

GlassCuts

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

STOURBRIDGE
GLASS MUSEUM

Celebrating BGF History 2009 – 2022

Click: www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/ or <https://grahamfisher.co.uk/resources>

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Days since SGM opening on 9th April ...

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WE DID IT!

a special post-Grand Opening edition

Yes, indeed we did. The 'soft' opening of the new Stourbridge Glass Museum (the 'official' opening will be in September this year) was scheduled over three days; Thursday 7th April as the VIP launch, Friday 8th for exhibitor's previews and Saturday 9th opening to the general public.

Here is a synopsis of all three from some of those who were there ...

Thursday 7th April. The VIP launch

The successful completion of any task of significance is inevitably accompanied by various emotions ranging from exhilaration to relief. Thus on the evening of Thursday 7th April, when around 150 of the Great and the Good converged on Wordsley for the VIP opening of the new Stourbridge Glass Museum, the heady mix of elation, satisfaction and pride was almost palpable.

The evening was principally to thank our main funders, sponsors and supporters. Surrounded by glass items of exquisite beauty emanating from our area and beyond, all tastefully curated and displayed in state of the art cabinets, interactives and interpretations, it was challenging to reconcile that not so long ago this was an abandoned vandalised ruin of a former glassworks. After the best part of 13 years of vision, perseverance and sheer bloody-minded determination the British Glass Foundation, together with its partners, had transformed that eyesore into a world class facility. And this was their night.



The evening commenced with a glassmaking demonstration by resident *artiste* Allister Malcolm in his Hot Studio. Packed to the rafters, natch. Others took turns to dip in and out of the live experience to mingle amongst the guests and share the rarefied artistry of glass exhibits of the highest calibre. Here in action was *ars gratia artis* in its purest form; intellectualism without affectation, genius without pretence, truly a 'People's Museum' in which the magnificence of its content is counterbalanced by its accessibility to all. Events were captured on stills and video by our PR Consultants Wondrous <https://www.thisiswondrous.co.uk> and these will be appearing on our website in due course (also see below *From Sally Baker at Wondrous*).



Then to the formal greeting and speeches hosted by Will Farmer, he of BBC's Antiques Roadshow fame but also a stalwart supporter and a Trustee of BGF. After the customary thanks to all of our sponsors and supporters, with compelling eloquence he explained the significance of Stourbridge Glass and why it merited this new home before handing over to BGF Chairman Graham Knowles.



Modestly deflecting the paeons of praised already bestowed on him Graham was at pains to draw attention to all of those without whom none of this would have been possible. He in turn handed over to Mike Wood MP (Dudley South), in whose constituency the new museum falls. As he told of his delight to be associated with the museum his passion and sincerity need no corroboration; he was genuinely moved by all he saw and was clearly delighted to be its Parliamentary representative.



The speeches concluded with a surprise presentation to Graham by BGF Ambassador Viv Astling of a delightful cameo piece specially made by Helen Millard. As Will Farmer remarked; *'We have on display here some of the oldest examples of glass so it is only fitting that the man spearheading the new museum should be presented with one of its newest'*. Quite right Sir, quite right'.



Contributor: Graham Fisher, Editor & Trustee

Friday 8th April

This was to thank the Stourbridge Glass Museum team of Volunteers who had been specially invited to the event by Donna Owen, Volunteer Co-Ordinator, and also to promote the launch of our inaugural temporary exhibition by Vanessa Cutler '*Journeys and Horizons*' which runs until 10th July 2022.



