



GlassCuts 12

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Hallo, there. And lo, as the crimson sun bleeds its way from a scarlet horizon through the vapourless cobalt of an uncharacteristically Spring morn ... well, it was when I started, but it's tipping down with rain now. Oh dear, it's a sign that Easter is upon us. Undeterred, let us pelt on at full steam ahead in another wall-to-wall edition of your fave-rave email update.

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One for your beady eyes

Here's a lovely email I received recently from Pat and Roy ... *Dear Graham. We would be grateful if you could add some diary dates in GlassCuts. **Stourbridge 9th Annual Bead Fair** will be held over 25th and 26th August 2012. Might it also be possible to ask for any interested stand holders to contact me for our **Celebrate Glass** event, which is on Monday 27th August and will encompass any glass discipline. All details for both events are on www.stourbridgebeadfair.co.uk*

No sooner the word than the deed, folks; glad to oblige (*see Dates for your diary, below*). And thanks for your kind comments regarding *GlassCuts*, which modesty prevents me reproducing here. Cheers.

Katie pops up

She gets everywhere, does our Kate. Or Dr Katherine Round, to give the lady her proper title. Kate is one of the Broadfield House Outreach Team (I happen to be another) that traverses the land in spreading the word about the Wonderful World of Glass. As advertised in *GlassCuts 10*, she appeared at Broadfield House on 27th March where a packed audience listened to her waxing lyrical about the industry. I was there and can tell you first hand it was a lovely afternoon. So, this is an opportune time to big up the Outreach Service, which offers a range of packages for all ages from kids to adults. New for 2012 are tactile-based presentations for the visually impaired, and there's more besides. Bookings via julie.edmonds@dudley.gov.uk or 01384 815571. Do please tell Jools you heard about in *GlassCuts*. Ta.

Multi-media mega-stars

Well, maybe not quite yet, but Broadfield House Resident Glassblower and all-round good egg, Allister Malcolm is well on his way to ultra-stardom after hitting the airwaves on my Breakfast Show recently on 102.5 The 'Bridge (www.thebridgeradio.net).



As well as giving us the low-down on his daily work, which in itself made fascinating radio, Allister was also keen to tell us about his world record glassmaking attempt later this year as part of the attractions during the **International Festival of Glass**. You will be hearing much more about all of this as the event draws closer, but I take the opportunity here to wish Al and his mates the very best of luck, and to offer my thanks for him taking time from the day job and making such an entertaining contribution to the show.

There is an opportunity for companies to take advantage of this record-breaking attempt by placing adverts within the respective studios. Companies supply their own publicity material. Costs available on request - all proceeds to the BGF. Enquiries, photo opportunities etc. info@allistermalcolm.co.uk or bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Another interviewee now similarly destined for the *über-cool* status that comes from being a 102.5 Guest popped in for a chat on Thursday 5th April. Nick Davies, Director at Fieldings, and a well-known character from the world of antiques, gave us a most enlightening and entertaining overview of his work in buying and selling the treasures of yesteryear. Fieldings are, of course, based here in Stourbridge and offer various facilities, not least a free valuation service on Tuesdays. Nick and the rest of the team are info@fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk or 01384 444140. I have known Nick and Will since their earliest days and am pleased as punch to see how they have made a success of their chosen careers. I am also delighted to tell you, if you didn't already know, that they are extremely supportive of the local glass industry.

Talking of which ...

It may only be the early Spring, but August won't be long in a'rolling around, so here's an early 'heads up' for what must be, by now, one of the biggest and best of its kind.

For those of you living under a rock for the last few years that may not have heard of the **International Festival of Glass**, let's give you a brief résumé. Here's an extract from - and, I confess, an unashamed plug for - my forthcoming book (calm down, details will be announced in due course) that should explain all ...

'The International Festival of Glass is a biennial event that caters for artists, collectors and glass lovers in celebrating not only the unique glass making heritage of Stourbridge and the surrounding area but also glassmaking from around the world. In addition, it serves to showcase the range of emerging talent from both here and abroad that is collectively taking glassmaking confidently into the 21st century.'

The event, held over the August Bank Holiday weekend, features world-class demonstrations and exhibitions, workshops, lectures, performances, fairs, heritage walks, family events, numerous retail outlets and much more besides. The festival aims to intrigue, innovate and inspire glassmakers and the public alike in the wonderful world of glass. Whilst some venues may charge an admission fee or for involvement in on-site activities, much of the festival is entirely free throughout.

One of the highlights of the International Festival of Glass is the prestigious British Glass Biennale. With its growing international status, the Biennale attracts top collectors and enthusiasts from around the world. It is held in the former Webb Corbett Glass Factory, which is now home to the Ruskin Glass & Arts Centre and the Glasshouse College.'

