

GlassCuts

The journal of the British Glass Foundation
www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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100 NOT OUT!

GlassCuts at the century milestone

The British Glass Foundation (BGF) was officially launched on 24th November 2010 so it's time for a double celebration with our birthday coming up soon. But for now, we celebrate the centenary of what has gone from *ad hoc* text-only bulletin to a fortnightly full-colour email magazine that has carved an enviable and universally respected reputation amongst both the *cognoscenti* and the informal enthusiast, not only for its coverage of all matters pertaining to Stourbridge Glass but as an umbrella periodical promoting glassmaking and its practitioners across the broader stage.

Chairman Graham Knowles says:

*'Back in 2010 when we examined ways to promote our work we could never have imagined that our email bulletin **GlassCuts** would have become so popular. Its success is due to a combination of factors, principal amongst which must be the support of our readership. So it is fitting that we dedicate this celebratory 100th edition of **GlassCuts** to all those who have backed and encouraged us in our efforts to create a new home for the Stourbridge Glass collection here at **White House Cone - museum of glass**'.*

Remember this?

In the beginning ...

The British Glass Foundation, soon to celebrate its first birthday, was inaugurated last November at Hagley Hall. In just a few short months it has established itself as a credible body of considerable gravitas that is already widely recognised for the integrity of its intentions. But don't just take my word for it, why not read all about it for yourself? Which brings me nicely on to ...

A collector's item, for sure

A historic day indeed, the launch of the British Glass Foundation newsletter no.1 hit the shelves last month. This is the first in what will be a regular periodical, bringing you in depth news of matters of note. Issue 1 contains details of the launch of BGF, an introductory address from BGF Chair Graham Knowles, the latest developments arising from BGF's work with DMBC and much more. It also includes the obligatory application form on the rear, and all beautifully assembled by BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn. Many of you on this mailing list will already have had a copy, but for those of you who haven't a copy is attached, together with our latest brochure.

If you would like to be placed on our distribution list then drop an email to Lynn Boleyn; she will be delighted if this is accompanied by a membership form and a bit of cash! But seriously, folks, do please consider supporting BGF in its work. This collection is priceless and deserves the very best shot we can give it. (ps ... the new web site will be up and running by the end of this week!)

Yes indeed, the opening paragraphs from [GlassCuts 1](#) issued almost exactly five years ago on 11th October 2011. And have we come a long way since ...

From this, the official announcement of the launch of BGF, Hagley Hall 2009



To this, the [White House Cone – museum of glass](#) as seen in 2016. Completed building ready for fit-out



[GlassCuts](#) traces its history right back to the earliest days of the formation of the British Glass Foundation, which itself arose out of the need to find a new home for the renowned Stourbridge Glass Collection following proposals to proposals to close Broadfield House Glass Museum.

Originally intended as an occasional update ‘filler’ between quarterly editions of the BGF’s early *Newsletter*, the eclectic email bulletin quickly established its credentials in subsuming the *Newsletter* and becoming *The Voice of the BGF* in its own right. In the interim, [GlassCuts](#) has achieved an impressive hit-rate of consistency in its stated aim to be the first to bring you all the latest news and developments for around the glass world in general but specifically in its efforts to promote, build and operate the [White House Cone - museum of glass](#).

In those early days the emphasis was to generate interest and keep our followers informed when, to be honest, there was very often little hard news to report. But work behind the scenes was proceeding apace and although [GlassCuts](#) was being subtly improved upon with almost every issue, regular readers will recall the dramatic shift in emphasis and style from [GC77](#) (dated 8.10.15) onwards that accompanied news of plans to reconstruct the Stuart site becoming a reality.

Contributions now routinely arrive from places as far afield as Eastern Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA and our bulletin, which is now more akin to a magazine in size and scope, has helped establish contacts and mutual support across the entire globe. In addition to our enthusiastic readership we now enjoy good relations across the media, from traditional newsprint to contemporary digital radio and we have fully embraced all modern communication techniques including social media.

