

GlassCuts

The Journal of the British Glass Foundation



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SPECIAL SINGLE - ISSUE CELEBRATORY EDITION

Y-E-S-S-S !!!
WE DID IT !!!

We are thrilled to be able to present to you, our loyal friends and supporters, this copy of a news item that will be sent shortly to the media. But only, as we have always promised, when you have seen it first. And there'll be dancing in the streets tonight ...

**A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON BEHALF OF
THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION (BGF) AND DUDLEY MBC
NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR FORMER STUART CRYSTAL SITE**

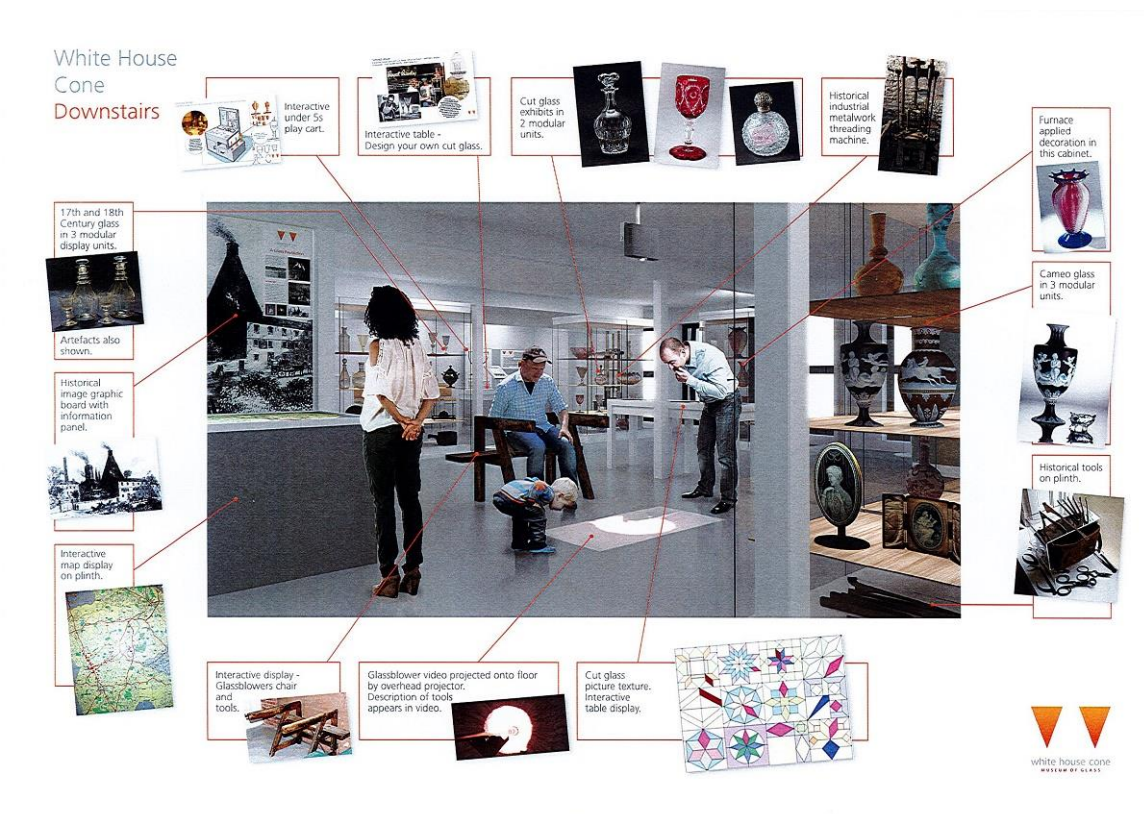
The BGF is pleased to announce that a bid to **The National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly the Heritage Lottery Fund)**, spearheaded with support from **Dudley MBC**, has successfully completed its second stage.

The project to convert the former Stuart Crystal site in Wordsley into a world-class facility and a new home for the renowned Stourbridge Glass collection has been awarded a second-phase grant of **£980,000*** (see *Notes for Editors*). The money awarded will be used to deliver exciting and innovative displays and associated activities in the new [White House Cone Museum of Glass](#) which is due to open in July 2021.

