

## CHRISTMAS 2019 EDITION

*Well, 2019 has proved to be a real roller-coaster ride but we reckon our selection of latest news just about tops the year off. Starting with ...*

### WHITE HOT

news from WHCmog

#### The Big Bash

December inevitably sees our final Trustees meeting of the year rounded off by our Annual general Meeting where your BGF team for the forthcoming period is ratified and matters are laid to rest for the festive season. But this time around we decided to let our hair down a bit and were delighted to be joined by our amazing team of volunteers to share in the odd nibble and a wee quaff of alcoholic libation.

It was to prove an afternoon of surprises and, following a rousing round of thanks to all from our Chairman Graham Knowles, I was delighted to be part of a special award to a completely unsuspecting Julie Nicholls, who coordinates our volunteers.

*Room to Reward* is an organisation celebrating their *Hidden Heroes* from the world of volunteering, and BGF naturally thought that 'our Julie' deserved a nomination. Blow me down with a feather if she didn't actually go and win it! Her award includes a two night stay at a choice of hotels together with a glorious certificate marking her achievement and it was with unfettered delight that I presented her with both.



The lengthy citation will no doubt find its way to the outside world via other channels but a couple of representative comments included her being instrumental in encouraging over 25 volunteers - all of whom respect her greatly - to 'sign up' and a recognition of how many hours she spends in all manner of tasks supporting BGF. She was also appreciated for her liaison with everyone from civic dignitaries to good ol' Joe Public, but I suspect many of our victors will most easily concur with the observation that 'Julie is well known for the wonderful cakes she bakes.' Yep, that's our Jools.

But it was then Julie's moment to turn the tables on us, as she presented to our Chairman the whopping total of £1,225.00 that she and her team have raised as a donation towards the Woodall artifacts that we recently acquired. Thank you, folks.



What an end to the year. But there was more to come, as indicated by the absence of one of our key members for reasons we are about to see ...

## Hitting the highs

Congratulations and champagne all round to Allister Malcolm, who couldn't make it to our AGM because he was tied up somewhere in London at a rather special event. Let him tell you about it for himself ...

*'What an evening, I'm still feeling a bit shell shocked and speechless but very privileged!*

*Last night I was awarded the position of Honorary Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London in recognition of my contribution the Artisan Glass Industry and Greater Glass Industry. It was a wonderful experience at Stationers Hall. Thank you to Barbara Beadman for the nomination and all Involved for such a lovely evening'.*



And so say all of us. This latest award to our resident glassmaker and Trustee is yet further evidence of how Allister is rapidly establishing himself amongst the leading glass artisans in Europe and beyond. We, his colleagues, are unanimous in saying that the honour to have him amongst us is entirely ours. A magnificent achievement, richly deserved.



*It doesn't end there; we are on a roll ...*

### Open day record-breaker

And yet more great news from here at [WHCmog](#), with enthusiastic congratulations to all involved on the success of the recent open day and bauble-making extravaganza where organiser Allister Malcolm tells us just shy of 2,000 visitors entered our doors over the weekend, setting a new attendance record and putting a lot of smiles on a lot of faces.



As *per* usual, Allister has uploaded a few tasters into cyberspace; check them out here: <https://www.facebook.com/1783619608579416/posts/2469162166691820?d=n&sfns=mo>

Thanks also to Brierley Hill Choral Society for greatly adding to the atmosphere on the Sunday: <https://www.facebook.com/224069450941299/posts/3137879119560303?vh=e&d=n&sfns=mo>

And a special thanks from our Volunteer Coordinator Julie Nichols to all in her team who helped both before and during the weekend. *'I couldn't do it without them'* says Julie.



## Youth at [WHCmog](#)

Part of BGF's remit is to engage with youngsters and so it was with great pleasure that Allister Malcolm recently entertained a group from The Westminster School, an establishment that caters for special needs. Bauble decorating and kiln forming were the order of that day and Allister reports that a great time was had by all. Plus, who knows, having kindled their enthusiasm the next generation of glassmakers may already be amongst their ranks.

