



GlassCuts

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation
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A message from BGF Bunker HQ:

Our Glorious Leader addresses the nation

We were so close to hitting the 'go' button on this latest edition of your latest fave-rave glass fanzine that we had to slam the brakes on until the rubber blocks started smoking to re-jig everything and bring you the latest news first. So here it is in big, bold letters which we have sellotaped to the cat's brow so we can glow with satisfaction every time Tiddles walks by ...

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR WHITE HOUSE SITE HAS BEEN APPROVED.

Yep, you read it correctly; it all happened at a meeting of Dudley MBC planning committee just last night, Monday 20th October 2014. A moment in history, methinks.

A delighted BGF Chairman Graham Knowles was heard to say: *'This is excellent news and is a huge step forward in securing a world-class glass facility at the very heart of the Stourbridge Glass industry'*.

Expect all this to be lashed widely across the *meejah* over the next few days but the approved application is viewable in the meantime at the DMBC planning applications website.

Y-e-e-e-s-s-s-s !!!!!



Yo' cor get the staff

Drop your mouse over www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk in *Net Change, GC56* and it reveals a typo in the link. The problem lies somewhere in cyberspace and is beyond our control. But we know a man who can, and he's sorted it. Thanks to everybody and his dog who all pointed that one out, and thanks to our man with the big 'ommer to hit it with at our web designers Orphans Press of Leominster who have come up trumps in updating our appearance in the land of *electronica*.



In the meantime the aforesaid glitch should not have affected your enjoyment of our brand new all-singing-all-dancing-spingly-spangly-spongly BGF website, which now comes complete with a 'rapid fire' facility that allows us to get stuff up there for all the world to see, such as your latest fave-rave glass fanzine, at virtually the same time it hits your inbox.

We have also upgraded our capability to bring you snippets that may come in just that bit too late for *GlassCuts* and can't wait until the next one. Such as getting a big fat grant towards a museum, for example. For all the news that is news, simply click on 'news' at the bottom of any of the website pages. And contacting BGF is now so easy there's just no excuse; just click on the envelope-shaped tag at the top. It's right above the bit telling you how you can help or donate; hint. *Simples!*

Do please continue to give us your feedback on our new site and help us keep it at the cutting edge of cyber-glass. (*the what? - Ed*)

Follow-up corner

Last issue carried details of a fascinating apprenticeship document held by Dave Tyler in regard of one of his glassmaking forebears. Well, the legendary power of *GlassCuts* has already weaved its magic and Dave has since informed us he has been contacted by no less an authority than our historian friend across the pond in the good ol' US of A, James Measell, who has added more information to the mix.

This is great stuff and we love to see 'the system' working so effectively. Please keep it coming in and we will happily do what we can to help pull the strings together.

Dave evidently agrees with our assessment of how much there is left to uncover when he tells us: *'I bet there are hundreds of families out there with glass tales and history to tell but it would be a massive task to get it all recorded. Looks like a PhD project to me too!'*

Talking of which ...

So there I was at the Webb Corbett Visitor Centre Heritage Weekend gig held over 11th-12th October, chatting with a delightful chap of, shall we say, more mature years named Albert, who identified himself as the great grandson of Daniel Hancox (*The man who blew the blank for the Northwood/Pargeter Portland Vase; do wake up at the back - Ed*).

Imagine the look of surprise on his face when I told him that not so long ago I had the pleasure of meeting his sister, the great granddaughter of Hancox and whom Albert hadn't seen in ages, at a talk I was giving. Now compare and contrast this with the look of unbridled pleasure on Ian Dury's face as he was making furious mental notes of it all as part of his heritage compilations. Given that we were all standing next to the BGF display showing the proposed new 'glass facility' (*yes I know, but we are eager to promote the concept of it being more than just a 'museum' - Ed*) and the significance of the context, namely the juxtaposition of the past, present and future of glass, could not have been more apposite.

As heritage events go they don't come much slicker than this, which was even the more impressive considering it was the inaugural one staged by that man Ian Dury who is, *az eny eejut knose*, Heritage Officer at the centre. I don't have exact figures to hand but I can report that Ian was more than satisfied with the turnout over both days, which showcased everything from presentations to guided walks, exhibitions, displays; not forgetting the delightful catering on offer. And where else would you go to find all this with a 'live' archeological dig thrown in? BGF was, natch, there in force with a total of three adjacent stands that seemed to occupy most of the back wall of the Glasshouse. So believe me friends, our cause was pumped up to the max.

Next year? Our names are already on the list. Congratulations to Ian and his team on a job well done. A-n-n-n-n-d relax.



Ruby Dawn

So there I was (again) quietly making some background enquiries into a cut-glass oil-lamp that my dear ol' mom bought for me as a Chrissie prezziie donkey's years ago. OK, if you must know, it's for a new presentation I'm putting together that will be hitting the road soon. Anyway, I had already ascertained that it originated from Dawn Crystal down in sunny Amblecote but I needed to establish more facts. So I got on the blower there to father-and-son team Reg and John Everton. Well, one thing led to another and we got chatting, as you do. Next thing is John has sent me a clip off *YouTube* showing his dad as a slightly younger man doing the business with a rather hefty looking piece of ruby glass, which itself must have taken some handling. The pattern is called Church Window and is the same as on my lamp; John tells me it's one of his dad's favourites and he's been happily doing it for decades.



