

## A 'welcome aboard' edition

### Onwards and upwards

Regular readers will recall that we have recently mentioned, and sought applicants for, several posts in our support team. Well, that team continues to grow in strength and following (covid compliant) interviews we are delighted to announce the successful candidates and are happy to let them introduce themselves to the *Wonderful World of Glass*<sup>®GF</sup>

In no particular order they are:



**Learning and Public Programmes Officer (funded by NLHF)**  
**Anna Muggeridge:**

*'I have a longstanding interest in Black Country history and am delighted to be joining the team. I am particularly excited to share the museum's unique collection and celebrate the heritage of the local area with all sections of the community. Prior to this I have worked as Engagement Officer at Tudor House Museum in Worcester and have delivered talks at several other local heritage sites and museums, including the Black Country Living Museum and National Memorial Arboretum.'*

**Volunteer Coordinator (funded by NLHF)**  
**Donna Owen:**

*'I have gained vast experience of working with volunteers in museums and the heritage sector by managing over 300 volunteers at each of the National Trust properties, both in city centre and rural locations. My last position was House Steward/Volunteer Manager at The National Trust's Croft Castle in Hereford. I was responsible for day-to-day operations as Duty Manager and I took care of conservation issues. Prior to that I was Senior Visitor Experience Officer/Volunteering & Conservation at the Back To Backs in Birmingham. I enjoy managing the volunteer journey from planning and recruitment to unlocking their potential. I career-changed, using volunteering to gain experience, and have never looked back. That is why I am so passionate about it. Volunteering is the heart of what we do.'*



**Curator and Projects Officer (funded by John Ellerman Foundation)**  
**Steven Hearn:**

*'I completed a BA in Medieval and Modern History, followed by an MA in Heritage Management at the University of Birmingham before entering the sector in 2014. I have performed a wide range of curatorial and engagement roles since, working for the Birmingham Conservation Trust, Birmingham Assay Office and, most recently, the Black Country Living Museum where I acted as both a Curator and Visitor Engagement Manager.'*

*I possess a wealth of experience managing and caring for accredited museum collections, including collections encompassing glass items, and I have proven adept at developing exhibitions and interpretation to effectively inform and engage diverse audiences’.*

Our **Museum Director Ollie Buckley** tells *GlassCuts*: ‘Following a positive week of interviews, I’m delighted with the new team of museum staff, who are brimming with ideas and enthusiasm, and will assist in taking us towards opening in spring 2022’.

And **BGF Chairman Graham Knowles** adds: ‘This is great news and our three new colleagues will be pivotal in helping us shape the future of the new glass museum’.

BGF welcomes them all to their new roles, which will commence with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### **Sign of the times - an update and great news**

In the last edition we told the tale of a wonderful and iconic sign that was saved from being dumped in a skip and lost forever by the fortunate intervention of our resident glassblower. At the time our Museum Director Ollie Buckley told us: ‘We are going to conserve the old Stuart Crystal enamelled sign so it can be mounted in the entrance area of the museum as a nod to the building’s former incarnation. We will employ a metalwork conservator to clean it up but keep the weathered patina as a sign of its age and heritage. People love and collect old, enamelled signs and at almost 5 metres long this is a whopper!’



Well, things have indeed moved on apace in the interim and we are absolutely thrilled to announce that the Trustees of The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London Charity Fund have since agreed to finance the cost of refurbishment, thereby not only helping preserve the sign for posterity but also providing a fitting feature for visitors to this iconic site.

Thank you, thank you and thrice times thank you.

### **The power of *GlassCuts* - again**

We set a teaser in issue 176 posed by Mr Page regarding the Old Glass Mill in Bromley and how it came to be sited on a road with a Welsh name yet many miles from the Welsh border. We thought it was a real stinker to shed any light on but, true to the breadth of knowledge amongst our readership, within hours we received this:

*Dear Editor: I was most interested in the query posed by your reader Mr. Page of Bromley, as to the origin of the name ‘Gwydr Road’, being the name of the road leading to the Old Glass Mill there. I live a couple of hundred yards from a road in Swansea named ‘Gwydr Crescent’, though that has nothing to do with any glass-works - local historians think it is probably a play on the name of a family that once owned a farm nearby - the Glass family.*

