



# GlassCuts

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation

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And it's a big hallo (*English*), bonjour (*Français*), willkommen (*Deutsch*), buenos dias (*Español*) and worro cocker (*Tiptonese*), as we go truly international in welcoming all of our readers around the world to the latest edition of your fave-rave glass fanzine. Yes, we really have now hit the big time, and we understand that when no less than HRH Prince Charles, the future King, was recently told about *GlassCuts*, he was heard to say 'What?' But it's a start. So, what's happening in the *Wonderful World of Glass*<sup>©GF</sup> this time around? The answer is, a lot. It's all here in your latest super-doooper-soar-away-stumper-bumper-edition of *GlassCuts*. Read on, dear enthusiast, read on ... (*marketing team - let me know if you think this is a bit OTT - Ed*)

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## Grave news

Here's a message of friendship to the low-life who nicked the collection bottle off the desk at Stourbridge Glass Engravers (SGE) recently; we may not know who you are, but we would be delighted to learn of your agonies should you get your come-uppance somewhere else along the line. Preferably at the hands of some deviant wearing a spikey gauntlet.



In the meantime, life moves on, and SGE Proprietor Ian Dury, he of 2012 Portland Vase Project fame, has put another bottle there. This time surrounded by barbed wire and an armed guard. Well, maybe not, but there's a bottle there all the same. 'And what's it there for?' I hear you ask in unison. Well, he is raising funds for a project he has on the anvil to undertake refurbishment of tombstones in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Wordsley. Colloquially known as 'The Church of the Glassmakers', Holy Trinity is the last resting place of some famous names, including, of course, John Northwood, engraver of the eponymous Portland Vase of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and Daniel Hancox,

who blew the blanks.

The project is in its early stages, so stay tuned to your local *GlassCuts* for updates as it progresses. And if you are down at Ruskin anytime, do see if you can lob a bit of loose change in Ian's bottle. Just mind the barbed wire. And say hello to AK47-toting Errol. What a larf, eh?

### **Flash stuff**

Not content with unashamedly hob-nobbing alongside The Mayor of Dudley (*GC27*), glassman and fellow BGF Trustee Allister Malcolm has got himself a spangley new website. All the info you need on Your Man AM is there, but special praise for his 'charities' section where you can also make donations, even via a QR code (*GCs passim*). Go to 'info' and it is the third one on the drop down menu. The *computer-literati* amongst you will also spot the clever wordplay in *Flash stuff*. We don't just throw this together, y'know. Click on [www.allistermalcolm.com](http://www.allistermalcolm.com) and take it from there.

### **Buskin' at Ruskin**

There's lots going on down at the Ruskin Glass Centre right now, and not always 'glassy'. Once again, it is refreshing to see the diversity on offer and our thanks, as always, to Centre Manager Leigh White for keeping us updated, including a report on their successful *Awareness of Autism* event - attended by no less than the Mayor of Dudley, plus Robert Plant, he of Led Zeppelin fame - and news of the centre hosting the forthcoming *TEDxBrum* talks. No, I'd never heard of it either; a visit to [www.tedxbrum.org](http://www.tedxbrum.org) does the trick. This is all so very different from what one would usually expect of a glass facility, and is hence consistently stimulating. Which is how it should be, *n'est pas?* Full details, as always, at [www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk](http://www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk)



### **HP source**

e-petitions are a means of collecting on-line support for a cause; the collection of 100,000 signatures leads to the possibility of the matter in hand being debated in the Houses of Parliament. Our attention has been drawn to one such, aimed at dissuading the government from reclassifying craft as a non-creative industry. Here at the BGF we tend to leave politics to those more qualified than us to do the politicking, so we pass no comment on the merits or otherwise of the petition. However, we are happy to draw it to the attention of our readers to decide for themselves. When I checked it out in early May there was just shy of 11,000 signatures; two weeks later it stood at around 24,500. The time limit is 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013. To find the current count and learn more, visit <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49537>

### **CGS - Cash Gets Sorted**

Great news from Rebecca Dearden, who is herself becoming something of a staple contributor to our happy gang. Regular readers know that Rebecca is the PR lady for the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS). They are all cock-a-hoop at the moment, having been selected to share in a £7m pot. She tells us that Arts Council England received 164 applications totaling £18m for the Catalyst Arts Fund. The bid by the CGS, in partnership with - get this, glass fans - the International Festival of Glass (IFoG), was one of the 62 chosen. The organisations will receive a sizeable, and welcome, boost to their coffers. The award will enable the CGS and IFoG to carry out vital research into developing audiences, membership and new benefits for members.

