

FOLLA

Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

Bulletin 16

July 2013

Our Architect, Lisa Raynes, who will be managing the restoration process through to completion, has been busy preparing a new tender document to be issued at the end of this month to interested contractors. Bids are required by the middle of August and we will decide on whom to appoint during the final few days of August. Judging will be on cost (obviously) but also on our confidence in the contractor's ability to provide a robust solution consistent with our aim of restoring the canopy as closely as possible to its original 1913 state.

In recent weeks there have been planning and licensing applications relating to the arcade: an application for a street trader's licence to run a mobile snack facility outside RBS, and an application for the former Blockbusters store to become a wine bar. FOLLA has been lobbied for its views on these proposals by various parties but has decided not to get involved in order to retain its exclusive focus on the restoration work.

Naomi, aged 7, seeing spots of blood on the pavement from the rabbits hanging outside Russell's, shouted through the shop doorway: "How would you like to be hanging upside down with a bag on your head?"

"I once had to catch a mouse in Freeman Hardy & Willis' as the assistants were all terrified!" **Barbara Goodman**

"My abiding memory of the 1980s is George sitting outside his chippy at No. 113." **Colin Fishwick**

"I remember always having to buy a Father Christmas tie at Christmas at Inman's the outfitters." **June Cowan**

National Heritage Weekend (September 14th/15th)

Throughout our campaign we have been keen to emphasise the history of the arcade and the types of business that have occupied the units throughout the past 100 years. We want all our local residents, young and old, to get a feeling for the way things were.

As we did last year, we are going to mount a display of our research material on National Heritage Weekend. The display will be under the canopy itself this year (last year we were at the Albert Club). We're hoping to make it an event for all the family to enjoy so please put these dates in the diary – and if you can help us on the day then please get in touch. Above are just a few examples of the reminiscences we've collected.

Moorfield Arcade in the late 40s & early 50s (part 6)

(Victor Cattan's reminiscences continued from May)

Number 113, now Didsbury Noodles, was Long's sweetshop where one could buy aniseed balls, Dolly mixtures, liquorice allsorts and the like, the counter was lined with tall jars of sweets. It was a poor relation to the luxuriously inlaid wood panelled Clifton's, which was around the corner in the white Williams Deacon's bank building, now RBS. Clifton's sold their own chocolate together with what were then exotic continental makes such as Lindt, Peter and Tobler. They also sold a rather delectable coffee flavoured caramel called Hopjes, which were made in Holland by Frank Rademaker. Clifton's eventually closed and was acquired by a Lebanese gentleman who turned it into a rather dingy Asian food and produce shop. He subsequently disappeared and it was sad to see a once proud shop decay into an eyesore, before eventually being subsumed into RBS.

Incidentally the site of the cash dispenser next to the bank entrance used to be a ladies hairdresser and later the office of solicitor Ivor Million

Number 115, the end shop in the arcade, now Evie's Retreat, was Christy's bakery and patisserie, the bakery was behind the shop and I remember going early in the morning before the shop was open and knocking on the bakery door to buy bread and cakes still warm from the oven.

The Bottom Line

As at July 20th we have:

- **720** signed up 'Friends'
- £10,608 in net donations from individuals and events which with...
 - 'Pay for a Pane' subs of £12,850 (66 lines)
 - Gift Aid refunds estimated at £3,500,
 - a Barclays pledged donation of £750,
 - the Council grant of £16,000 and
 - the Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £25,000, ...brings projected net income to £68,708
- paid out £490 on legal costs and £3,931 on preparatory work for the restoration (architect fees, CAD drawings, drainage survey, etc)

.....so in total we have **£64,287**.

