



GlassCuts 24

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A Special 'Things are Happening' Edition

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Honestly, your fave-rave glass-fanzine is getting like the buses. None for ages, then loads on the trot. And all just as I was about to go up to Scotland with the other half for a wee rest and a spot of Nessie-hunting. But let us put all that to one side, 'cos have we got news for you ...

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Progress on the home front – *a Special Item*



Proposals for a new glass museum on the White House Cone site, opposite the historic Red House Cone, in Wordsley are a step closer following the submission of a bid for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding by Dudley Council in conjunction with the developer Complex Developments Limited and the British Glass Foundation. Should the bid prove successful, a further application to Heritage Lottery funding is planned.

The project will remove one of the area's major eyesores, which has been the subject of several arson attacks, by restoring the Grade 2 listed historic building and preserving the remains of the White House Cone, a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Following discussions with Dudley Council the intention is for the British Glass Foundation (BGF) to become a Museum Trust to eventually take over the running of the brand new glass museum, which will house the Broadfield House glass collections. This is a major turning point for the charity, which, from very humble beginnings, has developed into a well-respected and recognised body. In a very short space of time the Foundation has helped protect the glass collections and has raised the profile of glassmaking and the collections in Stourbridge.

Graham Knowles, BGF Chairman, said: *'The site will become a visitor attraction that tells the story of the Stourbridge glass industry bringing together the whole of the glass quarter and linking in with the other major visitor attractions in the area including Dudley Zoo and Castle, Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust. This will enhance tourism in the area and boost the local economy.'*

This significant news of progress on plans for the development of a world-class facility would ordinarily be sufficient in itself to justify a *GlassCuts* all of its own.

But there is so much else going on in the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{®GF} that has come to our notice since *GC23* of just a few short days ago ...

From the ‘Just when you thought it couldn’t get any better’ department



As if the prospect of a brand new, world-class glass facility is not enough to get the juices flowing, this next bit really just about puts the icing on the cake.

Ian Dury, proprietor of Stourbridge Glass Engravers and 2012 Portland Vase Project Coordinator, has, on hearing the latest news regarding the Stuart site, offered the entire collection of artifacts comprising the replica Portland Vase and base plate, Auldjo Jug, Olympic Vase *et al*, for housing at the new facility when it is up and running. Ian, who has made no secret of his desire to keep his prized treasures in the Stourbridge area, informs us that he feels this would

be a suitable place to demonstrate not only the history of the area but also to highlight the talents still extant here.

BGF Chairman Graham Knowles, commenting on Ian’s incredible largesse, says: ‘*The 2012 Portland Vase will be the centre piece of the new museum. This particular piece of glass gave birth to much of the glass-making craze in Stourbridge and Wordsley at the turn of the century and made us the finest centre for creating and decorating glass in the world at our zenith.*’

There will be more on this story in a future edition of *GlassCuts*.

A note from up t’north

Hello once more to North Lands Glass, and our thanks to them for sending details of their 2013 Glass Master Classes and International Conference. The list of course leaders features an impressive array of international talent and the conference this year will be bringing together ‘the best of glass, art and craft to explore expansive themes in an inspirational environment’. There will also be an exhibition of new works from the North Lands Creative Glass Collection of Contemporary Glass. This will open with a private viewing on Saturday 7th September and runs until Friday 4th October.

Whilst all this may yet seem a million years away, the application deadline for Master Classes is 31st March 2013, so you’ll need to pull your finger out on that one. Various other elements of the celebrations are going on throughout September; full details at info@northlandsglass.com or by contacting Lorna MacMillan - now, there’s a northern name, if ever I saw one - on 01593 721229.

Money matters

Our thanks once more to Miss J who, following her kind donation to BGF last year, has made a further welcome top-up to our funds.

Do remember that there are a number of ways, including regular standing order, that you can donate to BGF. Please contact us for further details. All monies are, and always have been, very gratefully received. However, in light of the news above, we are even keener now to secure all the funds that we can. So thank you.

Please note: In recognizing donors and acknowledging their support, *GlassCuts* generally will not reveal either the details of the donor or the amount donated unless the donor indicates otherwise or the circumstances are in the public domain or public interest. This does not preclude the possibility of details, including the amount donated and/or the donor’s particulars, appearing elsewhere in BGF material.



23rd March is the day

The *Centuries of Glass* auction at Fieldings of Stourbridge on said date will see the remaining pieces from the Malcolm-Elliot glassblowing challenge of last August, reported in *GCS passim*, being auctioned off. Your chance to own a piece of history lies before you. Fieldings have details on 01384 444140, www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk

Geek's Corner

Never heard of QR codes? Well, these are the squiggly square box-thingies that have started appearing on everything from television schedules to biscuit packets. Scan them with your mobile or other suitably enabled device and they go straight to a website. Clever stuff, eh?

Not ones to be left out, we are pleased to provide here a couple for you to play with. The first one is the QR code for the British Glass Foundation; the second is for the Virgin Money Giving site set up by fellow Trustee and ace glass artiste, Allister Malcolm. At least I think we've got them the right way round; they kind of all look the same to me.

Anyway, if you have a smartphone or hand-held device of recent manufacture, chances are you will already have the necessary software built in. For those of you with something more of a collector's piece, then go to your App store and download what will almost certainly be a free app to enable you to scan them.



If you can't scan the code but would still like to give a donation to the BGF then just click on this cheats link - you can pay by Card or Paypal:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1005650>

Dates for your diary

Thanks for the information, which has started coming in nicely. Send details of your spectaculars and festivities via the usual address, please.

Saturday 23rd March 2013

Centuries of Glass Auction, Fieldings Auctioneers, Stourbridge (*see above*)

www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk

Events & Exhibitions at Broadfield House Glass Museum
www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/glass-museum/

10 February - 9th June 2013
Collectomania; West Meets East

18 May 2013 - Beads Day

16 June 2013 - Paperweight Day

20 July 2013 - Bonhams Valuation Day

17 August 2013 - Family Fun Day

Various dates throughout September 2013-October 2013

North Lands International Master Classes & Conference, and exhibition of new works from the North Lands Creation Glass Collection of Contemporary Glass (see feature above).

info@northlandsglass.com or Lorna MacMillan on 01593 721229.

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher
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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