

Welcome to the first edition of 2019 and a Happy New Year to you all. This promises to be an exciting year in our development, and whatever happens we promise you will hear about it first ...

WHITE HOT

news from WHCmog

Museum in cyberspace

In line with our policy of [White House Cone museum of glass](#) being a 'people's museum' we are developing our branding and marketing based on input from the local community - the name was chosen after public consultation and our logo was designed by a local college. So we are delighted that a member of that same local community has stepped to the plate in enhancing our recognition thorough cyberspace.

Wordsley man Mark Slater tells us: *I used to visit the Stuart Crystal site quite regularly back in the late 80s as I worked for an IT company which looked after their computer network. I acquired the Internet domain name [glassmuseum.co.uk](#) and thought it would be an ideal one for yourselves to use for a website for the new museum when it opens. (It certainly will - Ed). I would be happy to donate the domain name to yourselves to help promote a local attraction.*

So there you have it, [glassmuseum.co.uk](#) will be the dedicated URL for WHCmog when it opens. In the meantime details of what we are doing can still be found at [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](#)

Our grateful thanks to Mark for his inspired contribution.



2019 British Glass Biennale
The UK's major exhibition of contemporary glass

Call to Artists

Open to artists, designers, craftspeople and students working in all areas of contemporary glass practice or using glass as a key design element. The emphasis is on new work demonstrating the highest level of excellence in design, creative imagination and technical skill.

DEADLINE for entries
Midnight Sunday 24 February 2019
[www.biennale.submittable.com/submit](#)

[www.biennale.org.uk](#)

Image: Joseph Harrington winner of the 2017 British Glass Biennale Award Photo: Sylvain Deleu

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

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

We're JAMming

Yet another year, yet another cracking series of events lined up for the *Juniors at Museums* and *Let's do this for adults* programmes. Yes, the grown-ups get their own separate leaflet of events. Running between January and June, but with more to follow thereafter, they are based principally at Red House Glass Cone and Dudley Archives & Local History Centre and offer a wide range of activities for both the young and the young-at-heart.

Well done that man

We are delighted to learn that our colleague and supporter (*and personal friend* - Ed) Dr Malcolm Dick has been recognised in the 2019 New Year's Honours list with the award of an OBE for his services to the history of the West Midlands. In addition to his role at Birmingham University's history centre Malcolm is a Trustee of the Black Country Living Museum. His considerable list of credits also involves associations with *West Midlands History* www.historywm.com and the creation of *Revolutionary Players* www.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk - the list goes on.

Malcolm told the local media: *'I am surprised but very honoured to receive this award. In particular it recognizes the importance of local and regional history and also the work that universities can do by linking with museums and other groups.'*



Our heartiest congratulations to a thoroughly unassuming yet inspirational man whose lifetime of dedication to the region's history has been justly acknowledged.

Legends of glass - an occasional series

As has been reported on in GCs *passim*, our friend and colleague Ian Dury is compiling a collection of recordings to remember key people associated with the glass industry. He tells us that he recently had the great pleasure of speaking with the distinguished **Fred Bridges** on a rare visit to Stourbridge.

Fred, now in his 90s but physically active and resident in Somerset, was accompanied by his son Richard and Daughter Mary as he revisited the Red House Glass Cone, meeting up with old friends and colleges and reminiscing of times past.



Employed by Dudley College he started up a Glass Department and established the Glass College in Brierley Hill that was officially opened in 1973 by HRH Duchess of Kent. Fred was assisted by two master craftsmen; glassmaker Colin Gill and glasscutter John Davies. It was recognised that there was a need for apprentices from local crystal companies to attend college on a day release to develop glassmaking and decorating skills and to gain City & Guilds qualifications.

Fred retired in 1988 at the time when the number of apprentices was in decline and there was an imperative for the College to diversify; hence the International Glass Centre was established. Many of today's established contemporary glassmakers trained at the centre and the centre built a worldwide reputation for glassmaking excellence.

Fred was invited up to Stourbridge to make an oral recording of his contribution to the Stourbridge glass industry that he was so passionate about. The recording will be a part of the *Voices from the Cones* project, which has been established to record the stories from the many craftsmen and women from across all sectors of the Stourbridge glass industry.

These will ultimately be deposited at the Dudley Archives for future generations to use for research and educational purposes in helping to interpret the heritage of a great industry that became respected around the world.

Details at www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums and via Twitter and Facebook feeds. For large print leaflets ring 01384 815571.

News from the borderlands

The castle in Hay-on-Wye just inside the Powys border and about 4 miles down the road from me is a grand affair that dominates the town. Constructed in consequence of the Norman invasion of Wales, there is a medieval fortification and 17th Century Mansion House. Seriously damaged by fires, it has since 2011 been owned by the Hay Castle Trust who plan to renovate it as an arts and education centre. It is currently undergoing renovation so is attracting much interest and I recently came across an intriguing bit of information for glass aficionados in the January 2019 edition of our *Wye Local* magazine www.wyelocal.co.uk that I reproduce here verbatim with kind permission of the Editor.

