

A 'counting down to April 2022 (v3)' edition

Progress update

On 23rd November BGF held one of its regular meetings - 'routine' is hardly the word to use; BGF meetings are rarely that - in which the curve of the path to completion we are now was reviewed by means of reportage from each member of the team. It is an impressive collation that is far too long to be recounted here but which can be summarised as 'set fair', with everything from internal fit-out and displays to volunteer recruitment and social engagement all on schedule.

We will be outlining further aspects more specifically in due course and remain confident that our planning and stated opening date remain robust. In the meantime if you would like to know more then contact us here at GC and we'll gladly fill in the gaps. And, as always, thank you all for your continuing support.

In the spotlight



The Colour Room premiered at recently and is due to be widely available on the big screen before the end of the year. Our warmest congratulations go to the star of the show, our very own Will Farmer of Fieldings Auctioneers (Stourbridge) and, of course, BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*. Will is afforded free rein to propound the talents of his heroine Clarice Clift in a story of lifelong enthusiasm for her work that goes back to his childhood when *'the most 'bizarre cup and saucer I had ever seen ... were an instant draw that took all of my hard saved £15 spending money'*. Will goes on to describe how *'hers was a true rags to riches success story founded on hard work, determination and an unwavering clear vision'*.

Learn more of Will Farmer's passion for Clarice and her output by catching the film or clicking here: <https://fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk/news/225/the-colour-room-tonight-s-the-night>

Oh, and by the way, *Antiques Roadshow* featuring Will and colleagues is back on the box soon.



Doing the rounds

Our increasingly busy *ad hoc* 'pop up' team of Louise Deakin and Donna Owen were at it again on Saturday 20th November when they put in an appearance at Kingswinford Library. Louise tells us: *'We were doing craft activity for kids and volunteer recruitment. There's a lovely community feel to the area, with lots of people who clearly use the library on a regular basis. We engaged a total of 46 people, 21 of which were children who took part in the craft activity'*.



Louise and Donna plan to be at other events around the area over the festive period and will look forward to welcoming more enthusiasts of all ages. The New Year onwards will see them visiting other libraries and we are told that an appearance at Merry Hill is also on the cards. We'll keep you posted.

It's all old hat

James Measell, our BGF Trustee resident in the States but a regular and welcome visitor to our shores (covid permitting) has sent us some wonderfully quirky research notes on - get this - paper hats. Also known as The Carpenter's, Printer's or Pressman's Hat their popularity (if that is the right word) nevertheless extended into the early 20th Century.



In an online article Kathryn Kane suggests: *'There is some evidence that paper hats were first worn in the last few years of the eighteenth century, quite probably by men working in the carpentry trades, almost certainly in London. By the turn of the nineteenth century, they had become common headwear for men in a number of trades which involved a high level of manual labor (sic), and their use was expanding across the country. By the Regency, these paper hats were worn by men working not only in the carpentry and woodworking trades, but also by paper-stainers, chandlers, braziers, glass blowers, house painters, printers and paper-makers, among others.'*

Do please note the reference to 'glass blowers' and drop us a line if you can possibly reconcile any modern Health & Safety practise that would condone the wearing of a highly combustible piece of extraneous headgear at a furnace, albeit not next to an 'open flame'. Mind-boggling. And, indeed, what was the perceived point of doing so in the first place?

Then I recall my house being decorated not so long ago by a painter wearing a paper hat and the chef in my local restaurant still similarly attired in a topper-affair, so evidently the practise isn't entirely moribund.

For more on this charming idiosyncrasy of origami, James has kindly provided us with a couple of links, including the aforementioned Kathryn Kane. But delve deeper into the 'links within links' to uncover a veritable treasure-trove of what now seems like an apogee of eccentricity yet which, for some reason perhaps lost in the midst of time, was once *de rigeur*.