Your Editorial team Graham Fisher MBE (BGF Trustee) and Lynn Boleyn MBE (BGF Secretary), who initially envisaged a requirement for an occasional single-sided text-only broadsheet every few months, now routinely publish a multi-page full-colour magazine every fortnight, with an estimated readership worldwide of many thousands. They continue to work closely today as they have from the outset, with Graham describing their roles as *'me stringing the sentences together and Lynn doing the fancy layout bits before then sending it out to our loyal readership'*.

GlassCuts is, and always has been, compiled entirely philanthropically; it generates no funds and carries no advertisements. It is wholly independent, non-partisan, apolitical and has no other function than to promote glass in general and Stourbridge Glass in particular. Significantly, it also serves as a historical document for posterity, and when the students of the future come to examine the resurgence of the Stourbridge Glass industry and its world-class museum of glass fit for the 21st Century, they will find a comprehensive source of primary material right here in these very issues.

We hope you enjoy this celebratory edition and would welcome your letters, emails, postings and comments on our first 100. If you missed one, some or all of the first 99 you can always catch up via our archives facility at www.britishglassfoundation.org where they are all held. And for the serious *aficionado*, there are still some individually-signed copies of our commemorative hardback **GlassCuts@50** celebrating our half-century with extracts from the first 50 issues and fully illustrated with images of contemporary glass. Limited to a not entirely coincidental 50 editions worldwide, with copies lodged in Corning Museum of Glass NY and other major repositories, these are destined to become collectors pieces that are only released by BGF under special or meritorious circumstances. Contact us for details via the usual address.

A note from your Editor:

*'Lynn and I could never have imagined how our modest bulletin would grow into what is now little short of a phenomenon. We are immensely proud of the role that **GlassCuts** has played in the ongoing development of the BGF and its ambitions, especially the creation of **White House Cone - museum of glass**. Of course, we could not have achieved it without our contributors and supporters, so we would like to give a huge thank you to you all'.*

And now, normal service is resumed as we bring you the latest from the **Wonderful World of Glass**^{©GF}

WHITE HOT

How it looks right now

The latest imagery through the lens of BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE



White House Cone Site – 14 October 2016

RICH MIXTURE

Saved for the nation

How fitting that this fabulous and entirely original sign should find its way back home. Our thanks to Allister Malcolm for sourcing this gem; we are sure it will find a good home somewhere in [WHGcmog](#)



Christmas is a'coming

It's that time of year when notifications for festive events begin to get into full swing, and our thanks to Carol Griffiths for drawing our attention to the latest announcement from Ruskin Glass Centre down Amblecote way.

Ruskin Christmas Craft Fayre dates are 26th - 27th November, the time is 10:00am - 4:00pm each day and attractions will include 23 resident studios, including recent arrival Jaqueline Cooley, plus more than 15 invited makers using glass, textiles, paper, stone, wood, leather, ceramics and jewellery together with free theatre performances, kids activities and seasonal food. Ruskin Glass Centre is in Wollaston Road, Stourbridge DY8 4HF. www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk

And the latest JAM (Juniors at Museums) leaflet has just dropped on our mat, featuring lots leading up to Christmas including glasscraft Christmas decorations and a Santa glass fusion session. Details via museums@dudley.gov.uk or 01384 815571

Good news for events organizers

A glance at our Crystal Calendar at any time, but especially at the height of the season, gives an indication of what is going on in and around the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{©GF}



Here in the shimmering opulence that is the Editorial Suite of *GlassCuts Towers* we welcome the opportunity to promote these events for you but there is always room for more publicity, especially when it is *gratis*. BGF is therefore delighted to bring to your attention the *Black Country Radio Local Events Calendar*.

