

GlassCuts

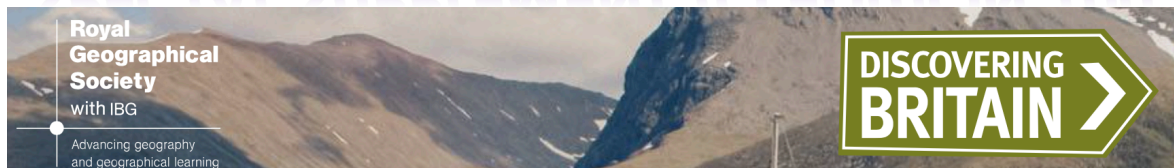
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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO EDITION 100



It just had to happen. After months in the planning and execution, the news from the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) that our new improved canal walk was now finally up-and-running came in just as we were, quite literally, pushing our fingers on the 'Go' button to distribute *GC100*.

Not to be outdone, and certainly with the wish that our friends at RGS share in our centenary milestone, we are delighted to bring you the latest by way of this update.

For some years past *The Crystal Canal* has offered a gentle stroll along the towpath of the Town Arm of the Stourbridge Canal that passes through the heart of the Stourbridge Glass industry.

As reported in *GCs passim*, back in April of this year your Editor was invited to work alongside Rory Walsh of the Royal Geographic Society (with IBG) to update the walk, taking into account:

- * new developments and other material changes along the way
- * towpath improvements, courtesy of the Canal & River Trust, that make the going even easier
and most significant of all ...
- * the recognition of the completed new [White House Cone-museum of glass](#) (which was still a building site when we visited in April) and its acknowledgement as the finishing point.

The walk has been completely upgraded to reflect these changes, with the inclusion of contemporary images of [WHCmog](#) that can be updated as work continues. It is available via the link below as a tablet-browse or a downloadable hard copy.

The Crystal Canal can be interpreted as an informative canal guide, a detailed examination of industrial archeology and glass history, a *bona fide* heritage trail or simply a pleasant stroll through a fascinating part of the local area.

For the waterways *aficionados* I can report that Rory and I have also been working together on similar guides around the area, including one at Bumble Hole in Netherton. There will be more to follow, so keep watching. And those links are:

<https://www.discoveringbritain.org/activities/west-midlands/walks/stourbridge-canal.html>

<https://www.discoveringbritain.org/activities/west-midlands/trails/bumble-hole.html>

Our sincere thanks to all concerned, especially Rory Walsh and colleagues at RGS (with IBG)

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher MBE
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