Successful completion of this phase will allow internal completion of the museum building, which is already complete courtesy of project partners **Complex Development Projects Ltd.**



The grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, together with funding raised from other sources, (see *Notes for Editors*) will enable transformation of the building including ground and first floor galleries to exhibit items from the nationally significant glass collections; permanent displays charting the history of the people, products and processes associated with glass production; a flexible activity and learning space for schools, seminars and talks; a hot glass blowing studio and various community-led events and workshops. A temporary exhibition space will allow more of the collection to be put on show as well as items from other museums and galleries.



Artists Impression

Quotable quotes

Anne Jenkins, Director of England, Midlands & East at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

"We are delighted that thanks to National Lottery players this wonderful glass collection can now go on permanent display for the communities of Stourbridge, and visitors from even further afield, to discover and enjoy".

Graham Knowles, Chairman of The British Glass Foundation said:

"I am delighted for the people of Stourbridge and the wider community that, thanks to the Heritage Fund, we now have the resources to finally complete the "People's Museum". Their support has been fantastic and this award now gives us confidence that we will attain our goal of providing a new home for the internationally renowned Stourbridge glass collection. Despite all the difficulties and delays, with the resolve of the Trustees and our supporters, we now have the funding to enable us to fit out the display areas and tell the remarkable stories of people involved in the glass making industry. I would like to thank everyone for their support but I am particularly grateful to Dudley Council which has been absolutely crucial in helping secure this funding. They remain a key player in our plans and we look forward to continuing our excellent working relationship. I would also like to thank Ian Harrabin MBE Managing Director of Complex Development Projects Limited for his generosity which will ensure that the new museum is sustainable in the long term for future generations and to acknowledge the substantial sums received from ERDF (£2.15m) and The Black Country LEP (£1.3m) which provided funding for the actual building work".

Dudley South MP, Mike Wood, said:

"This is fantastic news for the area and I'm so pleased that the resources have now been made available to develop a world-class home for the famous Stourbridge glass collection.

"The glass-making heritage of Stourbridge and Wordsley is something we should all be proud of and I'm delighted that, thanks to the Heritage Fund and the hard work of all those involved in the bid, local people and tourists from far and wide will have a state-of-the-art museum to celebrate this heritage."

Councillor Ian Kettle, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise at Dudley Council, said:

"This is excellent news and the result of a lot of hard work from everyone involved in this project. This is another important stepping stone in creating a visitor attraction in the heart of such an important area for the glass making industry, that will welcome people from all over the world".



Councillor Ian Kettle, Graham Knowles and Allister Malcolm

A reminder of what the site was like!



July 2015







All interested parties, and media outlets in particular, are urged to offer the news of this significant funding their earliest and fullest attention. Contact details below.

Notes for Editors

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly Heritage Lottery Fund)

*Heritage Grants applications are assessed in two rounds. A first-round pass is given when the National Lottery Heritage Fund has endorsed outline proposals and earmarked funding. The first-round pass includes a grant that is used to fund the development of the project.

The project to convert the former Stuart Crystal site in Wordsley into a world-class facility and a new home for the renowned Stourbridge Glass collection was awarded a development phase grant of **£142,000*** in 2015 to cover business plan coordination, project management and design development. This allocation was part-matched to the sum of £14,000 from the BGF's resources that were accrued as part of their own fundraising efforts.

Detailed proposals were considered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund at second-round and as plans had progressed satisfactorily and according to the original proposal, an award for the project was confirmed.