Simply log on to www.blackcountryradio.co.uk and look under *Local* where you will find details of current events and a facility to submit your own for inclusion. Should your event be accepted then it may be selected to be 'voiced' and recorded for transmission. This means your event will appear on the web and may also be routinely broadcast 'live' on air. BCR can be heard across the Black Country on 102.5FM around the clock but is also available on digital and online so the potential market reach is enormous - worldwide, in fact. And it is all absolutely free of charge. The only stipulation is that your message must be philanthropic, non-profit making and community-focused.

There is no bar to you charging an admission fee or raising monies in other ways providing these 'charitable and altruistic' elements are satisfied. Of course, if it is a business you are looking to advertise then there are commercial facilities through BCR to do so at competitive rates; it is the Community Events Calendar that attracts no fee.

BGF is pleased to support BCR - your Editor declares an interest as a regular contributor - but we would ask you to kindly note that we are two separate and independent organizations. Please therefore address all enquiries regarding the Community Events Calendar facility to BCR via the link above, not BGF. We will be happy to continue to promote you in our usual way via *GlassCuts*.

Much obliged

Our appreciation goes to the Glass Association www.glassassociation.org.uk for choosing **White House Cone - museum of glass** as the venue for their recent AGM (*GlassCuts passim*). No doubt they will be reviewing proceedings through their own publications, but for our part we had a great time and were delighted to welcome all to our first full engagement of its type at **WHGCMog**.

The vase made by Richard Golding www.stationglass.com especially for the occasion raised £1,000 at auction, proceeds from which will be split between the Glass Association and BGF. Our sincere thanks to all concerned.



Eric Knowles; Andy McConnell; and Brian Clarke
with Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of Dudley Councillor Dave and Barbara Tyler

New book

Apropos the above, the occasion of the Glass Association AGM was also the first opportunity for many to see - and obtain – their copy of *The Dynasty Builder* by David Williams-Thomas. David is, of course, Patron of BGF and was also former Chairman and Managing Director of the legendary Royal Brierley Crystal. His detailed and illustrated labour of love extending to over 500 pages is based on the diaries of his forebear Samuel Cox Williams and will be compulsory reading for anyone seriously interested in this iconic local firm.

The RRP is £20.00 through Amazon but *The Dynasty Builder* is available for £15.00 + £3.50 p&p (UK only) direct from David Williams-Thomas (cheques made to D. Williams-Thomas) at Orchard House, Cottons Lane, Ashton-Under-Hill, Evesham WR11 7SS. Or contact BGF direct via our usual email for an order form.

Brochure update

The latest edition of *GlassQuarter, Contemporary Makers & Designers* is now out, with a review of all that's going on and a delightful update on BGF and [WHCmog](#). Our appreciation goes to Nicola Beckley, Tourism Officer Dudley MBC, and her team for pulling out another gem. Copies are available from the usual sources or online via the *Glass Quarter* and *Discover Dudley* websites; just tap them in your browser.

Now available on social media

You can now follow us on *Facebook* (with thanks to Allister Malcolm for setting this one up) ...

<https://m.facebook.com/The-White-House-Cone-Museum-of-Glass-1783619608579416/>

Please note: This is a 'live' link but, depending on your operating system, you may need to put it manually into your browser.

CRYSTAL CALENDAR

[White House Cone - museum of glass](#)

Internal developments are still in progress. Details will be announced here as and when.

Red House Glass Cone

23rd October 2016 - 13th January 2017

Exhibition of engraved glass

Featuring work by members of the Stourbridge & Midlands Branch and the South West Branch of the Guild of Glass Engravers and other talented engravers plus a retrospective display of stipple engraving by the late Doug Burgess. Most of the work will be for sale. (*featured GC99*)

www.gge.org.uk

Ruskin Glass Centre

See also <http://ruskinglasscentre.co.uk/events/>

26th - 27th November 2016, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Christmas Craft Fayre (see feature above)

www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk

Elsewhere around Glassville^{®GF}

13th November 2016

The National Glass Fair (featured GC83)

