

## 'Something old, something new' edition

### A note from the Editor ...

Fed Bridge's funeral is tomorrow, Tuesday 16th and will be available on video. See **'Our Fred' - an update** below for details.

### Rising to the challenge - again

Here in the shimmering opulence of *GlassCuts* Towers we have over the years received various appeals for help with readers' queries to the extent that we are now rather chuffed with our track record of having never been beaten yet. And it's all down to you, Dear Readers, who consistently demonstrate that the body of collective knowledge out there outstrips any search engine yet devised by man. Ok then, compliments over, let's set the challenge ...

We have been contacted by one Colin Maitland who asks us: *Hello! This may be a completely futile query (now don't be too downhearted, Sir, see above - Ed) but in trying to solve a mystery one has to take every option.*



*Last year I purchased two transparent glass panels in metal frames at an antiques fair in Sussex. They measure 29cm long by 10cm wide. Although the metal frames are heavily corroded it's still possible to make out the following stamped into them: 'Standard Green Dec.1901' and 'Standard Red Dec.1901'.*

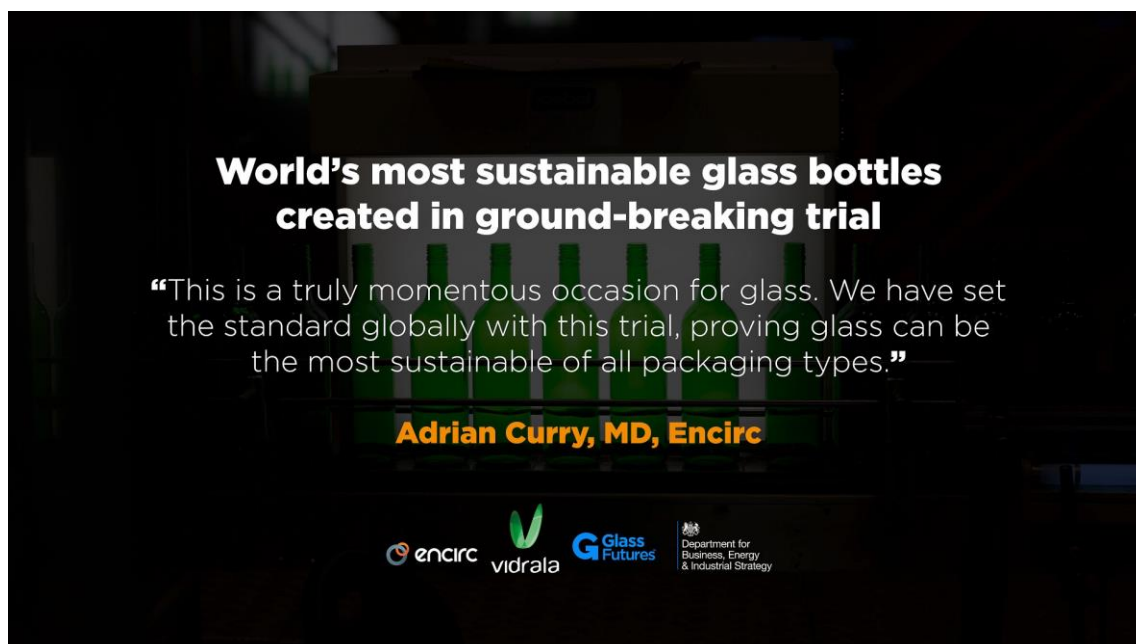
*My initial thought was that they could be railway-linked but that idea has been firmly shot down and I've failed to find any other explanation as to what they were designed for. My latest idea is that they may have been associated with the glass industry, perhaps showing standard tints for windows? It's a long-shot but worth asking.*

So there you have it. Can we put Mr Maitland out of his misery? Answers to the usual address please (see *Keeping in touch* in the panel below) and we will be delighted to both pass on the information to our enquirer and also publish the best response.

Thanks, all.

## History in the making

The world's most sustainable glass bottles have been created in a ground-breaking biofuel trial. An aspirational mission to create the world's most sustainable glass bottle has been lauded an incredible success by the industry ... a revolutionary project undertaken by glass container manufacturer, Encirc (a Vidrala company), and industry research and technology organisation, Glass Futures, has proven that new bottles are able to be made from 100% recycled glass, using only the energy from burning ultra-low-carbon biofuels.



