

FOLLA

Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

Bulletin 10

January 2013

The Good News and The Big Challenge

The good news this month is that FOLLA has received formal approval for its status as a Charity.

We're also delighted to announce that all the shop unit owners have now signed a 25 year licence agreement with FOLLA allowing us to get on with the work as soon as we are ready (indeed a small amount of repair work on the drainage has already been carried out).

The big challenge? You may have noticed on the right hand side of this bulletin that, just as the thermometer in December's bulletin was showing us getting quite close to our £35,000 target, the target has gone shooting upwards – **by £25,000!** Shortly after Christmas our contractor took a closer look at the state of the canopy and associated drainage. As a result he has re-quoted for just over £16,500 more than the earlier quote. We have done our own checking and are sure this rise is as legitimate as it is unanticipated. The FOLLA Board are still very happy with the standard we know the contractor will bring to the work. We have also added a £5,000 contingency to the target and other amounts to cover signs and planning permission applications that bring the budget increase to £25,000. The FOLLA Board has met twice during January and is determined to get the job done as planned, and confident that the extra funds can be found.

So now the focus is foursquare on raising money. We have a Ceilidh event planned for April 13th (of which more in subsequent bulletins) and one of our committee is running the Manchester 10k in May in aid of FOLLA. But the main effort over the next few weeks is our 'Pay for a Pane' campaign. See the column opposite.

Jo Edwards

One of our 'Friends', Jo Edwards sadly died just before Christmas. Her husband Doug knew that Jo had been especially moved by the efforts of FOLLA and he decided to ask attendees at her funeral to donate to FOLLA in her memory. As a result I was able to bank a magnificent £1,500. Thanks so much.

Mike Bath

'Pay for a Pane'

For some time the FOLLA Board has been considering how best to provide a permanent record of the campaign we have all supported. We have decided that a plaque situated on the arcade would serve this purpose best.

On the plaque we plan to include the names of everyone who sponsors one of the 240 panes of glass we'll need to restore the canopy. To sponsor a pane we're asking for a minimum donation of £100. We're hoping this will get us close to our target by the end of March.

Details of how to donate this way are contained in the sheet attached to the email that delivered this bulletin. Look at it and, if you possibly can afford it, then please donate. We're prepared to have every one of the 240 panes sponsored. The 'Pay for a Pane' form can also be downloaded from the FOLLA website.

In subsequent bulletins we'll have more details on the plaque and its design – hopefully with a picture. We'll also include drawings and an artist's impression to show what the restored canopy will look like.

The Bottom Line

As at January 31st we have:

- **670** signed up 'Friends'
- £13,733 in individual donations which, with Gift Aid refunds from the Tax man, should become approx. **£16,000** and with the Council grant of £16,000 brings net income to **£32,000**
- We estimate we need **£60,000** to complete the restoration job

