

Days to SGM opening on 9th April ...

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Things are moving fast as the Big Day approaches but here's the very latest news up to the point this hits your inbox ...

So you want to know the full story?

In April of this year the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{®GF} will witness one of its most significant events in decades when the all-new Stourbridge Glass Museum opens its doors to the public. From here onwards the museum will begin to establish its reputation and lay down the foundations of its provenance for future generations.

But how did we get here and what was involved? Just how exactly did aspiration turn to reality? When it comes to writing their tales our historians yet to be born will one day wish to know the full story right from the very beginning.

And so BGF is proud to present ...

THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION *its formation and development 2009 – 2022* AND THE OPENING OF STOURBRIDGE GLASS MUSEUM

Compiled jointly by the Editorial Team of Yours Truly and Lynn Boleyn MBE this comprehensive article is a warts-and-all account of events leading to the formation of the British Glass Foundation and its subsequent journey right up to 'The Big Day'. The challenges, the disappointments, the successes; it's all here.

The British Glass Foundation [its formation and development 2009 – 2022] and the opening of Stourbridge Glass Museum is now available online and can be downloaded as a hard copy free of charge (*beware before download; it is 40 pages long - Ed*) from <https://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/> or www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk or the 'resources' section at www.grahamfisher.co.uk

Walking down the (shopping) aisle

Next time you are mooching around Waitrose on your weekly shop (*other supermarkets are available – Ed*) then take a look at their freebie magazine you find probably somewhere near the tills. Freelance Picture Editor Venetia Clarke informed us recently that: '*Stourbridge Glass Museum's opening is included in a feature about celebrating glass as the United Nations has declared 2022 the Year of Glass. This will appear in Waitrose Weekend, Issue 584 free in stores from 13th January*'.

And indeed there it is, because we have a copy right here in *GlassCuts Towers*. Our thanks to Waitrose for their support, not only of BGF but for the wider world of glass in what is building up to a momentous year.

Doing us proud

Bev Holder and chums at Stourbridge News (*unlike supermarkets, there's definitely only one Stourbridge News - Ed*) have once more pulled out the stops with their latest review of progress on-site. See for yourself at: <https://www.stourbridgenews.co.uk/news/19859406.fit-out-new-stourbridge-glass-museum-underway/>

Meanwhile, back at the ranch

BGF Secretary Lynn has a keen eye and is a quick-draw with the camera so she is taking regular shots as fit-out progresses.

The sharper-eyed will notice that the iconic blue-enamel Stuart Crystal sign has been affixed in a prominent spot. Details of the sign's restoration first appeared in *GC176* (17.3.21) *et sub* and it has now been returned to its spiritual home looking mighty fine. Someone who shall remain nameless suggested it will make a fantastic 'selfie' shot from the first floor. Hmm ... I suppose that's one way of spreading the word. But it does look great. Keep up with Lynn's updates and see for yourself at: <https://www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk/news/>
<https://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/internal-fit-out-begins/>



And thanks, as always, to Editor Gail at *Village Voice* magazine for her SGM update in the January 2022 edition.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

Our appreciation to Mr J.H for his substantial donation to BGF funds. Thanks you, 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.

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 bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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

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.

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*)

We are examining ways of continuing this facility post-opening as a service to our readers.

Living la vida lockdown, part 33

- * More *Dispatches From The Attic* and loads of other news from CGS including a special anniversary. See also leading feature '*Congratulations and thanks*' above. 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
- * *Cumbria Crystal newsletter*. History of Glass Vol 9 + other news. info@cumbriacrystal.com
- * *Glass Art Centre newsletter*. Glass workshops in Turkey. communications@glassart.org

Along with everyone else and their dog, we are relieved to learn that it looks like lockdown and other covid requirements as we have known them may be reaching some sort of resolution. And so, in a flourishing of optimism, this *Living la vida lockdown* (which, amazingly, first started in *GC161* way back on 28th May 2020) will be the last. But we love to hear from you so do please keep sending us your missives and periodicals for possible inclusion in a revitalised *Parish Notices*. Thanks for your support throughout what has been a tricky period for all of us – Ed.

From the Hot Studio:

www.allisternalcolm.com **Facebook** @allisternalcolmglass **Twitter** @allisternalcolm **Instagram** @allisternalcolmglassltd

A few days before the deadline for *GlassCuts* we always check with our resident glassblower to see what he's up to this time around. Allister is, we are delighted to report, up to his neck and in the thick of it right now but he very kindly took time out to bring us up to speed in his ever-changing world ...

'Things are happening at pace in the museum and I'm posting when I can on social media to keep people up to date with progress regarding the fit out. I also continue to film short reports of progress from within the studio too. Here are two of the latest clips. The work has also been shot by Simon Bruntnell (<https://www.simonbruntnellphotography.co.uk> - Ed) and he's done another fabulous job.



We are currently working on a biennale entry which I'm really excited to reveal - but for now I'm going to keep this a secret - if that's possible. Watch this space. As all glass artists know there are no guarantees that your work will meet the approval of the judges so for now I carry on with fingers crossed!

I have also recorded a couple of short updates clips on Tik Tok; these are available to view in the usual manner via your social media protocols.

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 ...

*'I missed the world hairdressing championships on T.V last night.
Can anyone tell me if they are showing highlights?'*

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: bqf@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.



THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



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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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No responsibility etc. etc ... (usual caveats apply)

We 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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