



GlassCuts

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation

Issue No: 35

Dated: 17.9.2013

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IN THIS ISSUE

Autumn may be fast approaching, but, as will be seen from yet another stumper-bumper wall-to-wall edition of your fave-rave glass fanzine, there's just no let-up from the heat out there in the *Wonderful World of Glass* ^{©GF}

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STOP PRESS+++STOP PRESS+++STOP PRESS

Dates for your diary

Where's the time gone?

Go on, then; what were you doing back in 2004? There's a lot of water gone under the proverbial bridge since, but at least some of you may remember attending the inaugural Beads Day at Broadfield House Glass Museum. Prepare to be amazed, friends, because that same fair is making preparations to celebrate its first decade, and you are cordially invited to get in on the action. Here's Organiser, Pauline, to tell you all about it ...

In May 2014 we shall be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Beads Day. There will be an exhibition of glass beads and jewellery from some of the UK's best lampworking artists. Also, a book will be launched to coincide with the exhibition. The book will detail a light-hearted history of glass beadmaking in the UK since 1976. It will include photographs of beads and jewellery selected for the exhibition, which will continue throughout the IFoG Biennale.

If you wish to take part send an email to pauline@jazzylily.com stating '10th Anniversary' in the subject box. You will then be sent an application form to complete. There is a non-refundable administration fee of £15.00. Any profits from the sale of the book will go to Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum, who are funding printing costs. Each selected artist will receive a free copy of the book.

Thanks Pauline; good luck with that one. And for those of you who still haven't twigged how the system works, Pauline's early notification means that she will get a free 'plug' in our *Dates for your diary* section every *GlassCuts* between now and the event.

For an unbiased testimonial, just ask Aleksandr Orlov, the BGF's very own pet meerkat, who says: *'I can thoroughly recommend comparetheGlassCuts.com (with acks and thanks to said company.) No obligation, no fee, no kidding. Simples. Now pliss to remove ze hands from throat.'*



Sue heads for warmer climes

Those of you who took the opportunity to get some lovely stuff at Sue Parry's recent summer sale will be heartened to know that the proceeds are going to a very good cause. Sue, based at Ruskin Glass Centre in Amblecote, is flying out to Mexico in October of this year for what she describes as 'a four month creative inspirational adventure'. Me? My excitement amounts to steering a boat to Tipton occasionally, and over-indulging on the faggots. Not so our Sue, who, ever eager to expand her horizons, is heading for Guanajuato, where she will be living and working with local artists, with a view to enhancing her own, already considerable, innovative skills.

Sue will be missed by all of us whilst she is away, but advises us that she will be offering on-line updates via www.sueparry.co.uk and the usual social media outlets, where you can follow her progress. Here, from the shimmering opulence that is the Editorial Suite at *GlassCuts Towers*, we wish Sue all the very best, and will look forward to hearing about all that she has been up to when she returns. Toodle-pip for now, Sue.

(Old gags revisited: What do Mexicans keep under their carpets? Underlay! Thank you, culture lovers - Ed)



Glass on the cut

Heaven forefend he should be considered immodest, but your Editor is rather chomping at the bit to report that he has, at last, made it big. At least, in cyberspace. And, perhaps, in his own imagination. By the time you read this, it may already have made the local meejah, but the gist of it is that he features in a new on-line guide through the Stourbridge glass industry.

The Crystal Canal; a self-guided walk along the Stourbridge Canal is the latest in The Royal Geographical Society's *Discovering Britain* series and examines the myriad glass works and other industries from the perspective of the canal that runs right through it.

Based on his 2010 book *Jewels on the Cut* the guide is available as a free audio or PDF download. The PDF can be printed off as a hard copy and Graham has also provided a MP3 voice track so that it can be used as an audio guide.

Featured locations include, amongst others, the Bonded Warehouse, Foster & Rastrick, Ruskin Glass Centre and Red House Glass Cone. There is also reference to the work of the British Glass Foundation, who are seeking to create a new canalside world-class museum to house the renowned Stourbridge Glass collection.

