



Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

Bulletin 35

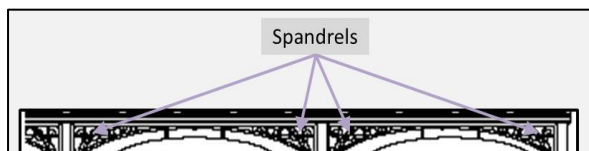
November 2023

What! Not you again!

Well, yes, I'm afraid it is. But for a good reason.

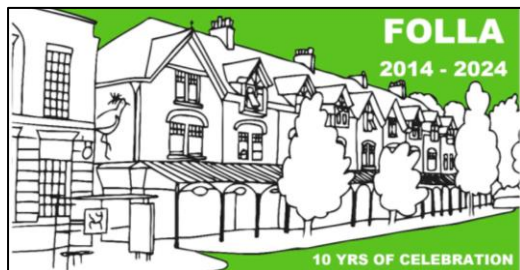
In 2024 FOLLA will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the restoration of the Lapwing Lane Arcade canopy. In early September we plan to hold an outdoor event on the Arcade to celebrate.

During the 10 years FOLLA has maintained the appearance of the Arcade using the annual charges levied from the shop owners. Indeed, with your help in 2017 we added to the appearance by commissioning and installing two lapwing wood sculptures at either end of the arcade.



One problem, however, that has recently arisen concerns four of the spandrels. You may have noticed one has disappeared whilst another is in a damaged state hanging off the arch. These four 2014 replacements for the original cast iron spandrels, that were too damaged to be restored in 2014, were recast in resin and the resin has deteriorated badly. We must replace them, but this is going to cost just over £4,000 - more than we can currently afford so the FOLLA Trustees are asking you to help us get these spandrels replaced ready for the 10th anniversary party next September. The Council has offered to chip in by contributing a £1 for every £1 we raise ourselves.

As an initial way of raising money our good friend Clare Howarth has designed a 'FOLLA at 10' mug which will be on sale shortly in the Arcade units.



In addition we plan to have a stall on December 2nd at the Burton Road 'Xmas on Burton' event (1pm to 6pm) organised by the West Didsbury Residents Association. Come along, see the Xmas lights switched on, chat to FOLLA and buy a mug. Perfect for Christmas presents!

"Charming Greater Manchester high street is a gem from another age"

Just a few weeks ago the MEN interviewed a number of Arcade regulars (shop owners as well as customers) for [a feature article](#) about the Arcade and its restoration.



Here's an extract:

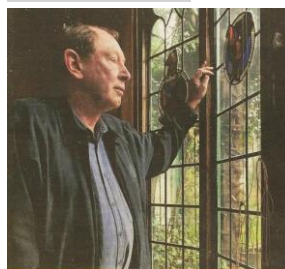
"Some 110 years ago, the Arcade on Lapwing Lane in West Didsbury was the place to go if you needed some fresh fruit, sewing supplies or a bag of penny sweets.

In the years since 1913, the Arcade has seen many shops come and go. But it still remains a focal part of the local community. While not granted official historical status, the arcade's glass canopy and steep ironwork stanchions tell a story of a bygone era...

"While the Arcade still stands today, it was very nearly gone altogether until a group of residents rallied together to save the landmark from ruin. Forming the Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade (FOLLA) group in 2012, more than £95,000 was raised to restore and refurbish the cast iron structure and work was completed some nine years ago."

If you haven't already seen it then another neat summary of the FOLLA story is on this [YouTube clip](#).

Steve Parle RIP



One of the heroes of the Arcade restoration has been Steve Parle. Steve was one of FOLLA's trustees and played a hugely influential role throughout the campaign. Indeed Steve's son, Andy, was responsible for the stunning design of the FOLLA

plaque on the side of Pizza Express.

Many of you will remember Steve from his work bringing the Didsbury Parsonage back to life. Sadly, Steve died this autumn. Many thanks, Steve, for all you've done.