Adrian Curet, MD of Encirc, says: *‘This is a truly momentous occasion for glass. We have set the standard globally with this trial, proving glass can be the most sustainable of all packaging types.’*

Source: The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London <https://www.glass-sellers.co.uk>

**Editor's note:** This is indeed encouraging news and we are pleased to reproduce here an extract from GC140 (dated 19.2.2019) in support of our own long-held belief that glass may be on the cusp of a revival ...

*Plastic. The world is choking on the stuff and that same world is beginning to realise it. Made from oil it is both costly to produce, uses increasingly scarce resources in the process and is now being seen as environmentally catastrophic, largely in view of its lifespan of thousands of years.*

*A possible sustainable alternative? Most glass is recyclable. How long before we revisit the carefree summers of our youth that my peers will recall with me when we bought our lemonade from a shop - or the Corona Man, remember him? - drank it whilst playing in the park and then got our thru'pence deposit back when we returned the bottle? Happy days.*

## Up and running

The recently-constituted Glass Society (formed by an amalgamation of the Glass association and Glass Circle - see *GlassCuts passim*) is off to a flying start for 2021 with news of its first AGM being held by Zoom at 6:00pm on 25<sup>th</sup> February and an early notification for a talk by Stephen Pollock-Hill on 18<sup>th</sup> March when he will be presenting La Glass Vallee, a small area of France that manufactures 80% of the world's perfume bottles. And there's more; take a peek at [www.glassassociation.org.uk](http://www.glassassociation.org.uk)

We congratulate the Glass Society on its successful launch and look forward to seeing it go from strength to strength.

## In memoriam



Oh dear; yet again time has caught up with one of our number. We have received this from our friend and supporter Keith Cummings, Professor of Glass Studies, School of Art & Design at the University of Wolverhampton, who says: *'I have been asked to write this obituary for the CGS Newsletter, and I wondered whether you might be interested in it for GlassCuts?'* We most certainly are, Sir, to the extent we reproduce it here *verbatim*. Keith informs us:

*'The sad death of the sculptor and teacher Harry Seager is a great loss to all who knew him, he was an original and influential sculptor and teacher and mentor over an active working life of over fifty years; touching many lives.*

*Although he was an artist who used glass as a sculptural material in his glass and steel constructions some time before the studio glass movement was established, he provided an enduring example and benchmark for the generations of students who graduated from the glass courses which proliferated in his wake. His pieces managed to be both monumental and playful at the same time. The sinuous linear steel structures supported and shaped the precisely cut glass sheets into rhythmic forms that belied their enormous weight and the great engineering expertise that went into them.*

*Born in Birmingham in 1931 he was initially drawn to science but settled on art, and attended Birmingham School of Art to study sculpture. After college and two years national service he began producing site specific works for buildings in a variety of materials. He became a lecturer in Stourbridge College of Art in 1961 and became a central part of the staff of the new Fine Art course offering the new Dip AD course in 1967. He started experimenting with sheet glass as a material from the early sixties drawing on the examples set by the Russian constructivists. Initially he used resins to bond sheets together but graduated to complex steel armatures which enabled works to be re-assembled and repaired. He was represented by the Gimpel Fils gallery from sixties to the eighties, which brought his work to an International audience to much acclaim, and he is represented in many public and private collections, including the Victoria and Albert museum.*

*In his later years he used glass more sparingly, working in a wide variety of materials and scales. He never lost his enthusiasm and love of life and people which made him a delightful person to know. He was busy in his studio to the end leaving ambitious pieces unfinished when he was cut down by this cruel virus. He loved his home and family and was married to his wife Marie for 58 years. He leaves her, their daughter Rebecca and two grand-children, Misty and Alice. Their beloved son Rueben pre-deceased hm. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Harry Seager, 1931-2021. R.I.P.'*

## 'Our Fred' - an update



In the last edition we reported on the death of Fred Bridges and his funeral in Somerset at 1.30pm on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Son Richard has kindly informed us that, with thanks to the miracles of modern technology, a video of proceedings will be available online for seven days afterwards. Here you go:

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view> Login / Order ID: 73639 Password: apjyhqmv

### Donations - a clarification

Details of how to make donations are as per our standing *Gifts and Donations* panel (below) that routinely appears in every *GlassCuts*.

As always, we remind our supporters that BGF Trustees are entirely unremunerated and do not draw on funds for anything other than BGF matters, notably the completion of the new museum. However, we would like to clarify that since for administrative reasons the museum still (for now, at least) falls under the auspices of BGF, we would respectfully ask that *all* cheques and orders are made payable to BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION. Thank you.