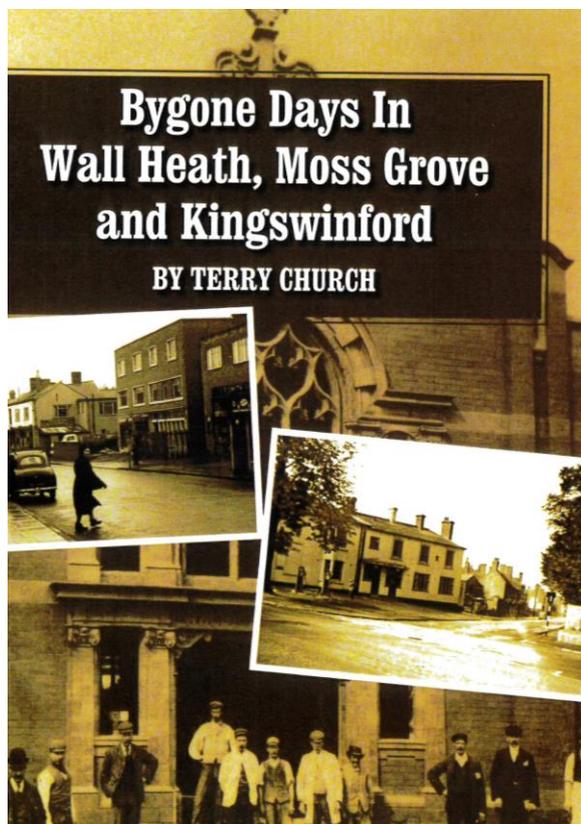
<http://www.origamiheaven.com/historyoftheworkmanshat.htm>

<https://regencyredingote.wordpress.com/2013/08/23/the-rise-of-the-paper-hats/>

I am sure James will not be too embarrassed in my mentioning that he is an glass-centric academic who holds not one but two PhDs. When he send us stuff like this it's not hard to see how he got them. Fascinating stuff, for which many thanks.

On the map

Local author and historian Terry Church has released his latest book *Bygone Days in Wall Heath* that includes features on BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn and her work with Kewford Eagles Football Club plus the life and times of recently-retired local Councillor and former Mayor (and great friend of the BGF) Dave Tyler. Our congratulations to both Lynn and Dave in achieving the recognition they deserve for their sterling work in the community. And good luck to Terry with his book, copies of which are available now through the usual outlets.



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**

To donate from anywhere in the world through *Paypal* visit <https://www.paypal.com/uk/for-you/transfer-money/send-money> and donate to bqf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

To donate through our website visit www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk and hit the 'Donate' button.

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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.

Notes and queries

Whilst we are happy to facilitate this *ad hoc* information exchange on unusual items of interest BGF cannot undertake valuations or offer comment other than that supplied by our correspondents. Submission does not guarantee publication. No responsibility ... etc (*usual caveats apply*)

Living la vida lockdown, part 30

- * More *Dispatches From The Attic* and loads of other news from CGS. www.cgs.org.uk
- * *Alan J. Poole newsletter* latest edition. alanjpoole@aol.com
- * *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London*. Regular updates, forthcoming Zoom presentations and more. info@glass-sellers.co.uk
- * *Gillies Jones newsletter*. Gift cards and new product launch. studio@gilliesjonesglass.co.uk
- * *ArtLight magazine*. November 2021. Glass and Light feature. info@artlight-magazine.com

From the Hot Studio:

Still hard at it down there.

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, a reader asks ...

'Dear Editor; does anyone know how to stop condensation in my kitchen? Please call; the kettle is always on'.

I'll start the car.

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 the new glass museum?

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 click 'Local Events Guide'. Submit the form you'll find at upper left under '+ Add Event'. 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.

Keeping in touch

Museum Director Ollie Buckley

Direct Line: 01384 900447

Email: info@stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk

BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE

Direct Line: 01384 900447

Email: bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Both by snail-mail at:

Stourbridge Glass Museum, Stuart Works, 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.



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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/

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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



www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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