

FOLLA

Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

Bulletin 5

August 2012

Sweet Memories

Over the past few weeks I've been focussing on preparations for the local Heritage Day display. FOLLA have been invited to mount a display about the arcade at the Albert Club on the weekend of September 8th/9th. Using the resources at the City Library in town I've been trying to track down the names of the businesses that occupied each of the 10 units from 1913 up to the present day. Some fascinating snippets have emerged.

"When I moved to live on Lapwing Lane in August 1978 I remember Arthur Russell the rather grumpy fruiterer and Christy's the Bakers who baked on the premises with lovely smells coming from the shop."

Kati Woodroffe

What's the predominant purpose of the arcade? Well flogging confectionery seems pretty high up the list. Whether it's sugary pastries or just plain Mars bars the arcade's done more than its fair share. Christy's the fancy bakers occupied 115 (now Escape beauty salon) from 1929 to 1983 and were preceded by confectioners Curetons - and before them Herbert Duckworth. At 113 (now Ho Hos) Longs, Mrs Richardson and then Mrs Massey peddled sweet things from 1939 up to the 1980s. Before that Longs were doing their thing in the half unit next door at 111b (now half of Didsbury Food & Wine) where they were preceded by Sugar Bowl (no mistaking what they were up to!) who started in 1924 when the splendidly named grocer, Solomon Jacob Salem sold up.

Meanwhile down the way at 99 (the Post Office) between 1915 and 1931 Chas. Wm. Woolley, confectioners were getting local teeth softened up for the coming onslaught from the other end of the

"We held a Lapwing Lane street party for the Queen's Silver Jubilee on the arcade - in front of the shops and had a terrific time. Trestle tables set out and all sorts of jollification."

Barbara Goodman

arcade. To cap it all round on Palatine Road where the RBS cash machine is currently placed there was a

small confectioners which for at least some of the 100 year period was occupied by Thornton's.

Another little gem was the discovery of the Aplin's business at 109 (Fusion Deli). From 1916 to 1921 Albert Aplin was a 'Glass, etc dealer' but then in 1922 it became 'Mrs Florence Aplin, Glass, etc and Fruiterer' who by the end of 1920s had given up on 'Glass, etc.' and decided that the future was fruit. In 1932 the Aplins moved on and 109 became the bolthole of gruff Arthur Russell the greengrocer and poulterer (remember the dead rabbits hanging from the front of the canopy?).

Next steps

The end of August/start of September is an important period for us. First of all we will find out what cash grant we are getting from the Council. If you know a councillor do please put a word in for us. Although our fund raising efforts have been sterling and donations from other sources have been a great help it is the council's money that should tip the balance.

The other important step we will be taking over the coming 4/5 weeks is making formal contractual approaches to the owners to gain the rights we need to start work on the actual restorations.

Talking of fundraising we are planning a number of events for the autumn including wine tasting and another Quiz/Auction evening. Watch this space!!

The Bottom Line

As at August 17th we have:

- 541 signed up 'Friends'
- £6,537 in donations which, with Gift Aid refunds from the Tax man, should become **£8,287**
- We have applied for a total of **£24,500** in Grant funding from Manchester City Council, Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund, United Utilities, the Co-operative Community Fund and a number of local businesses
- We estimate we need **£35,000** to complete the job

