

# GlassCuts

The Journal of the British Glass Foundation



Edition: 131  
Dated: 5.7.18

We mentioned recently that although all may seem quiet at the moment there is a tremendous amount of stuff going on behind the scenes - our marathon Trustees meeting of over five hours on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July - and the reason this edition is a little later than expected - is in itself testament to that. Following the signing of the leases (reported below) we will be making further significant announcements very soon and as they happen. In the meantime, here's a round up of the latest news from the *Wonderful World of Glass*<sup>©GF</sup>...

## WHITE HOT

news from WHCmog

### History in the making

The imagery says it all; Chairman Graham Knowles and Trustee Phil Cook sign BGF's sections on the leases for taking control of *White House Cone museum of glass* as witnessed by our legal advisor Claire Hamlin of Higgs & Sons Solicitors. Nearly there now.



## Welcome to the new ...

On a balmy summer's evening of Friday 22nd June 2018 Your Editor was delighted to be invited as Guest Speaker to address a gathering of around 45 enthusiasts and supporters, of which 17 are already registered volunteers at [WHCmog](#).

The aim of the evening was twofold; to thank existing volunteers who have been with us since the outset and to welcome the new tranche of good folk who have recently joined the cause. An unofficial third reason, I suspect, was to have a great time amongst like-minded friends. And on this score alone it succeeded in spades.

My presentation 'A new home' offered a celebratory overview of the glorious Stourbridge glass industry combined with a review of events to date in the work of BGF to create a new world-class facility from the remnants of the former Stuart Crystal site that closed for the last time in 2001. But the star of the show was surely the preceding superb fish and chip supper - obtained from the chippie directly opposite and delivered in bulk bang on the dot - and an amazing 'puddings table' that got us all off to a flying start. Lovely stuff; someone clearly worked very hard on pulling that one together.

Julie Nicholls tells us: *'A pleasant evening was had by all in no small measure due to the work of a hardy band who gave their time beforehand to weed outside the museum entrance, move furniture, and prepare the public spaces for us to eat in. A healthy profit of over £300, which will be donated to BGF funds, was generated by ticket sales and the generosity of the same small group who provided puddings, flower arrangements and raffle prizes all at their own expense. The evening could not have happened without the volunteers and their willingness to get stuck in and I am immensely grateful to all of them for their help and support'*.

Sincere thanks to all concerned for their warmth of welcome and enthusiastic appreciation, but especially to Volunteer Coordinator Julie Nicholls who worked tirelessly with her colleagues to put on a memorable gathering.

On behalf of BGF, we offer all of our volunteers, old and new, our very best wishes and look forward to working closely with them as together we develop the vision.

If you would like to be a member of our happy gang, be part of a vibrant forward-looking team and enjoy similar gatherings, then contact us via the usual channels and we'll sort the rest. Thank you.



### **... and goodbye to the old**

Through a chain of circumstances that I won't even begin to detain you with, [WHCmog](#) has become a temporary repository for enough ex-office furniture to cover a small asteroid. Don't ask.

To Allister Malcolm's great relief, much of it has already gone to worthy causes but there may still be a fair bit left by the time you are reading this. And it's got to go.

If a bit of second hand office furniture is what you seek, then do get in touch. It's free on collection; all we ask is a few bob to BGF funds.

### **Cyberspace news**

As part of our ongoing communications upgrading and data compliance procedures we are pleased to announce that the BGF website now has an SSL certificate.

For those of you who know even less about this than we did until recently, when Your Editor dutifully attended a seminar and with follow-up by BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE, 'SSL' stands for 'Secure Sockets Layer'. Put simply, an SSL certificate ensures that any data transmitted between a website visitor and the website they're visiting is *kosher*. It does this through encryption, and once a website owner has properly configured their SSL it all happens in the background, providing a seamless process for website visitors who won't even notice the join.

In other words, our website [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk) is now even more secure and our cyberspace guests can be confident that their data will continue to remain confidential as *per* our *Privacy Policy and Statement*. Following our recent GDPR update you can already see this in full on our website, but now you will notice a small padlock in the URL bar at the top of the page. Click on it to read and for assurance that your communications with us are safe.

### **Risk free**

We are absolutely thrilled to receive a letter from Historic England that the site housing our new museum has officially been removed for their 'at risk' register.

Historic England is the Government's adviser on all aspects of the heritage environment and our site was added some years ago when it was in a state of serious disrepair. Informing us this is no longer the case, HE's Nick Carter tells us: *'I am pleased to say there have been some excellent rescue and development works on the site over the last few years and the involvement of the British Glass Foundation has helped secure its long-term future.'*



## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

Our thanks to Gary Hopwood of G H Design who undertook some work at [WHCmog](#) recently and has graciously donated his fee back to the charity.



Thanks also to David Brass, Volunteer Representative of West Midlands Arts Society (formerly known as 'Nadfas') who kindly visited us during a Trustees meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July to present a donation on the Society's behalf.



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

### CGS announce award

Members of the Contemporary Glass Society are instigating an annual cash prize open to all CGS members. The award is in memory of Amanda Moriarty, a long serving Board member and Honorary Treasurer of CGS, who died in 2017. [www.cgs.org.uk/news/amanda-moriarty-prize](http://www.cgs.org.uk/news/amanda-moriarty-prize)

CGS, who recently celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, have a fair few things on the anvil right now; more in *Parish Notices* (below).