Chair of the CGS, Victoria Scholes, tells us: *'We're really looking forward to working more closely with the IFoG - it will help us both move forward and become much more self-sufficient for funding. There'll be improvements to the website, training for staff and more time to focus on fundraising - something that's really needed if we're to champion glass art in the years to come.'*

Don't forget the CGS is also currently curating their unique on-line collection, as featured in GC25, and their *Hot Glass* exhibition, described in GC26, plus a shed-load of other cracking stuff as well. Check out *The Unbroken Line*, a year of exhibitions that celebrate the glassmakers' skill, and much, much more. Read awl abaht it at [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)

### **More from the far north**

Northumberland may be a bit off our patch, but, at the end of the day, glass is glass. So no grief in drawing your attention to the stunning stuff on offer at *Balman by Design*. It's all at [www.balmanbydesign.com](http://www.balmanbydesign.com)

### **And more from that sort of general direction, but not quite as far north**



Back in GC26 (*Light Fantastic*) we carried news of Ali and her *Neon Workshops*, an arts company based in Yorkshire that teaches and exhibits neon as a creative medium. Evidently going from strength to strength, Ali has now notified us of two new workshops; *Keep Neon and Carry On* runs from 25th-28th July 2013, with *Moving Neon* from 12th - 15th September

2013. Details and costings at [www.neonworkshops.com](http://www.neonworkshops.com) or 70b, George Street, Wakefield WF1 1DL: 01924 200069. As for the alluringly entitled *Neon Nudes* running from 29<sup>th</sup> May-13<sup>th</sup> July, if you are quick you can catch the preview between 5pm and 9pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

### **David Dawkins and the Big Art Show**

We have had an email from David Dawkins. He is setting up a Big Art Show. But I think you may have already gathered that from the title. For more, it's over to you, David ...

*Hi. My name is David Dawkins (yes, yes, we know that bit - Ed). I am a glass artist and the organiser of The Big Art Show [www.thebigartshow.co.uk](http://www.thebigartshow.co.uk) which is taking place next year on 19th and 20th July 2014 in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. The show will be on a 55-acre site and will have 500 exhibiting artists. I am looking for artists to either exhibit or talk about their work. This is my first show; I need well-known and respected artists to appear to attract other artists to attend. This will help the show to germinate and be a success.*

*The Big Art Show is going to be different. I want the show to have impact, to be interactive, and I would like artists demonstrating their skills and talking about their work. My main objective is to provide affordable selling spaces for high-end craft designers and artists to sell their work.*

*I intend to give artists a space of 3 square metres at a cost of £120 (£60 for new graduates) for the two-day show. In this economic climate it is difficult for artists to afford the costs of large art shows, especially with the rising cost of energy. I am hoping to attract those who would not normally exhibit at a large show because of price. I would greatly appreciate your help in getting my show off the ground. It is a new venture and I need to promote it widely and spread the word.*

David, you will be pleased to know that you have now successfully spread the word via what is, in all modesty, probably the world's best-known glass fanzine. Or maybe not. Anyway, welcome to our happy band, and good luck. Do let us know how it goes; usual address. Give us details nearer the date and we'll pop it into *Dates for your diary* as well. Cheers.

### **Wheels within wheels**

It's not directly related to glassy things, but it all helps. You may have gathered from the local meejah that there is a campaign called 'Holidays at Home are Great', run by *VisitEngland*, which in turn is Chaired by Penelope, Lady Cobham. The overhaul of Dudley Zoo and the surrounding area will be part of an initiative to link attractions together so people stay in the area for prolonged periods to visit what is on offer. Which, of course, includes the Glass Quarter. Can't be bad.

*And finally ...*

### **Meetings, meetings and more meetings**

Yep, but that's the way it goes. There was a meeting of The Great and The Good (they being the respective parties involved in the bid to develop the White House site) on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, and there are more meetings planned. Now, if you really, really want me to, I could give you a fly-on-the-wall chapter and verse account of everything that went on. But, for even greater excitement, I could suggest you pop down to Holly Hall junction for a couple of hours and watch the traffic lights change. It's all painfully protracted, and we've only got one shot at this, so it has to be done right. Which means it takes time. So, we just thought we'd let you know that, while you are busy staring at those lights, there is a lot being done behind the scenes. Keep the faith, brothers and sisters, for I have a dream. ©MLKing

### **Dates for your diary**

*'If I ever hear some kid or other say to me they're bored and got nothing to do, I shall ...'* (at this point a frustrated Editor can be seen making signs of slow manual strangulation). I ask you, just run your eyes down this lot to see what is going on around these parts. Even better, go and support a few; they're brill. Some might attract, at most, a nominal charge, but many are absolutely free. And, for the sake of my nerves, please take some kids along with you. Ta.