Graham told the GC Team: *'I am delighted to have been associated with this project, which should help bring the wonderful history of our waterways and the rejuvenated Stourbridge Glass industry to a deservedly ever-widening audience.'*

The walk can be downloaded from:

<http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/west-midlands/stourbridge-canal.html#tabbox>

(Note to readers, from staff at GlassCuts Towers: We do believe 'Our Ed' is blushing.)



Summat else other than Roman jugs

GlassCuts34 was a celebration of the area's association with the fabulous Roman Portland Vase, from its replication in the 19th Century right up to the present, and the breathtaking accomplishments of the 2012 Portland Vase Project team based at Ruskin Glass Centre.

So, to crank this issue along, we thought we would update you with a quick look at what's on offer at a couple of other locations that, amongst other things, have intimate associations with cameo glass, namely Red House Glass Cone and Broadfield House Glass Museum. 'Cos they do other stuff as well ...

Broadfield House Glass Museum, *az eny eejut knose*, houses one of the best glass collections in the world. It also has its own Cameo Gallery; it's worth going there just to see that alone.



Red House Glass Cone, an internationally acknowledged tourist attraction, lies in the heart of the Stourbridge Glass Quarter and was used for the manufacture of glass until 1936. It also had a bit of involvement, to say the least, with the Northwood-Pargeter Portland Vase replica. But, there's more ...

To explore both, there are various packages to choose from, including:

- Guided tours of both the Red House Glass Cone and Broadfield House Glass Museum.
- Broadfield House Guided Tour.
- Red House Glass Cone Guided Tour.
- Candlelight Tour of the Cone.
- Self guided audio tour of the Cone.

The Administrator at Red House Glass Cone will also be happy to advise on more general trips around the area that include not only glass, but other aspects of our glorious, ground-breaking, world-beating history that can lick the spots off anybody who ain't Black Country, so yah, booh, sucks.

Biased? Moi? Ok, then. Get somewhat more impartial advice from Our Annette at annette.eardley@dudley.gov.uk or 01384 812756.

And, as a bit of icing on the cake, it is good to see that the former shop, which has lain empty for some time, has new incumbents. One of these is Stuart's (no relation) Clocks and Gifts. Stuart Caldicott, for indeed it is he, has relocated to Studio F, from where he will be offering his hands made clocks, barometers and wooden crafts as well as undertaking specialist repairs. Good luck in that one Stu. 01384 572037 info@smdclocksandcrafts.com

The unexamined life ... etc

It's a bit off our patch, but, hey, there may be someone around these parts who fancies a complete change. If so, grab a look at this email we have received from Katy at Cumbria Crystal, and which we are delighted to pass on *verbatim*:

'Hallo there to everyone at GlassCuts, our favourite email glass fanzine'. Oh, OK, I admit I may have put that bit in myself ... anyway ...

Cumbria Crystal is one of the few English Crystal factories remaining in the UK. We hand blow and hand cut full lead English Crystal for a global luxury market. We have invested in new furnaces and production equipment and we are increasing our capacity in the factory to meet the demands of our market.

We need an experienced factory glassblower with experience of working with full lead crystal. The ability to hand make large-scale pieces is essential.

We also require a factory glasscutter with experience in full lead crystal and diamond and sandstone wheels, to cut our range of stemware and giftware and new products. Experience of cold process work would be an advantage. We are a small company and therefore flexibility in skills and approach are necessary, along with a 'can do' attitude. An ability to work within a team is essential, as you would be working within our small glassmaking team and within the larger production team.

Both positions are full time and for immediate start. For further information please email a CV to richard@cumbriacrystal.com or call 01229 584400 to speak to Richard Lloyd to discuss the position.'

Much obliged, Katy. Good luck, and thank you for thinking of us here in *GlassCuts*-land.

The quote in the title, by the way, is an oft-cited one by Socrates. But, answers on a postcard if you know the *complete* quotation. No prizes, just the chance to be called a smartypants.

