

**ANOTHER MID-LOCKDOWN 'SLOWLY GETTING THERE'  
(WHEN WILL IT ALL END?) EDITION**

**Greetings and great news from the Editorial team**

The BGF is delighted to announce that a bid to  
**John Ellerman Foundation**  
has been successful.

**John Ellerman  
Foundation**

A total of **£60,000** is to be made in two successive annual payments and is intended to help funding of a Project Coordinator post (or as may be named) in the new [White House Cone Museum of Glass](#) (WHCmog) that is to be filled in time for when the museum is fully fitted out and operational. The Trustees of the John Ellerman Foundation visited WHCmog in March 2020 when they also visited Himley Hall to view the Stourbridge Glass collection, currently in storage there. BGF is grateful to Stuart Connelly and colleagues from Dudley MBC for assisting in this. DMBC's support doubtless contributed to the success of the bid, a key phrase of which is reproduced herewith:

*The BGF is keen to develop a programme of high-quality temporary exhibitions that will enable greater public access to the breadth and depth of the Collection that will enable the new Museum of Glass to establish a reputation as a leader in the sector nationally. As a small museum, these exhibitions will be essential to driving repeat visits. We intend that the work supported by the John Ellerman Foundation to develop the Foundation's curatorial understanding will create a lasting legacy for the Museum.*

In his letter of confirmation to BGF, Grants Manager Gareth Clayton of the John Ellerman Foundation <https://ellerman.org.uk> (see Notes for Editors, below) informs BGF: 'I am pleased to tell you that the Trustees were impressed by your recent application for funding ... we can see the importance and potential of investing in the development of curatorial skills to ensure organisational growth and look forward to hearing about the impact of this post'.

**Quotable quotes:**

**Graham Knowles, Chairman of The British Glass Foundation said:**

*'This is wonderful news all round for both the BGF, glassmaking and the people of Stourbridge. The John Ellerman Foundation grant not only helps greatly in our organisational development it is, at a time of unprecedented challenges around the world, also a clear indication of their faith in BGF to ultimately complete the White House Cone project. On behalf of all at BGF, I assure the John Ellerman Foundation that we are very grateful for both.'*

**Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise (DMBC), said:**

*'This is fantastic news for the White House Glass Cone and I would like to thank everyone involved in making the successful bid happen. I am sure a project co-ordinator will be very much welcomed by all who treasure our proud glass heritage and Dudley Council is looking forward to working with the person when appointed.'*

## Amblecote to the fore

We received news from our good friend Ian Dury that specialist glass makers Plowden & Thompson were doing their bit to fight coronavirus, so I put in a call to Manager Colin Hadlington who told us: *'Plowden & Thompson, a technical glass manufacturer based in Stourbridge, has remained open for business since the lockdown was introduced back on March 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the coronavirus pandemic, supplying capillary bore tube of various sizes some as small as 0.24mm to a UK customer for use in hospital ventilators, which are in some cases vital in the treatment of Covid-19 patients and we are proud to be playing our part in fighting this virus'*.

Colin kindly included an image for our readers; just take a look at how tiny these things are. That's amazing to be able to draw glass tubing so thin. I recall a demonstration some years ago at P&T where I saw something similar being made for a for a different application and, believe me, it is incredible to watch.



Back to our original source Ian Dury who went on to say: *'With all the negativity that the glass industry has faced over the past years I think it's great that within a venerable glass works that made significant contributions to two World Wars they are now making a contribution to fight this pandemic. As you have said many times before Graham, surely this goes to show that our glass industry is not dead and we still have the glassmaking skill's in Stourbridge to help even in times of crisis'*. Quite right, Sir. And bravo to one of our most prized assets of the glass quarter, Plowden & Thompson.

## Pigeons beware!

To all of our flying friends, don't even think about stopping by at our place because here's who you'll meet up on the roof. (note to human visitors - he's not real, but please don't tell the pigeons that.) So, here's your golden opportunity to contribute to the provenance of the new museum - let's give him (or her?) a name. 'Owly McOwl Face' has already been eliminated, so we call on our loyal readers to suggest something else. Send us your suggestions via the usual address and we may just offer a bag of breadcrumbs for the best one. *(Health warning - do try not to take this too seriously)*



## Appealing to da yoof

In the last *GC* we alluded to *TikTok*, one of the newest arrivals on the ever-burgeoning social media scene.

If you have yet to hear of it then allow us to oblige; *TikTok* is quite a different kettle of fish from the more widely known *Facebook*, *Twitter et al*. It is a visual medium that accepts the posting of videos of up to 15 seconds or so. But it also has some highly innovative features including a 'split screen' facility to enable cross-pollination by multiple users, on-line editing and a particularly bamboozling algorithm that even Silicon Valley hasn't wrapped its head around yet which pushes posts forward without the usual reference to pre-expressed preferences.

If all this sounds like too much gobbledegook, here's the point - *TikTok* is aimed at 'da yoof' and is currently the fastest growing social media platform for the under-20s. Thus no surprise that BGF is embracing this one in broadening our appeal to the next generation of glass enthusiasts.

So, step forward our latest contributor who has done precisely that and is already building up a sizeable following. Here she is in her own words: *'I'm Scarlett. I mess around at my dad's studio. When I can, I sneak in and post.'* Scarlett's surname is Malcolm, so no prizes for working out who and where she is but if you're still not sure then her *TikTok* code dispels any doubt. See what Scarlett is getting up to at [@glassblowersdaughter](#). Then send us yours.