### Innovations up t'north



*Northern Glass Innovations* is a three-hander exhibition featuring the work of contemporary glass artists Joanne Mitchell, Laura Johnston and Sue Woodhouse, all of whom are based in the Newcastle area. Through their highly individual and innovative approaches to glass they explore the technique of waterjet cutting, with very different and contrasting results that push the boundaries of glass as a creative medium. The show runs from 25<sup>th</sup> August to 1st September 2018 at 36 Lime Street Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. [joannemitchellglassdesign@hotmail.com](mailto:joannemitchellglassdesign@hotmail.com) or 07866 086898.

## Information sought

Dr Eleanor Feldman is conducting detailed research for an illustrated book on Stuart & Sons and would like to hear from anyone who can assist her with a lengthy list of queries on aspects including missing pattern books, archive material and personnel. She tells us:

*'In order that those who are able to contribute can be acknowledged, please advise your full name and if you had any role in the company, and what dates that covered. I am also pleased to hear from anyone with significant collections or important or rare glass items which they may like to have included as illustrations, attribution can be anonymised as being from a 'Private Collection'. Please describe and send one single image per email with contact details, so that we can arrange a visit from our photographer if need be'.*

BGF is interested in this project - for those of you who may have been living on Mars for the last few years and don't yet know, the new museum is built on the Stuart site at Wordsley - so we wish Dr Feldman good luck in her endeavours and will be delighted to promote her book when it is published. If you feel you could help and would like to know the specifics of her queries then contact us at the usual address or contact Dr Feldman direct via [stuartcrystalbook@yahoo.com](mailto:stuartcrystalbook@yahoo.com)

## 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**

Various dates June to December 2018

*JAM (Juniors at Museum) programme and 'Let's Do This' for adults*

A wide range of activities for kids (hitherto adults as well but this time around they get a separate leaflet), based principally at Red House Glass Cone and 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 leaflets ring 01384 815571.

### **Ruskin Glass Centre**

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

### **Elsewhere around Glassville<sup>®GF</sup>**

25<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018

*Northern Glass Innovations*

36 Lime Street Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

[joannemitchellglassdesign@hotmail.com](mailto:joannemitchellglassdesign@hotmail.com) or 07866 086898.

20<sup>th</sup> October 2018

*Cut and Paste; The Art of Fused Glass and Pâte de Verre*

Brockway Room, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

Tickets £35.00 with concessions for members and early booking.

[www.just-glass.co.uk](http://www.just-glass.co.uk)

4<sup>th</sup> November 2018

*The National Glass Fair* 10:30am - 4:00pm. Admission £5.

National Motorcycle Museum B92 0EJ

<http://specialistglassfairs.com/>

## PARISH NOTICES

thank you for contacting us

CGS call to artists using Murrini for showing in online exhibition. [info@cgs.org.uk](mailto:info@cgs.org.uk) Also CGS regional exhibitions 2018 - 2020; exhibitors and volunteers sought. [susan@purserhope.co.uk](mailto:susan@purserhope.co.uk)

Alan J. Poole monthly newsletter. July 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*.

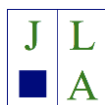
THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



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



also JLA Consulting [www.jlaconsulting.org.uk](http://www.jlaconsulting.org.uk) Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) and 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**

I bought one of those universal remote controls recently and thought: *'This changes everything'*. Knowledge is a powerful thing to have at your disposal and I will be forever grateful to my tutors, especially my old geography teacher. He was brilliant and I wouldn't swap him for all the tea in Denmark. So I thought it was high time we dedicated a [Disclaimer](#) to cleverness, and all it can do to positively transform your life and avoid you looking like an idiot. For example, when I couldn't afford to take the kids to the Sea Life Centre in Brummagem recently, I took them instead round the corner to the Bull Ring fish market and said: *'Shoosh, they're all asleep'*. Anyway ...

[GlassCuts](#) is the U3A branch of the British Baccalaureate Foundation. It is compiled by a team of long haired bearded weirdos - and the men are no better - here in the shimmering opulence that is *GlassCuts Amphitheatre* and has no other function than to make sows ears out of silk purses (*what? - Ed*), work out who always takes the second shot in a game of snooker (find out after the break) and perhaps even say a bit about glass.

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

This email is sent to you solely on the basis that you believe you know at what age it is appropriate to tell your pet dog he's adopted but if you do not wish to receive further [GlassCuts](#) then either explain to us whether my ex-wife's new husband is my ex-husband-in-law or send an email marked: *'I would never trust an electrician with fuzzy hair'* to [bqf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bqf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk) A brief indication as to why we are no longer your favourite educashional facilitators would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission to anyone you feel may be interested in peer-reviewing our papers. Similarly if you have anything you consider may be worth our colleagues out there in the *Wonderful World of CleverClogs*<sup>®GF</sup> then send it to BGF at the usual address.

Our featured nugget of advice this time around goes to all those might not appreciate the power of punctuation. Just a couple of dots and commas makes a whole world of difference between *'There's a maypole dancer'* and *'Theresa May, pole-dancer'*. Gosh, what an extraordinary image. And finally, if I had to describe myself in three words, I'd say 'efficient'. *Boom boom!* Must dash, my taxi's here.



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

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