

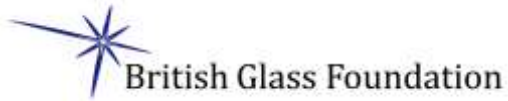
GlassCuts

The journal of the British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Edition: 104

Dated: 17.1.17



A belated **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to you all.

You may have noticed this first edition of *GlassCuts* for 2017 is a little later than usual in the publication cycle; this was deliberate in order that we could get off to a flying start by presenting a heartwarming tale of a rather special day at the [White House Cone - museum of glass](#) as our first lead story of the new year. In dedicating the whole of [WHITE HOT](#) to relating the events, we hope you will agree this is a delightful indicator of how our new museum is becoming embedded within the community and which also offers an indication of the way forward.



Sam's Big Day Out

It all started just before Christmas with an email from our good chum and supporter Ian Dury who told us: *'A few weeks ago I was approached by a lady who was formerly an employee of Stuart Crystal. Her 10-year old son Sam attends St James Primary School in Wollaston and their end of year project was on local Black Country industrial Heritage. He chose Stuart Crystal and its links with the Titanic and they came to me for some background information. Last week he and his proud Mom reported back to me that Sam's tutor was so impressed he was awarded 6 points out of a normal maximum of 5. He had made a replica of the Red House Cone two feet tall and with his background written work it was regarded as outstanding. I thought this might be of interest.'*

It most certainly is of interest; in promoting Stourbridge Glass for future generations part of our role must also include identifying the next generation of custodians and enthusiasts. This was just too good an opportunity to miss so we made contact with Sam and his family to work out a surprise treat especially for this talented young man.



By sheer coincidence your Editor had been invited to a current affairs discussion with broadcaster Ian Marrey on Black Country Radio www.blackcountryradio.co.uk and as part of preparations for this the contributors are invited to suggest a topic they may like to raise. When I mentioned Sam's achievements Ian jumped at the chance to speak with him 'live on air'.



And so, on the morning of Saturday 14th January 2017, and in a hi-tech studio at the station's impressive new home in Merry Hill, that was by chance choc-a-bloc with visitors, Sam, his mom Sara and dad Mike Holmes took to the airwaves. Completely unfazed by it all, Sam proved to be a natural as he described how and why he had undertaken his project and had even had a go at certain aspects of 'hands on' glasswork such as sandblasting. When he mentioned with a tinge of regret that he had never done any glassblowing I don't think I gave too much away in suggesting there was something we might be able to do to rectify this gap in his expertise.

And so, on to [White House Cone - museum of glass](#) where Sam and his parents, now joined by grandparents Roy Timmins and Daphne Holmes, were introduced to fellow Trustee and glassmaker Allister Malcolm and family, Trustee Meriel Harris and Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE. Also in support were Ian Dury with his grandson Ethan and my guest Sheila Chapman. All of us followed in Allister's steps as he gave the Grand Guided Tour. Which was clearly a revelation for Sara as she used to work here in the days when it looked very different from now.



Allister then took us into his studio where he explained a few principles of glassmaking before then donning Sam in safety gear for a masterclass in how to make the stuff, with Sam very much at the helm. At last, with his dream of blowing glass fulfilled and a glass bauble to take home as a *memento*, Sam was then presented with a selection of signed books that we very much hope will encourage him to continue his studies. It was, quite simply, all absolutely brilliant and we wonder who was the more excited when Sam and his proud parents turned into bed that night after their truly memorable day.

Not surprisingly, and of course with the sanction of Sam's parents, the cameras were a-snappin' and the videos a-rollin' to record it all for posterity. Sam now has a comprehensive portfolio of images to savour and doubtless will also be steering everyone in the direction of YouTube: <https://youtu.be/XDbUHZk9Hoc> (blowing a bauble), <https://youtu.be/7Cw1vN1Zaw> (making a stirrer), https://youtu.be/_R7vYz-q-rQ and <https://youtu.be/CNy6OfwPMvY> (presentation of books).



As Hannibal Smith (© *The 'A' Team*) used to say: 'I love it when a plan comes together' and by gosh did this one come together. My personal thanks to all concerned for helping to make it happen. And, on behalf of BGF, our heartiest congratulations to our star of the show and early recruit to the next wave of glass *aficionados*, Sam Holmes. Bravo, young Sir.



RICH MIXTURE

IFoG Update

BGF is pleased to support IFoG and hence *GlassCuts* will be bringing you news of developments on the *International Festival of Glass 2017* and its associated *Biennale*. Here is the latest ...

