

DOWNREAY NEWS

The **Site** Newspaper

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October 2008

GOING WITH THE FLOW

— see centre pages



HIGHLIGHTING DOWNREAY'S HERITAGE

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DOWNREAY FOLK IN RELAY FOR LIFE

— see photos on page 8

APPRENTICES GET THEIR TICKETS



ON THE RECORD

By
Simon Middlemas
Dounreay Director

Decommissioning old nuclear sites is an essential but expensive demand on the public purse. Across the NDA, the total cost is in the order of £70 billion. The people who need to pay for this are you and me . . . people who pay taxes.

So it is absolutely right for the custodians of our money to seek assurance that none of this money is wasted. Every penny is a prisoner.

Last year, we managed to squeeze seven per cent off our spending by finding more efficient ways to work. This year, our target is six per cent.

Every one of us has a responsibility to spend the minimum necessary to get the job done. In our private lives, we look for bargains and cheap deals on travel, for example. We must always adopt the same thrift in how we spend the public's money.

You'll probably have seen headlines about the funding position at Dounreay this year.

Finance and budget planning is never an easy subject to communicate at the best of times, and public sector finance sometimes can seem particularly impenetrable, but let me try to explain the position.

The NDA, which provides us with the money, has set out a three-year plan that should see our budget remain steady at about £151 million.

Every year, the Government expects its public bodies to become more efficient. Since it is site licence companies that spend most of the NDA's money, it is the SLCs who need to deliver this.

This year, we need to deliver a programme of work worth £151 million for three per cent less, approx. £147 million.

In addition, we wanted to carry forward work from last year worth £4 million. So our plan was for a programme of work estimated at £154m. The NDA has said it cannot fund this carry forward.

So, that means there is a gap of £8 million – our plan costed at £155m against a limit of £147m on available funds. That equals about six per cent we need to save in order to deliver the programme. ■



Four years of hard work have paid off for twelve young men who recently left the title of engineering apprentice behind them.

They collected their certificates at the apprentice indenture award ceremony at the end of August.

With them were three scientific trainees who also qualified after successfully completing their year-long training.

MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife John Park, himself a former electrical apprentice at Rosyth Dockyard, was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

He told his audience that the skills they had achieved would be more useful to them in the future than they could appreciate just now. "Apprenticeships are not just about technical skills, they are about team working, about leadership and communication," he said. "You now have the skills that will take you right through your working life."

The Lachie Macmillan Trophy, presented by JCL to the most improved apprentice, was won by **Andrew Harvey** (3rd year, instrument).

The Director's Trophy, presented by DSRL to the best all-round apprentice, was won by **Grant Anderson** (3rd year, electrical). ■



Grant Anderson, winner of the Director's Trophy, with DSRL boss Simon Middlemas.



Andrew Harvey, winner of the Lachie Macmillan Trophy, with JCL boss Gordon McIntosh.

Stuart Coghill	decommissioning
Tommy Dunnet	electrical design
Gary Mackay	instrument
Neil Brims	electrical
Ian Shepherd	instrument
Jason Orton	mechanical
Ewan Geddes	electrical
Kyle Mackie	electrical
Ryan Macintosh	instrument
Lee Allan	instrument
Michael Macaulay	mechanical
Steven McConnach	electrical
Gary Davidson	electrical
Ross Williamson	scientific
Katie-Jane McPhee	scientific
Vincent Tait	scientific

You can contribute to the success of the newspaper by sending us your feedback, either through the intranet, or by phoning Sue Thompson on extension 6085.



IT'S YOUR PAPER – HAVE YOUR SAY.

Page 3 Pin up

Name: Sharon Rosie
Job: Training Administration
Employer: DSRL Training Department



Tell us what you do at Naver?

Reception duties at Naver and dealing with enquiries. I am responsible for all training requirements, i.e. updating training courses in SAP, collating and arranging events in relation to all training requirements for both staff and also external customers.

What's the best bit?

Meeting and greeting new people and also catching up with colleagues from Site

Plus no high-viz or having to go onto site (especially as I travel from Wick side!)

....and the worst bit?

Trying to catch up with new systems i.e. SAP etc.

What were you doing before?

