



## NEWS RELEASE

11.05.2021

### Loving Fife – and helping to boost the economy

Louisiana man Jason Felder and his family are loving spending time in the beautiful Kingdom of Fife.

Jason is just one of 30 overseas visitors from ExxonMobil sites around the world who are bringing their highly specialised expertise to Fife Ethylene Plant's £140m upgrade.

And they are also helping to give a boost to the Fife economy as they are living as well as working here.

The Machinery Job Pack Leader and his family, who live in Baton Rouge, is staying in a luxury caravan at Pettycur Bay Holiday Park, alongside his colleagues, who as well as the USA, also come from Singapore and Belgium.

Steven Wallace, sales manager at the park, said the influx of visitors, who were all fully tested for Covid before being allowed to enter the country, had been well received.

"The boost the ExxonMobil staff and contractors has given to our business has been great and at the moment we are pretty much fully booked," he explained.

"They started coming in during lockdown and gave us a revenue stream we wouldn't otherwise have had.

"I live here and when I have been out at the local shops they have all been saying that the extra business has helped them too."

As Jason was going to be away from home for several months, his family decided to take the opportunity to come with him.

Wife Gina, daughters Lilyanna and Cecilia (both 11) and son Briar (7), have now been in Scotland for a month, with the first 10 days spent quarantining. Their eldest daughter Jaelyn (20) chose to stay at home.

"It was a good time for the children to travel, in terms of their schooling," explained Gina.

"We checked everything with the school authorities who told us they would learn just as much travelling with us as they would in the classroom.

"We have been making sure they've been learning lots about Scotland and its history, and we've already managed to do quite a bit. It's really beautiful here and we are having a lot of fun.



"Since the travel restrictions were lifted we've been to Edinburgh and seen the castle, visited the zoo and Arthur's Seat and did the Harry Potter tour. We've visited the local shopping malls and been to the beach.

"We are planning a trip to Fort William as well as Dunfermline Abbey, St Andrews and Stirling Castle. We're just trying to see as much as we can while we are here."

Cecilia said her favourite thing so far had been the Harry Potter tour.

And the youngsters have been taking the opportunity to practice their Scottish accents and learn new words and phrases!

Tom Courts, owner of the acclaimed butchers' shop in Burntisland High Street, says he welcomes the additional sales.

"We have had quite a lot of dealings with the ExxonMobil visitors, who we noticed because of their accents," he said.

"We have had some good banter with the Americans who have been buying our prize winning haggis and steaks, as well as lots of breakfast supplies, and it has given our business a good wee boost."

And at Romano's fish and chip shop in Burntisland, staff have also noticed an upturn in trade.

"We have been busy with deliveries to the caravan park over the past few weeks," said one.

The workers, who are all subject to strict Covid safety measures, have also been making good use of the areas takeaways, dry cleaners, supermarkets and other food and household stores.

Jason concluded: "I was across working in Fife myself in 2019 and I really wanted to bring my family with me this time as I missed them.

“Everyone has been so friendly and made us feel very welcome.

“It’s like a big United Nations here at Pettycur with all the different nationalities and we’ve made lots of friends among them as well as the hundreds of local employees and contractors working at FEP.”