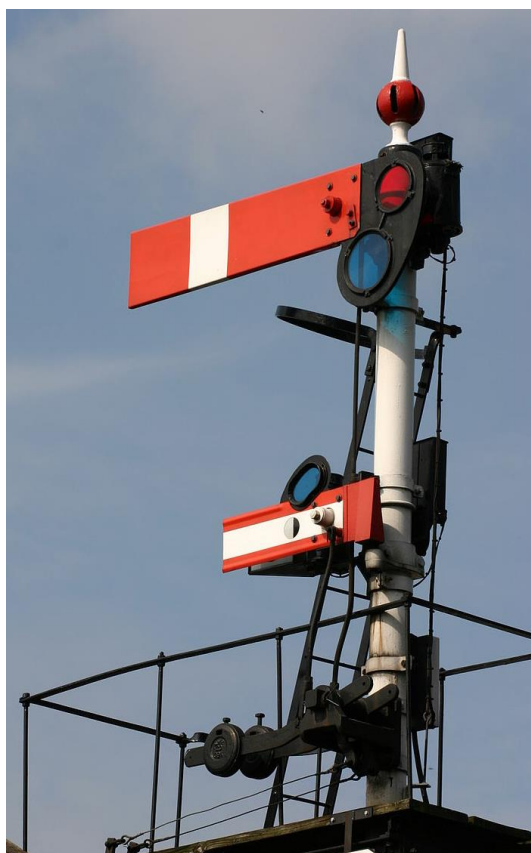


A 'you did it again' edition

You did it again (1)



In the last edition we set a query posed by Colin Maitland regarding some unusual items of glass that had come into his possession and threw down the gauntlet as to how we could help him identify his find. And oh, wow! Have you come up trumps.

First on the *oche* was fellow BGF Trustee James Measell who contacted us from 'across the pond':

'I suspect that Colin Maitland's glass items are indeed standard colors (sic) for use in architecture, such as borders for stained glass windows and panels in homes, buildings, or churches. There are companies in the USA which make this sort of thing in various colors and call it 'sheet glass.'

I have seen standard red/green glass colors for railroad use here in the USA, but the items were globes for lanterns or discs for signals. I have also seen standard red/green glass colors as discs for automobile traffic light signals, but these dated from the 1920s.'

Then we received this amazing contribution from Stephen Pollock-Hill of Nazeing Glass Works Ltd., <http://www.nazeing-glass.com/>

'As suppliers to British Railways and Network Rail for over half a century, we do believe these are standard railway signal colour arm semaphore filters. The regulations were changed by BR in 1924 and new standards set up for faster trains and more complicated signals. Our records only go back to the 1924 BR bible, so we cannot prove this definitively. It may interest you to know that we requested a revision of the 1924 rules in the early 1980's. The signal beam had to be seen over the distance of 1 ½ miles yet there is no single length of track that long. When we queried the necessity, we were told the hope was to export our British signals to the USA, but they had developed their own system and track gauge, so we managed to get the signal visible length reduced to ¾ of a mile, the longest piece of straight track in the UK! As proof may I show this illustration of a semaphore arm with the red and blue glass filters clearly shown. This is flashed glass, which we still supply to some very old steam engine signals on demand!'

And finally in this round up, our old friend and glassman Ian Dury chipped in with ...

'It's railway Glass. I remembered at the time of doing my research on this subject I visited an event at Arley Station one weekend. On that day there were volunteers renovating old carriage lamps, so I declared my interest. They informed me that all records regarding purchases of lamps were kept at Crewe, also they held a stock of original glassware. If your enquirer looks on ebay there is always a constant stream of railway lamps on display and he may see a similar item.'

We have forwarded the information to Mr Maitland but have reproduced some of the best responses here just so we can rub our hands with glee in the knowledge that, no matter how obscure or arcane, our wonderful readership will always come up with the goods. Thank you all for a job well done.



You did it again (2)

In slightly more surreal vein the last edition also carried an appeal for a safe in which to keep some of our prized possessions. We are still sifting through the responses but one reply in particular caused us some amusement that we are happy to share.

'Hello Graham. Thank you for your recent newsletter, which put me in mind of a couple of stories I thought you would enjoy.'

