

The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

NEWCO HAS TWO NEW 'HEROS'

TWO new apprentices have been appointed at NEWCo thanks to a scheme being run by Highland Council.

Kyle Roberts and Dylan Monk have joined the firm based at the Glen Nevis Business Park in Fort William.

The Lochaber company was able to employ the men via The Highland Council's Highland Employment Recruitment Offer (HERO) scheme.

Neil Worsdall, General Manager said: "NEWCo is delighted to be able to employ two new apprentices via this initiative.

"Investing in young people and giving them opportunities in our industry as always been the ethos of the company, so the scheme compliments what we already strive to do at NEWCo.

"The support we have received via HERO has been great and the feedback from Dylan and Kyle is that they are getting what they need as well. They are showing great promise.

Kyle Roberts (17) said: "I enjoy working at NEWCo because it is a great bunch of guys and there are a big variety of jobs where you learn a lot along the way."

Fellow apprentice Dylan Monk, also 17 added: "My apprenticeship has benefited me as I have learnt new skills and really enjoyed my time so far."

NEWCo's purpose built and well-equipped workshop in Fort William is home to a team of skilled technicians whose services are facilitated by an in-house machine shop fitted with the leading state of the art machinery.

Since it was launched in March last year HERO, which is run by the Council's Employability Team, has directly supported 225 people into employment.

The scheme is funded by The Highland Council and the Scottish Government under the No One Left Behind and Young Person's Guarantee Funding Streams. It helps people of all work ages and with the greatest barriers to employment secure and stay in jobs.

Chair of the Council's Environment and Infrastructure Committee, Cllr Trish Robertson said: "HERO is having very positive results as more people find their way into employment. I wish Dylan and Kyle all the best for their apprenticeships. They are just two of the young people benefitting from the scheme. If you are a Highland business and are interested to find out more about how you can apply, please get in touch with our employability team."



Kyle Roberts



Dylan Monk

ANTARCTICA IN PICTURES

A team from AJE are currently working on the remote island of Rothera in Antarctica carrying out various tasks including erecting steel and installing the cladding on the new 'Discovery Building' which will replace the current science and operations building.

Paul Briggs recently had the pleasure of boarding the UK's newest polar exploration vessel, the RRS Sir David Attenborough when it docked in Rothera to drop off equipment. Here he shares some of his photos with us.



HOPE FOR NEWCO EXPANSION

NEWCo is hoping to increase its output with a significant investment.

The Fort William-based company is hoping to extend its building by a third which will allow them to install overhead cranes which will help speed up the production process.

MD Alan James, said: "The workload at NEWCo is increasing month on month, and we are now at a point where we need to look at what we have in place for our hardworking team and make it even more efficient for them and therefore our growing customer base. The building currently houses offices and a workshop, but there are no overhead cranes, so the team are having to use forklifts which are not as efficient. The office also takes up 50 per cent of the existing building, which is required, so the only way we can address the issue is by expanding."

AJ Engineering bought NEWCo in 2015 from husband-and-wife team Ron and Denise MacLennan.

At the time of the acquisition, NEWCo had 15 employees. It now has 22 and recently appointed two new apprentices with support from The Highland Council's Highland Employment Recruitment Offer (HERO) scheme.

The production facility in Fort William encompasses welding, rolling, shearing, punching, bending, plasma profiling facilities and machining. They are suppliers to a wide range of West of Scotland based industries in both the large-scale industrial sector and private sector.

General manager of NEWCO, Neil Worsdall said: "We are very excited at the prospect of an expansion and especially

the overhead cranes, which will boost our efficiency in our workshop. It's also brilliant news for Lochaber and the wider local economy, particularly in relation to the expectations of new opportunities for young people through apprenticeships."

