

GlassCuts

The Journal of the British Glass Foundation



Edition: 158
Dated: 4.3.20

WHITE HOT

news from WHCmog



Museum Director **WGCmog**

As alluded to in last GC, the British Glass Foundation is seeking to appoint a Museum Director for the [White House Cone museum of glass](#).

This is a new and prestigious position that will be accompanied by a competitive remuneration package. See local media for details or contact bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk for a prospectus and application form. Details are also on our web site.

Deadline is Friday 20th March and suitable candidates will be invited for interview shortly thereafter.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

It may be all quiet on the Home Front right now, but running a museum is a costly business that requires on-going funding in a revenue stream requirement that never ends.

We greatly value your gifts and donations; 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.

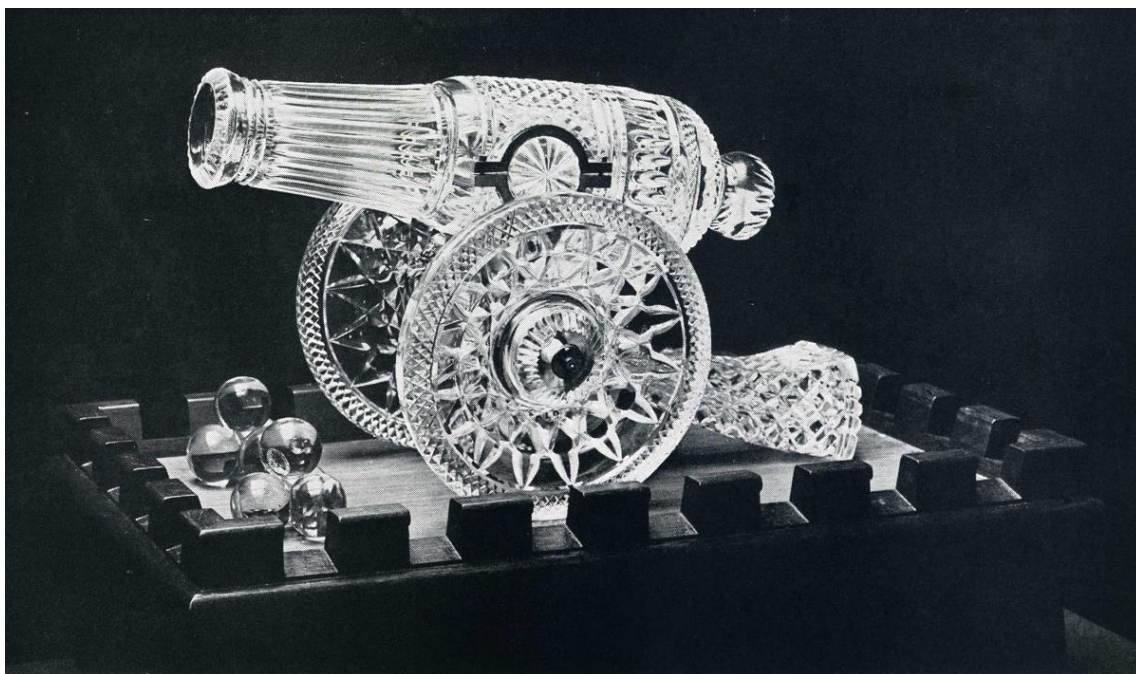
All donations are greatly appreciated. BGF is entirely philanthropic and its Trustees are unremunerated. BGF policy is that all monies received go directly to the cause. Donations can be as one-off contributions or standing order.

RICH MIXTURE

news from elsewhere

The power of *Glasscuts* (now an occasional series)

Whilst we are neither valuations experts (although we can refer you to someone who is, if you ever need to know) nor officially a research body, we are always willing to try and help with readers' queries and after our success in helping Penny Baker track an obscure cutting pattern (GC157) we have a bit of a glow in thinking we may be getting rather good at it. So, here's the latest gauntlet that has been thrown down in our direction, and it's a corker. Let's see if through you, Dear Reader, we can help. Take a peek at the image and I'll let Stuart McMaster tell you all about it in his own words...



