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# AARSLEFF

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ISSUE NO.12

MARCH/APRIL 2019  
STAFF NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME

Welcome to Aarsleff Ground Engineering's newsletter.

Driven Precast Piling, Bradford Mosque

On Friday the 29th March, the UK is scheduled to leave the European Union, however the UK-EU negotiations on a Brexit deal remain ongoing, and the outcome of those talks is still unclear. I have been tracking the ongoing Brexit dialogue, evaluating the effects of various trading agreements on our business plan and have adopted a robust approach to risk management. Whatever the outcome is, know this - Brexit will alter the market as we know and understand it today. We must have resilience and ensure we are prepared for whatever changes may emerge. Currently, the whole of the UK construction industry is gearing up for an uncertainty in the run up to the UK's withdrawal from the EU, and preparing for a potential slowdown in construction activity. As a business, contingency planning is a necessity and we have already made steps towards building resilience. Aarsleff Ground Engineering and Centrum Pile have engaged with their supply chain providing assurances that the organisations are well equipped and well managed to deal with any Brexit outcome, including cost fluctuations, unforeseen delays to projects or skills shortages. Gever Tulley once said "Persistence and resilience only

come from having been given the chance to work through difficult problems." Resilience is defined as the ability to bounce back or recover well from change. I am sure you all know someone who is resilient. How can we emulate that? People who are resilient see changes as opportunities for growth. They develop effective strategies for managing with stress, and continually improve on their problem-solving skills. Most importantly, resilient people build good relationships with others because they understand that seeking support and working in a team helps overcome adverse situations, rather than trying to cope on their own. The latter is the main characteristic I want you to all strive to possess. Together, we have been through so many changes and I am optimistic about what we can achieve in the ever-changing situation. Together, we need to go the extra mile and ensure our work is completed to the best of our abilities every single day. Together we must work hard and embrace the opportunities from what many would otherwise deem a threat. Together, we can become a resilient and an adaptable organisation with a long and proud heritage.



...Kevin Hague,  
Managing Director



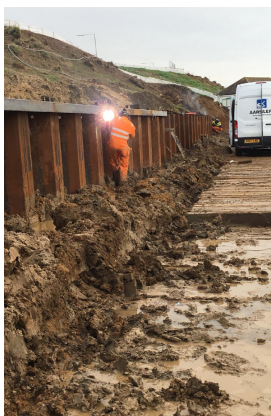
# Photobooth

Every issue we ask you to send in your Aarsleff pictures on-site or at home and the best of these are then published in here. If you'd like to be featured, grab your camera and get snapping!

**Send your best photos to:**  
[jessicabanham@arsleff.co.uk](mailto:jessicabanham@arsleff.co.uk)



Precast Piling, Branston Leas - **Parth Patel**



Sheet Piling,  
Clacton-on-Sea - **Dean Lumley**



Sheet pile wall with capping beam, Clacton on Sea - **Joseph Mills**



King Post Wall, Mansfield - **Corey Robertson**

## FLEET UPDATE

Over the last 2 years, Plant has successfully completed major overhauls of all the piling fleet including the Junttan hammers. We have reduced the duration for hammer ropes to 12 months from 2 years! We have fitted instrumentation to over half the fleet as well as installed new camera systems, and have a full planned / preventative maintenance system in place. We are just doing the same for Geo and this will be completed later this year. We have also designed and built a new grout mixing plant for large grouting projects in house whilst maintaining our fleet of equipment. We have over the last two years reduced our fleet age by half and also increased this by double.



## CHARITY CORNER

All through February, Aarsleff Ground Engineering & Centrum Pile have been supporting IOSH's 'No Time to Lose' campaign, providing information on the dangers of Diesel Exhaust Emissions, Silica Dust and Asbestos. By supporting their campaign, we hope to beat occupational cancer by raising awareness of the significant health issues facing workers in the UK and internationally and suggest some solutions on a UK scale to tackle the problem with free practical materials. All of the information can be found on the news page of the [Aarsleff website](http://Aarsleff website) or head to [www.notimetolose.org.uk](http://www.notimetolose.org.uk)

In February, March and April, the offices are raising money for Age UK by 'dressing down' on the last Friday of the month. Age UK is the country's largest charity dedicated to helping everyone make the most of later life. They provide companionship, advice and support for older people who need it most. Those who come to work in a more relaxed dress code each donate £2.



