

## CHRISTMAS 2017 EDITION

### WHITE HOT

news from *WHCmog*

#### Welcome aboard

The British Glass Foundation finds itself at a crucial juncture in its on-going development as principal facilitator in the construction of the new **White House Cone museum of glass** - the building of which is now complete and awaiting internal completion as an accredited museum - and as prospective custodians of the world-renowned Stourbridge Glass Collection. No surprise, therefore, that the original Trustees, having been instrumental in 'getting it all up and going' are looking to bolster their strength and depth with the recruitment of experts who can bring their own specialist input to the task of now actually running and developing the venture in the long term.

BGF is therefore delighted to announce that at its AGM on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017, four new recruits graciously accepted our invitation to join our ranks and were duly, and unanimously, appointed as Trustees of the British Glass Foundation.

So, a warm welcome goes to: Dr Audrey Whitty, Gregory Cook, John P. Smith and Philip Cook, together with our appreciation for the knowledge and expertise they bring to the table.

A *Special Supplement* accompanies this edition in which we offer an introduction to our new members, in addition to reminding you of those already there.

### GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

BGF gratefully acknowledges a substantial donation by The Grimmitt Trust of Birmingham, which will be heading directly towards the fund earmarked for our interactive audio visual display at **White House Cone museum of glass**.

The Grimmitt Trust makes grants to charitable causes within the scope of the Trust Deed to encourage and strengthen community activities in Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton and Walsall postcode areas. Our sincere thanks go to the Trustees for their generous support.

In addition to cash donations (*see below as to how you can do this*), readers are reminded of the opportunity to secure a lasting *memento* in the new museum by way of purchasing one of Allister Malcolm's engraved glass plaques. Details via the usual BGF address.

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.

## RICH MIXTURE

news from elsewhere

### New mural

A chilly evening on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December greeted several hundred people gathered in Townsend Place in Kingswinford for the Christmas lights switch-on. Accompanied by a pig roast, singers and all the stalls and shops opening later than usual, the evening also marked my invitation to the official unveiling of an installation created by Borough Artist Steve Field. Extending for 14 panels, the history of the town is captured succinctly from its earliest days to the present. On hand to officiate and undertake the opening duties were Mayor Cllr Dave Tyler and Mayoress Barbara Tyler, together with various characters including local historian and musician John Sparry, Steve Field in person, and a surprise appearance (a surprise in so much he has been dead for this past 400 years) in the shape of Gunpowder Plot conspirator Robert Catesby who, to the untrained eye, looked suspiciously like fellow historian Adrian Durkin. I was also delighted to be introduced to members of the Kenchington family, to whom I could at last offer my personal condolences for the recent loss of Charles Kenchington. There are so many loose threads at play here, I think it may be helpful if I draw them together with a small narrative ...



Older residents of Kingswinford may recall the big house and Doctor's surgery that once stood on the corner diagonally opposite from The Cross and was the family home of the Kenchingtons. In the early 1960s the house was demolished and the current precinct took its place. Charles Kenchington, who lived here for a time, was a philanthropist with many passions whom I first met some years ago through our mutual association with the River Severn. He was also interested in glass, so no surprise meeting him again through the British Glass Foundation, to whom he was a supporter and benefactor. What did surprise me was to learn of ye wider family's deep and lengthy associations with the Chance company in its heyday; Charles's niece Heidi Colley (nee Kenchington), who now manages Townsend Place, is the granddaughter of Tom Sharp, who was a manager of Chance Brothers in Spon Lane and Malvern Link from 1947 to 1980. Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust is, of course, our sister organisation.

There is one final connection that links us tangentially with this venture and will doubt less ally the glass world in perpetuity with the Kenchington family: Steve Field produced the artwork using a form of print onto metal that is sealed against the elements by being vitreous enamelled with ... a firing of powdered glass!

The 'walk of history' is on show at Townsend Place in the passageway between the precinct and the car park. It is viewable during usual opening hours and is specially illuminated during darkness.