The first was sparked by your interest in acquiring a safe. I used to be a regular and frequent visitor to one of our glassworks to chat with the technical director. In the main reception area was a large old fashioned very heavy safe of the sort made in West Brom. It was designed to be built into a wall, so the front was an impressive casting of strong and fierce looking lions' heads, but the back and sides were thin sheet metal. This one had been set free standing, and it was only used for keeping the tea & coffee and what looked like a tin mug. This was in fact the works Platinum crucible, hidden in plain sight. They were broken into by some bad actors, who dragged the safe out so they could prize off the rear sheet metal. To their obvious disappointment all they found was tea, coffee and this damned tin mug which they hurled onto the floor where it crumpled up showing it was no good anyway, so they left empty handed. That crucible was worth a few thousand quid.

The second story comes from Edinburgh College of Art which I have visited many times. On one occasion the main exhibition area was given over to a degree show, with all sorts of creative, wonderful and weird stuff on show. I had to walk through this space on my way to the glass department where I was working for about a week. I had passed a small red box attached to the wall at eye level several times before I paused to look at the neat white lettering painted on the front. This read "Keys to alternate reality for use in emergency only". So I looked around to see if anybody was looking and opened the box. There was a handwritten note blue tacked to the inside which said "Sorry, alternate reality closed". All the best, Peter Howard.'

Much obliged, Peter. And yes, we are still looking for a safe.

For he's a jolly good ...



We are pleased to report that Your Editor has been cracking open the 'bubbly' in celebration following his appointment as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). The ensuing press release explains all:

Award-winning writer and broadcaster Graham Fisher MBE, formerly living in the Black Country area of the West Midlands but now based on the Welsh border near Hay-on-Wye since 2013, has received the accolade in recognition of his work with the RGS (with IBG) on the Midlands inland waterways network and the Stourbridge Glass industry together with his wider involvement in social, environmental and educational matters over many years in both the professional and voluntary sectors.

Graham says: 'I am immensely proud to have been elected to such a distinguished group. Many Fellows are household names and all of them are eminent in their chosen fields so my admission to their ranks is a great honour'.

Graham Knowles added "The Trustees send their sincerest congratulations to Graham on this outstanding achievement of which he is rightly immensely proud. Well done Graham"

See also <https://grahamfisher.co.uk/bits>

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. **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 15

- * More *Dispatches From The Attic* and other news from CGS. www.cgs.org.uk
- * *Alan J. Poole newsletter*. alanjpoole@aol.com
- * *Blown away*, the second season of the international glassblowing competition launched on Netflix. Ten take part including Britain's Elliot Walker. <https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/80215147>
- * *Cambridge International Art Contest & Exhibition 2021*. In light of covid restrictions possibly being eased the contest deadline has been extended to 1st July with the intention of having an exhibition 16th - 22nd August. <https://www.camartcontest.com>
- * *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London*. '@Home' with Glass Sellers. Delightful tales of some familiar names. <https://www.glass-sellers.co.uk>

From the **WHCmog** Hot Studio:

'I can't believe it - another award! We were invited to apply last year. I had hoped that I would be able to share pictures from the award ceremony but sadly this hasn't been able to go ahead yet. Despite this, we are obviously ecstatic to be awarded this! The studio doors have been closed to the public over the last year but it has been so eventful behind the scenes. If you are interested you can follow us on most social media platforms as we share our story on a weekly basis'. (Editor's note: Carlsberg don't make glass studios, but if they did ...)



Allister Malcolm
Glass Limited

2020/21 WINNER

Contemporary
Artist of the Year

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 ...

'My neighbour has started studying fossils and now claims to be so good that when he watches Jurassic Park he can tell whether the dinosaurs are real or digital.'

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*)

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

BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE

Direct Line: 01384 431761: Mobile: 07747 563623
Email: bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk or 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



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in Your Future
European Regional
Development Fund 2007-13



... also Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers, Enover Community Trust, Istock Enover 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/

Follow us on *Facebook* and *Twitter*



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



<https://twitter.com/whitehousecone>

- *fin* -

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 bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1139252 / Registered Company No 7344291