There will be more on IFoG here in *GlassCuts* as events unfurl; in the meantime further details on The International Festival of Glass are at www.ifg.org.uk and the British Glass Biennale at www.biennale.org.uk



And now, for something completely different

Kewford Eagles Football Club, Kingswinford, is celebrating after securing Olympic legacy funding that will help develop a 30-acre site into playing fields. This is great news, especially since one of the driving forces behind it is none other than - take a bow, now - BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn. Congratulations to Lynn and her safe pair of hands.

www.kewfordeagles.co.uk

An evening in the City

A fine sundown on 19th March saw me venturing across the Dudley border to attend the University of Wolverhampton for a meeting of Glass Stakeholders. Genially chaired by Dr Bryony Conway, Dean of School of Art & Design, the attendees comprised various representatives of the industry who met in a relaxed atmosphere to exchange notes and offer mutual support. Dr Max Stewart asked me to mention his forthcoming symposium. So here it is, by way of an extract from a subsequent email to me: *As part of the 2012 International Festival of Glass ... 'Architecture and the Artistry of Glass' explores the relationship between glass and architectural forms whether in terms of building materials or the artist wedded to architecture ... By their expression the invited speakers have produced works that have changed the way we view the world. The mastery of their medium combined with the intangible is what astounds us in their work. This symposium explores their thinking and delves into their methodology.* Fascinating stuff. More details at *Dates for your diary*, below.

Money matters

More take-up on our recently introduced standing order facility, with previous stand-alone donors M&T C of Bromsgrove having now instigated a regular donation to BGF coffers.

The tendrils of BGF do indeed spread ever far and wide, with a donation arriving from Mrs A all the way up north in sunny Perthshire. And from a little closer to home comes a contribution from Mrs C of Kingswinford.

Thank you, everyone. We are, as always, very much obliged. May we also remind our readers that BGF aims to be entirely transparent in its finances and details of our first set of accounts are on our website.

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.

Dates for your diary



Until 5th August

Broadfield House

Blood and bones, an exhibition by Patricia Niemann (*featured in GC9*)

www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk / www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum

23rd September 2012

Cambridge Glass Fair

6th May and 11th November 2012

National Glass Fair

12th May 2012

Bead Day

9th June 2012

Paperweight Day

... further details of these, and more, at www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk

22nd August 2012

From Rome to Stourbridge - 2000 Years of Cameo Glass
Hagley Hall



As featured in *GlassCuts 11 special edition*, an afternoon of erudition featuring BGF Trustee Charles Hajdamach. Joining Charles on stage 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. Tickets £38 to include canapés and your chance to see at first hand the 2012 Portland Vase and Auldjo Jug. This event is generously supported by the Glass Association and Friends of Broadfield House.

You are advised to book now to avoid disappointment. Bookings strictly via application form on website, please. www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Friday 24th August 2012

International Glass Symposium: Architecture and the Artistry of Glass
School of Art and Design, University of Wolverhampton
£130. Student £65

www.wlv.ac.uk/artanddesign/glassbiennale

Contact: Dr Max Stewart max.stewart@wlv.ac.uk

24th August-15th September 2012

British Glass Biennale

Part of the International Festival of Glass.

Ruskin Glass & Arts Centre

www.biennale.org.uk

Facebook: 'International Festival of Glass 2012'

Twitter: @GlassBiennale

25th and 26th August 2012.

Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge DY8 4LU

Stourbridge 9th Annual Bead Fair

Details at www.stourbridgebeadfair.co.uk

27th August 2012

Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge DY8 4LU

Celebrate Glass event

Details at www.stourbridgebeadfair.co.uk

October 2012

Red House Cone

Meeting of The Guild of Glass Engravers. Details to follow.

Now, let's pull it all together ...

400 years of Stourbridge Glass, 100 year since the Titanic went down (with a shed-load of our crystal on board), 50 years of the studio glass movement worldwide, the International Festival of Glass, the Biennale, a world record attempt, the 2012 Portland Vase Project, my latest book (I thought I'd just slip another mention in, seeing as it's about the PV Project) plus developments in the pipeline from BGF, a brand-spangley new archive under way at Dudley, a ram-packed programme of events at Red House Glass Cone, Ruskin Glass & Arts Centre and the Glasshouse College, displays at Broadfield House Glass Museum and their burgeoning Outreach service, visits by internationally acclaimed artists, experts and celebrities ... the list goes on, so let me know of anything I may have inadvertently missed.

It is, for sure, cranking up to be a memorable year.

And if anyone so much as dares to mention a 'dead industry' to me ever again, there'll be trouble. Wanna fight?

And finally ...

Sincere condolences go to our good friend Will Farmer, of Fieldings Auctioneers, following his recent family bereavement. Our thoughts are with Will and his loved ones at this sad time.

More soon, good friends. Enjoy the Bank Holiday, and do remember to Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher
Press & Publicity,
pp British Glass Foundation
www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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.