

GlassCuts

The Journal of the British Glass Foundation;
the Voice of Stourbridge Glass Museum

STOURBRIDGE
GLASS MUSEUM



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Dated: 8.3.22

Days to SGM opening on 9th April ...

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One o' we



We aim to put Stourbridge Glass Museum up there with the world-beaters and our wide-ranging PR & Marketing strategies reflect this. But we have consistently maintained our belief that a crucial cornerstone in our success is - and always will be - keeping our local supporters fully informed and to this end we have developed strong affiliations with local media outlets. Key amongst these is the *Stourbridge News* and in particular Chief Reporter Bev Holder. Her impartial, objective yet consistently enthusiastic reportage has tracked our progress from the start, a trait that extends across her journalistic repertoire.

So, we are very pleased indeed to learn that 'our Bev' has received a hugely prestigious award, *Journalist Of The Year* no less, for her coverage of a young Dudley man Sam Astley who turned down tickets for the Euro 2020 finals to make a stem cell donation to a patient awaiting a transplant (and who was himself honoured with *Donor Champion of the Year*) and whose tale, through Bev's help, made national headlines.

Read full story by clicking here: <https://www.stourbridgenews.co.uk/news/19933511..selfless-england-fan-sam-astley-wins-national-charity-award/>

On behalf of BGF we offer Bev our sincerest congratulations. *Bravo*, that lady.

And again

Our thanks once more to Editor Gail Smith at *Village Voice* magazine for the superb double-page spread on our opening in issue 186 March 2022 edition, out now. Brilliant. Thanks, Gail.

STOURBRIDGE GLASS MUSEUM
Opening 9th April 2022

A world class museum housed in a redeveloped iconic building in Wordsley that was once home to the legendary Stuart Crystal.

Heritage
See some of the finest glass Stourbridge ever produced with over 500 items from the internationally renowned Stourbridge Glass collection on display.

Events
Contemporary glass exhibition galleries with a variety of special exhibits throughout the year.

Glassmaking
Watch glassmaking demonstrations by resident glass artist Allister Malcom at work in the hot glass studio.

Interactivity
Get involved in creating or decorating your own piece of glass in family friendly hands-on activities.

Join us now
Become a volunteer - contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator on downen@stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk

Stourbridge Glass Museum, High Street, Wordsley, West Midlands, D39 4FD
www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk

THE 'PEOPLE'S MUSEUM' IS HERE!
STOURBRIDGE GLASS MUSEUM
a vibrant brand new facility in the heart of the world renowned Stourbridge Glass quarter

Opens to the public 9th April 2022 from 10:00am onwards

- ▶ Home to one of the finest collections of British and international glass from the past four centuries of glassmaking, with a focus on cameo glass for which Stourbridge became noted.
- ▶ Exhibitions and displays by some of the best contemporary practitioners; the first three by Vanessa Cutler, Contemporary Glass Society (which will feature work from Elliot Walker and Ayako Tani amongst others) and Georgina Redpath.
- ▶ Work by the Contemporary Glass Society who are celebrating their 25th anniversary throughout 2022.

For opening times and admission charges visit our website at www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk

a temporary exhibition in the upstairs gallery

Principal sponsors and supporters

Ars gratia artis

Art Fund www.artfund.org was founded in 1903 and is an independent membership-based British charity, which raises funds to aid the acquisition of artworks for the nation. It gives grants and acts as a channel for many gifts and bequests, as well as lobbying on behalf of museums and galleries and their users.

Art Quarterly www.artfund.org/whats-on/art-quarterly is the magazine of Art Fund and is described as: 'one of the highly valued, exclusive benefits of becoming an Art Fund member. It provides readers with insightful, accessible content and comment on art and artists, and current and upcoming exhibitions in UK museums, galleries and historic house, highlighting the discounted entry and other benefits available to Art Fund members with their National Art Pass as well as the wider work of Art Fund's charitable programme'.

Prestigious stuff indeed, so we were delighted to be invited to supply a feature article on Stourbridge Glass and the opening of the new museum. We are even more delighted to report that the ensuing article 'Raise a Glass', penned by Your Truly, now appears in the Summer 2022 edition. Even more, it sits alongside a separate article by Skye Sherwin 'Innovating Through a New lens' that features interviews with, and the work of, four glass artists associated with Stourbridge; Vic Bamforth, Terri Colledge, Helen Slater-Stokes and Chris Day.

The two articles extend in total across pages 44 - 51, which represents a considerable amount of positive coverage at this crucial time and for which we are most grateful.

To celebrate the opening of a new museum to house the Stourbridge Glass Collection, in the UN International Year of Glass, *Graham Fisher* explains the local history of the medium

Raise a glass

Human knowledge of glass probably dates back to observations of natural events such as volcanic activity, which creates obsidian, also known as volcanic glass, or lightning strikes hitting sand and fusing it into fulgurite. Man-made glass dates back millennia, at least to the Sumerian civilisation in Mesopotamia (now southern Iraq). Yet, while the exact origins of glassmaking are somewhat nebulous, the 400-year history of glassmaking – and particularly the development of expertise in lead crystal and cameo glass in the West Midlands area of Stourbridge – can be documented with more accuracy.