In the last month Peter (Peter Doring, archaeologist - GF) has excavated inside the medieval tower where there was once a Victorian era brick-vaulted wine cellar. Peter found seven perfectly intact and beautiful green wine bottles which had been hidden behind the brickwork. It almost appears that someone had been helping themselves to the wine and then concealing the evidence. Maybe the culprit was a butler who worked for Lady Glanusk when she lived in the castle? Another intriguing discovery was a number of highly decorative glasswork. Initial research suggests that they are Venetian glass from the 15th or 16th century. They are incredibly delicate with intricate and highly elaborate designs suggesting they were very high status wine glasses. Archaeological work will continue in the burnt out east section of the mansion and around the gate once the scaffolding is removed.



More on the restoration at <http://haycastletrust.org>

Fair enough

Regular readers will be familiar with the sterling efforts of Paul Bishop and Christina Glover in promoting the *Wonderful World of Glass*®GF through the medium of their regular specialist glass fairs. We are happy to report their good work continues in 2019 with a visit to Knebworth on 24th February for their Glass Fair @ Knebworth and their National Glass Fair at the National Motorcycle Museum (a bit of a busman's holiday for an old biker like me, if ever there was) on 12th May. Full details of these and more at: www.specialistglassfairs.com www.cambridgeglassfair.com www.nationalglassfair.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 January - June to December 2019

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

A wide range of activities for kids - adults as well but 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 and via Twitter and Facebook feeds. For large print leaflets ring 01384 815571.

Ruskin Glass Centre

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

The British Glass Biennale opens 23rd August and closes 28th September 2019

Submit applications via: <https://biennale.submittable.com/submit>

More information at: <http://www.biennale.org.uk>

Elsewhere around Glassville®GF

24th February 2019

Glass Fair @ Knebworth

Knebworth House Hertfordshire, SG3 6PY

www.cambridgeglassfair.com

www.specialistglassfairs.com

12th May 2019

The National Glass Fair

National Motorcycle Museum B92 0EJ

www.nationalglassfair.com

www.specialistglassfairs.com

PARISH NOTICES

thank you for contacting us

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.



Promotional opportunities

Black Country Radio (BCR) is the area's premier local radio station operating on 102.5FM, DAB and on-line. 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, and click on *Events*.

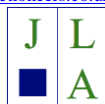
THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



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



... also JLA Consulting www.jlaconsulting.org.uk Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council 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/

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 consider myself as something of a perfectionist, so when an old mate came up to me recently and said: *'I heard one of you had died, was it your cousin or you?'* I knew I was dealing with an idiot. But hey, it's a new year so I thought it was high time we dedicated a *Disclaimer* to all those grand hopes and visions we commit ourselves to with such good intent, only to see them crash and burn around our ears well before the chorus of the last panto has faded into blessed silence (insert your own *'oh no it hasn't'* here - Ed).

Just my luck, someone gave me a chainsaw for Christmas. So now I have to send 10 other saws to my friends otherwise something horrible will happen to me. Then on New Year's Eve I saw a sign saying '4 x 4 specialist' so I pulled in. Apparently the answer is 16. Anyway ...

GlassCuts is the beacon of eternal hope, rather like the Jehovah's *Watchtower* but without the home visits and all those belly laughs on the doorstep, sent out to ease your desperation by the British Optimism Foundation. It is compiled by a team of well-wishers using faith, hope and an extremely dubious spell-checker here in the shimmering opulence that is *GlassKuts Flowers* and has no other function than to reassure all you insomniacs there's only 6 more sleeps before next Christmas, encourage you to consider buying your alcoholic grandpa some half-cut tumblers (*wicked* - Ed) and perhaps even say a bit about glass.

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

This email is sent to you solely on the basis that public transport isn't as bad as it seems - only last week I was on a bus at 5:00 in the morning when this really nice guy offered me a sip of his cider - but if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* then either explain why all these car adverts seriously overestimate the amount of time I spend in a desert or send an email marked: *'If 2x2 makes 4 and 3x3 makes 9, how come 0x0 makes gravy?'* to bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk A brief indication as to why we are no longer your favourite bringers of happiness would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission to anyone you feel may be comforted by our cheery granny-burying disposition. Similarly if you have anything you consider may be worth our colleagues out there in the *Wonderful World of ItJustCan't Last*^{©BGF} then send it to BGF at the usual address.

Meanwhile, for all you puzzle fans, here's a real brain-stretcher from our annual New Year's quiz. Give me 5 towns in Scotland named after Formula 1 racing drivers. Stumped? Ok, here goes ... answers in italics. Eddie *Irvine* (score 1); Lewis *Hamilton* (that scores 2); *Stirling Moss* (another 1). And the 5th is ... *Ayr Town Centre*. Oh dear.

Happy New Year. With a bit of luck we might have a new museum open before I have to write this gibberish for the next one in 12 months time. Yeah, whatever. I should be so lucky.



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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