



## ***GlassCuts 15***

Issue dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012

For updates also visit our blog at [www.britishglassfoundation.tumblr.com](http://www.britishglassfoundation.tumblr.com)  
Archives of *Glasscuts* and the BGF *Newsletter* are held at  
[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

Hallo to you all out there in the *Wonderful World of Glass* and beyond.

Our previous edition of *GlassCuts* was a special update on the White House project. BGF is proud to report that it remains at the very heart of such discussions - indeed, there have been more since our update - and so be assured that you, dear reader, will be the very first to know of any substantive developments. In the meantime, here's the latest round-up of what's happening in glass-land.

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#### **In perpetuity**

Out thanks to DMBC (Archives) who have kindly agreed to archive *GlassCuts* and the BGF *Newsletter*. We have supplied all back-issues and will henceforth include Archives, which is shortly to move to a brand-spangley new complex next to the Black Country Living Museum, on our distribution list. Quite apart from the *kudos* of our output being listed as a permanent resource, it is gratifying to think that some day historians will be able to look back on the history of BGF as it unfurled. It would be even more gratifying to think they may then be following this with a visit to the world-class glass museum at White House. Hope springs eternal.

#### **News from the bunker**

Allister Malcolm, usually a reserved chappie working quietly out back at Broadfield House, is getting rather excited about his forthcoming glassblowing challenge that we featured in *GC12*. He is especially keen to tell us about the *Virgin Money Giving* facility where he has set up his fundraising page. Anyone can log on there and donate via Paypal, debit and credit cards. And, I can tell you, it is already doing rather well. Allister would be really chuffed if you would take a look, and even more chuffed if you offered a donation in support. Go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/allistermalcolm>



Still with Allister's attempt, which we have no doubt will be a tremendous success but which also means that he is going to have an awful lot of glass pieces on his hands at the end of it. Stepping into the breach is our good chum Will Farmer, of Fielding's Auctioneers in Stourbridge, who has offered to include the items in a sale on 27<sup>th</sup> October this year. Not only that, but he has also, via the aforementioned website, generously sponsored Allister's efforts.

Well done, that man.

## Olympic stuff and Glass Games

Herewith an extract from a recent news release from the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) on an event that we covered some while back, and which BGF has supported. Note the planned visit to our very own Ruskin down in sunny Amblecote ...

‘Just as the relay of the Olympic torch will link the whole of the UK to the London Games, a stunning glass baton is about to start its journey to link events for Glass Games 2012. This summer, there are more than 70 chances to discover the magic of glass, in a nationwide Olympic-inspired programme of events that celebrate the skills of glass artists - Glass Games 2012. From June 1 to September 30, there will be exhibitions, tours, workshops, have-a-go sessions and more in a packed programme of glass-related events, brought together by CGS. As well as glass events all over the UK, seven major venues will host a stunning glass baton, created especially for the Games by artist Bruce Marks.’



‘Last but not one stop in the marathon journey is The Ruskin Glass Centre in Stourbridge for *Medallions*, an exhibition based on imaginative interpretations of the Olympic medal by leading glass artists. The event, which runs from August 22 to September 15, includes a treasure hunt and an opening event.’

‘The Glass Games 2012 festival aims to bring the artistry, innovation and sheer brilliance of glass to more people than ever before. For more information about Glass Games 2012, go to [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk) or email [glassgames2012@gmail.com](mailto:glassgames2012@gmail.com)’

*Latest news from CGS, just in as we went to press:*

‘The overwhelming interest in *Medallions* has led the organizers, the Contemporary Glass Society, to extend the deadline for expressions of interest with the aim of bringing the total number of exhibits to more than 100.’

## Developing your talents

Jacqueline Cooley has asked us to mention the Masterclasses that are being held 20-23<sup>rd</sup> August inclusive as part of the International Festival of Glass ([www.ifg.org.uk](http://www.ifg.org.uk)). She is the Masterclass Coordinator and is offering a fascinating range of just about everything from affordable furnace building to extreme fusing and an introduction to glassblowing. It all sound absolutely brill, but Jacqueline will doubtless delight in telling you all about it herself. Contact her on [masterclasses@ifg.org.uk](mailto:masterclasses@ifg.org.uk) (details also on our Blog).

## Dates for your diary

Monthly, from May to September 2012 inclusive

*Jewels on the Cut*

A guided towpath walk along the Town Arm of the Stourbridge Canal examining the local glass facilities, and other works, from the perspective of the waterway that served them.

