

FOLLA

Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

Bulletin 17

August 2013

Thoughts from a Friend.....

A few weeks ago FOLLA supporter, Richard Byrne, sent me this letter:

"I was glad when FOLLA started up, because it reminded me that there are some things you take for granted, until one day they are gone, and that arcades might very easily have vanished that way. As a kid, I was always taken to Timpson's, under the arcade in Chorlton, for any new pair of shoes, and must have been brought to the Lapwing Lane arcade a fair few times, but can't remember precisely why. It certainly didn't boast anything as interesting as the X-ray machine at Timpson's, back when sticking your infant feet over a source of radiation was pretty cool to watch on the screen. Shopping for shoes really has never been so much fun since — why do grown-ups always spoil things?"



Shoe fitting fluoroscope

I do have a long interest in how buildings and neighbourhoods change, and although this is a paradox, I think the Lapwing Lane arcade is important precisely because it has always been minor. It isn't ever going to be a world heritage site, it has no particular architectural merit or significance, it was probably made with off-the-shelf bits from some foundry catalogue, but it is quite handsome and very useful when it's raining. Until the day it rots, threatens to fall down, and somebody says 'It's too much trouble to mend'.

What can badly muck up neighbourhoods is not necessarily the loss of the major things, but losing far too many of the fairly minor ones. So all praise to FOLLA for deciding that the arcade wasn't too much trouble to mend."

Progress with appointing a contractor

By now we'd have hoped to have chosen one of the tenders for the restoration work that have come in over the past few days - and be able to tell you who was to do the work and how much it would cost. However negotiations are still going on and it is too early to give you any definitive news. There are a number of options to consider which have a significant impact on the costs. I do hope we have some clear news by the time of the next bulletin and I can be clear on our new financial target.

National Heritage Weekend (September 14th/15th)

It'd be great to see as many of you as possible during the Heritage weekend in September. We'll be at the Arcade under the canopy on both Saturday and Sunday, 11am to 4pm, showing off the material we've gathered over the past 18 months. There'll be things for young and old alike as we celebrate the arcade, its history and indeed the heritage of our neighbourhood....and talking of heritage, who thought trams in West Didsbury were something new?



The Bottom Line

As at August 31st we have:

- **721** signed up 'Friends'
- £10,608 in net donations from individuals and events which with...
 - 'Pay for a Pane' subs of £13,050 (69 lines)
 - Gift Aid refunds estimated at £4,000,
 - 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 £69,408
- paid out £490 on legal costs and £4,904 on preparatory work for the restoration (architect fees, CAD drawings, drainage survey, etc)

.....so in total we have **£64,014**.

£90,000

£85,000

£80,000

£75,000

£70,000

£65,000

£60,000

£55,000

£50,000

£45,000

£40,000

£35,000

£30,000

£25,000

£20,000

£15,000

£10,000

£5,000