The discovery of glassblowing around 50BC is attributed to the Romans, probably in Phoenicia (now Lebanon). They found that objects could be formed by gathering molten glass on the end of a hollow pipe and inflating it. By about 50AD glassblowers were blowing glass into moulds to create a greater range of designs.

When the Romans retreated from Britain around 400AD glassblowing in the country declined and its industry moved eastwards across Europe, notably to Venice and the island



Left: Art Nouveau vase, designed by Frederick Carder, made by Stevens & Williams, Brierley Hill, c1901

of Murano. Roman glassworks tended to be located on the outskirts of cities close to water supplies, helping mitigate fire hazards.

Glassmaking re-emerged in England in the 1560s when glassmakers from Lorraine in northeastern France came to London and the Weald of Sussex. Notable Lorraine families who settled here included the Tyzacks, Henzeys and Titterys. The earliest official record of the occupation of 'glassmaker' in the Stourbridge area is for Paul Tyzack, whose son John was baptised on 26 April 1612 at St Mary's Church, Kingswinford, four miles to the north. The immigrants' language became assimilated, and many contemporary glassmaking terms have European origins: marver, for example, a (usually metal) slab on which a 'gather' of molten glass from the kiln is rolled in readiness for blowing; punty (or puntil), a solid metal rod used to hold an object being worked after it is removed from the blowpipe; cullet, chunks of waste glass suitable for remelting, and lehr, a slow-cooling annealing oven for relieving internal stresses that would cause fractures.

Over the next 50 years they migrated and set up forest glasshouses where there were plentiful supplies of wood for fuel and bracken that acted as a flux in reducing the melting point of the silica (usually sand or ground quartz pebbles) to produce window glass and bottles. Between 1670 to 1710 this community was bolstered by the arrival of from 40,000 to 50,000 Huguenots, some of whom were glassmakers, seeking refuge from political oppression in France.

In 1615, acting on advice that his navy may be compromised by a shortage of trees for construction – although it may also have been a ploy for dispersing foreigners – King James I of England banned the burning of trees for fuel. Concern for the nation's stock of timber had emerged in the early 16th century. The wood shortage was seen as a national problem, but there were regional differences in supply and demand such as in the Wealds and around London where glasshouses and iron mills operated at close quarters.

The glassmakers were thus obliged to move elsewhere. The Black Country and surrounding area had all they needed: readily accessible coal

Sits Vac - it could be you

Stourbridge Glass Museum is seeking to recruit a Curator & Projects Officer.

Reporting to the Museum Director the post-holder will be responsible for delivering the Museum's curatorial and temporary exhibitions programmes. Excellent curatorial skills will be required to provide documentation, conservation and research required for the glass collection. A strong desire to engage local people in the curatorial process is required, including outreach, working with volunteers and co-curation.

Keen? Click here: <https://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/part-time-curator-projects-officer/>

Advance notice

Want to see what's going on in the Hot Studio? Then just enjoy reading the rest of this edition until you get to *From the Hot Studio* and click on the YouTube link. Prepare to be mightily impressed.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

Funding and maintaining a revenue stream is an ongoing requirement. We greatly value your contributions. BGF Trustees are unremunerated; all monies received go to the cause. Donations can be as one-off contributions or standing order.

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.**



This is the QR code for the British Glass Foundation.
Scan to browse the work of the BGF or to make a donation.

For donations by BACS our bank details are:

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To donate *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.

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.

PARISH NOTICES

tell us the news from your world

As lockdown restrictions ease we welcome back this pre-pandemic favourite. Send us your latest from anywhere in the world and we'll try to mention it. No guarantees other than we'll do our best.

- * Latest news from the Contemporary Glass Society including on-going information regarding their 25th anniversary celebrations and Amanda Moriarty Memorial Prize 2022. 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. Final instalment of history of glass + more. info@cumbriacrystal.com
- * Glass Society zoom presentation. 8th March. Mathij van der Meulen, *40 years building a collection: The Ker Amen Glass*. Other presentations to follow. Details: gsocfinancial@gmail.com

From the Hot Studio:

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

Exciting competition launch! Come on all budding photographers and glass enthusiasts. We are setting you the challenge for when our studio opens. Snap the best shot of 2022 in the hot shop, share it online (tagging us on social media), and be in with a chance to win a glassmaking experience. If you are curious then details of our glassmaking experiences are at: www.allisternalcolm.com

And then, as mentioned above, you just have to see this: <https://youtu.be/F1eEipnAsDY>



Just a reminder in these interesting 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, from our BGF Defence correspondent ...

I just asked my retired Colonel friend what the lowest rank is in the army. 'It's private'. 'Oh, come on mate, you can tell me.'

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

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, Enover Community Trust, Ibstock 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 : 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 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 at www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk and subscribers can withdraw at any time just by sending an email to the bgf address below with 'stop' in the subject header.

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



www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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