*I’ve had a quick look on Google Maps, and see that the houses on Gwydr Road seem to be of the same age as those in Swansea’s Gwydr Crescent - namely late Victorian. This doesn’t add much to the answer, though. Was the builder of the Bromley houses a Welshman? Plenty of people came from Wales to live and work in London - at one time a good number of the dairies in London had connections with South Wales.*

*The word gwydr is, according to the on-line dictionary of the Welsh language (geiriadur.ac.uk), a borrowing from the Latin vitrum - which went into French as verre. The Welsh word glas is even more interesting - it can mean blue or green, just the sort of colour you see if you hold a pane of glass edge-on. Did the Anglo-Saxons borrow their word from the Celts? After all, the word turns up in German, and there was a major glass-making industry in the Rhine valley in Roman times. Yours: Clive Manison.*

Much obliged, Clive; a copy of your response has been forwarded to our enquirer and the thread has generated other responses which we are happy for our correspondents to pursue between themselves. However, it has also served to further boost our confidence here in the shimmering opulence that is *GlassCuts Towers*; once again it seems that no matter how unusual or arcane the query there is someone out there amongst our wonderful readership who can help shed light on it. Which in turn all helps instigate lines of discussion about glass. And that, surely, is what it's all about.

### **So, let's give it another go**

This utterly delightful piece is 10 inches from head to toe and 5 inches across the top. Other than that, we haven't got a clue. Neither has the owner, who can only tell us that it is believed to have been a wedding present for her grandmother, who lived in the Stourbridge area, in 1926. Over to you, Dear Reader. Usual address please.



## What these, where they and what for? A riddle solved

The 'where they' bit is in storage at our new museum. We asked our Museum Director Ollie Buckley to explain 'what these' and he tells us: 'We've just taken a Freecycle delivery of forty packing boxes complete with bubble wrap and acid free tissue from a certain museum in London (which for now we will keep anonymous - Ed). They are very big and strong at 64L, and as you can see they also stack up.

So, Ollie, for the final part of the conundrum please now reveal the 'what for' bit. 'They will be used to transport precious glass items in store at Himley Hall to the new museum in Stourbridge over the coming months. They certainly live up to their brand name - 'Really Useful Boxes'. Many thanks to Sarah Hall, Dudley MBC's Collection Officer, for the tip-off and Lynn Boleyn for organising the courier!' Ollie Buckley.



## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

Our sincere thanks to The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London for their magnificent contribution to the refurbishment of our iconic sign (see feature above and also *Living la vida lockdown* below).

**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. **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 17

\* More *Dispatches From The Attic* and other news from CGS. [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)

\* *Alan J. Poole newsletter* latest edition. [alanjpoole@aol.com](mailto:alanjpoole@aol.com)

\* *Cumbria Crystal*. The art of commissioning and Palm Collection. [info@cumbriacrystal.com](mailto:info@cumbriacrystal.com)

\* *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London; news around the world of glass*. Regular recent updates include reference to, amongst others, BGF (*for which many thanks - Ed*), forthcoming Zoom presentations and more. [info@glass-sellers.co.uk](mailto:info@glass-sellers.co.uk)

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

In response to our request for the latest news from our resident glassmaker, Allister tells us: *'Well I can't quite believe it - Terri (Allister's wife, herself a talented glass artist who works alongside him - Ed) has now helped the studio scoop yet another award. We are, as you can imagine, ecstatic!'*

*'Be More Social (<https://bemoresocial.co.uk> - Ed) recently witnessed our efforts to maintain communications through this challenging year. It is with great pleasure that we accepted this award. Terri has been putting in a great deal of work behind the scenes sharing our story across different social media platforms. We will be continuing to post our latest news, offers and action from the studio so please do follow us if you don't already.'*



#### 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 thought for the day ...

*I don't know what all this fuss in the business world is about over that jammed cargo ship. According to the labels most of the stuff I get is from the Amazon, not the Suez.*

I'll be on my way now.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS  
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 : The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London : The Pilgrim Trust

... 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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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)



**British Glass Foundation**

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

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