



## Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week

8th -14th  
FEB

During National Apprenticeship Week (8th-14th February) we proudly celebrated our apprentices currently studying disciplines as diverse as civil engineering, quantity surveying and accountancy.

Rising Star of the Year, **Conor White**, a Civil Engineering Apprentice, is now advising other apprentices to get a broad experience whilst learning, as he believes that working across Van Elle's divisions made him more well-rounded.

Meanwhile, Nils Rollison, who is studying a Quantity Surveyor Apprenticeship (Level 6)

said: "I have been in the construction industry for eight years now. While working as an administrator, I got a lot more interested in analytics and engineering and realised I wanted to pursue it as a career. I would encourage anyone who is thinking about taking on an apprenticeship to go for it."

## Marketing apprentice secures promotion

In February, our first Digital Marketing Apprentice, **Tom Foster**, successfully completed his apprenticeship, achieving a distinction.

Now, having been promoted to a Marketing and Communications Officer within our busy marketing team, Tom is looking forward to honing his skills and establishing Van Elle's brand on digital platforms. Why not follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn to view his latest updates on behalf of the company?



## Safety first, production second

In response to recent incidents we held a company-wide stand-down on 26th January where we launched a safety improvement plan to reinforce the key messages around behaviours and high-risk activities.

Our new Golden Rules, listed below, will be rolled out more fully over the coming weeks:

### ALWAYS:

- Make sure you are fit for work
- Have a daily briefing and diligently follow the method statement, lifting plan or permit
- STOP if anything changes
- Ensure exclusion zones are in place around all plant and

### NEVER:

- Undertake a task for which you are not trained or competent
- Use plant or equipment that is unfit for purpose
- Position yourself in the line of fire
- Walk by and ignore a hazard or an unsafe act

## IIP Engagement Survey helps shape the future

Between Monday 15th March and Friday 2nd April all staff are invited to complete the Engagement Survey, as part of our latest Investors In People (IIP) assessment.

Investors in People is the global benchmark when it comes to people management and Van Elle currently holds a Silver standard award.

As well as providing an opportunity for staff to have their say, this survey will help us shape the future of Van Elle by highlighting any areas of improvement.

For every submission received we will donate £1 to our charity of the year – the Alzheimer's Society. We are aiming to raise £500.



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

## Lunch and Learn returns

The sessions, where staff can gain industry knowledge, training and life skills, will be held via Teams every second Wednesday of the month at 12 noon and are expected to last approx. 30 minutes.

### Join us for upcoming sessions:

- 14th April - Bid writing and quality submissions, presented by Bid Writer Chris Herrett
- 12th May - Commercial lessons learnt, presented by Commercial Director Andy Riggott and Commercial Manager Alex Walsh
- 9th June - Social media posts & quality photos, presented by the Marketing and Communications Team.

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## Project success in Lancashire

**General piling and Specialist piling recently pulled together to support the construction of a new supermarket in Leyland, Lancashire.**

The teams, working to construct a contiguous wall in preparation for a new Aldi superstore, successfully installed around 200 piles on site.

With the General Piling team able to install the majority of the CFA piling for the wall, some overhead cables meant that the Specialist Piling team were required to deploy a low-headroom rig to complete the job.

## Introducing the newest members of our team



**David Buckley, Rail Director**

David Buckley, Rail Director, who has a strong geotechnical background, joined us in January from Balfour Beatty where he was the Director and General Manager of the organisation's track monitoring business Omnicom.

## STRATA and Rail teams to the rescue for emergency rail works



**Following a landslide after heavy rain in Newington, Kent, in January, we were called in to work alongside Network Rail and Balfour Beatty to resolve the situation on this busy railway line.**

Within hours of being notified, our Strata Geotechnics division was on site and completing a thorough ground investigation.

Once the team stabilised the slope and removed c. 3000t of spoil, they began piling using our unique road rail fleet. When the piling refused before reaching the designed depth, we

quickly revised the plan and successfully installed a 62m sheet piled retaining wall ahead of schedule.

Once the retaining wall was complete, attention turned to rebuilding the embankment, which involved importing 2,000t of engineered aggregate by rail.

In addition, we were also able to install 329m of drainage works during the blockade, which was originally planned for a later date, therefore avoiding the need of further disruption to Network Rail and their passengers.



**Andy Riggott, Commercial**

Andy Riggott, Commercial Director, joined us from Panasonic in January and has been busy learning all about business. Andy has spent much of his working years representing Tier 1 contractors and specialist subcontractors and has previously worked for Cape/Altrad.

## Manchester Viadux project combines new and old piling techniques



**In Manchester, our team is supporting a £300m development to create new homes and businesses while preserving history.**

Foundation work has commenced ahead of the construction of two new buildings, which are being created on Albion Street against the historic railway arches of the area.

The Specialist Piling team will install 268no. 600mm piles under a section of grade two listed railway arches to support the scheme, which will take around three years to complete and feature a 40-storey residential tower and a 14-storey office building.

Working under the railway arches has made access extremely restricted on site, meaning that Van Elle have deployed their fleet of specialists rigs to complete the work. Mixing older techniques with more modern approaches, the project has resulted in several preliminary test piles as well as using a specialist finite element analysis partner to fully test the design.



**Paul Dobson, Training & Assessment**

In February, Training & Assessment Manager, Paul Dobson, joined Van Elle from Woodhead Construction, bringing with him more than 20 years' experience in managing and delivering training.