

# NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF WEMYSS BAY STATION, MAY 2016

## Almost back to normal, hooray !

In our last Newsletter of October 2015 we noted the end of ferry services from Wemyss Bay while major alterations and repairs were done to the pier. How we have missed our friends from Bute, as the station fell strangely quiet. Added to this was the dark and gloomy atmosphere in the station itself. The concourse roof was obscured by scaffolding and planks while it was renovated and painted. The Station Cafe closed, and after Christmas, the Bookshop did too. We re-opened just before Easter, when ferry services resumed again, and lo! there was light and life once more at Wemyss Bay Station and pier. We are very happy to be back in business, and it would seem that the good folk of Bute are just as glad to be back to shorter journey times. The pier is now operating normally, but work at the station continues.

The station is proud to have been included in the 2016 Festival of Architecture, a national year-long programme of events, which has already brought us visitors who would otherwise never have known of our existence.



The new vehicle linkspan for the pier completes the alterations in time for ferry services to resume at Easter.

Recently the Friends were encouraged to apply to the National Rail Museum in York who were offering to a suitable home a genuine Caledonian Railway seat, which was surplus stock. We were fortunate enough to be granted the seat, on condition we arranged and paid for its collection and delivery. It has been restored for us in Glasgow, and will become a useful addition to the public seating provision at the station.

During the renovations recently some intriguing early posters were uncovered, pasted on to the notice boards in the entrance pend. Some hopeful passengers have tried to buy tickets at the advertised prices ...



**WORK CONTINUES** The areas above both main arches on to the concourse are still under scaffolding and screens while repairs continue. The new Caledonian Railway colour scheme can just be seen. (13/04/16)



**CALEDONIAN RAILWAY SEAT** - presented to the Friends by the National Railway Museum in York - restored to original glory, with CRCo decorating its cast iron ends.



**BARGAIN PRICES** -the 1970s posters uncovered in the entrance pend.