



## *GlassCuts 7*

January 2012

Hallo everyone. And a belated Happy New Year to you all.

Now that the festivities are over and we have all abandoned faint hope of ever regaining our waistlines of yesteryear, let us cast such concerns joyously to the wind as we get straight down to the serious matter of what's going on in the wonderful world of glass.

Golden Trailing Scent Bottle  
By Allister Malcolm  
Photo: Simon Bruntnell

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### **Nice one, Chas**

Charles Hajdamach informs us of a delightful letter he has received from Corning Museum in NY following his recent visit Stateside which, already choc-full of compliments and pleasantries, has a handwritten note appended: *'I enjoyed your talk at the seminar!'* So, this might be a timely reminder that if you are looking for an internationally-renowned glass expert to deliver a top-notch presentation, we might just know someone who can help. Details via BGF. What's more, we're prepared to put our money where our mouth is, because ...

### **Be there or be square**

... Charles himself will be one of the guest speakers at a glorious bash that is being put together, as we speak, by BGF's own Meriel Harris. Here's an early reminder so you can get it into your diary and book your spot at this prestigious event. Hear me, friends, when I suggest you do so, because this promises to be a real cracker. Joining Charles on stage for an afternoon of quality erudition 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. The date is **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012**, the venue is **Hagley Hall** and the cost will be £38.00, to include canapés.

But that ain't the half of it. The sharper-eyed will have already noticed that this is around the time of **International Festival of Glass**, at which the **2012 Portland Vase** will be revealed. Your chance to see this piece of history close up will come on the day, since Project Manager Ian Dury has kindly agreed to bring it to the event for a special showing and, if we're lucky, also the replica **Auldjo Jug**. This promises to be a truly memorable occasion that will be talked about for years to come, so you just know already that you'll kick yourself if you aren't part of it. More about this as the months unfurl, with a downloadable booking form appearing soon on [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

### Thinking ahead ...

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In a different context but similar vein, the good folk at Broadfield House Glass Museum run an **Outreach Service** whereby a team of people go out into the big bad world promoting glass from the perspective of their own specialties. One of them happens to be Yours Truly, and towards the end of last year I was invited to put together a pilot 'cameo afternoon' at BH at which visitors, aided by light refreshments at a pretty nominal charge, could learn a bit more about cameo glass and see examples for themselves in the dedicated cameo room at BH. I am delighted to say that the afternoon went sufficiently spiffing for it to be offered on a regular basis. Next one is **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January** 1.30-2.30pm. Details from Julie at [julie.edmonds@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:julie.edmonds@dudley.gov.uk) or 01384 815571.

I can't leave the subject of these presentations without giving thanks to Ian and Terri at Ruskin who have kindly provided me with actual samples of cameo that my guests can touch and feel without having to buy. Great stuff, ta. Promise I'll look after them.

In addition to its exhibitions and events, BH also offers a wide range of Outreach presentations for an equally wide range of audiences. Proposals for the 2012 season are being put together at this very moment. Our Jools is the lady for these too, contact as above.

### Got anything to say, then?

Still on the subject of presentations, if you have any coming up that you feel the readers of *GlassCuts* may be interested in knowing about, then do drop brief details to the BGF and we will do the rest. (*See Dates for your diary, below.*)

### Love conquers all. Well, almost.

Now, I suspect that my other 'arf sometimes thinks I'm bone idle, so no surprise that when she asked me what I was going to do for her on Valentine's Day I suggested I could take down the Christmas decorations. Hmm ... that's just one of my endearing little foibles, but those of you a little more romantically inclined may care to take a peek at the latest **Valentine theme** of goodies on offer at Broadfield House. Thinking about it, I might just be seeing you there if I want to stay out of trouble. 01384 812745 for more.

### Meejah Noos

If you haven't already seen them yet, or for those living outside the area who wouldn't usually get our local papers, then let me tell you that our friends in the media have really done us proud this month. Features on developments at White House have appeared in the *Stourbridge News*, courtesy of Bev Holder, and the *Express & Star* at the hands of Andrew Turton. Our thanks to both for their enthusiastic and refreshingly positive coverage.

### Smokin' at Ruskin

Also making the headlines is the Ruskin Centre, and the current phase of their refurbishment. This latest chapter is costing the thick end of £1.5m. Now I dunno about you, but personally I don't interpret that sort of outlay that as a sign of the 'dead industry' that I keep hearing about from various ill-informed harbingers of doom. Far from it, and I confess to deriving a certain pleasure from pointing this out to the doubters of this Parish and then seeing the look of surprise on their faces. It's all very exciting and it's all going along at a real pace, so check it out before you are left trailing in their wake. Details at [www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk](http://www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk)

The BGF held its meeting at Ruskin on 18<sup>th</sup> January, so we took the opportunity to sneak round the corner from the Zodiac Room into Stourbridge Glass engravers and see progress on the Auldjo Jug. Good to bump into our ol' pal Will Farmer, of Fielding's Auctioneers and Antiques Roadshow, who was also having a gander following a publicity shoot. The image here shows a full complement of Trustees admiring Terri's handiwork, with Project Coordinator Ian Dury third from left and Will fourth from right. I very much doubt the remaining suspects need too much introduction but, just for the record, they are (l-r) Graham Knowles (BGF Chairman), David Williams-Thomas, Ian, Yours Truly, Terri, Will, Charles Hajdamach, Allister Malcolm and Meriel Harris.