National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, West Midlands B92 0EJ. 10:30am - 4:00pm.

www.nationalglassfair.com info@specialistglassfairs.com or 07887 762872

PARISH NOTICES

Scottish Glass Society AGM. 12th November 2016, London venue. <http://scottishglasssociety.com>

Peter Layton Newsletter. Eclectic: 28.10.16 – 12.11.2016. peterlayton@londonglassblowing.co.uk

Townswebarchiving newsletter. Info: ryan=townswebarchiving.com@mail96.wdc01.mcdlv.net

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher MBE

Press & Publicity,

pp British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

The White House Survey

The success of this project depends greatly on public support. BGF is very grateful for yours. Please spare a few moments to visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/whcoffsite> and complete the survey form. It will take very little of your time but will be of immense value to us. Thank you.



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

Scan to browse the work of the BGF or to make a donation. If you are donating by VMG then please note that VMG's own commission fees, over which BGF has no control, may apply.



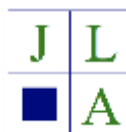
THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in Your Future
European Regional
Development Fund 2007-13



Also Jane Alexander and colleagues at JLA Consulting for advice on the securing and management of funding
www.jlaconsulting.org.uk



Details of other BGF partners and sponsors at: www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/

Follow us on Facebook



<https://m.facebook.com/The-White-House-Cone-Museum-of-Glass-1783619608579416/>

Please note: This is a 'live' link but, depending on your operating system, you may need to put it manually into your browser.

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Disclaimer

In these politically correct times we all have to adapt, and no-one understands that better than I do. Until recently I was considered by my chums to be a bit of an un-reconstituted and outmoded dinosaur. But gosh, have I changed my ways and I am now proud to say that I happily sit on committees that comprise people from outside the Black Country *and* females at the same time.

Even so, I sometimes still rail against it all and I confess I have had a bit of a ball with these *Disclaimers*. Although they are a requirement, I first decided to see how many people actually read the things when, if I recall correctly, I told a gag about The Pope in Latin that had a smutty punchline. Not a titter. Not even when I then said how much he loved felines and was a committed Cat-a-holic. Nothing. And how about when we carried the comment: *'OK, that's enough' I shouted at the young man on the corner of Gornal High Street holding an armful of magazines, 'So maybe I have got large feet, but that's no need to insult me by pointing out to everybody that I'm wearing biggish-shoes.'* Nope, no response. But I really thought that *'I read somewhere recently that the Earl of Tipton had been awarded an OBE and is now officially an Earlobe'* might have raised questions of probity and respect toward our betters. Nah; zilch, zippo.

Y'see, despite my numerous comments in the interim that have stretched the margins of good taste to its limits, we have yet to receive one jot or scintilla of complaint about our content or its distribution, and our membership of the coveted ranks of the *Disclaimer Spotter's Club* remains exclusively slim. Which all goes to prove a point, I suppose. The point being that if we've never offended anybody yet with all this irreverent knockabout nonsense then we're unlikely to start now.

Hence, in this celebratory 100th edition of your fave-rave glass fanzine we cast caution to the wind and wave two metaphorical digits in the direction of the DPA commissioner in ignoring all those fatuous *caveats* - and this really is the serious bit - to instead use our time more productively to thank you genuinely and sincerely from the bottom of our humble hearts for all the support, engagement, stimulation, passion, care, commitment and sheer love you have all shown us in getting this bloomin' new museum off the ground.

Truth is, we simply could not have done it without you and, with your wonderfully relaxed, joyously innocent, completely apolitical and magnificently unbridled support, we just know we will continue from strength to strength.

Whatever your choice of God, may He or She bless you all for what you have done for us. And, as we enter the Second Century of *GlassCuts*, thank you.

Right, that's the serious bit over; normal service can be resumed. Now, did I tell you the one about this transvestite chess-playing Vicar who couldn't tell a Bishop from a Queen? ...