

FOLLA

Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

Bulletin 26a

Plaque Special

The 'Pay for a Pane' Commemorative Plaque

Since the 'Pay for a Pane' donation scheme started early in 2013 the FOLLA Board of Trustees has been pondering how best to represent the names of the donors. We thought of having the roof glass (the actual panes of the canopy) engraved but this would have been pretty expensive and the names might not have been easy to read – especially after a few years' grime had accumulated. We thought of embedding the names on the paving stones but again this would have been prohibitively expensive. We wanted the inscriptions to be clearly legible but reasonably safe from vandalism. We wanted something that looked more like a piece of civic art than a war memorial.



Artist's design of the complete plaque (with a few of the 170+ inscriptions)



A close-up of part of the plaque showing some of the inscriptions

The eventual solution came to us courtesy of one of our Trustees, Steve Parle. His son, Andy, is making a name for himself as a designer of artwork that embellishes our public spaces here in Manchester. He has designed a plaque that is essentially a graphic 'Thank You' to all those who have played a major part in the restoration project. Its style echoes that of Robert Delaunay, a French artist who founded the 19th century Orphism school of art. Some of Delaunay's best known works were produced around 1913 (when the Arcade was built).

The plaque will be approximately 1.8 metres wide by 1.4 metres high and will be located about 2.5 metres up on the side wall of the Pizza Express building at the front of the alleyway that divides Pizza Express from the old Blockbusters shop (soon to be opened as 'Wine & Wallop'). It will be made of metal with a highly polished surface that should be easy to protect from vandalism.

Please note that the pictures on the left show just some of the inscriptions to illustrate how they will be incorporated into the design.

Planning permission for the plaque is currently being gained and so it may be a few weeks before Andy is able to create and install it. Soon after he does we will have an unveiling ceremony which should be one of the highlights of the local summer this year!