'Hi Graham. Further to our telephone conversation today (Sunday 23rd Feb - Ed) please find attached an image kindly provided to me by Charles Hajdamach (glass expert and BGF adviser - Ed) showing one of two ornamental glass cannons that were made by Thomas Webb & Sons. They were made in c1909 according to identical texts in the New Zealand Herald and The Strand Magazine of London, both published in that year. Quite simply, I am trying to trace their current whereabouts.

In a book entitled 'Art, Feat and Mystery - The Story of Thomas Webb & Sons' by H W Woodhouse, a list of Exhibitions and awards up to 1909 indicates that Thomas Webb were part of the Imperial International, White City Exhibition, London which was opened in 1909. Thomas Webb were awarded a Grand Prix medal for Cut, Engraved and Sculptured Glass.

It is possible that the two glass cannons may well have been produced for display at the White City Exhibition bearing mind the size of each cannon i.e. each one weighing 40 pounds and 24 inches overall length. I suspect that if they still exist they may be on display in a grand house, mansion or even a museum either in this country or abroad.

If you could include reference of the above in GlassCuts that would be fantastic, maybe someone knows of the cannons and their location; my fingers are crossed'.

So there you have it. Stuart is spreading his tendrils widely and has already attracted coverage in local media including *The Bugle* so with our help we may have a few more bases covered. It would be lovely if we could collectively help in this absorbing quest.

Any information can be passed to Stuart through us and we will, as usual, look to publishing a few of the best responses.

Good luck Sir, and thank you for thinking of *GlassCuts*.

This might be a bit trickier

As *per* the above, we are eager to assist all we can but even we confess this may be a long shot. Still, let's give it a go. Here is a query from Pr. Simon Wain-Hobson, based in France. He says:

'I'm a Georgian glass collector and my latest research topic are probably the top two glass dealers of the first part of the 20th C, notably Arthur Churchill (active from 1908 died 1936) and Edward Barrington Haynes (active from 1936 died 1957). Unfortunately, there is very little information on the web. I've contacted all the usual suspects that I know (list of experts included here - Ed) but so far I haven't found a photo of either gent while information is scarce to say the least. I was wondering if you might be able to suggest some avenues to explore'.

Phew, that's a tough one but there's no harm in putting it out there. Any positive i/d can be sent to us via the usual address and we'll gladly pass it on.

Addendum – fortune favours the brave. No sooner had we completed this item we had a further communication from an evidently excited Pr. Wain-Hobson. *'I finally located a photo of Barrington Haynes last night. We've located Haynes' daughter - in her 90s - and the existence of a stash of papers concerning Arthur Churchill Ltd of unknown value. We're at the limit of living memory. In another decade it will be lost.'*

What an amazing find. Can we match it?

Trouble at t'cone

We were saddened to see this *Facebook* entry posted 19.2.20 regarding our friends across the road at Red House Glass Cone ...

Following the recent severe weather conditions, the actual Cone and hot glass studio is closed until further notice. Half-term activities are still running and craft units, the shop and coffee house are open as usual. For updates visit www.dudley.gov.uk/museums or call 01384 812750.

BGF offers best wishes to all staff, supporters and volunteers in resuming normal service at Red House Glass Cone as soon as possible.

From the archives

Our thanks to reader John Hale who has been delving deep and has happened across a captivating snippet from the *County Express* (ten points to anyone who remembers that one, and a bonus point for what superseded it). The cutting is dated 6th November 1915 and is a window into a grim chapter of history when the country was at war. It tells the tale of a dinner at the Rose & Crown, Wordsley (which is still there) that was held for 'the flint glassmakers employed by Messrs. WH Stuart and Sons, Red House Cone, Wordsley' (directly across the road from what is now home to [WHCmog](#)).

The guests included a war hero, Pte George Baxter, who had recently returned from the front. I'll not spoil the tale, but no surprise that he worked at Stuart's before taking the shilling. The Chairman proposed a toast to: *'Our guest, Pte George Baxter' and the meeting 'rejoiced to know that he had passed through his experiences safe and sound, and they sincerely trusted that when the war was over Pte Baxter would again return to them (hear hear).'* The carnage of WWI was ultimately to prove *sans pareil* but at that time the optimism that 'it will all be over by Christmas' still lingered so it would be fascinating to learn whether the good Private ever did return. Even more intriguing, how long are the odds that one of his descendants might be reading this right now and can tell us personally?

