

A 'light at the end of the tunnel' edition

A new museum and a clarification

Hallo, dear friends and supporters. What with this lockdown stuff and whatever, it's all getting a bit confusing and we are, quite understandably, receiving requests for updates as to what is actually going on. So here it is, straight from the osse's gob, as they say in Gornal. Or is it Tipton? Anyway, let's keep it simple so that even an idiot like me can get the gist ...

The new [White House Cone museum of glass](#) is situated in the old Stuart factory in Wordsley. It has been built under the auspices of the British Glass Foundation (that's us) together with major partners including Dudley MBC and Complex Development Projects Ltd (the owners of the site) and has been supported by a community whose generosity and passion for our heritage evidently knows no bounds (that's you, and we love you for it).



Our sponsors, donors and backers now form a list too lengthy to drop in here but they are all on our website or listed on *GlassCuts* and we thank every one of them. Nearer the official opening we will be [consolidating our branding](#) as a world class facility that will put Stourbridge squarely on the global glass-map and identifying our direction of trajectory. That all sounds like so much geek-speak but it has to be done and we will announce details in due course.

We are a mighty fine *gallery* - with our own resident glass blower - and have already staged some notable shows and exhibitions (see *GlassCuts passim*) and will display the finest examples of the glass collection which is currently in safe storage at Dudley MBC's stores. Due to Covid restrictions we are working on all of this; it's part of the process and we'll get there soon.

This all takes time and so, with all that is going on at the moment, our efforts to open three years ago will be delayed until Spring 2022. Not our fault, sorry. But hey, what does it matter? Whenever it is, we *will* open. We just have to paddle a bit in the water first. Just be assured that you will be the first to know when we can rest our legs. And if you want to know more, then do come to us and *please, please, please* ignore anything that anyone other than the BGF tells you.

OK, what else? Well, directly opposite, 20 yards across the road as the crow flies, is the Red House Glass Cone. This is a historic visitor facility that is run by Dudley MBC. The BGF supports RHC fully and works closely with our chums over there but otherwise has no association with its operations. If you wish to know more then please contact them, not us. Their website, Facebook etc. are entirely separate from ours but there is evidently some confusion and you may notice things on there that have nothing to do with us. It's nice to hear about our fresh cakes in our canteen, but here at [WHCmog](#) we don't even have a canteen and we felt you may appreciate knowing where you can get nice cakes. It's not us, but we do have a brilliant 'chippie' right outside our front door. As we say, please check with us first for the facts about what is going on at this brilliant new facility.

Cheers. And thanks, as always, for your support, We're getting there. With you alongside, we'll do it.

The mystery item

In the last edition we featured a correspondent who sought information on a charming but otherwise anonymous glass vase. Once again we received several responses and our thanks to all of you who replied, not least our BGF Patron David Williams-Thomas. David is the former Managing Director of Stevens and Williams, which became Royal Brierley Crystal, and kindly provided our reader with several strands of information for further research. Yep, you did it again. Nice one.



More on that sign

Also in the last edition we featured the wonderful gesture by the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London Charity Fund in sponsoring the restoration of our gorgeous Stuart Crystal sign. We have since heard again from Leigh Baildham and are delighted to reproduce his comments *verbatim*:

'We are very happy for you to include the update on the refurbishment of the Stuart sign - and also mention the generosity of our Immediate Past Master Richard Katz who has funded the charity for the work. The Glass Sellers have a very strong relationship with the Stuart family and my Clerk Paul Wenham has provided further information about Bill Stuart and the Company. It would be good to show the association!' (happy to do so - Ed)

William (Bill) Edward Cook Stuart OBE, joined the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers on 14th June 1967 when he became a Freeman of the Company. He was clothed in Livery and therefore became a Liveryman 13th December 1967.

He became a Member of the Court in December 1974 and went on to become Master in December 1976 till December 1977. At his Installation he was joined by a New Honorary Clerk, Philip John Willoughby JP, FCA. In December 1999 Bill was honoured with the title of Honorary Liveryman. - and stayed with the Company till his death.

