

10th ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY

When the Friends were founded in 2009, an Open Day was held at the station to attract support. So how better to mark our tenth anniversary than to hold another Open Day? The event went ahead on Saturday 22 June and was a great success, to judge by all the appreciative messages we received.



A busy scene on the station concourse.

Given that much of the weather in June and July was like November, but warmer, we were fortunate to have a fine day.



We were very pleased to welcome Vicki Pipe and Geoff Marshall, of All the Stations fame, back to Wemyss Bay. They were signing copies of their book, *The Railway Adventures*, and attracted a large number of fans of all ages. We have a few signed copies of their book still available at the station bookshop, price £14.

Chris Vine, the author of the Peter's Railway books, was also present.

The film crew from Flint TV, who visited us in April, were back for further filming at the Open Day. Look out for a series of programmes about Scotland's railways on Channel 4 later this year.

Geoff and Vicki with Simon Dell

Members of the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society were raising funds for a new boiler for the *Waverley*. We are glad that they had a successful day, with sales and donations of more than £700. The Friends have donated £100 to the boiler fund.



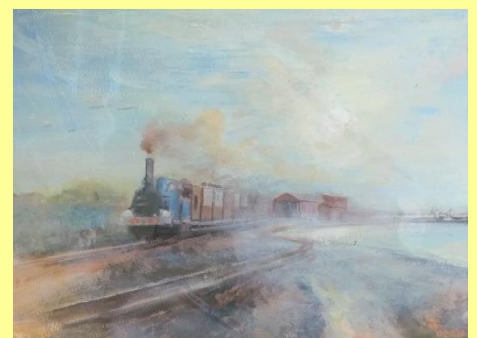
Visit Scotland came with their 'Coovan', to provide information about tourist attractions across the country.

We are grateful to all the organisations who supported the Open Day, bringing a variety of interesting displays to the station – All the Stations, Bute Conservation Trust, Caledonian MacBrayne, Clyde Coastal Path, Clyde River Steamer Club, Inverclyde Tourist Group, Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, Peter's Railway, Police Scotland, Royal National Lifeboat Institute, Skelmorlie Secret Bunker, Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Clean Up Crew, Visit Bute and Visit Scotland. The Face Painter, to whom thanks, and the Station Quiz proved popular with our younger visitors. Thanks also go to ScotRail for their support, and to Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church and Skelmorlie Community Centre for loaning tables and chairs.

NEW IN THE BOOKSHOP

A **print of a painting** by Dugald Cameron of the first train to leave Wemyss Bay (*right*) is printed on high-quality card, with a margin to allow framing and image size of about 215 x 90 mm. Unsigned £12, signed £15.

A fold out version of the **Time Line** displayed on the station concourse gives an outline history of the station for just £2.50. Wemyss Bay Station 2020 **desk and wall calendars** are £5.00 each.





Once again, our gardeners have done a tremendous job with the station flowers. There is a different display each year, with lobelias prominent this time. Thanks to Cathy Galbraith and her helpers.



The hard landscaping by the car park entrance has been comprehensively renovated. The work was led by Paul and Pat Neeson, who were responsible for the original installation. Shovelling all those chippings was no small job, but the result is well worth the effort.

CHANGING TRAINS



In May we thankfully saw the last of the old class 314 trains. Built for the re-opening of the line through Glasgow Central Low Level, they are going to the scrapyard after forty years' service. They have been replaced by class 318 (left) and 320 trains, which date from 1985-1990, but have been refurbished. The seats are more comfortable, there is wifi and all of the trains have toilets. Mondays to Saturdays they alternate with modern class 380 trains.

One of ScotRail's new class 385 trains visits Wemyss Bay each weekday evening, on the 18:40 from Glasgow Central and the 19:38 back.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Back in April we had a significant leak through the bookshop roof, which Network Rail repaired promptly. However, there is still a problem with dampness in the chimney breast. Elsewhere, the station roof continues to leak badly, with the south end of the luggage platform being particularly affected. Network Rail has checked out the roof and is considering what work can be done.

The plaque noting the 2017 National Railway Heritage Award for the roof renovation is now displayed on the concourse. It is mounted below the plaque for the 1994 Award.

We are now on Twitter, so you can follow us at @OfWemyss.

SCOTTISH SCULPTURE PARK

There is a summer exhibition at Caol Ruadh, near Colintrave, until 26 August. Over fifty interesting works by more than twenty artists are displayed in the grounds of a large house by the shore of the Kyles of Bute. Caol Ruadh is easily reached from Wemyss Bay by the Rothesay and Colintrave ferries. The Sculpture Park is open Tuesdays to Sundays, 11:00 to 18:00. www.scottishsculpturepark.com

School Girl by Illona Morris is one of the exhibits at Caol Ruadh in 2019.

