

A 'still plodding determinedly onwards' edition

Smashing the glass ceiling

It has always been a source of curiosity for me as to why the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{®GF} has historically attracted a certain demographic. But, as my friend Bob says, '*the times they are a'changing*' and perhaps the most radical departures from the norm in many decades have been precipitated by the worldwide *Black Lives Matter* movement.



So, it is with great pleasure that we introduce a newcomer to [White House Cone museum of glass](#), a man who until just three years ago was a self-employed plumber until he took the plunge into a brave new world. Enrolling on a glassblowing course at Wolverhampton University, Chris Day is now a qualified glassmaker of unquestionable talent and is believed to be the only black glassblower in the UK. *(please do advise us if you know otherwise - Ed)*

What is even more impressive is that Chris has already landed an exhibition as part of London Craft Week at the Vessel Gallery in Kensington Park Road, Notting Hill after producing a body of work that reflects black slavery and the civil rights movement.

Chris, 52 and from Lichfield, claims his work has been given extra prominence by the conversation surrounding *Black Lives Matter* and the death of George Floyd, who died in May 2020 after being arrested outside a shop in Minneapolis, Minnesota. However, we feel he is being a bit modest here inasmuch that he started compiling his work *before* the movement gained traction, indicating that he was in fact ahead of the curve.

There's a video, courtesy of BBC (Birmingham & Black Country), that shows Chris at work during a recent visit as guest of Alister Malcom in the hot house at [WHCmog](#). Check it out at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-birmingham-53840197/glass-blower-chris-day-reflects-black-lives-matter-in-his-art> and prepare to be impressed.

We look forward very much to following Chris Day's' progress and are delighted to welcome him as part of the BGF family.

Moving on

It has not been an easy ride keeping things going in the current circumstances but with careful compliance to social distancing and other Covid-19 requirements BGF has recently undertaken confirmatory interviews for the appointment of our PR & Marketing team. We are also looking to appoint a team to progress the internal fit-out of [WHCmog](#). We expect to be making an announcement on both in the near future and, as always, readers of *GlassCuts* will be first to know.

Moving in

The British Glass Foundation is relocating from its current base at Hulbert Properties Ltd, Pear Tree Lane, Netherton. With effect from 1st September 2020 it is henceforth based in White House Cone *museum of glass*, Stuart Works, High Street, Wordsley, West Midlands, DY8 4FB.

As indeed will our new Museum Director Oliver (Ollie) Buckley, featured *GC165*, who officially commenced his duties on the same date. Ollie is on museumdirector@whcmog.org.uk and we would ask that all enquiries pertaining to the museum be directed to him in the first instance. For all other matters bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk is still the one. Thank you, and best wishes to Ollie in his new role.

Football, glass and WHCmog

A tantalising combination. The beautiful game meets the beautiful medium in an astonishing example of craftsmanship. <https://youtu.be/xVAoPnR8BWQ>

The owl has a name!

This just gets sillier. Way back in *GCs162* and *163* we related the tale of the artificial owl that magically appeared on the roof of *Owl Towers*, better known as [WHCmog](#) and invited our readers to suggest a name for our inanimate friend. Proving with unerring reliability that you are just as daft as we are, you kindly responded in your droves. Having carefully collated all of your suggestions we entrusted the matter to the independent hands of the two young offspring of our resident glass artist Allister. Under impartial adjudication they each threw darts at a typed list sellotaped to the back of their dad's neck. We offer no comment as to why they found it necessary to chuck quite so many darts but an unexpected consequence of the resulting acupuncture has apparently cured Allister's stiff shoulders, albeit he now leaks badly when he drinks a cup of tea. But rejoice, for at least we have a winning name. Unfortunately, we can't remember who submitted it but we are sure you'll recognise who you are. And that winning name is:

Whoolio Englassius



Don't you just love it? Thanks to all who participated in this stuff-and nonsense. And do say 'hallo to *Whoolio*' next time you are passing. (*Editor's note - our owl will not be seen mating in the rainy season because it is 'too-wet-to-woo'. Geddit? Yes, I know that's an old one but I try to get good mileage from my one-liners.*)

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

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.

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.**

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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.

Living la vida lockdown, part 6

* More *Dispatches From The Attic* and other news from CGS. www.cgs.org.uk

* Alan J. Poole monthly newsletter.alanipoole@aol.com

* Oh dear; due to - guess what - **the National Glass Fair at the NEC** (scheduled for November 2020) has been cancelled. However, the ever-optimistic organisers tell us that further events are being planned for 9th May and 7th November 2021. Watch this space: <http://nationalglassfair.com/>

* Also the **Local History Day** at Dudley Archives, scheduled for early October, is cancelled.

* And just as we were about to go to press we received the following, reproduced here *verbatim*:

It is with regret that we have decided to postpone the 2021 International Festival of Glass and British Glass Biennale with the intention of rescheduling in August 2022. With the call to artists for the Biennale due to be launched in the next few weeks we have had to make the difficult decision now, even though the festival is 11 months away.

Our priority is to keep our artists and audience safe and the fact that the pandemic is still a significant global health concern creates uncertainty around international travel and exchange. We are also mindful that Glasshouse College, which hosts the festival, works with some of the UK's most vulnerable young people.

The Festival will now take place 26th - 29th August 2022. The theme will remain East Asian glass featuring the superb artists from Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan that have already agreed to join us. We sincerely apologise for the disappointment this postponement will cause and look forward to meeting you again in Stourbridge in 2022.

With very best wishes

Janine Christley

Festival Director, International Festival of Glass

ifg@rmlt.org.uk

www.ifg.org.uk

And finally, the BGF Thought For The Day (*Radio 4 does it so why shouldn't we?*)

'Nelson was 5 feet tall when he died. His statue in London is 15 feet tall. That's Horatio of 3:1'

I'll get my coat.

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 '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. (*Temporarily suspended due to lockdown; back in due course - Ed*)



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.



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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/

Follow us on *Facebook* and *Twitter*



<https://m.facebook.com/The-White-House-Cone-Museum-of-Glass-1783619608579416/>



<https://twitter.com/whitehousecone>

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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 bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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