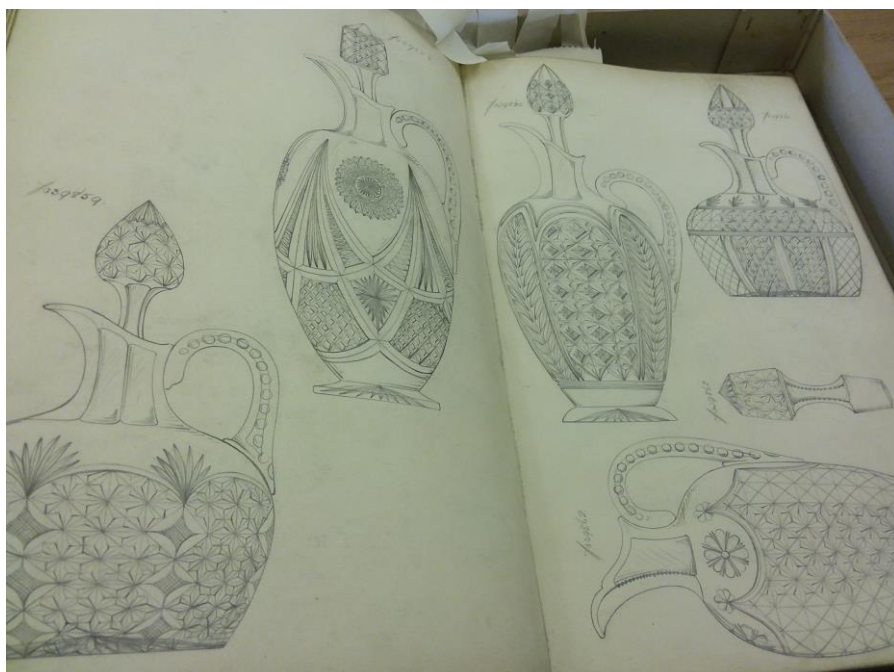
## Latest award

We are thrilled to announce that the National Manuscript Conservation Trust (NMCT) has awarded BGF the sum of £25,000.00 towards securing and preserving the Stevens & Williams pattern books.

Not only is this one of the largest grants ever given by NMCT for a project of this nature, we are particularly excited that it opens a range of new avenues for us to explore in non-glass conservation. Our volunteers are already enthusing at the prospect of extending their repertoire and, as always, if you have skills that you feel could be helpful then please contact us via the usual address.



We must mention here the great work done by our Fundraiser Jacqui Watson, who does so much to help us secure many of these awards. She has several other applications on the anvil for us at the moment, so watch this space for details of more as they arise. Many thanks, Jacqui.



## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

Our grateful thanks to Mrs P for her cheque towards securing the Woodall tools, as described in previous editions of GC. Mrs P is a member of our devoted BGF volunteer team and so we are especially grateful not only for her donation but also her valuable gift of time in supporting our work.

**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.**

Our thanks to Mr and Mrs M of Coseley, who have kindly ordered a plaque in support of [WHCmog](#).

And our appreciation to NMCT, as reported above.

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

### Cameo appearance

*The Origin of Painting*, a cameo vase by George Woodall of circa 1887, which was on loan to us, was sold by Bonhams in London last month for a £206,312 (including premium). This is a world record breaking amount for Stourbridge cameo, which reinforces the importance of cameo glass *per se* and also of the other cameo items in the collection.





## In Memoriam

It has indeed been a wonderful year here in BGF-land but we end on something of a sad note to hear that John Smith, who was with Broadfield House right until its closure and still lived in the flat above, passed away over last weekend following an illness. At the time of writing we are not yet aware of arrangements but in the interim I offer a few personal words in his memory ...

I met John over 35 years ago and came to know him in the Black Country from a mutual affection for the land of his birth in the North east where I had also shared happy years as a student in my youth. We became further acquainted when our paths coincided in the world of glass and I came to see more of his passion and considerable yet understated knowledge. Never one to wear his heart on his sleeve and with a droll humour that defied category he truly was both a one off; a lovely man and a loyal friend. There will be many in the glass sphere and beyond who will mourn his loss and on behalf of BGF I extend sincere condolences to all of John's family, friends and loved ones. R.I.P.

## CRYSTAL CALENDAR

what's going on and where. Tell us yours

### *White House Cone museum of glass*

See our website or contact us via the usual address. Plenty going on in 2020; watch this space.