The British Glass Biennale 2017 is now open for applications!

The British Glass Biennale is the foremost exhibition of excellence in contemporary glass by British artists, designers and craftspeople. It is the major exhibition within the International Festival of Glass and takes place in the heart of Stourbridge's historic Glass Quarter. With at least 80 major new glass works selected each year, the British Glass Biennale is one of the most significant statements of national glass talent. The emphasis is on new work demonstrating the highest level of excellence in design, creative imagination and technical skill. All work is available for purchase and attracts collectors, galleries and museums from around the world.

For the first time in its history, the Biennale will be open to UK citizens working or studying abroad celebrating the creative excellence of all British artists.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Midnight Monday 20 February 2017

To submit an application go to: <https://biennale.submittable.com/submit>

The British Glass Biennale will be open daily from 25th August - 9th Sept 2017, 10.00am - 5.00pm (closed Sundays), with the Private View and Awards Ceremony by invitation on 24th August 2017.

The Jury members for the British Glass Biennale 2017 are:

Barbara Beadman	Board Member of British Glass & Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers
Scott Benefield	Artist, educator and writer. Member of the Glass Art Society (US) Advisory Committee
Aonghus Gordon	Founder and Chair of Trustees, Ruskin Mill Land Trust
Rosy Greenlees	Director, Crafts Council
Maja Heuer	Museum Director, The Glass Factory, Boda, Sweden

Chair of the Jury panel: Scott Benefield

Curator: Matt Durran

Biennale Coordinator: Kate Goldenberg

Antiques galore

We are grateful to Paul Cawthorn of ***Antique Collecting*** who advises us of the publishing schedule for 2017. Amidst a miscellany of antiques reportage of all hues the March edition in particular focuses on ceramics and glass. Paul also draws our attention to sales offers and calls for copy, together with a facility to tweet news free of charge when accompanied by an advertisement. ***Antique Collecting*** is available in hard copy and digital format. www.antique-collecting.co.uk

JAM sessions

The latest *Juniors at Museums* leaflet has hit our desk, outlining the wide range of activities for adults and kids alike for the period January to June 2017. From glass fusion to teenage markets, trails to crafts, there really is something here for all the family, and much of it with a 'glassy' theme. Most are based at Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley; some at Dudley Archives. A modest fee may be set to cover the cost of some activities, but many are absolutely free. Full details at www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums and via Twitter and Facebook feeds. Or for a large print version of the leaflet ring 01384 815571.

Congratulations



Charles Talbot has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Quite apart from his professional work and lifelong devotion to local matters, Charles is a leading light with the Museum of Carpet in Kidderminster, with which BGF enjoys a cordial friendship. Bravo Sir, from all at BGF.

[http://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/14999785.Honour for Kidderminster solicitor and dedicated community stalwart/?ref=mr&lp=10](http://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/14999785.Honour%20for%20Kidderminster%20solicitor%20and%20dedicated%20community%20stalwart/?ref=mr&lp=10)

That time of year again

Get your diaries out and your pens poised because Christina and Paul of Oxbridge Fairs have kindly advised us of the dates for this year's 'must do' events:

The Glass Fair @ Knebworth is 10:30am - 4:00 pm on Sunday 26th February at Knebworth House Barns SG1 2AX whilst The National Glass Fair is 10:30am - 4:00pm on *both* Sunday 7th May *and* Sunday 12th November at the National Motorcycle Museum B92 0EJ. Details for all at <http://specialistglassfairs.com/>

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

BGF routinely reviews its donation procedures. Enhancements are announced as and when but in the meantime we continue to accept donations direct by cash, cheque and BACS. For donations by BACS our bank details are:

HSBC Bank
Branch Identifier Code: MIDLGB2108U
Sort code: 40-38-07
Account number: 72076780

BGF recognizes those who wish to donate via *Virgin Money Giving*. Go via the *Virgin Money Giving* QR code listed below or click here: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1005650> **Potential donors are advised that contributions via VMG may invoke commission fees that are beyond the control of BGF.**

Donations made by a UK taxpayer can attract Gift Aid, which is a great supplement to our funds and costs the donor nothing. All we need to claim this is your Gift Aid declaration; contact us for details if you have not already supplied us with relevant particulars.

Please note: In acknowledging the support of donors **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.

All donations are greatly appreciated. BGF is entirely philanthropic and its Trustees are unremunerated. BGF policy is that all monies received go directly to the cause. Donations can be as one-off contributions or standing order.