(Can be on or off site)
 Commercial Services – embedded support to ILW projects

....and what will you do when this job finishes?

Retire gracefully and have loads of holidays!!!

What hobbies, or other interests do you have outside of work?

Gardening and Secretary of my

local bowling club in Wick

If there was one thing I would change for the better about Dounreay.....

Better communication channels (i.e. Core Brief was useful in it's day and staff seemed to have a wider knowledge of what was going on!) ■

Want to be our next Page 3 pin-up? - Call Sue on: 01847 806085

OFF-THE-RECORD
 By Eann Sinclair
 Programme Manager, Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership
 Guest Columnist

The Regeneration Partnership office at t3uk in Janetstown looks out over the Pentland Firth. Quite apart from being the best office view in the country, it's a daily reminder of the opportunities on our doorstep.

I'm proud of my own Dounreay heritage: my late father spent his entire working life on site, and aunts, uncles and cousins have also worked "inside the fence" over the years. So I'm also proud to be part of the team (HIE, The Highland Council, the NDA and The Scottish Government) that is working to keep the local economy - and our local communities - thriving in the future.

We've been working on a "top ten" of activities to help us get there. That involves making sure the world-class engineering skills built up around Dounreay play a key part in the first years of developing tidal technology, as well as capitalising on the development of oil & gas work both at home and abroad. There are many private companies entering the race to capitalise on the Pentland Firth's potential for tidal energy. Look out for some announcements on this in the next few months.

To make sure we can do all this we need world-class port infrastructure to match, so we're working with both Scrabster and Wick harbours on big plans for their futures. John O' Groats also remains in our sights - we believe it can become a world-class tourism destination with year-round potential and we're currently working on a masterplan of what it will look like. Political interest in the area has never been higher, and we're making great efforts to keep our area in the spotlight.

Should we be excited? Will these activities deliver the jobs the area needs?

I believe they will, although probably not all at once. But I think if we can deliver around 200-250 new or safeguarded jobs per year over the next ten years that will help transform the economy.

An important part of my job is to make sure as many of us as possible know what is happening. In the next few weeks our new website will go live and we'll be issuing regular updates on what's going on. If you want to keep up to date just email me on eann.sinclair@hient.co.uk and I'll make sure you're included. ■

WHERE IN THE WORLD



This month's photos are thanks to **James Sutherland** (BNS Nuclear Services), who enjoyed his summer break touring France, Spain and Monaco.

He went to the famous casino in Monte Carlo, but they wouldn't let him in as he was wearing shorts.

James is also pictured in Monserrat, near Barcelona, with the world-renowned cathedral in the background. ■

HIGHLIGHTING HERITAGE

Do you have historical treasures in your place of work that would be of interest to future generations?

If you do, then the site's heritage officer James Gunn would like to hear from you.

James is amassing a collection of artefacts which people have given him.

"It's amazing what people have squirrelled away in cupboards or store rooms all over site," he says.

"I've got quite a collection already, enough to have a semi-permanent display on the top floor of D2003. Some items, such as the Dounreay RAF station fuel tank dipstick that the apprentice training school gave me, will be displayed in Caithness Horizons when it opens at the end of the year."

James intends to hold mini displays at lunchtimes in the Welcome Break, the D1201 team bar, PFR and DFR between now and Christmas.

"I'm looking not just for the obvious old items from the 50's and 60's, but for current items that will become classic pieces of heritage in 30 or 40 years time." ■



James Gunn with some of his collection of artefacts.

You can contact James on heritage@dounreay.com or on the heritage hotline – extension 170.



One of the first 'mobile' phones? This one has a winding handle.

UNITING THE REACTORS BRINGS BENEFITS TO WORKFORCE

The amalgamation of the DFR and PFR decommissioning departments within the Site Projects unit is a logical phase in DSRL development following on from the major Dounreay Division reorganisation in 2006/7.

It makes sense to merge the two teams into one efficient, highly-skilled pool of staff who can share their expert knowledge and are flexible enough to be able to work at either PFR or DFR.

A small project team, led by Doug Shanks, has now been formed to work with the reactors' teams, on a phased approach, to achieve this goal.