This is one of those stories that could either wither on the vine or run and run. Either way, it is just too good an item to pass by. But it's also just too big to fit into *GlassCuts* without being reduced to a level that is nigh-impossible to read. The solution? **A pdf attached to this issue as a special supplement.** Simply click on it and use the magnification tool to blow up to around 400% according to taste. Then sit back with a mug of cocoa and drift for a few captivating moments into a world long gone. Glorious stuff. More, please.

Chance is a fine thing

Back in GC155 we brought news that our colleagues at the former Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust have had a bit of a makeover and, largely in order to accommodate a broadening of their remit, are now known as Chance Heritage Trust. We also reported on their programme of forthcoming activities including an Open Day at Smethwick Library on Saturday 29th February.

Well, Chairman of the group Mark Davies has kindly written in to update us that it was a great success. Mark says: *'I am pleased to say our launch event at the Smethwick Library and Archive on Saturday went very well with over 500 visitors attending during the course of the day which I think reflects the level of support for the project. The shares issue is now running; details at <https://www.chanceht.org/shares>*



© Valerie Woolford Photography

Our congratulations to Mark and all at CHT. It looks like their rebranding has got them off to a flying start. More at www.chanceht.org

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 to June 2020

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 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^{®GF}

10th May 2020

National Glass Fair

National Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Solihull B92 0EJ

www.nationalglassfair.com

8th November 2020

National Glass Fair

National Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Solihull B92 0EJ

www.nationalglassfair.com

PARISH NOTICES

thank you for contacting us

Neus Glas - New Glass: art & architecture. Call for adverts, events and submissions for next edition due out early May 2020. info@neuesglas-newglass.com

Alan J. Poole monthly newsletter, latest edn. alanjpoole@aol.com

Venice Glass Week 5th - 13th September 2020. Call for applications (deadline 13th March). info@theveniceglassweek.com

Graham Fisher MBE
Press & Publicity,
pp British Glass Foundation
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 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



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... also Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers, Enovert Community Trust, Istock Enovert Trust, Clive & Sylvia Richards Charity



BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Growing Places Fund : Garfield Weston : Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust : The Headley Trust : The Charles Hayward Foundation : W.A. Cadbury Charitable Trust.

... together with many other contributions from other trusts, foundations and individuals. (E&OE)

Full details of 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.

Disclaimer

My New Year's resolution was to help the environment by not using spray deodorants any more. *'Roll on 2020'* I thought. But it didn't quite work out, and when my dog broke a mirror I thought: *'that's 49 years of bad luck'*. Never mind. So, since we are now looking forward to a bright future for the new museum, I thought it was high time we dedicated a *Disclaimer* to things that are about to come. And I can tell you with accuracy, because I can prove to you I am sychic. Right now, for example, I just know you're thinking: *'This moron can't spell'*. Anyway ...

GlassCuts is the fortune cookie of the British Mystics Foundation. It is compiled by a team of soothsayers here in the shimmering opulence that is *GlassCuts Observatory* and has no other function than to remind you that Bill Gates once said: *'650K of memory should be enough for anyone'* (1981), ask you to believe Lord Kelvin actually declared *'no machine heavier than air will ever fly'* (1895) and perhaps even say a bit about glass.

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

This email is sent to you solely on the basis that you don't believe that *'everything that can be invented has been invented'* (US Office of Patents 1899) and *'there is no reason why anyone should want a computer in their home'* (Ken Olson, Digital Equipment Corporation, 1979) but if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* then either explain why *'the radio has no commercial value'* (David Sarnoff, 1920) or send an email marked: *'There is no way man will ever tap the power of the atom'* (physicist and Nobel laureate Robert Millikan, 1923) to bqf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk A brief prediction as to why we might eventually no longer your favourite oracles would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission to anyone you feel may be interested in our vision. Which, unlike most of the above, we confidently predict will prove slightly more accurate. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be worthy of our colleagues out there in the *Wonderful World of CompletelyOffTheMark* ^{©GF} then send it to BGF at the usual address.

And finally, I have to admit that since I converted to extreme left-wing views I now only buy tea-bags. Because proper tea is theft. *Boom boom!*



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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