We welcome any more from our young enthusiasts and will be happy to promote them in *GC*. However, we must point out that for child protection reasons young Scarlett's code is shielded via her father's firewall so Scarlett cannot be contacted direct. We would ask any contributors to ensure similar measures are taken prior to submission. There are some bad people out there. No responsibility etc etc ... (*usual caveats apply*).

## Above and beyond

I will be brief, because there's just nothing more to say. This is Dennis Baldwin. Dennis is ace with wood. Dennis is a BGF volunteer who is in self-isolation. Dennis has chosen to isolate on our first floor making cabinets for the new museum. Dennis is 80 years old and possesses a vision that would be the envy of someone a quarter of his age. Thank you Dennis. We love you.



Wanna be like Dennis? You know the rest.

## Living la vida lockdown, part 2

In the last edition we asked you to let us know what you've been getting up to out there in *GlassVille*® in order to stay sane. Gillies Jones started the ball rolling, and no surprise to since hear from others that it takes a bit more than a vexatious virus to stifle creativity.

Alison Kinnaird MBE told us in her May newsletter: *'Isolation is difficult for everyone to deal with. Creativity is hard to maintain, but some themes relate directly to our present situation. 'Lockdown 2020' [her] latest artwork, portrays some of the emotions that are common to us all throughout the past few months.* Alison also informs us that an exhibition planned for Edinburgh Festival may tentatively instead be held at her home as a solo 'open studio' in August. Appointments can be arranged. [www.alisonkinnaird.com](http://www.alisonkinnaird.com)

Cumbria Crystal kept us up to speed via their newsletter detailing latest products (all available online), a survey with the chance to win a gorgeous glass decanter and a fascinating blog post on how high-quality glass is made. Yes, I did the survey; greatly doth I covet that decanter. Let me know if you beat me to it so I can quietly seeth in envy. I also read the blog and realised just how much I didn't know. Fascinating. <https://cumbriacrystal.com>

Chipping in with a newsletter that goes straight into the 'highly informative and entertaining' category, Susan Purser Hope brought everyone up to date with all the news that is news from the world of the Contemporary Glass Society, including how to promote your work, with her *Dispatches From The Attic*. Nice one. [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)

Meanwhile, our ol' pal and colleague Alan Poole defies Covid-19 with his monumental assemblage of just about everything that is anything in the world of glass - books, personalities, sits-vac exhibitions, sales, the lot - all crammed into his monthly newsletter. Subscribe at [alanipoole@aol.com](mailto:alanipoole@aol.com)

And if you are missing your fix of getting out and about around museums, then satisfy your cravings from your computer screen with a virtual tour of 10 of the best, some of which house glass. Thanks to BGF Secretary Lynn for spotting this one. <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

The University of Sunderland, which is now also home to the National Glass Centre <https://sunderlandculture.org.uk/our-venues/national-glass-centre/> has diversified for the duration to design protective face shields for use by frontline healthcare workers in North East hospitals during the coronavirus outbreak.

My old Alma Mater has come a long way since I first stepped through its doors in the early 1970s so I was pleased to learn via the latest Alumni Association newsletter that multi-platinum selling singer-songwriter Emeli Sandé visited recently in her role as Chancellor to officially open, of all things, their new School of Medicine. I look in the rear-view mirror and admire the progress since my day when one might have been hard-pushed to even point out Sunderland on a map. Congratulations all round.

Finally for now we come full-circle to Gillies Jones who sent us a follow-up release: *'In accordance with guidelines and protocols we will be opening our doors from 15<sup>th</sup> June'*. 10:00am - 4:00pm Monday to Saturday and 2:00pm - 4:00pm Sunday. Details at [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) or via a refreshed <https://www.gilliesjonesglass.co.uk>

Any more for any more? Tell us wot you got.

### And finally ...

Our grateful thanks to Kerry Hadley-Pryce, Editor of *The Blackcountryman*, who has graciously afforded us a four-page spread *New lease of life for former Stuart Crystal site* (penned by Yours Truly) in the summer 2020 edition of this respected quarterly periodical.

The Black Country Society is *the* premier organisation representing the interests of our area and if you claim to be *one o' we* and you're not a member then shame be vested 'pon you and thine houses.

BGF is also pleased to note that our good friend and supporter Dr Malcolm Dick OBE (*we reported on his well-deserved gong in issue 138 dated 23.1.19 - Ed*) is now BCS Chairman. [www.blackcountryrsociety.com](http://www.blackcountryrsociety.com)

## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

Our grateful thanks to the Trustees of the John Ellerman Foundation <https://ellerman.org.uk> who, as reported above, have graciously awarded BGF the sum of £60,000.

Funding and maintaining a revenue stream is an ongoing requirement, and one that has never been more crucial. 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.

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 'Local' 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**  
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Development Fund 2007-13



... 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 : John Ellerman Foundation

... 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/](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.

**+++ STOP PRESS +++ STOP PRESS +++ STOP PRESS**

Furnace at WHCmog back in action!!!

<https://instagram.com/allistermalcolmglassltd?r=nametag>

and see also

<https://youtu.be/yOT0LzEdos8>

*Disclaimer*

The coronavirus pandemic is a serious matter and our services have been curtailed. But we are still obliged to comply with the provisions of Data Protection and so we must remind you that *GlassCuts* exists solely for the information of its supporters, our Privacy Statement is outlined in detail on our website and subscribers can withdraw at any time just by telling us to stop.

We also welcome you passing *GlassCuts* on to anyone you feel may be interested in our work. You know the rest but if in any doubt then please communicate with us directly in the first instance via [bqf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bqf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk) or the contacts section at [www.britishglassfoundation.co.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.co.uk)

Thank you for your understanding.



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