



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

WEMYSS BAY TV



Sheena
Friends of Wemyss Bay Station

We were delighted to be invited to take part in a ScotRail television advertisement, promoting businesses and community groups at stations. Our former book shop manager and a founding member of the Friends, Sheena Inglis, had a starring role.

The advert was first screened on STV on 19th February. It runs for one minute, with an abbreviated thirty second version as well. Wemyss Bay features for about thirty seconds within the one minute advert, but filming took a long afternoon. That was after Sheena had been interviewed for the soundtrack several days earlier.

A number of our bookshop volunteers participated as “customers”, because everyone taking part had to sign a form agreeing to their image being used. It was interesting to see the care taken by the film crew not to include any copyright material in camera shots. The full advert can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBMUQAzUAf8&list=PL9A507FE49CD8A03B&index=2

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Work is under way to improve the area by the entrance to the station car park. The previous features were beyond repair and the land was becoming overgrown and untidy. We have commissioned contractors to lay paving, and further work will be under way soon. It is planned to have potted shrubs on the site. This is funded by proceeds from the bookshop, so many thanks to all of our customers and those who donate books.



HELP NEEDED

We need some more people to help with the floral displays at the station. If you like gardening this is an excellent way of contributing to the local community. Interested? Please call in at the shop or email us at info@friendsofwemyssbaystation.co.uk

EXTENDED HOURS

We have been experimenting with longer opening hours, with some success. Previously, the shop has been closed from just before Christmas until late February or early March. This year we re-opened on 13th January, but with reduced hours and not every day. Normal opening times resumed on 24th February.

We have, as an experiment, introduced evening opening on Thursdays, when the shop remains open until 7.00 pm. Initial results are encouraging, with people dropping in on the way home from work or after a day out. Quite a few seem to be new customers.

VISITORS TO THE STATION

We were delighted to welcome local representatives of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution to the station on Saturday 9th March (photo right thanks to Helen Shield). They had a stand on the concourse outside the shop, to mark the RNLI's 200th Anniversary. Just a few days earlier the Largs lifeboat had been called out after a diver got into difficulties off Wemyss Bay.

On the following day several hundred people arrived on a special train during a three-days tour of Western Scotland. Unfortunately, they were here at dusk, while it was raining, but had ample opportunity to admire the station. We wonder whether this is the first time there has been a train direct to Wemyss Bay from Mallaig.

On 13th March a group of pupils from Notre Dame High School, Greenock came to the station as part of a project requiring them to visit a local place of note. They were given a tour of the station and studied the photographs in our archive.



NEW TRAIN TIMETABLE

ScotRail is introducing a new timetable on Mondays to Saturdays from 2nd June. The main changes are:

- Trains every half hour for most of the day
- Earlier and later trains at 06:27 from Wemyss Bay and 22:55 from Glasgow
- Most trains stop at all stations

Sunday services are little changed, remaining hourly, with first and last trains being 08:50 from Wemyss Bay and 20:50 from Glasgow.

We do not think Wemyss Bay has ever had a half hourly service all day previously, but most trains will take at least ten minutes longer to Glasgow than at present. Timetables can be found at www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey/timetables