>> CHECK OUT MORE PROJECT COVERAGE ON [WWW.AARSLEFF.CO.UK/CATEGORY/COMPANY-NEWS](http://WWW.AARSLEFF.CO.UK/CATEGORY/COMPANY-NEWS)







... Robert Speakman,  
STEQ Manager

Two months into the new year and OHS performance has seen one lost time accident relating to a sprain / strain injury. A Geo Operative slipped/stumbled as he was manually handling a drilling rod into position on a mini-rig. Whilst underfoot conditions contributed to the accident, these could have been improved, prepared, rectified by use of the on site excavator. We should all be mindful of our own personal planning when carrying out any task and acting on forward thinking helps this process. Knowing we are moving on to the next pile position and ensuring any prep work is done in advance can help make the task safer and more efficient. In relation to manual handling, we are currently working with the FPS on a working group which has been established to review manual handling practices on piling / geotechnical sites. We hope to bring some innovation and improvements from this work into the business. Any ideas or suggestions to assist with this are welcomed.

**WE'RE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR:**

**BEHAVIOURAL SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

If you're passionate about making a DIFFERENCE and becoming a DRIVING FORCE BEHIND OUR BEHAVIOURAL SAFETY INITIATIVE, TO IMPROVE OUR SAFETY CULTURE then we want you on-board. Please let Robert Speakman know if you'd like to become a member OF THE STEERING GROUP. Or speak to him for more information on what this involves. Call 01636 611140 or email [robertspeakman@aarisleff.co.uk](mailto:robertspeakman@aarisleff.co.uk)



Everyone should now be aware of a recent event on one of our kingpost wall projects where we were found to be operating a mini-rig with the auger safety gates open and the safety interlocked defeated. Clearly in breach of basic health and safety legislation. Whilst we have come along way in terms of improving the standard of rig guarding arrangements on our rigs, events on site were further compounded by poor paperwork. We had prepared, checked, briefed and worked in accordance with these documents without recognising that they did not actually and suitably cover the hazards and controls as were necessary. Whilst the outcomes from these events are still unfolding, it is clear that we still have a way to go on the behavioural aspects of our work across all levels of the business.

Further communication of the detail of the above will be delivered at the next site operatives meeting.

Whilst I mention behavioural safety we are nearing the end of the behavioural safety training. Hopefully everyone has found this enjoyable and valuable, aside of the events above. We now need to look to move this behavioural initiative on and firmly embed a 'Steering Committee' to drive improvement. Thanks to all who have volunteered. We will be getting in touch with you all personally over the next month. There is **STILL TIME TO VOLUNTEER** to become a member of this steering committee. The steering group is your chance to get involved and make a difference. **IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE STEQ DEPT.**

If in doubt stop work and seek advice!

## AarSTAR of the month



The 'Star of the Month' feature is to celebrate members of our company who have gone above and beyond expectations and deserve to be recognised and thanked for their achievements. This month we would like to congratulate...



### Phillip Hall

Phillip consistently demonstrates a 'can do' attitude and effective change management on-site. He is always focussed on delivering each project on time and to a high standard. He communicates well with clients on-site and has developed his technical knowledge over the last 12 months so he can answer NHBC queries when sites are audited during install days. He remains the only member of the install team from 12 months ago, and has demonstrated his ability to work with others across the business as his support team can change from job-to-job.

...Nathan Follows, Ground Beams Manager



If you would like to commend a member of staff for our next newsletter please send through your nomination and the reasons why to [jessicabanham@aarisleff.co.uk](mailto:jessicabanham@aarisleff.co.uk)



# Centred around Centrum

We have styled out the factory in Newark with bespoke reinforced precast concrete pile tables, proudly displaying our company's piling heritage. Take a look at the step-by-step account:

- 1) A custom wooden mould was utilised to form the concrete base
- 2) A section of reinforced cage – made by Centrum's welding robots – was inserted into the mould
- 3) The mould was then filled with concrete from our onsite batching plant -left to cure for 24 hours.
- 4) The concrete mould was then stripped The reinforced cage was cut and levelled to the desired height, and the prefabricated table tops were welded to the top of the cage.
- 5) The table tops were then sandblasted, and powder coated, with an anthracite coating applied to provide a shine and clean finish.
- 6) The Centrum Pile logos were then laser cut into plaques and stitch welded to the table top in the same coating to match the quality finish of the table.



## From the HR desk...

...some inspirational quotations from some exceptional people – let them set you thinking, aiming for the stars!! Hopefully something here to inspire everyone.