"This merger is a logical step in the site

reorganisation that was started before we became a site licence company," pointed out Doug. "By the time the merger is complete, we will be working to the same procedures and processes, which will simplify movement between the reactors."

A Management of Change (MoC) form for the proposed reactors' amalgamation will be submitted to the regulators by March 31, 2009. ■

DOOMED TO BE A "ONE-OFF"?



The beautiful Caithness Glass trophy, far left.

This beautiful Caithness Glass trophy has had a chequered history.

It was commissioned as a golf trophy in the early 1990s by AEA Fuel Services. The intention was to have an annual golf match between Fuel Services and the French equivalent (CEA).

The inaugural match was played in the south of France, near Cadarache, and was narrowly won by Fuel Services.

Colin McColm was in the Fuel Services team, and recalls that his team mates were Barry Hickey, Roy Nelson, Dave Thom and Owen Pugh (the non-playing captain).

The return match at Royal Dornoch the following year was called off due to budgetary constraints on the French team.

The trophy then lay dormant until 2003 when Peter Welsh had it re-engraved with its current wording.

This time it was a competition between Dounreay's contractors. Each paid a sum of money per team to cover the costs of the competition, the surplus to be donated to a charity specified by the winning team. Each team included two UKAEA personnel in their number.

The competition took place at Royal Dornoch, and Orion-Gow emerged victorious.

Although it was intended that this would become an annual fixture, a change of director meant that the event no longer had a sponsor, and so once again the trophy lay dormant. ■

THE SITE HAS ITS SAY

For the last couple of weeks, there has been a survey on the intranet inviting people to have their say about the weekly brief, which has replaced the team brief.

The results of that survey will be published on the intranet in due course.

There was also an opportunity to comment on the 'Dounreay News', and many of you left very helpful and interesting feedback.

Thank you to all who participated, and we will be considering all your suggestions.

In the meantime, here is a selection of your comments that have been received:

- use a cheaper paper
- a page 7 guy
- less 'spin'
- there is a lot of good work going on around the site. Perhaps the Comms team should get out more and search for it!
- This should be circulated electronically and not printed off so that it goes into the recycling (hopefully).
- Send an e-mail link to Dounreay News rather than just having it advertised on the intranet.
- I don't think the Dounreay Newspaper should be printed out as we can all access it through the Intranet and this would make a substantial saving.
- Do away with the embarrassing "where the Dounreay News has been spotted" and the page 3 nonsense.
- Contact some of our old retired members and ask them to do a spot or maybe some of our guys that have ventured offshore -- differences between the Industries.
- Details on new starts/promotions/leavers news.
- Folk need to send in more stuff and photos to the newspaper, otherwise its always the same people who get in there.
- Repeats too many articles/photographs already seen on the intranet, needs to cover stories that have not been seen already. A bit more independent reporting maybe?
- More input from managers on what is about to happen rather than what has happened.
- Possibly make the newsletter recyclable. I see most issues ending up in the waste bins.
- Feel it has now become more of a business mag replacing UKAEA Today etc and has lost the newspaper feel. Think it needs to focus more things like staff movements, vacancies, events, anniversaries of people who have been here 5 years + 10 years + marriages, competitions etc and focus less on business targets/subjects.
- I like the way it covers a lot of different areas around the site.
- Sycophantic and patronising!
- I like all the information that's in it, its really good.
- Occasional competitions, my son loved the kid's safety poster competition and I'm sure adults would like one now and then (not colouring!).
- I would like to be able to look at back issues. ■

TRAINING IS THE KEY TO FORK LIFT TRUCK SAFETY



Proper, professional training is one of the best ways to ensure that people work safely.

When you are using a few tons of forklift truck its even more important that you are competent.

The Forklift Truck Association held their National Forklift safety week this year from 22-28 September.

Davie Mowat is the site's accredited forklift trainer. He offers accredited training courses to all workers requiring the skill, which are valid at construction sites all over the country. The training covers the Road Transport Industry Training Board (RTITB) scheme, and the Construction Plant Competency Scheme (CPCS).

"One third of all transport injuries are as a result of using counterbalanced trucks, such as forklifts," says Davie. "That's why its crucial that drivers learn to handle a forklift truck properly, as they are heavier than they look. Even the small ones weigh around three tons."