### **Red House Glass Cone**

Various dates July to December 2019

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

A wide range of activities for kids and adults 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>

No notifications yet but the new season isn't far off

## PARISH NOTICES

thank you for contacting us

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

NEUES GLAS - NEW GLASS art and architecture. Call for submissions and ads in Feb 2020 edn. Deadline 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019. [Uta.Klotz@t-online.de](mailto:Uta.Klotz@t-online.de)

**And that's it until the next edition in January. Thanks, as always, for your support and interest in our work; let's do it all again throughout 2020.**

**From all of us here at the British Glass Foundation, have a very Crystal Christmas and a totally Glassy New Year.**

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

### Getting involved

Would you like to be part of a vibrant and enthusiastic group of volunteers dedicated to supporting the British Glass Foundation and its work at White House Cone museum of glass?

Specialist skills or knowledge are welcome but not essential. We are committed to equal opportunities and full training will be given where necessary. To find out more, contact us via the usual address and we will be delighted to do the rest.

### Promotional opportunities

*Black Country Radio* broadcasts throughout the Black Country on 102.5 FM and also via DAB and on-line around the world. If your event satisfies the criteria of not-for-profit, charitable or philanthropic and is community orientated there is no charge.

Go to [www.blackcountryradio.co.uk](http://www.blackcountryradio.co.uk) hover over 'Live' and submit the form you'll find under *Events*. Your announcement will then appear on the *Events Guide*. Allow sufficient notice and the event may be 'voiced' and broadcast live on air during daytime broadcasting. Depending on the number of events, yours might be broadcast several times; there's no guarantee but it should appear at least once. Meanwhile it stays on the *Events Guide* listings on the world-wide web until the day itself.



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 JLA Consulting, Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers (Stourbridge) Enover Community Trust, Istock Enover Trust.



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.



### Disclaimer

This is usually the bit where we indemnify ourselves and assure you of our compliance with all that dreary Data Protection stuff. But hey, 'tis the season to be jolly so we thought we'd lighten up with a cheery Christmas tale instead. So settle in that armchair, dear friends, and allow me to whisk you on a journey through history to answer two of the most enigmatic questions ever posed in man's incessant search for knowledge; namely what is the origin of roses and castles on narrowboats, and why is there a fairy on the top of a Christmas tree? Read and learn ...

Despite the trappings of fabulous wealth bestowed upon his dynasty by ownership of the sole banana-bending factory in the whole of the tiny eastern European state of Spottyfacia, young Xavier Moonstrut the Third sought only to lead a normal life regardless of his being a hunchback midget with halitosis and prolapsed arches. A magical, enchanting kingdom limited only by imagination, Spottyfacia was the land that time forgot and life for Xavier was idyllic. But he wanted more. His father, XM the Second, had been an avid collector and had accrued a sizeable compilation of works by Rembrandt and Stradivarius. Unfortunately his judgement fell some way behind his enthusiasm and too late did he learn of Rembrandt's inability to fashion a violin and Stradivarius' total incompetence with a brush. Worried that his inheritance was being squittered Xavier tried one day to remonstrate with his father who was in one of his curious dressing up and drinking phases.

Adorned in miner's boots, silk stockings, figure hugging basque and a gas mask he chastised his child with *'We're not all mad you know'* before consuming a tin of varnish. *'A horrible end, but a beautiful finish'* the mortician commented dryly, and that was that.

But art was in the boy's blood and so Xavier decided to develop his skills at painting. Yet what to paint? Inspiration came in the form of a long narrow vessel, unadorned and unlovely, emerging from the underground stores with its precious cargo of yellow sticks on their way to be bent to the regulation angle. A chill afternoon as winter approached saw Xavier sitting at the side of a boat gazing abroad for ideas. The family castle with its turrets and moat appeared beautiful but barren in the dank afternoon. *'Eureka'* he exclaimed in a flash of genius which little did he know would influence the boat world for centuries to come *'I will brighten this craft with gaily adorned castles to remind me of the mellow morns of summer. And I will imbue them with that most quintessential of summer flowers, the rose!'*

At that precise sublime moment his ecstasy was stymied by the arrival of a former cross-dressing acquaintance of his deceased father, attired in a frock with a crown resting on his head and a pair of cellophane wings on his back. *'Hallo Xavier'* said the newcomer *'I've been out all day selling Christmas trees and I've just got this one left. Where do you think I could stick it?'*

So now you know, dear friends, how roses and castles came to be painted on narrowboats. And also why the fairy sits on top of your Christmas tree.

A very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year from all at the British Glass Foundation.



British Glass Foundation

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

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