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£3,500 to restore lift car is 'probably lost'



Folkestone Herald [Follow](#)

Thursday, January 12, 2012

THE former treasurer of the 1890 Step Leas Lift Carriage restoration project fears the organisation will not get back £3,500 of public money paid to a Ramsgate company which went bust.

Bob Mouland and project chairman Jack Gill paid the money to Angelo Tripodi Construction and Joinery Limited in June 2009, to finish the timber frame of a coach.

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CASH FEAR: Bob Mouland (left), pictured with Jack Gill, says he is unlikely to get the money back from the liquidators, Libertas GIPM20110319C-005_C.jpg

But the company hit difficulties in October 2010, and eventually went out of business before the work could be completed.

The restoration group submitted a claim to insolvency company Libertas shortly afterwards, but they have now been told it is "unlikely" they will get any of the money back.

Mr Bob Mouland said: "When I think how hard it was to raise that much, it really is hard to take to think we might not get it back.

"We were out in the high street in all weathers trying to raise money to bring it back to its former glory, by selling postcards and memorabilia.

"It's absolutely sad, it looks like it's gone because it all came from members of the public who kindly gave us their donations from their own pockets."

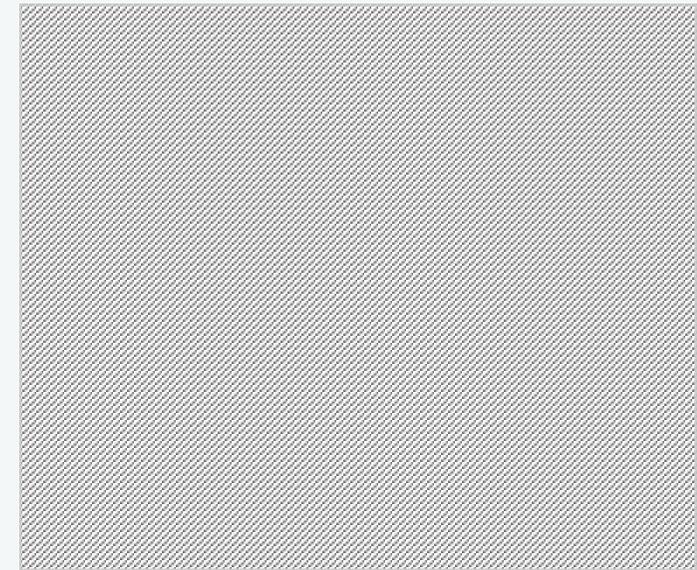
The work on the 120-year-old Folkestone landmark was eventually finished by Lyminge joiner Jim Smith. A final resting place for the lift is yet to be secured.



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A spokesman for Libertas said: "Following the onset of liquidation, we subsequently received a claim from 1890 Leas Lift Carriage Restoration Project in the sum of £3,500, although we have yet to adjudicate on this claim.

"They were told by liquidator Nicholas Barnett it is unlikely that there will be a distribution to any class of creditor.

"The company (Angelo Tripodi Construction and Joinery) had no realisable assets from which funds could be raised to allow for a distribution to creditors.

"However, we continue to monitor the position, and will update creditors with any developments in the future."

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