The courses are held in a dedicated building at Forss Business Park.

Contact the Training Department at Naver House on 4735 for more information, or to book a course. ■



Health and Safety Assurance & Feedback Department

had a team building event at the Sea Cadet training centre on Friday, 12 September. The team volunteered their time and labour to spruce up the Sea Cadet Training Centre by painting both inside and outside. Everyone had a good time. ■



LOCAL WORKERS BENEFIT FROM NEW VENT SYSTEM

It's the biggest manufacturing contract ever undertaken in the Highlands for Dounreay.

More than 300 tonnes of steel are being shaped and welded into tubes and chambers at JGC sites in Harpsdale and Janetstown.

And over the next few months the parts needed for the new 1209 ventilation system will begin arriving at Dounreay.

Up to 150 lorries will be needed to transport all the parts.

The £7.4 million contract has created work for 100 people in the local supply chain.

At Dounreay, workers from M.M. Miller and Budge Formwork have started on the foundations.

This includes the plinths needed for two new 30-metre stacks. They are also excavating the bases for supports that will carry the ducts between buildings.

Workshops at Janetstown and Harpsdale are busy filling up with rolled steel tubes.

JGC will begin delivering the first parts this month, with the whole system expected to be on site by the end of the year.

It will take another nine months to weld it all together and tie it in to the dozen or so plants served by the existing 1209 ventilation.

The existing system of ventilation dates from the 1950s and is incapable of supporting the phased clean-out and demolition of these plants.



Derry Ross, foreman/steel fixer (Budge Formwork) working on the rebar for the stack foundation. The stack will sit on top of 59 tons of reinforcement bar and concrete.



Gordon Cowie (MM Miller)



Gavin Noble (MM Miller)



Aze Sutherland (MM Miller)

LOCAL WORKERS BENEFIT FROM NEW VENT SYSTEM



Project manager **Iain Lyall** (DSRL) and project supervisor **Jim Mackenzie** (DSRL) checking the foundations for the stack.



Gary Mackay (MM Miller)



Welder/fabricator **Andy Paterson** welding one of the rings that will form the stack



JGC commercial director **Tim O'Brien** with **Andy Paterson** at Janetstown



Welder/Fabricator **Tim Jackson** (JGC) working at Harpsdale



Welder/fabricator **Danny Oag** (JGC) working at Harpsdale.

CHARITY EVENT SMASHES ALL RECORDS

The committee chairperson of the Cancer Research UK Relay For Life Caithness Wendy Meiklejohn, who works at PFR, is delighted, but not surprised, by the fact that the recent event held in Thurso was the most successful of its kind ever in Britain. She said 'Caithness is known to be one of the most giving counties per capita where charities are concerned and they certainly proved it with the relay.'

So far over £112,000 has been raised through the generosity of the local community, smashing the previous record of £87,000. The Caithness relay also had the highest number of cancer survivors taking part with 105 walking the first lap together.

Dounreay employees Ishbel Macdonald, Suzanne Mackenzie, Carol Rosie and Fiona Miller were among the committee members who worked tirelessly to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

Many of the teams taking part included Dounreay employees from across the county.

Thanks to everyone who sent in photos of the event. A DVD is being produced and will be available from Cancer Research UK in Thurso. ■





'EXERCISE FOXTROT' BRINGS BRIGADES TOGETHER

Firefighters from Highlands & Islands Fire & Rescue Service have tested their response to an incident at Dounreay in a joint exercise with members of the site fire brigade.

'Exercise Foxtrot' follows the success of a similar training exercise held a year ago.

This gave crews who could not attend last year's event the opportunity to practice in the implementation of the H&IFRS Incident Plan for the Dounreay site.

Five tenders and 35 firefighters converged on a simulated fire in CEC2.

The exercise was very successful and gave the firefighters the opportunity to work together. All the objectives were achieved speedily and efficiently. ■



DSRL SUPPORTS LOCAL SAFETY EVENT FOR KIDS

In September, for the second year in a row, the Safe Highlanders event took place in the Wick Assembly Rooms. Around 330 primary seven pupils from Caithness and North Sutherland schools attended the event, sponsored by Caithness Community Safety Action Team, Dounreay Site Restoration Limited, and The Highland Council.