CRYSTAL CALENDAR

White House Cone - museum of glass

Watch this space

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

Various dates January to June 2017

Juniors at Museums

A wide range of activities for adults and kids alike. Most are based at Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley; some at Dudley Archives. A modest fee may be set to cover the cost of some activities, but many are free. Details at www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums and via Twitter and Facebook feeds. Or for a large print version of the leaflet ring 01384 815571. (*see feature above*)

Ruskin Glass Centre

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

Elsewhere around Glassville^{®GF}

26th February 2017

The Glass Fair @ Knebworth 10:30am - 4:00 pm

Knebworth House Barns SG1 2AX

<http://specialistglassfairs.com/>

18th March - 21st May 2017

Water & Music - Glass inspired by Handel's Water Music

Organised by The Contemporary Glass Society www.cgs.org.uk in conjunction with York's Pyramid Gallery www.pyramidgallery.com (*see feature above*)

Sunday 7th May

The National Glass Fair 10:30am - 4:00pm

National Motorcycle Museum B92 0EJ

<http://specialistglassfairs.com/>

12th November 2017

The National Glass Fair 10:30am - 4:00pm

National Motorcycle Museum B92 0EJ.

<http://specialistglassfairs.com/>

PARISH NOTICES

Peter Layton London Glassblowing Collect 2017. Contemporary art fair including glass, dates in February. Collectors, private or general tickets collect@londonglassblowing.co.uk 0207 403 2800.

Craft & Design January newsletter. newsletter@craftanddesign.net

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass. And have a great 2017.

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 www.jlaconsulting.org.uk for advice on the securing and management of funding, partners at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council www.dudley.gov.uk and all friends and associates at Fieldings Auctioneers (Stourbridge) <http://fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk>



Details of other BGF partners, supporters 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 - click to try - but, depending on your operating system, you may need to insert it manually into your browser.

- fin -

Disclaimer

Well, my New Year has got off to a flying start with news that a distant relative of mine in Africa whom I have never even heard of, Dr Milton Magumbe, has died and left me all his money. As soon as I have finished writing this I just have to send off my bank details and I will be rich. Amazing! I am so gullible happy. (*Don't try this at home kids*). But before I do, I thought it was high time we dedicated a [Disclaimer](#) to famous people we have never heard of. For example, who amongst us knew that the humble but essential car windscreen wiper was invented by Mary Anderson in 1903? And Hungarian Laszlo Jozsef Biro was utterly unknown until 1931 when he invented the ball-point Laszlo. Although he became even better known when he changed the name. Even the legendary Phil Spector was a complete nobody in the early '60s until, penniless, he came to live for a while in a bed-sit in Tipton and was heavily influenced by his eastern European landlady Mrs Shoo Wop-D'wop. Anyway ...

[GlassCuts](#) is the official email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation and enjoys a ferocious reputation for asking the tough questions. For example, if you work at Holland & Barrett how can you ever call in sick? It is compiled by a team of people you don't know here in the glittering opulence of the Editorial Suite at *GlassCuts Towers*, which doesn't even exist (*this just gets crazier - Ed*) and has no other function than to attain the unattainable, believe the unbelievable and, erm, derpan the underpantable (*what?*) and perhaps even say a bit about glass.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, no responsibility etc etc ... (*usual beanie-hats apply*).

This email is sent to you solely on the basis that you like to enjoy sharing in our success, such as the latest news that our *haute-cuisine* BGF mobile roadside café caravan has just been awarded the coveted 4 Michelin tyres, but if you do not wish to receive further [GlassCuts](#) then either just ignore us like we don't exist or send an email copied in to yourself and marked: '*I am now utterly confused*' to bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. A brief indication as to why we are no longer your favourite *Will-O'-The-Wisps* would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission to anyone whom you feel we may be able to resolve all these anonymities in order to expose those other anonymities lurking underneath. Similarly if you have anything you consider may be worth telling a non-existent Nigerian finance minister out there in the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{®GF} then send it to BGF at the usual address and we'll try to get your millions for you.

We leave you with news of another valued member of the team here at *GlassCuts Towers* who sadly lost his ears in a mishap with the guillotine-cutter. As always, we thought we would allow him to regain some dignity and self-respect by studiously avoiding any reference to his misfortune. It was all going so well until our young Gornal intern, trying too hard to be nice, commented how our colleague's eyesight had obviously improved since the accident because he no longer wore glasses. Oh well, we keep at it. Happy New Year.