thrilled that our bridge was featured in a lot of the extensive new coverage."

## AJE helps the heroes

**AJE came to the aid of some NHS heroes during lockdown by helping Scottish Ambulance staff create an outside area to relax in.**

The team fabricated and donated brackets and fixings to enable the staff at the Scottish Ambulance Service to build a fence to create the space.

Gordon Thornton, a paramedic at the Elgin Station said: "On behalf of the Scottish Ambulance Service and its staff at the Elgin Station, we would like to thank AJ engineering for their generosity. They fabricated and donated the brackets with all fixings so we could build and secure a small fence to allow staff to sit outside and enjoy the good weather during this time of uncertainty. Not only has it provided an area for staff to relax in but also aids with social distancing. It's nice to see us all working together in challenging times like the ones we currently facing so from the ambulance station in Elgin thank you."

AJE MD Alan James said: "I am delighted that we were able to help the Scottish Ambulance Service and Gordon sent in four tins of biscuits as thanks which were welcomed by the staff."



Robbie Smith (left) & Andy Watt (right).

