

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

## FRIENDS OF WEMYSS BAY STATION COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

was incorporated on 16 January 2025, allowing us to enter into a formal lease of the bookshop, as required by ScotRail. Negotiations over the terms of the lease are still under way. Arrangements will essentially be unchanged, but on a more formal basis. All supporters of Friends of Wemyss Bay Station are now members of the Company. A Community Interest Company is one which operates to provide a benefit to the community it serves and not for private profit. The Directors of the Company are previous Committee members Greg Beecroft, Brenda Campbell, Elizabeth Campbell, Simon Dell, Cathy Galbraith, Sue Hothersall, Sheena Inglis and Agnes McAuley. Banking details are unchanged, so if you pay your subscription by standing order (which we encourage) your payments will now come to the new company.



## WEMYSS BAY POSTER

A new addition to the bookshop is this retro travel poster, designed by local Gourock photographer and artist Stephen Henry. There has been a great deal of interest in this since Stephen shared his stunning image on social media, so we have partnered with him to make these available, ready for framing, in A4 and A3 sizes, priced at £25 and £30 respectively. These come without the copyright statement shown on the image.

If you are unable to visit the bookshop you can buy a copy from Stephen online at <https://scotlandinframe.art/>

## WATER PROBLEMS

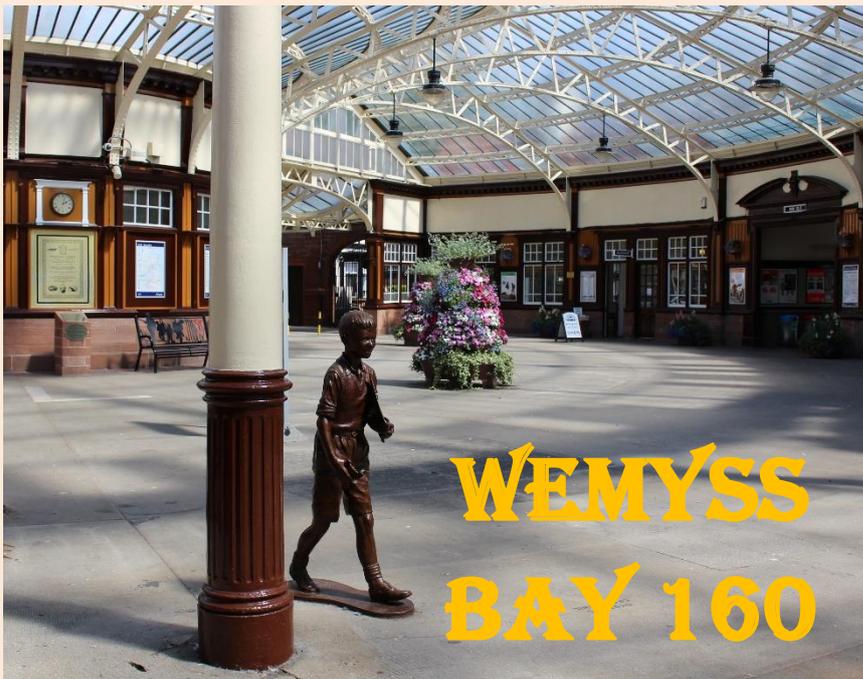
We have had problems with water getting into the shop again, causing some damage to the ceilings and loss of stock. There was a problem with one of the chimney stacks, which has been repaired, so water ingress is much reduced. However, there are some other problems with the roof, which we hope Network Rail can repair soon.

# Rail 200 Community Day at Wemyss Bay



Come along to a special day at Wemyss Bay station on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, the first railway to carry passengers using steam locomotives. And it is 160 years since the railway to Wemyss Bay opened!

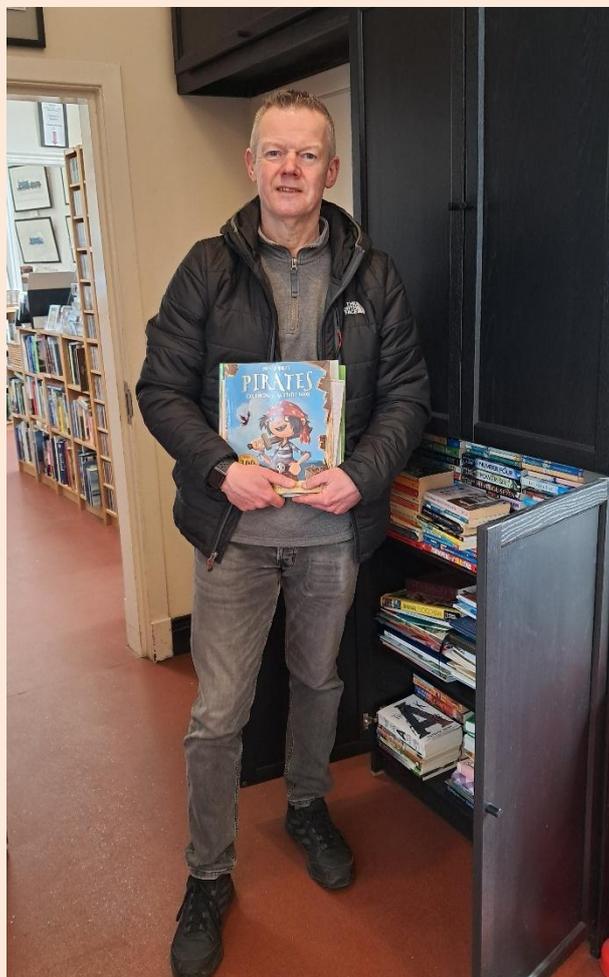
From 10.30 am until 3.00 pm there will be displays on the concourse from Bute Forest, Bute Conservation Trust, Inverclyde Gaelic Group, Inverclyde Heritage Network, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Skelmorlie Secret Bunker, Waverley Excursions, and Wemyss Bay Craft Group. Several local artists and crafts people will be displaying their work.



Greenock Model Railway Club will be running trains in the Gallery. The bookshop and café will be open, as usual.

**So there will be plenty to see and interesting souvenirs to buy. Do come and join the celebration.**

Watch out for more details on our social media [www.facebook.com/WemyssBayStation/](https://www.facebook.com/WemyssBayStation/) and <https://x.com/OfWemyss>.



## SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S READING

Douglas Wilson, Co-ordinator of Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme, collected children's and teens' books from the bookshop for their holiday caravans. GCHS run five caravans at Wemyss Bay Holiday Park for disadvantaged children and young people who rarely, if ever, get the chance of a holiday. The Friends, in partnership with GCHS, provide books and DVDs for the caravans, to boost literacy and provide enjoyment during the children's stay.

We have also provided funds to Wemyss Bay Primary School and Skelmorlie Primary School for the purchase of books.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our 2025 AGM will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay Church Hall in Shore Road, about quarter of a mile south of the station, starting at 2.00 pm. Come and hear about our progress and plans. All are welcome.

Following the formal business there will be an illustrated talk about Rail 200 and the early railways in Scotland.