The event was officially opened by Councillor Katrina MacNab, who said "It is great to see all of the different agencies coming together to provide safety and crime prevention advice to all of our Primary 7 pupils". ■



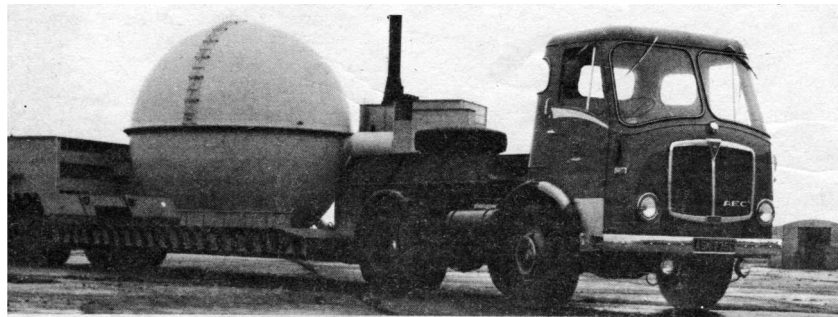
Meet Andy Malkin, Dounreay's new Programme Manager.



An AMEC employee, Andy is a chartered mechanical engineer with a varied background in the oil and gas, major construction, defence and infrastructure sectors of industry. Outside work, Andy's interests include golf, motorcycle trials and playing football. ■

Retired Head of Safety John Walford keeps an eye on Dounreay from his home near Inverness. He recently wrote to the editor of Dounreay News with a cunning plan for bringing forward the interim end date still further:

"Dounreay has been urged to challenge established way of working and come up with more innovative ways to decommission the site for less cost to the taxpayer – how about this for a strategy that doesn't seem to be included in the current plans? We all recognise that Dounreay has done great things to shorten the decommissioning timescale by many years but...have they really been trying?" ■



A UKAEA transport lorry with DFR appearing to be on the trailer. This photo was taken in 1966 when the decision to build PFR was announced.

KEEPING OUR BEACHES CLEAN

Caithness beaches are among the most beautiful in the world: natural, unspoilt and quiet.



To help keep them like that, Dounreay's wastewater from toilets, sinks and road gullies flow through kilometres of underground pipes to one of four milliscreens. These break down natural waste and soft paper prior to discharge to sea. Anything that will not pass through the screen is retained and has to be disposed of elsewhere.

Unfortunately a significant amount of material is being retained, and to keep the milliscreens working efficiently, they need to be inspected and cleaned most days.

This process is necessary, not because the milliscreens are inadequate, but simply because we should be more careful about what we flush away.

Jim Moar is the project manager heading a site-wide awareness campaign to encourage us to consider what we flush.

Jim points out that water companies spend millions of pounds (taxpayers' money) cleaning up at sewage treatment plants. "That is why Scottish Water and the Scottish government are running a campaign to make us more aware of what we flush".

"Dounreay folk are very aware of the environment, as we are lucky to live in such a special place. We owe it to our community and our children to behave in an environmentally friendly manner and not use the toilet as a guilt-free waste bin." ■

Information from Scottish Water www.scottishwater.co.uk and Bag It and Bin It - a national water industry-led campaign promoting responsible disposal of discarded personal products: www.bagandbin.org/



TOPIC OF THE MONTH: CONFINED SPACES



Graeme Mackay doing confined space training

Management have a requirement under the Confined Space Regulations 1997 to take all reasonable and practicable steps to prevent entry into confined spaces. However on occasions entry into confined spaces is necessary.

A confined space means any place, including any chamber, tank, vat, silo, pit, trench, pipe, sewer, flue, well or other similar space in which by virtue of its enclosed nature there arises a reasonably foreseeable specified risk.

There are five specified risks, these are: -

- (a) fire and explosion
- (b) increase in body temperature
- (c) the loss of consciousness or asphyxiation arising from gas, fume, vapour or a lack of oxygen
- (d) drowning as a result of an increase in liquid level
- (e) asphyxiation or entrapment arising from free flowing solid

Confined space working is a fact of industrial life, and this is no less true of a site like Dounreay. With the decommissioning of the site gathering pace, there will be an increasing need to work in areas of confined space, as plant and machinery is dismantled, and ducts cleared of pipes and cables.