His son, Christopher William Cook Stuart joined the Company in May 1977 and his nephew John David Padmore Stuart also joined at the same time sadly they resigned in 1982/83 respectively. Best wishes, Leigh.'

Glass in focus - an occasional feature

Apropos absolutely nothing other than a delight to behold, these are not for sale and we feature them here simply as yet another example of glass craftsmanship that dominated the world. BGF supporter - and former Mayor of Dudley MBC, no less - Dave Tyler takes up the tale ...

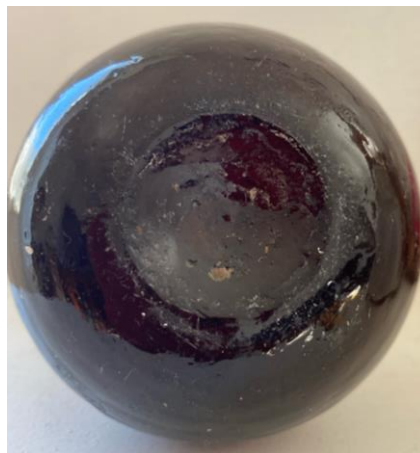


'My great Aunt Peggy Lavender, youngest daughter of the Breese family of glassblowers and workers from Collis Street, Amblecote gave me these 2 beautiful pieces. The table lamp is 45cm tall and is marked Webb England. The perfume bottle is 15cm tall and no marks seen. The whole family worked at the Dennis glassworks. Great Aunt Gertie was a marker and memorised every pattern. Great uncle Victor Breese also worked there and rumours are that he and Ernie (?) made a bit of pocket money by making paperweights after work. My great grandfather William Breese 1866 - 1921 has featured in GlassCuts where you published his apprentice papers, signed by Henry G Richardson.' (yes we did, some time ago now. Back issues on the website - Ed). *Although these pieces are probably of no great value they are part of our family history.'*



Another teaser

This, from reader Shameem Ramzan. *'I wonder if you could give me some information on a glass bottle I have. It's 13cm tall and quite thick glass'.*



And yet another

From reader Gillian Thompson: *'I was mudlarking and found some old glass but can't find much about it. The one that has me confused the most is a small jar that says MILLIBIS 52, the letters have worn down a bit so that could possibly be wrong. Can you help?'*



Go to it, friends. Usual address.

Up for grabs

If you happen to have a few bob lying around unattended at the moment and are a fan of the cameo work of the legendary George Woodall, once domiciled just up the road from us at Luton House in Kingswinford, then you may want to click on this link for news of an auction on 23rd April 2021. <https://www.brunkauctions.com/lot/george-woodall-for-thomas-webb-cameo-plaque-4064480>



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.

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 18 (*we look forward to when this section will soon be redundant - Ed*)

- * More *Dispatches From The Attic* and other news from CGS. www.cgs.org.uk
- * *Alan J. Poole newsletter* latest edition. alanipoole@aol.com
- * *Glass & Ceramics Art Fair, Leerdam*. Rescheduled for November 2021. Applications before September 2021 via <http://www.glasenkeramiekbeurs.nl/>
- * *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London*. Regular updates, forthcoming Zoom presentations and more. info@glass-sellers.co.uk
- * *Cumbria Crystal newsletter*. Now a regular feature of their PR output, the latest one commences with a series on the history of glass. info@cumbriacrystal.com

From the Hot Studio:

How it's done - a brief guide. Hilariously informative. Click here for one minute of pure light relief. <https://www.dropbox.com/s/xmqw96s212lh3e/Terri's%20April%20Fool,%20What%20does%20it%20take%20to%20be%20the%20perfect%20glassblower.mp4?dl=0>

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 ...

To all prospective undergraduate ballet dress makers - if you struggling how to do it, don't worry. It's as easy as putting two and two together. And you get a ... (altogether now) ...

I'll be on my way.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS
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: bqf@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



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... also Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers, Enovert Community Trust, Ibstock 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/

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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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

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