Robert Catesby (aka Adrian Durkin), John Sparry, Steve Field, Mayor Cllr Dave Tyler, Graham Fisher MBE

### **In Memoriam**

We are saddened to learn of the death of stained and fused glass artist Amanda Moriarty, a member of the Contemporary Glass Society for which she was also Treasurer. The vagaries of our publication date mean that the funeral arrangements of 2.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> December at Gloucester Crematorium may have passed by the time you read this. However, Amanda's family has set up a memorial fund for the Sue Ryder Hospice who looked after her in her final days and donations can be made via <https://amanda-moriarty.muchloved.com>

The Trustees of BGF extend sincere condolences to family and friends.



## Data Protection news

Since moving to the borders, I am trying to teach myself Welsh. I am now also trying to wrap my head around the provisions of the impending General Data Protection Regulations that come into force in May 2018. Believe me, I am not sure which is the easier. But make no mistake, we treat the protection of your data and privacy very seriously and we are, right now, examining how we can ensure our records and procedures will continue to comply with the stringent new Europe-wide standards that consolidate and expand our existing Data Protection Act. So, some time in the near future we will be sending you details of how this may affect us all and what we can do to ensure you are still kept fully informed and up to date with developments. Watch this space and keep an eye on your inboxes; we'll be in touch when the impending festivities are done and dusted.

## Have a good one



It's that time of year again, and this will be our last edition of *GlassCuts* before the New Year. We've said it all before, but we'll say it again now because we mean it; you are why we do this and without you we just wouldn't want to do it. Thank you for your support, encouragement and sheer sustenance along the way. The derelict vandalised ruin in Wordsley of just a few months ago is already gaining respect in its new guise and, with a fair wind, it won't be long before you will be visiting a propose built museum and glass collection that will be recognised and esteemed around the globe. Yet there will be no room here for elitism; ***White House Cone museum of glass*** is, and always will be, a 'People's Museum' built

for you and supported by you and, ultimately, for you to enjoy. And, if you're still wondering why we have all volunteered so much time and effort on this, well, just come and see us sometime.

And remember, if you are of the persuasion that it is this one time of the year when your chosen deity may be watching over us, then the least we can do is to be entertaining.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

## CRYSTAL CALENDAR

what's going on and where. Tell us yours

### ***White House Cone museum of glass***

Watch this space and check on website.

### ***Red House Glass Cone***

9<sup>th</sup> December onwards, Santa will visit the Cone on various dates.

For more on both see [www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums) or call 01384 812750.

Various dates July to December 2017

#### *Juniors at Museums*

A wide range of activities for adults and kids alike, including a new additional venue at Dudley Archives & Local History Centre. Details at [www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums) and via Twitter and Facebook feeds. For large print leaflet ring 01384 815571.

### ***Ruskin Glass Centre***

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

***Elsewhere around Glassville***<sup>©GF</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> December 2017

*Half-Life*. Exhibition by Elliot Walker, until 16.12.17.

Vessel Gallery 114 Kensington Park Road, London W11 2PW.

[www.vesselgallery.com](http://www.vesselgallery.com)

## PARISH NOTICES

thank you for contacting us

*NeusGlas - New Glass* magazine. Call for submissions for February 2018 edn; deadline 15.12.17.  
[www.neuesglas-newglass.com](http://www.neuesglas-newglass.com)

*Liquid to Solid: The Mutability of Glass*. Exhibition and preview 7.12.17 - 21.1.18. Stables Gallery @ Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham TW1 3DJ. [www.richmond.gov.uk/orleans\\_house\\_gallery](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/orleans_house_gallery)

*Alan J. Poole monthly newsletter*. December edn. [alanjpoole@aol.com](mailto:alanjpoole@aol.com)

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher MBE  
Press & Publicity,  
pp British Glass Foundation  
[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://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.



