

FOLLA

Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

October 2012

Bulletin 6

(Local resident, Victor Cattan, has written a reminiscence which I will serialise over the coming months)

Moorfield Arcade in the late 40s & early 50s (part 1)

Walking along Palatine Road towards Manchester and reaching Lapwing Lane, you would see on your left, Dr Goodfellow's house (now the Four in Hand public house) with a cameo of his departed daughter above the doorway. Across the road was the destination board for Withington railway station, listing the wealth of places that could be reached. On the right was the blue tiled taxi rank, usually occupied by an elderly bespectacled gentleman in chauffeur's uniform complete with peaked cap and breeches. He was in charge of an equally elderly Rolls Royce taxi with hinged front windscreen, red Rolls Royce badge and a spare wheel mounted on the side. Across the road were the cast iron columns and shops that made up Moorfield Arcade.

The first shop number 97 where Blockbuster video now stands was John Williams the grocers whose name was proudly depicted in gold letters on a red background behind glass. They were part of a chain and had shops on Burton Road, and in Didsbury and Withington. The produce section was dominated by a large red bacon slicer and the shop was managed by Mr Swainson clad in a white coat. Butter and cheese were cut off large blocks and wrapped to order. There was no checkout system and so you would queue each time you purchased an item from a different section. If you wished to buy cheese, tea and a can of peas and the shop happened to be busy, shopping could take the best part of a morning.....

(to be continued)

Fundraising dates for the diary.....

Sunday November 25th 3pm:

Art & Craft Fair – 64 Old Lansdowne Road

Saturday December 1st 7.30pm:

Quiz/Auction – Albert Club, Old Lansdowne Rd

Getting into the driving seat

On the FOLLA committee we're discovering that the greatest quality required to tackle the sort of challenge we've taken on is patience. Everything is taking a lot longer than we thought in our naivety when we started back in March.

At last – after a few false starts – we have a registered company called FOLLA with explicit objectives that reflect our charitable purpose. With this achieved we are applying to register with the Charities Commission. In turn this will enable us to be recognised by HMRC as a charity and gain gift aid refunds at the end of the tax year (currently worth almost £2,000 as you can see below).

As a legal entity FOLLA is now ready to negotiate a lease with the 7 shop unit owners. Again we have had a few false starts but have now found a solicitor with the necessary skills and he is providing us with a quotation to create the lease and manage the process of agreement with the owners. How long this will take remains to be seen but we're hoping that that by New Year FOLLA are the leaseholders for the canopy and can get on with the restoration work.

The Bottom Line

As at October 19th we have:

- 618 signed up 'Friends'
- £7,248 in individual donations which, with Gift Aid refunds from the Tax man, should become £9,186 and with the Council grant of £14,500 brings net income to £23,686
- We have the possibility of a grant of £3,000 from the Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund
- We estimate we need £35,000 to complete the restoration job

