

FOLLA

Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

Bulletin 4

July 2012

The Galway Gig

What a fantastic evening!!

A packed Northern Tennis Club enjoyed a wonderful evening of music from George Galway and Friends on July 14th. The sets were many and varied - from the full blast of the 16-piece mini orchestra to plaintive duets from George and Sarah Miller (RNCM student and daughter of Inman's proprietor Peter Miller who'd organised the whole do).



George Galway

Half way through the evening I was grabbed by a FOLLA Friend threatening me with retribution if "this wasn't the only evening of such quality that FOLLA put on during the campaign". That comment just about summed up the evening - except to say that it raised a grand total of **£876** for our worthy cause. Many thanks George and Friends - and 'Friends'.

Trips out from Chorlton

During the evening at the Northern I was introduced to a charming lady from Chorlton who told me how her dad used to take her out for weekend treats on the tram to the Palatine Road terminus at West Didsbury in the 1920s.



Palatine Road/Lapwing Lane looking west - 1920s

They would then enjoy some shopping before returning to Chorlton. Fond memories of the arcade, and she was very grateful to see that the West Didsbury locals were rolling up their sleeves to restore the canopy.

I was so rushed off my feet that I plain forgot to get her name, or that of her son. If either of you see this could you email me your details. Thanks.

Mike Bath

Moving forward

The FOLLA committee are now fully focussed on the next stage which will be the legal acquisition of the canopy from the current owners, all of whom have indicated that they are in favour of the scheme. We have to get the legal niceties ironed out to the satisfaction of all parties. We are likely to seek a long term lease on the canopy with the current owners paying us a small annual maintenance fee.

By the way it is worth recording how grateful we all are to **Clear Law** whose solicitors (many of whom live locally) are giving their time and expertise free of charge to help us with all this legal work.

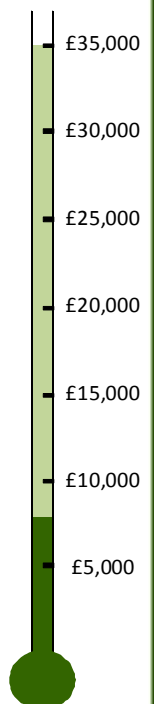
As for the actual restoration work, we have completed a detailed survey of the existing structure and are confident we're in a good position to oversee the work of our chosen contractor, **Select Interiors**. Select Interiors are playing a major role in the restoration work at The Parsonage in Didsbury and we have excellent reports of the standards being achieved there.

For the shop signage at the front of the canopy we will insist on an oval sign (just like the one in our logo above) hanging in each of the 20 bays across the 10 shop units.

The Bottom Line

As at July 20th we have:

- **501** signed up 'Friends'
- £6,240 in donations which with Gift Aid refunds from the Tax man should become **£7,916**
- We have applied for a total of **£19,500** in Grant funding from Manchester City Council (£16,000), Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund (£3,000) and United Utilities (£500)
- We estimate we need **£35,000** to complete the job



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