At little over a minute in duration the clip is still long enough to show you the inordinate skills that once graced this part of the world. And still do, as it happens, because Reg and John are still at it. Now be fair, you know we can't turn this into a free *plug-fest* so we must add that there are, of course, others out there as well. Which is why we would be interested to learn just how many are still quietly plying their skills. And if we can find some innovative way of showing off your talents without fracturing too many advertising regulations whilst simultaneously proving just how world-beatingly good we still are at the glassy stuff then by golly, ladies and gents, we will.

Enjoy a gem from yesteryear at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqC5PRo5_6I or find the real deal at www.dawncrystal.co.uk. In the meantime, my best wishes to Reg and John. Oh, and much obliged for the information regarding my oil lamp; just the ticket.

Money matters

We've got some on the way from a certain source which I can't say much about because we haven't officially been given it yet. But don't let that make you feel left out. You too can be part of a growing group of philanthropists whose zen-consciousness and public-spiritedness can be elevated beyond measure commensurate with their bank balance being depleted in our favour. In other words, send us some dosh. It doesn't matter how much, as long as it's preferably lots. Ta.

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 ...

An open letter from BGF to the local media:

Dear Stourbridge News.

With regard to:

http://www.stourbridgenews.co.uk/news/11536787.Glittering_new_glass_museum_tipped_to_be_approved/

... thanks. Yours sincerely: The British Glass Foundation.

Editor's note - this item has been somewhat superseded by the latest news as reported above but our appreciation to Stourbridge News, and indeed all other similarly supportive media outlets, remains undimmed. Much obliged.

Dates for your diary

Events & Exhibitions at Broadfield House Glass Museum

www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/glass-museum/

See *Friends*, below

Events and Exhibitions at Red House Glass Cone

www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/

20th September - 2nd November 2014

Looking Through - Wolverhampton Embroidery Guild

25th - 26th October 2014

No Tricks just Treats. Halloween themed event

29th - 30th November 2014

Craft fayre

8th November 2014 - New Year 2015

Made @ the Cone exhibition

13th & 14th and 20th - 23rd December 2014

Santa at the Cone

Elsewhere around the highways and byways of Glassville^{©GF}

9th - 23rd October 2014

Morley College Gallery, 61 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7HT

Guild of Glass Engravers International Exhibition (*featured GC45*)

www.snaddon.com/glass

23rd November 2014

National Motorcycle Museum

The National Glass Fair (*featured GC42*)

info@specialistglassfairs.com

25th - 31st May 2015

Various sites but focusing on Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote DY8 4HF

International Festival of Glass and British Glass Biennale (*featured GC54*)

www.ifg.org.uk

From Friends of BHGM

All events are usually held at Broadfield House Glass Museum unless otherwise stated. Costs vary as indicated. Further details from *Friends* direct. www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk

13th November 2014, 7:30pm

Glass, Art and Mystery. An evening with Jonathan Harris exploring his inspiration, new creations, methods and 'madness'. Cost £5.00

5th December 2014, 7:00 for 7:30pm

Christmas event with mulled wine and supper, with a talk by Graham Fisher MBE:

Ten of the Best - 'a romp through my personal favourite pieces of glass from past and present.' Cost £6.50

24th January 2015, 1:30pm

An afternoon at the 'flicks'. A selection of movies, with ice cream interval, tea and biscuits. Cost £5.00

26th February 2015, 7:30pm

Vintage Fountain Pens and Writing Equipment with Mark Hill. Bring a suitable item for free valuation. Cost £10.00

26th March 2015

To be announced.

Bulletin Board

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

Royal College of Art vacancy notice

RCA (London) is seeking to appoint a Senior Tutor in glass. Deadline is 3rd November 2014. hr@rca.ac.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

Seeking motivation for this latest instalment of inspired lunacy I was minded of the time I was stationary at the lights and the car behind ran into me. Out jumps the driver and shouts 'I'm not happy'. Noting he was only four feet tall I replied 'Well, which one are you then?' I recall that one went down with him about as well as did the *Hindenburg*, so this *Disclaimer* is dedicated to all those who fail to see that there is usually a funny side and that they are in fact just being plain grumpy.

GlassCuts is the couldn't-care-less bulletin of the oh-it's-just-not-worth-it British Glass Foundation. (*Oh yes it is; stop being cantankerous - Ed*). It is collated in a secure unit by a dedicated - or should that be 'medicated' - team of boring social inadequates and has no other function than to bring good cheer, raise a titter and maybe even say a bit about glass. Whilst every effort is made to maintain a balance of *chakra* in our reportage, no responsibility etc etc ... (*usual caveats apply*)

This email is sent to you via our coldest, wettest and most miserable channels on the basis that you appear on our list of those who think that everything on telly these days is rubbish and things ain't half as good as they used to be when there was a war on. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* emails then just tell us how fed up you are by ignoring us in the street or sending us a 'What's the point?' email to bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. A brief indication as to why we won't be invited to your next birthday party would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission of its defiantly jolly little missive to anyone whom you feel may be cheered heartily by its introduction to their dreary world. If you know someone whose demeanour and chuckle-quotient you believe would be improved noticeably by receiving *GlassCuts*, then feel free to forward it. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our fellow *grump-munchkins* then send it to BGF at the usual address.

And just remember, friends, when you are deciding whether to spring out of bed afresh or curl back sloth-like under that comforting duvet, it's the early bird that catches the worm. But it's the second mouse that gets the cheese. Your choice. If you can be bothered, that is.

