

TV filming at Wemyss Bay



A television series featuring Scotland's railways is under production. The crew visited Wemyss Bay on 30 April to learn about the station and our activities.

Head gardener, Cathy Galbraith, and Brenda Campbell were filmed replacing the soil and planting out one of the towers on the concourse.

Sheena Inglis and Rita Carmichael were interviewed about their work in the bookshop and the people they meet there.

Dugald Cameron spoke about the history and design of the station.

The programme makers plan to return later in order to film the flowers in bloom.



The Wemyss Bay sequence should appear in one of a series of programmes, provisionally titled ***The World's Most Beautiful Railway***. We expect it will be screened in the autumn, but hope to have more definite information nearer the time. The producers also expect to sell the series to broadcasters across the Atlantic and in Australia, where many people of Scots descent live.

STATION OPEN DAY

There is an 'Open Day' at the station on **Saturday 22 June**, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Friends of Wemyss Bay Station. There will be displays by local and transport organisations, visiting authors to sign books, and special activities for children. Watch our website and Facebook page for more details, but don't miss this special event.

All aboard in the Gallery

Last year we received the generous donation of a quantity of destination boards used on Clyde steamers. These came with the upper part of a display that had been used on paddle steamer *Marchioness of Lorne*. We assume this came from the vessel launched in 1935 and not the one of the same name built in 1891. The 'Furnace' board is of special interest. There was never a pier there and a flit boat came out to meet the steamer.

The boards are now displayed in the Gallery, in a rack made especially by our joiner, Neil Macraird. It is based on the design used on *Waverley* and includes the original *Marchioness of Lorne* heading.

The 1935 *Marchioness of Lorne* was not the fastest of vessels, so spent most of her career working the short crossing to the Holy Loch piers. It is unlikely that she visited the more distant destinations shown on our board. Her last year in service, 1953, was spent working from Wemyss Bay to Rothesay and Millport.



Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on 11 May. On behalf of the Committee, Greg Beecroft reported on another successful year. Good takings at the bookshop had funded extensive replanting of the shrubs and floral displays on the station. Membership remains steady at just over 200, but we have many more Facebook followers. A significant project during the year had been installation of the time line on the concourse, summarising the history of the station, pier and local community. Network Rail has undertaken limited work to the concourse roof, but leaks continue to be a matter of concern.

Following the formal business, our old friend John Yellowlees gave an interesting and entertaining talk about the railway at Kilmarnock. He described how the town's railways, and railway industry, had revived after a period of decline. In particular, the Kilmarnock Station Railway Heritage Trust has revitalised the large station building. Many rooms that had become disused and were in very poor condition are now being used for a variety of purposes, making a valuable contribution to the local community.

SHOP NEWS

We have a number of new books of local interest in stock:

A Walk Through Time at Wemyss Bay by Marjorie Spragg includes much historic information about the village, in the form of a guided tour starting from the station. You are sure to learn something new about Wemyss Bay. £10.

Clyde Coastal Path – A Guidebook by Vincent Cuddihy is an illustrated guide to the walking route from Wemyss Bay to Glasgow and Milngavie, the start of the West Highland Way. Just the thing if you want to walk from here to Fort William, or take a less strenuous stroll through our amazing coastal scenery. £8.

We also have a few signed copies of Sir Simon Jenkins' ***Britain's 100 Best Railway Stations***, in which Wemyss Bay features prominently as one of the very best. £19.

Wemyss Bay station 2020 desk calendars are available at just £5, with a colour photograph of our splendid station for each month.