

# NEWSLETTER

December 2022

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING....

....and we have a special festive day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Greenock Salvation Army Band will be performing on the concourse between 12:30 and 1:30.



Call in the shop for Christmas gifts, including our popular £2 book bundles and a selection of calendars – including one dedicated to the station. There will be a craft stall offering last-minute stocking fillers and other items.

The shop will be closed for our winter break after 17<sup>th</sup> December and we expect to re-open in February.

## BUILDING WORK

Network Rail has completed work to waterproof the chimney stacks and clear the gutters and down pipes of obstructions. It is planned that the damaged ceiling and cornices in the bookshop will be replaced while the shop is closed. Our re-opening date, probably in February, depends on progress with the work.

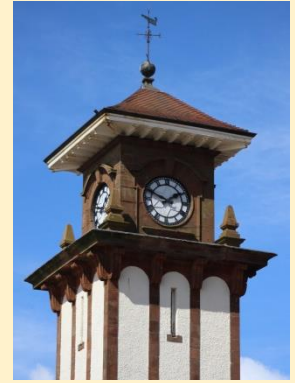
Network Rail has also undertaken extensive work to renovate the former luggage ramp on the seaward side of the station

We have had two cigarette butt bins installed at the station entrance, and hope this will stop cigarette ends being discarded into the stone chippings.

We still hope that a dropped kerb or ramp can be provided at the station entrance, to improve accessibility.

## CLOCK REPAIRS

We are pleased to report that the clock in the station clock tower is to receive a new electronic mechanism. This should mean that the clock will reliably show the correct time and will switch automatically between GMT and Summer Time. The internal illumination of the clock faces will be changed to LED. The work is being arranged by Network Rail, but is jointly funded by the Friends and the Railway Heritage Trust, each contributing about £3,300. We are very grateful to the Trust for making this possible.



## HISTORY PROJECT and ARCHIVES

**Do you remember our station in bygone days?** If so, we would love to hear from you and perhaps record an interview.

Please email [info@friendsofwemyssbaystation.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofwemyssbaystation.co.uk) or write to us at **The Bookshop, Wemyss Bay Station, Shore Road, Wemyss Bay, PA18 6AR**, letting us know how are you connected to Wemyss Bay, and what period of time was this? We should particularly like to know:

- Any particular aspect of the station's history that you remember
- Any stories relating to the station and the people who worked here
- Can you remember arriving in Wemyss Bay by train or ferry?
- What was your first impression?
- Have you visited the station recently and if so, how much has it changed?

We are grateful to those who have already responded, whose contributions can be found on our website at <https://friendsofwemyssbaystation.co.uk/oral-history/>.



We have received a donation of historic photographs of the station and the branch to Wemyss Bay. These show work under way in 1966/67 in preparation for electrification and in 1976/77 when the link span for the ferry was being installed. The photograph shows Inverkip station in 1966, after the line had been reduced to a single track. The station buildings were designed by architect James Miller, who was also responsible for Wemyss Bay station and many others.

We are always pleased to receive photographs and other archive material relating to the history of the station and pier. We can scan copies if you wish to retain the original. Sometimes there are interesting discoveries in book donations, which recently included a guide to Scotland that was published by the Caledonian Railway in 1907.