[www.dudley.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-galleries/glass-museum/whats-on/jewels-on-the-cut-canal-walks](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-galleries/glass-museum/whats-on/jewels-on-the-cut-canal-walks)

Until 5<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
Broadfield House  
*Blood and bones*, an exhibition by Patricia Niemann (*featured GC9*)  
[www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk)

9<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
Paperweight Day  
[www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk)

17<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
Kinver Country Fayre (*featured GC 13*)  
<http://www.kinvercountryfayre.com>

25<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
Dudley & Kingswinford RFC Open Day (*featured GC 13*)  
[www.pitchero.com/clubs/dudleykingswinfordrugbyclub](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/dudleykingswinfordrugbyclub)

13 August - 6 October 2012  
*21st Century Engraved Glass*: Exhibition by the Guild of Glass Engravers (*featured GC13*)  
Red House Glass Cone  
Admission free  
[www.gge.org.uk](http://www.gge.org.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> August-September 15<sup>th</sup>  
Ruskin Centre  
*Medallions* Exhibition, organized by Contemporary Glass Society (*see Olympic stuff and Glass Games, above*)  
[www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)

20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> August inclusive  
Various Masterclasses (*see Developing your talents, above*)  
Contact Jacqueline Cooley, Masterclass Coordinator, for details  
[masterclasses@ifg.org.uk](mailto:masterclasses@ifg.org.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012  
Hagley Hall



As featured in *GlassCuts 11 special edition*, an afternoon of erudition featuring BGF Trustee Charles Hajdamach. Joining Charles on stage will be Dr Paul Roberts of the British Museum, who will speak on The Portland Vase and cameo glass from the ancient world. Charles will complement this with the story of Stourbridge cameo from 1845 to present. Tickets £38 to include canapés and your chance to see at first hand the 2012 Portland Vase and Auldjo Jug. This event is generously supported by the Glass Association and Friends of Broadfield House.

*You are advised to book now to avoid disappointment. Bookings strictly via application form on website, please.* [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
International Glass Symposium: Architecture and the Artistry of Glass  
School of Art and Design, University of Wolverhampton  
£130. Student £65  
[www.wlv.ac.uk/artanddesign/glassbiennale](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/artanddesign/glassbiennale)  
Contact: Dr Max Stewart [max.stewart@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:max.stewart@wlv.ac.uk)

24th August-15th September 2012

*British Glass Biennale*

Part of the International Festival of Glass.

[www.biennale.org.uk](http://www.biennale.org.uk)

Facebook: 'International Festival of Glass 2012'

Twitter: @GlassBiennale

25th and 26th August 2012:

Stourbridge 9th Annual Bead Fair

[www.stourbridgebeadfair.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgebeadfair.co.uk)

27th August 2012

*Celebrate Glass* event

[www.stourbridgebeadfair.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgebeadfair.co.uk)

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012

Cambridge Glass Fair

[www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk)

11<sup>th</sup> November 2012

National Glass Fair

[www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk)

**And finally, this is lovely ...**

I think I may just keep this on my notice board to read when I'm having a lousy day at the office. This is an unsolicited, unabridged and entirely genuine entry seen recently in the visitor's book at Broadfield House. Somehow, it just seems to make it all worthwhile.



*... and it was all fabulous. Worth 5 hours in the car for a 2½ hour visit although I would have loved longer there. I took some vases up to be looked at and the people could not have been more helpful, interested and generally just fantastic, going out of their way to look things up and find design numbers/dates etc. I must have talked with John Smith for an hour and very special thanks to him for all his insight, information and help and for coming in today even though he wasn't due to be in. □ The glass was beautiful. There were a good few Stevens and Williams vases that definitely needed to be in my house, plus a couple of Webb's and some studio and pâte de verre pieces. I could definitely make more room here. It was all fascinating but the best bits, apart from talking to John and the others, were □- seeing the sizes of some of the vases, something which is just not conveyed by photos on the web even with a size description - they were huge and magnificent. I tried*

*to imagine making something that size and having it go wrong, eek! □- seeing a large 'Silveria' vase - glorious □- the pâte-de-verre room and some of the studio glass work □- talking to Allister Malcolm. □ We had a quick 20 minutes in the Glass Cone and seeing the enormous Stuart Peacock trail vases was something else. We also watched Charlotte Hughes-Martin blowing a specific piece for a designer - wonderful to watch. Charlotte was great at explaining what she was doing and why, something I didn't experience when I last watched glass-blowing in France, which was done in complete silence. OH said that was the best bit of his day. I would like to go again and have a lot longer to wander and absorb. It's a wonderful museum.*

I ask you, what better reason could there possibly be that to Keep it Glass.

More soon. Ta-ra for now ...

**Graham Fisher**  
**Press & Publicity,**  
**pp British Glass Foundation**  
[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

**Disclaimers 'n stuff** (*Yes I know, but we must*)

*GlassCuts* is the *ad hoc* email newsletter of the British Glass Foundation. It is collated on a philanthropic basis and has no other function than to entertain and inform its subscribers. Whilst every effort is made...blah...no responsibility...etc. (*usual caveats apply*)

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BGF welcomes onward transmission of *GlassCuts* to interested parties; if you know someone who you think may also wish to receive *GlassCuts*, then feel free to forward it. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our readership, submit it to BGF at the usual address.