British Glass Foundation (BGF)

The British Glass Foundation is an independent enabling body bringing together all relevant glass and cultural organisations and private individuals, in a common aim to protect and save the glass, archive and technical collections formerly held at Broadfield House Glass Museum; to ensure their future display to the public, their continuing access for research and their on-going promotion.
www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

GlassCuts, the *ad hoc* email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation, is the voice of the BGF is available free of charge to anyone contacting bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

The Stourbridge Glass Industry

Once dominant in the world of glass, the Stourbridge industry reached its zenith in the late 19th and early 20th centuries before undergoing a period of decline that culminated in the closure of Stuart Crystal in 2001 - the last remaining serious 'heavyweight' - and the loss of 220 jobs. However, suggestions that the industry is dead are erroneous; although it no longer produces items *en masse* (Stuart supplied the White Star line, owners of *RMS Titanic*) it thrives in areas across the range from the burgeoning studio glass movement to high-tech specialist equipment and full-lead crystal items.

The glass collection, currently owned by DMBC and to be loaned to the BGF for 125 years, represent one of the finest holdings of 18th, 19th and 20th century glass in the world spanning 400 years of glassmaking in the UK. Numbering some ten thousand items of glass it includes stunning examples of every major period of glass production in the country, with the highlight being the cameo glass, a speciality of the Stourbridge glass manufacturers at the end of the 19th century.

For centuries glass has been manufactured in the Stourbridge area, reputedly started in the 17th century by French glassmakers from the Lorraine region. During this period artisans from across Europe migrated to Stourbridge, including Huguenots from eastern France escaping persecution, and migrants from what is now the Czech Republic. Many 'Black Country' names reflect these Bohemian origins. They were attracted to the area by the rich natural resources of coal and fireclay for lining furnaces, making it the perfect location for the industry.

Between 1850 and 1900, Stourbridge was considered to have the finest glass craftsmen in the western world, exemplified by the 'Portland Vase', possibly the most important glass artefact in the world, which was copied by cameo engravers in local factories.

Stourbridge glass works have been historically associated with some of the most famous names in the history of glassmaking, such as the Stuarts of White House. They were responsible for exporting glass workers, masters and techniques internationally and particularly to other renowned sites such as Waterford Crystal in Ireland.

The new displays at the White House Cone Museum of Glass will enable all these stories to be told in new and exciting interactive ways to enable as wide an audience as possible to see into the past and gain an insight into the people, processes and products that make up the fascinating history of glass in Stourbridge and beyond.

Dudley MBC, Complex Development Projects Ltd and BGF - the connection

Dudley MBC, the custodian of the world-famous Stourbridge Glass collection, has now arranged for the glass collection to be transferred to the BGF for 125 years for display in the new facility. The BGF is the leading facilitator between DMBC and property developers Complex Development Projects Ltd www.complexdevelopmentprojects.co.uk, owners of the White House site, in developing this permanent and sustainable new home for the collection. White House is itself historic, latterly being the home of Stuart Crystal (closed 2001). A 125 year lease of the building has also been granted to the BGF.

Other funders

ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) - £2.15m

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Growing Places Fund - £1.3m

BGF have been successful in securing support from the following funders as match towards The National Lottery Heritage Fund project:

DMBC £60,000
The Headley Trust £35,000
The Charles Hayward Foundation £20,000
Clive & Sylvia Richards (£25,000)
Enovert Community Trust (£30,000)
Ibstock Enovert (18,000)
Roy Richardson (£5,000)
Grimmitt Trust (£1,000)

Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust (£25,000)
William A Cadbury Charitable Trust (£15,000)
National Manuscripts Conservation Trust (£25,000)
Garfield Weston (£50,000)
The Owen Family Trust (£5,000)
The Rowlands Trust (£3,000)
The Dumbreck Charity (£1,000)
Barberry (£1,000)

... together with many other contributions from other trusts, foundations and individuals.

E&OE and with apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted or whose largesse is, at the time of writing, not yet processed. Full details of BGF partners and sponsors at: www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/

Further info/photo opportunities/quotes/references/enquiries:

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on behalf of British Glass Foundation.



- NEWS RELEASE ENDS -



A huge thank you to you all.
Do join us in our work (*see below*)

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.

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.

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Disclaimer

Are you kidding? Normal service will be resumed shortly. Let's just savour the moment.



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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