CGS goes charitable

We have received news that The Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) became a Registered Charity Number 1153382 on 14 August 2013. Victoria Scholes, Chair of CGS, tells us: *'This is great news. The award is a significant step for the CGS in our drive toward self-sustainability, and will mean that that we can go on bringing high quality contemporary glass to more and more people.'*

The Contemporary Glass Society is the UK's foremost organisation for supporting established artists and up-and-coming makers. The Society promotes contemporary glass in the wider art world through a programme of exhibitions, conferences and events, as well as through the www.cgs.org.uk website. Further information from Pam Reekie at admin@cgs.org.uk

In a separate announcement, the CGS has also sent us news of this year's *New Designers* event where thousands of graduates showcased their work to the public. The CGS is particularly keen to encourage and support graduates working with glass as they start out on their career, and this is the fourth year that CGS have presented a number of highly coveted prizes for exceptional glasswork.

And just to show that good things really do come in threes, Victoria also reminds us that CGS are also running a conference, *'Glass Skills: exploring the fusion of art and technique'* in October at the National Glass Centre, up there in sunny Sunderland.

Talking of which ...

I happened to comment recently that the National Glass Centre is based on my old *alma mater*, where, as strip of an undergrad some forty years back, I parry-diddled all afternoon with foul-smelling test tubes and vain attempts to put *all* the bits back into the frog. Ah, happy days. Although perhaps not quite so for the frog. Or, more accurately, what was left of the frog. But I digress.



Anyway, I was delighted to see my plaintive reminiscences picked up by no less than Chris Blade, who is Head of Enterprise, Commissioning & the Studio. Chris contacted *GlassCuts Towers* to tell us: *'There have been a few changes since then! If Graham has not visited for a while I would be more than glad to show him round.'*

Thanks Chris, I might just take you up on that. Along with the 300,000 others the site is currently attracting annually, that is. In the meantime, here is a quick overview of what Chris tells us is going on:

Just completed, a £2.25M refurbishment.

60K watching free glass blowing demonstrations.

130 students studying BA, MA, PhD.

Glass facilities including 4 electric furnaces, 7 glory holes, 50+ kilns, water jet machines.

New 'white cube' gallery showcasing contemporary glass.

Opportunities to make glass baubles, every weekend throughout November and December.

One-on-one glass blowing tuition with a member of the Studio Team. Half or full days, available as gift vouchers.

Recent commission completed for the Newcastle Eye Centre at the Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Plus a load more.

Very impressive. The National Glass Centre is, as if you didn't already know, at the University of Sunderland, Liberty Way (*which I don't recall even existed in my day - Lordy, I'm getting old*), Sunderland SR6 0GL. It used to take my long-suffering late father a whole weekend and an overnight stay to drive me there for the start of a new term; now it's just a few hours up the road. The Centre opens daily 10:00-17:00 and admission is free, with equally free visitor parking. www.nationalglasscentre.com

Two birds, one stone



Kingswinford DY6 9NS; 01384 812745; www.glassmuseum.org.uk

Congratulations to Kari Moodie, Glass Interpretation Officer at Broadfield House Glass Museum. Until now, that is. Following the retirement of Roger Dodsworth, Kari has been appointed Keeper of Glass & Fine Art. BGF wishes her well in her new role. So, here's a chance to kill two birds with the proverbial one stone by popping in and congratulating her yourself, before taking a peek at one of the finest glass collections in the world. Clever, or what? For those who still might not know, Broadfield House is in Compton Drive,

So, who will be the new Glass Interpretation Officer? And what is the Roger Pilkington Collection? Stay tuned, glass-fans, to the next thrilling instalment of *GlassCuts*. Or, follow the sage advice above and go down to Broadfield. You know it makes sense.

Money matters

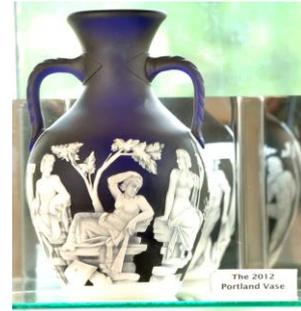
Our sincere thanks, once again, to the Owen Family Trust for their further kind donation of funds towards the running costs of the BGF. We are much obliged.

