



Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

Bulletin 31

March 2017

Three years on

It's now almost 3 years since through your efforts this....



turned into this....



During those 3 years we have worked hard to maintain the elegance of the structure repainting the stanchions, clearing the gutters and repairing broken panes.

FOLLA's Trustees have decided to add an exciting new feature to the arcade; we have commissioned renowned local wood sculptor, Andy Burgess, to create carvings of lapwings to adorn either end of the parade. The carvings will be anchored in special 'railway sleeper planters' (see example below) kindly provided by the council to replace the plastic tubs currently in place.



Even if you haven't heard of Andy you will have seen his work locally – for example the owls which helped to raise money for the West Didsbury Christmas lights or the heron on Princess Parkway just after it crosses the Mersey on the way into Manchester.



Andy lived for many years in West Didsbury and grew his successful business here. Lately he has been a popular exhibitor at Chelsea and Tatton flower shows.

The Lapwing

The lapwing is a ground-nesting bird of the plover family. It has a quite distinctive flight pattern and is best recognised for the long plume at the back of its head. The pictures below are likely to be the models for the two carvings we have commissioned from Andy.....



The return of lapwings to Lapwing Lane this year fits perfectly with the 2017 'Didsbury in Bloom' campaign to celebrate the foundation of the RSPB 128 years ago in Didsbury by Emily Williamson.

Funding

We believe the cost of this project will be between £1,500 and £2,000.

We are determined not to deplete the funds we have put on one side to pay for the regular maintenance of the canopy so we will raise the money needed through donations and the proceeds from special events. Any surplus will go into the canopy maintenance funds.

Donations:

We would love you to join us in our 'Lapwing' project. You can make a donation via the form attached to the email that delivered this bulletin. Any amount will be very welcome. If you donate £50 or more - and you wish it - we will place a plaque on one of the two planters to recognise your contribution.

Events:

We are contemplating holding a social event (maybe a quiz/auction evening) at the Albert Club later in the year as we did when we raised funds for the original restoration project. We'll let you know about this in due course.

Launch

To complete the project we will organise an event during The National Heritage Weekend in September at which the carvings will be unveiled.

There will be music, food and drinks in what we hope will be the late summer sun - and of course we'd like as many local people to be there with us to celebrate the third anniversary of the saving of the Arcade canopy.