Estée Lauder – *"I never dreamed about success. I worked for it."*

Steph Hyken – *"The greatest technology in the world hasn't replaced the ultimate relationship building tool between the customer and its business: the human touch."*

Loretta Penn – *"Every person matters. Everyone has a contribution. That's why diversity matters."*

Walt Disney – *"You can design and create and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality."*

Peter Schultz – *"Hire Character. Train Skill."*

John Quincy Adams – *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*

Michael Jordan – *"Earn your leadership every day."*

Zig Ziglar – *"You don't build a business. You build people and then people build the business."*

Mother Theresa – *"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things!"*



**...Heather Jones,  
Business & HR Manager**

## IT & Network

As you are reading this we will have had our new improved internet in places for about a month.

This added a bonded, triple redundant internet connection. This is three separate lines combined together, providing in excess of 250 mpbs (megabits per second) of download and upload bandwidth. We can also continue to operate should any two of the three lines fail. This is in comparison to our old connection that could only manage 100 mpbs and was not fault tolerant.

The connection was put into place to help with connection speeds to the Sharepoint System and to anticipate demand introduced with the OneERP Project. These are both fully "cloud" based and as such require a fast reliable internet connection.

Due to the nature of the "bonded" connection you may not always get the performance you expect, this is because of the way the data transmitted has to be split over three separate connections. Please report any issues with internet speeds to me and I will investigate with the supplier.

**...Simon Pick, IT & Network Supervisor**



# Spotlight on Civil Placement



Placement with AGE is “Challenging, engaging, interesting and enthralling” – couple of words that would summarise my last few months and would sum up my daily tasks.

I joined AGE as a “Placement Civil Engineer” in the reverential Estimating Department for two weeks and since then I have been residing in the Design Department (Great Co-workers!!)

Under the mentorship of the convivial design team, I have not only been able to strengthen my theoretical knowledge but have been able to attain useful practical skills. Working in the design department not only allows me to learn from experienced engineers but provides me with a chance to liaise with Estimators to evaluate their design approaches and to collaborate with Contract Managers to assist in preparation of engineering solutions in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in design documents - main reason why I chose AGE over others as it accentuates opportunities to complement other fields of engineering.

I initially started in assisting design team in undertaking design submissions such as producing and modifying CAD Drawings for Sheet Piles and King Posts but I’m now progressing to support in design reports, calculation packages and any correspondence of a technical nature in accordance with the contract documents with respect to design.

Creating CAD Drawings is not a piece of art.... it’s a skill which is obtained and only polished by practice, practice and practice. This is probably the most important document in a design report because it conveys and communicates the entire design more quickly and effectively than the written report and an error on these drawings can be very costly....

Recently, I have been assigned to generate design reports and calculation packages. This involves accessing all the documents that the client has provided which includes but is not limited to site investigation, structural drawings, descriptive pile schedule (if lucky), piling layout and piling specification. Once enough information is drawn, design can commence which involves specifying design elements, conducting extensive design analysis and accessing outputs. This all is incorporated in a report to display the result of the detailed research which is dispatched to the client for review.... if everything is approved then that’s all done.

I am very much pleased and happy with the decision for joining AGE to undertake my industrial placement. I would like to thank everyone for giving me such a warm and a friendly welcome. I have found everybody very helpful and supportive. No doubt, I would strongly recommend AGE for placement and graduate roles and would not hesitate to re-join AGE after completing my degree. Words cannot adequately express the appreciation I have for all my colleagues for always supporting me and my sincerest gratitude for pushing me to the best I can be. Thanks all!



**...Zohaib Khan,  
Placement Civil  
Engineer**

## Retaining solutions added to our growing portfolio

We have expanded our portfolio of specialist retaining wall solutions to now offer VDW, Secant and Contiguous pile walls. The expansion into new techniques, alongside the investment of a new rig, will allow us to take on more challenging work and enter into previously untapped markets. Our new ABI TM17 rig is a high-performance telescopic leader rig for drilling and piling applications. From an operator’s perspective, the TM17 is fitted with safety cameras and total monitoring equipment to make manoeuvring, driving and all techniques much safer and more efficient. Main contractor Esh Construction recently called upon Aarsleff Ground Engineering to install a contiguous pile wall adjacent to the Metro Bridge on Killingworth Road A189 in Newcastle. With a design life of 120 years, the contiguous pile wall was adopted as it requires minimal disturbance to the slope and can be installed without the need for temporary excavation.



**Secant Pile Wall - Per Aarsleff A/S**



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## HAVE YOUR SAY!

We want to hear from you with stories, pictures, fundraising efforts and anything of note which we can include to make this newsletter more beneficial and interesting to you.

Drop Jessica Banham an email with your suggestions to:  
[jessicabanham@aarsleff.co.uk](mailto:jessicabanham@aarsleff.co.uk)

[WWW.AARSLEFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.AARSLEFF.CO.UK)  
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Drilling and Grouting, Kenton Bankfoot