This is a timely opportunity to remind our readers that, in addition to our *Virgin Money Giving* facilities (see top of front page), BGF can accept donations via a number of vehicles, including standing order. If you would like to crack open the piggy bank and tilt the slot in our direction, then please contact us via the usual channels. We are, as always, happy to point out that any such donations, unless expressly indicated otherwise by the donor, go *in toto* to BGF funds, from which the Trustees derive not a penny piece. Cool.

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.

And finally ...

Thanks to everyone who took time to compliment the GC team on our 2012 Portland Vase Project 'special pull out and keep edition' last time around. More than one or two of you asked if this might be printed as a stand-alone publication sometime. Hmmm ...



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Phew, this was close; our fingers were hovering over the 'send' button when we received this update for the Cambridge Glass Fair on Sunday 22nd September (see *Dates for your diary*, below) ...

In our previous email it was inadvertently suggested there might be free refreshments. This is not the case but there is free parking. The fair is open from 10:30am until 4:00pm. Admission is £5 (accompanied children under 16 free). Refreshments will be available all day from two café areas within the fair.

Glad to be able to make space for that one. Good luck to the Organisers, who put so much into these events.

Dates for your diary

C'mon, there's still time. If you don't tell us, we won't know.

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

30th November - 1st December 2013
Christmas Festival

May - August 2014
10th Anniversary Bead Fair (see feature above)
Broadfield House Glass Museum
www.jazzylily.com

Events and Exhibitions at Red House Glass Cone (featured GC26 & 28)
www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/

7th September - 20th October 2013 *OMG - Oh My Glass*
26th October - 1st December 2013 - *Made at the Cone*
30th November - 1st December 2013 - *Christmas Festival & Craft Fayre*
7th December 2013 - 5th January 2014 - *All I Want for Christmas*

Elsewhere around the highways and byways of glassville

29th June - 22nd September 2013

National Glass Centre, Sunderland SR6 0GL

Reopening of the Centre with a retrospective of the works of Erwin Eisch (featured GC31)

www.nationalglasscentre.com

12th - 15th September 2013

Moving Neon (featured GC29)

www.neonworkshops.com 70b, George Street, Wakefield WF1 1DL: 01924 200069

Sunday 22nd September 2013

Cambridge Glass Fair

Linton Village College CB21 4JB (featured GC31)

www.cambridgeglassfair.com

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 or Lorna MacMillan on 01593 721229

Sunday 10th November 2013

National Glass Fair

National Motorcycle Museum B92 0EJ (featured GC31)

www.glassfairs.co.uk

Bulletin Board

Since *GlassCuts* was last on air, we have also been notified of ...

Station Glass, Shenton. Friends Open Day

Saturday 19th October.

Following Richard Golding's return from his trip to the USA and Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY, (reported GC33), and after a well-earned breather, he and Sandra are once more extending their legendary hospitality. Contact Station Glass by Friday 11th October; links via

www.stationglass.com

Alan J Poole Monthly Glass News Letter (September edn.)

Auctions, awards, competitions, grants, prizes, scholarships, books ... hang on, I've not finished yet ... conferences, jobs, workshops, obituaries, sales and wants; you get the idea. 27 pages and over *fifteen thousand* words this time around. To put that into perspective, a typical feature-length article in a magazine would be around *fifteen hundred*. Mind-blowing.

alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher

Press & Publicity,

pp British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk



These are the QR codes for the British Glass Foundation (left) and Virgin Money Giving (right).

Scanning with a suitably enabled mobile or hand held device will escort you directly to the websites where you can either browse the work of the BGF or make a donation.

Devices of recent manufacture will most likely already have the necessary software built in. Older devices may require a download, usually free. If difficulties are encountered, contact your provider and not, please, BGF.



Disclaimers 'n stuff

And now, a message from our sponsors, *Disclaimers 'R' Us*: Hallo friends, this month, for one month only we are offering two disclaimers for the price of one. *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*).

And here's your freebie ... *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*).

And, for good measure, we will throw in the bit about ... This email is sent to you in good faith on the basis that you appear on our list of interested parties. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* emails then send 'unsubscribe' to bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. A brief indication as to why would be appreciated.

Now, we're just spoiling you ... 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. This promotion offered by *Disclaimers 'R' Us* only to readers of *GlassCuts*. No cash alternative.