A risk assessment must be completed and for confined space working this means identifying all the hazards present, assign the risks and determining what precautions to take. In most cases the assessments needs to consider:

- the task
- the working environment
- working materials and tools introduced
- suitability of those carrying out the task
- arrangements for emergency rescue

For non-routine confined space work on the site the Dounreay Fire, Ambulance and Rescue Service should be contacted. The DFA&RS can provide advice on the precautions to take and equipment needed in a rescue situation. It is also important that they are informed of the location, hazards and start/stop times of the work.

All the requirements for confined space work on the Dounreay site are contained within Dounreay Standard D/STD 2016. ■



GOSSIP

In September, the site welcomed the following new starts:

- C Nicolson Site Services
- M Moar Site Services
- A Matheson Site Services
- D Carruthers Site Services
- R McLachlan Site Services
- D Gibson Site Services
- L Hogg Waste Services

Back in June, when the site held a safety stand-down, everyone was invited to complete a safety culture climate survey, with the enticement of a cash prize if your name was picked at random. There was a response rate of nearly 50%, and so two cash prizes have been awarded. The

lucky winners were **Andrew Main** and **Laurence Campbell**, who each received £250. The winners also selected local charities to receive money - RNLI and the local Children's Hospital Association. Detailed results of the survey can be found on the intranet.

On Wednesday October 8, the Taste of Caithness and Sutherland 2008 exhibition will take place at Mackays Hotel, Wick. It is open to the general public from 14.00 – 16.00hrs. The organisers, Scotland Food & Drink, supported by HIE, are hoping that it will be as successful as last year's event, which was attended by the Duke of Rothesay. If you intend to go along, you will need to register in advance. **Contact the event organisers, Strategem, on 0800 707 6460.**



Iain Cowie retired from Dounreay in September after 34 years on site. He was presented with a watch and money from his colleagues who came to bid him goodbye.



Dounreay's improving safety performance enabled the Dounreay Communities Fund to support Pentland Firth Yacht Club's Regatta in August. Ten Tasar dinghies made the journey north to compete against six local Tasars. Pentland Firth Yacht Club, run by volunteers, currently has around 50 members who were all involved in the regatta. Competitors and members of the Pentland Firth Yacht Club are pictured here during the event with (kneeling left to right) Alastair Macdonald, Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd; John Perry, Pentland Firth Yacht Club Commodore and Malcolm Lord, Pentland Firth Yacht Club. ■

HAVE YOUR SAY

The site's newly qualified apprentices and scientific trainees

“What do you think the future holds for you at Dounreay?”



Neil Brims:

Having just completed my apprenticeship with Johnson Controls, I have been lucky enough to secure a position as an electrical technician. Currently our department has a wide variety of work both on and off the site. I would like to see more new work developing across the site as this would most certainly raise the morale of the current work force.



Ryan Macintosh:

I hope to continue my work here as an instrument technician and gain as much experience as I can in my trade.



Stuart Coghill:

The quality of the apprenticeship I received was excellent. I realise that the number of jobs will tail off in the future but I know that new opportunities will arise - both here and in others parts of Nuvia.



Tommy Dunnett:

Over the past 4 years I have picked up a lot of interesting and valuable experience. I'm looking forward to using this experience and assisting with the decommissioning work at Dounreay.



Steven McConnach:

I think that what the future holds for me at Dounreay will be new challenges and gaining experience in my trade to help build skills for my future.



Ewan Geddes:

Having just started a degree in electrical engineering I would like to believe that my future at Dounreay can provide me with pathways to other opportunities on site and further skills to set me up for a future after Dounreay is decommissioned.

DSRL IT SERVICES – TIP OF THE MONTH

The “All Documents” view in Lotus Notes is extremely useful. This will show you everything in your mail database, including calendar entries. You can use the column headings to sort by oldest or largest items, or sort them by sender. This view can also be useful for searching, especially if you don't know where you filed the message you're looking for.

Did you know that if you delete a folder in Notes, the contents aren't deleted? If you've ever done this then the “All Documents” view is the only place you'll see these “orphaned” messages. ■

