

Supplement to GlassCuts 169 A message from the Editorial Team

Dear readers of *GlassCuts*, BGF supporters and all glass organisations & glass artists ...



Here, from the shimmering opulence that is the Editorial suite of *GlassCuts Towers*, my colleague Lynn and I try to keep you up to date of the work of the British Glass Foundation on a regular basis.

But we recognise one week can drift into the next in a drip-feed of information. So, we thought that it may be helpful to consolidate the last few months into a digest to demonstrate to our loyal readers and supporters that, despite this infernal virus, we continue to make progress and are determined to create a world class museum to house the Stourbridge Glass collection.

Key amongst our recent attainments is drawing down our National Lottery Heritage Funding that enables us, when circumstances permit, to fit out the museum, pay for new staff and ensure the museum is safe, secure and welcoming for our visitors. As part of this process we are seeking to appoint a freelance evaluation consultant to lead the evaluation of the Stage 2 delivery phase.

We have appointed the Design Team to assist in the fitout. DesignMap <https://designmap.co.uk> will be presenting their designs for fit-out to the Trustees on the 15th December 2020 for approval.

Our systems for good governance and development are now in place and we have appointed a PR Consultancy to handle our communications and marketing.

We are sad to report on those whom we have lost, notably the two 'John Smiths', one our Trustee and the other the former Operations Manager at Broadfield House. They and their contribution, along with other colleagues no longer with us, will be missed.

On a brighter note we have bolstered our base of Trustees, the most recent being Will Farmer of Fielding Auctioneers (Stourbridge). We have also appointed a Museum Director, Ollie Buckley who henceforth has day-to-day control over museum operations.

BGF has established a separate trading arm, BGF Trading Ltd, through which all commercial transactions will pass. Directors Gavin Whitehouse (Chairman) Graham Knowles and Ollie Buckley have recently been joined by Debbie Kermode who also sits as a Director. The inaugural meeting of BGF Trading Ltd. is scheduled for 1st December 2020.

Our hot shop continues to operate and its reach is extended by the increasing use of videos posted on social media, hence increasing our cyberspace exposure exponentially.

Our staff, trustees and volunteers are routinely scrutinising donations of everything from glass objects to books and manuscripts to ascertain if they may be of value to the museum or if we can suggest a more suitable home.

Our fundraising efforts are beginning to close the gap in our match funding for the project to launch the new museum. We are grateful to all those who have contributed monies ranging from individual private donations to large corporate sums. We acknowledge our fundraiser Jacqui Watson for her sterling efforts in helping secure many of these. Whilst we must keep sources of the former private through respect for personal anonymity, details of the latter are expressed in our annual reports and statements.

Our 'intellectual base' is developing and we are attracting increasing numbers of glass experts and other specialists who are eager to help develop our academic and learning resources.

Our devoted volunteer force continue to support us in maintaining the smooth running of the site and we are grateful for their quiet dedication behind the scenes that would otherwise go unrecognised. We offer a warm welcome for more volunteers and thank those already in situ.

One of our proudest achievements is that whilst our prime remit is to create a museum we have inadvertently long become an *ad hoc* umbrella organisation for the wider glass industry and its practitioners. We continue to support the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{®GF} in all its manifestations and we extend our offer to help promote any glass related matters or facilitate contacts around the glass world howsoever we are able.

So, at a time of Covid-19 lockdown, social distancing and travel restrictions, how do we keep in contact? When convenient and legal to do so we meet under controlled conditions at [WHCmog](#) but if this is not practicable - and bearing in mind some of our number live in other countries - the power of Zoom and Facetime comes into its own.

We hope this offers a helpful and confident overview of what, despite trying circumstances, is still going on. There is more, much more, that has not been included here and apologies to anyone or for anything we may have omitted in this brief fly-by, but full details can still be found by a trawl through our back issues at <https://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/proposals/glass-cuts/>

Alternatively contact us via bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk or museumdirector@whcmog.org.uk and we will be happy to offer an update.

We conclude by reminding you of our *mantra* that has been consistent from the outset of this venture: you are why we are doing this. Without you we could not, and would not, want to. Thus we reaffirm our promise that, wherever we can, we will always endeavour to let you know first.

We thank you all for your continuing support and, in what is becoming something of a mission statement, be assured that we are determined to get the job done.

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