



Friends of Lapwing Lane Arcade

Bulletin 36

March 2024

Canopy repairs complete!

It's good to report that over the past few weeks the badly needed repairs to the Arcade canopy have been completed. In the end we discovered there were 5 of the 42 spandrels (not 4 as previously reported) made of resin that had either disintegrated or were on the point of disintegrating.



One of the resin spandrels on the point of disintegration

Our contractor (Middlepeak Engineering of Dove Holes in Derbyshire) had great difficulty replicating the spandrel design in their casting shed as the removed spandrels fell apart as they were manoeuvred into position – but they managed it. They have also recast the 5 damaged spandrel joiners in aluminium and replaced them.



The replacement aluminium spandrel firmly secured for the future

Over the coming weeks we will get the glass cleaned, the stained columns repainted and the gutter leaks attended to so that the arcade is in good nick for the spring and summer when everybody wants to sit outside and enjoy the weather (maybe!).

FOLLA funds

As a result of the discovery of an extra resin spandrel the final cost of fitting the new spandrels has risen to £5,058.

Existing funds, a Manchester City Council grant of £1,500, the regular annual maintenance fee received from each of the shop units, plus your own generosity in buying the 'FOLLA at 10' commemorative mugs and simply contributing has defrayed well over half this cost ... BUT we still need to plug the funding gap of about £2,000.

The mugs are still on sale over the counter at the Lapwing Deli on the Arcade and if you're able to donate then our bank details are ...

Co-op Bank; Account name: **FOLLA**
Sort code: **08-92-99**; Account no.: **65882098**



One of the ornate spandrel joiners to be found at the apex of each arch

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the restoration

As we reach the 10-year mark since we originally celebrated Lapwing Lane Arcade's restoration, it feels fitting we should get together again. So, we are thinking of holding a couple of events this coming September: a Quiz/Auction evening at the Albert Club followed a week or so later by a party 'under the arches' on a Sunday afternoon. Keep an eye out for news about these.

Ever since the restoration work started we've had a website (<https://folla.org.uk>) which carries the story of the FOLLA journey as well as all the Trustee Reports and Accounts from the past 10 years. We're in the process of adding new content to it over the coming months to keep the story current.

Finally, we've just registered an Instagram account (Friends_of_Lapwing_Lane_Arcade) which we'll be using as another way of keeping the local community (well, those on Instagram) updated about the Arcade.