#### **Plug time.**

Another of our regular peeks at some of the organizations that support BGF. This issue ...

*The Glass Association* (GA) a registered charity and voluntary organization, was founded in 1983 at Stourbridge College of Art with a remit to promote the understanding and appreciation of glass and glass making, together with increasing public interest in all aspects of glass, from Roman times through to modern studio glass.

A strong membership in the UK is complemented by numerous overseas members, many of whom are themselves prominent in glass. Based at Broadfield House Glass Museum, the association spreads its message widely via its publications *The Glass Cone* and *The Journal*. The former is published quarterly, covering a range of interests and current events in the world of glass, whilst the Journal of the Glass association is published every two to three years, a more scholarly outlet for topics that can be pursued in depth.

Evening meetings and day events are organized around the country during the year, whilst every two years tours are organized abroad, to destinations of glass interest. The GA have recently conducted visits to Bavaria, Ireland, Sweden and the USA.

Membership of the Glass Association commences at £25 p.a. and a downloadable application form, together with all other details including news events, back catalogue and a feedback facility can be found at [www.glassassociation.org.uk](http://www.glassassociation.org.uk) (which is currently undergoing major overhaul.) GA can be contacted on [info@theglassassociation.org.uk](mailto:info@theglassassociation.org.uk)

As always, the BGF is grateful to the Glass Association and thanks its members for their continuing support.

## Dates for your diary

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Cameo afternoon, Broadfield House (details as above)

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January

An Afternoon At The Flicks at Broadfield House – An opportunity to see some vintage glass-related film footage - £5 to include ice-cream interval. 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.  
[www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk)

### Until 19th February

Broadfield. Light fantastic, exhibition

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

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February

News has come in of an inaugural contemporary art fair at Netherton Arts Centre. Various stands, displays and attractions, some with a glass theme. Applications from artists and exhibitors still welcomed at time of writing.

[www.artsjobs.org.uk/arts-news/post/contemporary-art-fair](http://www.artsjobs.org.uk/arts-news/post/contemporary-art-fair)

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012

Broadfield House, 7.30pm

Dr Francis Burroughes, Bristol Blue Glass

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

### *One for your long-term planner*

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012

Hagley Hall, featuring Dr Paul Roberts of the British Museum and our own Charles Hajdamach. Tickets £38 to include canapés and your chance to see at first hand the 2012 Portland Vase. See feature above.

A reminder that this is the time of year when plans are being formulated for next year's events. We will do our best to keep you posted via *GlassCuts* but do bear in mind that each facility, Broadfield House, Red House Glass Cone, Ruskin *et al*, has its own website where full details can be sourced direct.

### **And finally, sad news**

Oh dear. Just when you thought it was all going so well, I am dismayed at having to spoil the moment by reporting on the loss of a lovely man. John Sanders, known as much for his professional life around Stourbridge as he was for being a learned and scholarly glass enthusiast, has died following a spell of illness.

John was one of the founding members of the Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum way back in 1994 and was Chairman from that time until 2001, whereupon he assumed a supporting role on the Council of Friends. There will be numerous tributes to John from those more qualified than I, but the Editor's prerogative affords me the opportunity to offer my own few words here.

I first met John some 35 years ago when, as young greenhorn myself, he was always the first to offer sage counsel or a word of friendship. Many years later, when we renewed our acquaintance via our mutual interest in glass, he continued to exude that easy friendliness which effortlessly elevated him to the ranks of the distinctive.

Although in the interim he had probably forgotten more about glass than I will ever know, on several occasions he paid me the singular courtesy of coming to my presentations, occasionally offering tips and comments in his inimitably discreet manner. His reputation evidently extended beyond his immediate circle and a brief eulogy I offered on my radio show on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January, just a couple of days or so after his passing, attracted calls from several listeners whom I know had nothing to do with either law or glass but who clearly held him in sufficient respect to express their commiserations.

As one gets older, it becomes increasingly apparent that we cannot afford to lose men of John's provenance without our own lives becoming slowly but inexorably the poorer. In expressing my own condolences to his family, I do so with the assurance that he will not be forgotten and he will remain one of those true gentlemen whom it has been a genuine pleasure to know. John V. Sanders, 1934-2012. RIP.

We have been advised by the family that John's funeral will be at **11.30am on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January** at St. James's Church, Wollaston, DY8 3PY, followed by a private interment at Stourbridge Cemetery. Light refreshments afterwards at Stourbridge Rugby Club, Bridgnorth Road DY8 6QZ. Family flowers only, with any donations to Help for Heroes. This can be done online at [www.bmycharity.com/JohnVSanders](http://www.bmycharity.com/JohnVSanders) and a memorial Facebook page has been created at [www.facebook.com/pages/John-V-Sanders-RiP](https://www.facebook.com/pages/John-V-Sanders-RiP)

And there you have it. A sad note to end on, but I am sure that John of all people would have been the first to join me in saying ... Keep it Glass.

More soon, chums. Bye for now.

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

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