### And a word from one of our donors

As will be seen in the aforementioned *Gifts and donations* panel we generally keep the identity of our donors and the amount they donate confidential unless there are special reasons for doing so. Here is one such special reason and we are pleased to reproduce this correspondence with kind permission of the 'Mr I.T of Derbyshire' alluded to in this edition.

Ian Turner, for indeed that is he, tells us: *'I have been collecting glass for over 40 years. In recognition of the pleasure and knowledge I gained from my friendship with the staff at Broadfield House Glass Museum, especially Roger (Dodsworth - Ed) and Charles (Hajdamach - Ed), I decided many years ago to leave a bequest in my will to support the museum's work. Well, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then. Like many collectors, I am eagerly awaiting the opening of the WHGmog so that I can again see the collection on display, but in the middle of this wretched pandemic timing is still a bit problematic. So, I've decided to make an additional bequest because I think you can probably use the money now rather than later when I've kicked the bucket. Hopefully this might encourage other glass collectors to do something similar to help secure the new museum's future.'*

Ian, who amongst other achievements is a past Chairman of The Glass Association, wanted to hand over his cheque in person but due to Covid this was not possible; hence the noble alternative of a feature in *GlassCuts* instead. So here it is, together with our sincere thanks and appreciation for his magnificent gesture. Thank you, Sir.

### Safe and sound

We make no apologies for this item being nothing more than an out-and-out 'blagging' for an item we find we require now but which we haven't yet budgeted for and so we are throwing ourselves at our reader's munificence to see if there is someone out there who can help. (*Get on with it - Ed*).

Quite simply, we are in need of somewhere to stash important stuff that we do not want to go astray. In other words, a safe. We will consider anything suitable for purpose; no pre-conditions, but the bigger and stronger the better. It's probably the only time in my life I shall use all of these words in the same sentence, but do you have a safe that is now surplus to requirements and which you would be willing to donate to BGF? We can offer nothing in return other than our grateful thanks and a 'plug' for your business and/or a mention (anonymous if you prefer) in *GlassCuts*.

Should you be able to step up to the plate in our hour of need then Museum Director Ollie Buckley will be delighted to hear from you via the *'Keeping in touch'* contact details, below. Thank you.

I suppose I could finish with *'Our future is a-safe in your hands.'* But I won't.

## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

Our sincere thanks go to Mr I.T of Derbyshire for his recent substantial donation to BGF funds. We are greatly obliged, Sir.

**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. **We would respectfully ask that all cheques and orders be made payable to BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION.**

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.

### Living la vida lockdown, part 14

- \* More *Dispatches From The Attic* and other news from CGS. [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)
- \* *Cumbria Crystal* new monthly newsletter, featuring glass blowing, glass facts and the work of glassblower Steve McDougall. Subscribe [info@cumbriacrystal.com](mailto:info@cumbriacrystal.com)
- \* *Collect* art fair. 28<sup>th</sup> Feb - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. Invitation and online preview. [vip@craftscouncil.org.uk](mailto:vip@craftscouncil.org.uk)

### From the **WHCmog** Hot Studio:

'Hi all' (says Allister). 'We came in to work last weekend for a bit of much needed fun. Armed with a drawing produced by my son we used this as inspiration to create a fire breathing dragon for Chinese New Year.' This will take you to the film: <https://youtu.be/DqvNIHlufWs>



### Just a reminder in these troubled times

If you've got something 'glassy' to say and you want it said to somebody else, consider sending it to us and we'll do our best to help pass the information via *GlassCuts*. Usual address.

### And finally, the BGF hot news for the day ...

*A Gornal (Upper) man charged by Police with stealing a sign marked 'and Emergency' claims he found it by Accident.*

I'll get my coat.

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

### Keeping in touch with *White House Cone museum of glass*

#### **Museum Director Ollie Buckley**

Direct Line: 01384 431760: Mobile: 07483 157242  
Email: [museumdirector@whcmog.org.uk](mailto:museumdirector@whcmog.org.uk)

#### **BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE**

Direct Line: 01384 431761: Mobile: 07747 563623  
Email: [bqf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bqf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk) or [info@whcmog.org.uk](mailto:info@whcmog.org.uk)

#### **Both by snail-mail at:**

*White House Cone Museum of Glass*, High Street, Wordsley, West Midlands, DY8 4FB



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 : 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/)

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<https://twitter.com/whitehousecone>

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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](mailto:bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk)



[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

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