

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

AJE TEAM RISES TO CONVEYOR CHALLENGE

An AJE team has been praised for the way it used engineering knowledge and troubleshooting to create a brand-new conveyor system out of an old disused conveyor.

Andy Watt, Ryan Higgins, Calum Openshaw and Steve McRae used their fabrication skills and engineering knowledge to turn an old, scrapped 14-metre-long conveyor and converted it into a working conveyor, with pneumatic lifting arms which enables the Kirriemuir sawmill where it is located to process some of its largest log sections.

Andrew Fyvie and Matt Macpherson jointly managed the works for AJE on behalf of James Jones Limited, but they both agree it was because of the knowledge and skill of the men on site that the job was completed on time and to the client’s satisfaction.

Andrew said: “The conveyor had been removed from the site at James Jones in Forres a couple of years ago and we had it stored at AJ Engineering.

“James Jones had a requirement for a conveyor for its site at Kirriemuir and tasked AJE with the job of using the old conveyor and spare parts to create something that would work at that site.

“I visited the Kirriemuir site and took measurements for the location of the new conveyor and created layout drawings, however having limited knowledge of this type of engineering I sought help from Andy and his team.”

He added: “Waterford was used for the main fabrication to ensure the new conveyor came in at the correct size, but there was so much more to this project.

“Andy and his team worked at Waterford for three weeks making

sure that everything would fit together appropriately, then they spent another two weeks at Kirriemuir putting it all together on site. It was easier for them to be on site and see the space, so they went with the parts and materials to assemble on site. Without the design input from Andy and his squad, it’s safe to say that the job wouldn’t have gone so smoothly.”

The project also involved the skill of the CNC shop who were brought in to fabricate cylinders of different sizes for inside existing shafts, which enables the conveyor arms to be linked together. They also had to bore out the insides of the shafts, so they were the correct shape.

“All in all, this project is a great illustration of the skill that we have across the whole team at AJ Engineering,” said Matt.



The conveyor during the transformation



The conveyor before is was transformed



The newly assembled conveyor

Completed bridges

Two bridges at Dykeside and Aldunie, Cabrach have been supplied and installed by AJE.

The works were part of Moray Council's £1.7m road and footbridge spending plan.

Working on behalf of Story Contracting, the AJE team fabricated steel sections, plates and parapet railings for the two six metre bridges.

Moray Council's road network includes 376 bridges and 160 retaining walls with a number of them damaged by vehicle collisions in 2020/21, seven of them hit-and-run. The cost of repair work ranges between £1,684 and £17,915 with an average spend of £7,202 at each bridge.



Before and after pictures of the bridges at Dykeside and Aldunie

Apprentices 'grow' skill with planter project

NEWCo have been helping Caol In Bloom by supplying two new planters for the flower display at the Co-op in Caol.

They were supplied and fitted by apprentices Kyle Roberts and Dylan Monk. The fabrication of the planters was used as part of their training.

A spokesperson for Caol in Bloom said: "Kyle and Dylan have made an excellent job of the planters, we are grateful for NEWCo's endless support in helping the community."

Kyle and Dylan with one of the planters they fabricated



HARVEST DEADLINE

An upgrade to a grain store which came with a tight deadline has been completed.

Bairds Malt, one of the UK's leading malting companies required a new grain wall to be fitted to its existing building which had deteriorated over time.

Project Manager, Andrew Fyvie was in charge of the project which had to be completed quickly to ensure the store was ready for the harvest.

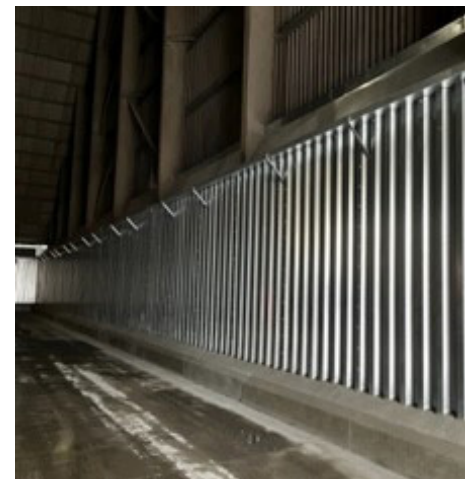
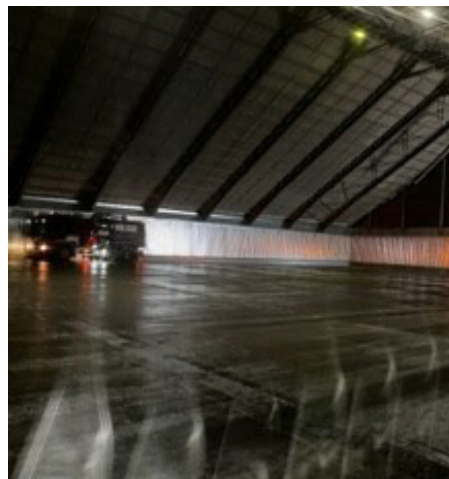
"The project at Bairds' Inverness site had to be complete by mid-August so that it was ready for the harvest. At one point to ensure that the job was complete for the customer we had up to nine workers on site.

"The project involved installing heavy corrugated sheeting on the inside of the existing building to a height of 3.5m and

145m long. It was very labour intensive as the team had to drill hundreds of holes in an existing concrete floor to fix a channel where the new corrugated wall needed to be fixed. There was also 1000s of bolts and heavy top support channel to fix in place to support the sheeting. However, the work was successfully completed and on time."

Bairds Malt is currently working to complete construction of a new malting plant at the Inverness site.

The £51 million project to expand its facilities at its Arbroath and Inverness sites will allow the firm to create an additional 79,000 tonnes of annual malting capacity.



The new heavy corrugated sheeting installed in the grain store in Inverness