

## CLOSED DOWN

**Coronavirus precautions** resulted in the bookshop being closed from 17<sup>th</sup> March. We hope it will be possible to re-open during the summer. It remains to be seen whether and when we can hold our annual general meeting. Meantime, we wish all of our supporters good health.

The requirement to remain at home means that there will not be the usual flowers on the concourse for the time being. ScotRail has, understandably, suspended station adoption activities until 1<sup>st</sup> June, but this might change, depending on developments. Maybe it will be possible to provide an autumn display, but meantime, here's a reminder of what the station would normally be looking like in the spring.



**We send our best wishes and thanks to all of the staff running the railway and the ferries, and to all the local people who are working to maintain essential services.**

## Clock Tower Flat

**The station clock tower** includes a two storey flat that was lived in by a member of staff for many years. Unfortunately, it is now in very poor condition internally.

The Railway Heritage Trust has been working with the Landmark Trust to see whether the flat might be renovated and returned to use.

The Railway Heritage Trust gives grants to assist renovation of railway buildings and structures and is providing a grant of £5,000 to the Landmark Trust to help fund a survey and feasibility study. The Landmark Trust specialises in restoring historic buildings, which it lets out as holiday accommodation. The clock tower would certainly provide an interesting and attractive place to stay.

Meantime, Network Rail plans to install a new electric mechanism for the clock, so it will – at last! – show the correct time. The clock can only be accessed by means of a vertical ladder built into the wall of the bedroom in the flat, which makes servicing it difficult.

Of course, all planned work is likely to be delayed in present circumstances.



## Roof Repairs Planned

**Inverclyde Council has granted listed building consent for roof repairs**, following an application by Network Rail. The work is described as “alterations, repair and maintenance to roof inclusive of re-tiling of the roof of the main station entrance building using the existing Rosemary tiles, including replacing any shortfall with a matching tile, renewal of all leadwork and the introduction of hatches into the section of glazed canopy adjacent to this building on the walkway to the ferry terminal”.

## Help for Blairmore Pier

**The Friends have made a donation of £500 towards repairs to Blairmore Pier.** There has recently been an appeal for funds to repair this historic structure, which is one of the last remaining traditional Clyde piers. Like Wemyss Bay, it is a listed building.



The pier opened in 1855 and was used by year-round passenger services until 1973. Following 30 years with little use or maintenance it was acquired by Agnes Harvey when she purchased the pier house. She raised funds and had the pier renovated, so that it re-opened in 2005. It has since been used each summer by PS *Waverley*, as well as by smaller vessels. The pier is now owned by Blairmore Heritage Limited, but Agnes remains a familiar figure as pier mistress.