### Promotional opportunities

Black Country Radio (BCR) is the area's premier local radio station operating on 102.5FM. If you are organising a local event that is philanthropic, non-profit (it doesn't matter if there is an admission fee) and community orientated then it can be promoted free of charge via BCR. Visit [www.blackcountryradio.co.uk](http://www.blackcountryradio.co.uk) and click on *Events*.

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



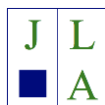
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Investing in Your Future

European Regional  
Development Fund 2007-13



LOTTERY FUNDED

... also Jane Alexander and colleagues at JLA Consulting [www.jlaconsulting.org.uk](http://www.jlaconsulting.org.uk) for advice on the securing and management of funding, partners at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://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/](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/)

Follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**



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



<https://twitter.com/whitehousecone>

Please note: These are 'live' links - click to try - but depending on your operating system you may need to insert manually into your browser.

- fin -

**Disclaimer**

Relaxing in a hot bath sipping my usual tittle of Brasso and Zippo lighter-fuel on the rocks I was suddenly touched by the words of the Danish philosopher Kirkegaard when he postulated how life overwhelms you before you can process it, and I was reminded of the mate of mine who has opened a really cheap gym where the exhausted fitness-freaks on the rowing machines don't realise they are actually powering the lights. More recently, I was buying my Christmas tree when the shop assistant asked me: 'Will you be putting that up yourself?' Deeply offended, I replied with considerable indignation: 'Certainly not, it's for the living room'. But he was only trying his best, I suppose. Which got me thinking it was high time we dedicated a [Disclaimer](#) to the subject of jobs and employment. Standards apply in all walks of life and I'm sure James Bond 007 would be a much better spy if he didn't keep telling everybody who he was. Anyway ...

*GlassCuts* is the zero-hours contract output of the British Dole Foundation. It is compiled by a long queue of minimum-wage cash-only immigrants from Gornal and other low countries across the Tipton border (*it's not good enough; they come over from Darlaston, steal our women and take our jobs - Ed*) here in the dustbowl of the *GlassCuts Workhouse* and has no other function than to fight for your rights to holiday pay, enforce the Health & Safety rules on excess licking when the stamp franking machine breaks down and perhaps even say a bit about glass.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, no responsibility etc etc ... (*usual P45s apply*).

This email is sent to you solely on the basis that you are happy in your internship as a wringer-out for a one-armed window cleaner but if you do not wish to receive further [GlassCuts](#) then either give us a verbal warning followed up by a written one or send an email marked: 'I quit my job as a sausage maker because I just couldn't make ends meet' to [bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk). A brief indication as to why we are no longer your favourite union representatives would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission to anyone who believes that the dubious reward for a job well done is just to be given more work. Similarly if you have anything you consider may be worth our colleagues out there in the *Wonderful World of UB40forms*<sup>BGF</sup> then send it to BGF at the usual address.

Unusual jobs? Take weather forecasters; they do come out with some rubbish. 'It's too cold for snow tonight' they'll tell you. Well, I've just been watching a nature programme where it was difficult to tell the difference between David Attenborough and the pterodactyls. He was observing penguins in Antarctica. It was -40 out there. And guess what? It was snowing. Finally journalists, they're just something else. I once worked with the broadcaster John Sergeant but my artist grannie says she remembers him in the days before he was promoted and was plain John Constable. She's insane, by the way. Merry Christmas.

**Special offer available to *GlassCuts* readers only**

It's Christmas time, so here's a festive treat. If you simply cannot do without your fix of *Disclaimer* lunacy over the holiday period and you experience belly-cramps craving more, then a supplementary dose of nonsense is free on the NHS at the Editor's personal website. Go to <http://grahamfisher.co.uk/tftb> and scroll down to *More Ripping Yarns*. Apply promotional code 1D10T and check that nothing happens when you do. Offer applies this Christmas only; not available in the Shetlands, Isle of Man, Orkney or Tipton. Usual terms and conditions apply, whatever those might be. Over-18s only, unless you're under 18. And why are you reading this with a magnifying glass - you going short-sighted or something?



[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

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