

OPEN AGAIN!

We were very pleased to re-open the book shop on 11th March. Network Rail and their contractors, CPMS, have done a great job to deal with the water ingress problems and reinstate the ceilings and cornices. Our thanks go to them. The shop looks as smart as it has ever done.



Our fiction room fully back in use, with the new ceiling and cornices

Evidently, there were plenty of readers in need of new material, because we have had many visitors. Thanks to all concerned for the large number of book donations. There is plenty of new material on the shelves. Don't forget that we do not just sell books. We have a wide range of CDs and DVDs, and even a selection of LPs for those who prefer traditional vinyl. There are usually jigsaws as well. Our opening hours are 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Mondays to Saturdays.

WAVERLEY DONATION

We made a donation of £1,000 in response to the appeal for funds to allow PS *Waverley* to be dry docked this year. The huge increase in the price of fuel meant that there was not sufficient surplus from operation in 2022 to cover essential winter overhaul costs. *Waverley* was once a regular visitor to Wemyss Bay pier.

LIKE CLOCKWORK



We are delighted that the clocktower clock has been renovated and now shows the correct time. Network Rail kindly arranged the work, but the cost has been met jointly by the Friends and the Railway Heritage Trust. We are grateful to the Trust for providing half of the £6,600 cost.

The clock had become very difficult to maintain. The only access to it is via a vertical ladder built into the wall of a room inside the tower, which falls short of modern safety standards. The mechanical works have been replaced by an electric

system, which receives a time signal by radio, and the clock faces are now internally illuminated by LEDs. That means access to the clock will in future only be needed very occasionally.

POSTER RENOVATIONS

We recently had the poster frame at the head of the pier renovated by local craftsman Neil MacRaild. It was well past its best and even had a bird's nest behind it. The frame previously held a copy of a vintage travel poster featuring Rothesay, but is currently blank. However, we have exciting plans for it. Artist Leo du Feu is producing art works for the station, and his vision of the ferry journey from Wemyss Bay to Rothesay will be displayed in the frame. Before that, Leo is working on a new sign to be displayed by the book shop entrance. We look forward to that being in place during the summer.



Above: The bird's nest found behind the poster board. Work was undertaken outwith the nesting season.



Left: The finished job, with all of the rotten wood replaced and the poster board awaiting Leo's art work.