### ***Events & Exhibitions at Broadfield House Glass Museum***

[www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/glass-museum/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/glass-museum/)

10<sup>th</sup> February - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2013 - *Collectomania; West Meets East*

16<sup>th</sup> June 2013 - *Paperweight Day*

20<sup>th</sup> July 2013 - *Bonhams Valuation Day*

17<sup>th</sup> August 2013 - *Family Fun Day*



**Events and Exhibitions at Red House Glass Cone** (featured GC26 & 28)

[www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/)

13<sup>th</sup> April - 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013 - *The Black Country Seen* (sic)  
1<sup>st</sup> June - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013 - *Contrasts: The Lace Guild*  
13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013 - *1940s weekend*  
3<sup>rd</sup> August - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013 - *Schools Out for Summer*  
24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013 - *Knights in Shining Armour*  
7<sup>th</sup> September - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013 *OMG - Oh My Glass*  
26<sup>th</sup> October - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 - *Made at the Cone*  
30<sup>th</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 - *Christmas Festival & Craft Fayre*  
7<sup>th</sup> December - 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014 - *All I Want for Christmas*



**In addition, as notified by Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum** (featured GC26)

(open to all comers; modest fees may be involved)

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

6<sup>th</sup> June 2013

6:30pm, Broadfield House Glass Museum

*Highlights of my time at the museum: Roger Dodsworth*

15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013

*Paperweights weekend*

Saturday at Himley Hotel, Sunday at Broadfield House Glass Museum (see listing above)

16<sup>th</sup> includes *Ysart*, celebrating creativity of the eponymous family

29<sup>th</sup> June 2013 - 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014

Broadfield House Glass Museum

*Just Desserts*

Changes in fashion in all things sweet, and accompanying glassware

30<sup>th</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013

10:00am - 4:00pm, Broadfield House Glass Museum

*Christmas Festival*

**Elsewhere around the highways and byways of glassville**

19<sup>th</sup> April - 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013

*Hot Glass, an exhibition by the Contemporary Glass Society* (featured GC26)

Contemporary Applied Arts Gallery, 2 Percy Street, London, W1T 1DD

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

29<sup>th</sup> May - 13<sup>th</sup> July

*Neon Nudes* (see feature above)

[www.neonworkshops.com](http://www.neonworkshops.com) 70b, George Street, Wakefield WF1 1DL: 01924 200069

1<sup>st</sup> June 2013

*Forge Forward Arts Day* (featured GC26)

Dudley Town Centre

<http://www.facebook.com/forgeforwarddudley>

9<sup>th</sup> June 2013

*7<sup>th</sup> Birmingham Lives History Fair* (featured GC27)

Trefoil House, Brownsea Drive, Ellis Street, Holloway Head, Birmingham B1 1QL.

[k.clenton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:k.clenton@blueyonder.co.uk) 0121 602 3728

25th - 28th July 2013

*Keep Neon and Carry On* (see feature above)

[www.neonworkshops.com](http://www.neonworkshops.com) 70b, George Street, Wakefield WF1 1DL: 01924 200069

25<sup>th</sup> August 2013

*10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bead Fair* (featured GC25)

Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge DY8 4LU

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

12th - 15th September 2013

*Moving Neon* (see feature above)

[www.neonworkshops.com](http://www.neonworkshops.com) 70b, George Street, Wakefield WF1 1DL: 01924 200069

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* (featured GC24)

[info@northlandsglass.com](mailto:info@northlandsglass.com) or Lorna MacMillan on 01593 721229

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

**Graham Fisher**

**Press & Publicity,**

**pp British Glass Foundation**

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



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#### Disclaimers 'n stuff

It seems like my little ruse may be working, but it is agonizingly slow. We are now up to a grand total of 3 people who have spotted the gibberish I have been putting here for months now. But, undeterred, manfully onwards shall I plod with the Disclaimer bit. We have to do it, so here goes. *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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