Journeys and Horizons: *'Each work requires a journey, whether at the beginning or through to the end process of making. Developed in a year of turbulence, the work explores new horizons, and new approaches in techniques'*. For the past 20 years exploring industrial archaeology in her glassmaking, Vanessa Cutler's body of new work employs both digital technology and traditional casting processes. She sources her inspiration from her local environment, the sky, the sea and the horizon. (extract: The New Home of Glass leaflet, What's on April 2022 - March 2023)

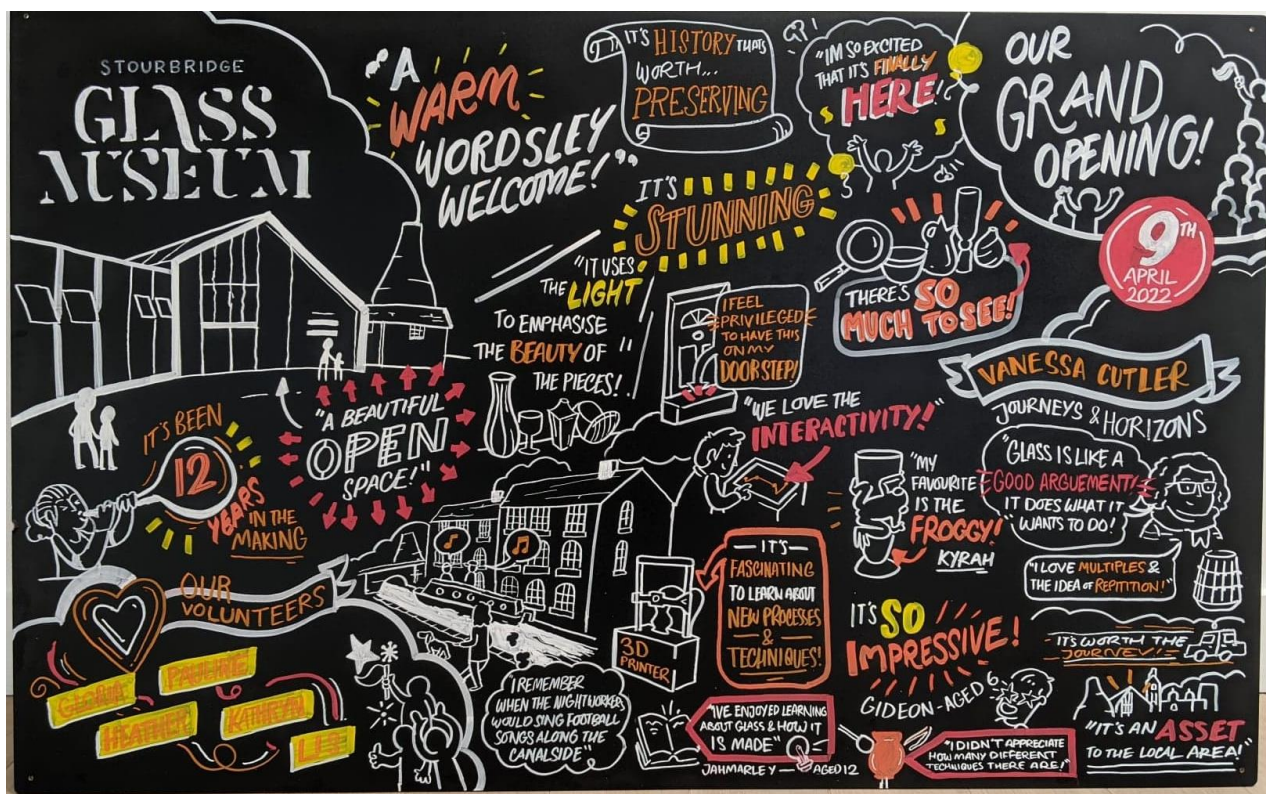
Vanessa Cutler: <https://www.vanessacutler.com>





Contributors: various

Here are some statistics: our first weekend produced a combined total of just under £1000 sales and over 160 visitors. We undertook 2 tours with 36 people and a total of 23 children and 13 adults undertaking activities including glass jar decorating, 'Up an at em History! and kids trails of the museum. Our special event of Draw The Day Blackboard proved popular and I enclose an image of the finished piece. The full list of forthcoming attractions is in our free brochure and on our website www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk



'Yes, we had a brilliant day (Sat 26th March). The Volunteers enjoyed the day and it felt like an operational museum for the first time. Visitors mentioned that 'It seems like a really happy space'. So thanks to Kathryn, Karen, Tracy and Adrian for all their support. It does feel like the People's Museum. I also was able to recruit more who had come to visit and went away as volunteers. Exciting times ahead !' *Donna, Volunteer Coordinator.*

Bev pops round

'Many thanks for showing me round. It looks amazing'. *Bev Holder, Chief Reporter Stourbridge News.*

<https://www.stourbridgenews.co.uk/news/20029647.video-take-peek-inside-new-stourbridge-glass-museum/>

<https://www.stourbridgenews.co.uk/news/20056804.campaigners-celebrate-launch-new-stourbridge-glass-museum/>

More local friends

2-page spread, *Village Voice* magazine issue 174 April 2022. Thanks to Gail Smith, Editor.

BBC's Steve Hermon takes a look from the towpath

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0c046d3>

From Sally Baker at Wondrous

'I have a few links here to add:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-61039223>

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/inside-eerie-abandoned-stourbridge-tunnels-23640450>

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/nostalgia/gallery/pictures-fascinating-past-stourbridges-white-23641254>

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/dudley/2022/04/10/stourbridge-glass-museum-opens-doors-to-public/>

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/dudley/stourbridge/2022/04/07/glass-museum-ready-to-open-its-doors-to-public/>

And a feature within this article

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/staffordshire/2022/04/11/attractions-across-the-west-midlands-anticipating-a-much-welcomed-busy-easter-weekend/>

Central News coverage during Good Morning Britain this morning. We recorded it and I will send a link in due course'.

This is going to run and run - Ed



And finally, from our colleagues across the pond

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March 31, 2022

**CORNING
MUSEUM
OF GLASS**

Director Ollie Buckley
Stourbridge Glass Museum
Stuart Works, High Street
Wordsley, West Midlands
United Kingdom
DY84FB

Dear Director Buckley,

From Corning, New York, the staff and board of trustees of The Corning Museum of Glass send their congratulations to you and your staff on the imminent opening of the Stourbridge Glass Museum. We are delighted to welcome another glass-specific museum into this international community that will, as your mission statement says, hold a place “at the heart of the community with a globally significant collection to educate and inspire”.

We wish you all success with your opening and look forward to remaining engaged with you in order to, as our mission statement says, “inspire people to see glass in a new light”.

Sincerely,



Karol Wight
President and Executive Director

Last word for this special post-Grand Opening edition goes to the man who oversaw it all from concept to completion, BGF Chairman Graham Knowles. In his address at the VIP launch on the 7th he referred humorously to the time when BGF 'had no bat and ball, no players, no pitch and we didn't know the rules.'



White House Cone Site 28 October 2015. Graham Knowles with Cabinet Member Cllr Khurshid Ahmed

But that all seems so long ago (it was in fact 2009) as Graham now tells us: *'I am so proud of what we have achieved and so privileged to have been part of a team with members and supporters that were determined to get the job done. The new museum represents a universal beacon of excellence for a unique heritage that underpins a bright future. For the people of Stourbridge, your glass has come home'.*

Congratulations to everyone involved.



Photograph by Simon Bruntnell

So that's it ...

... we actually did it. After all the setbacks and problems, the highs and the lows, the good times and the bad, Stourbridge Glass Museum is now open. The honing of its sustainability and provenance as it embeds itself inextricably within the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{©GF} has begun and is irrevocable. Which begs the question 'where to from here?'

The answer is, quite simply, 'forward, ever forward' and we will be addressing just how we propose to develop that theme in the next edition of *GlassCuts*. Which itself just happens to be celebrating a rather special anniversary.

Do join us next time in our 200th edition as we step confidently into the bold new world of Stourbridge Glass and its era-defining Stourbridge Glass Museum.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS
Press & Publicity
pp British Glass Foundation
www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk



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.

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HSBC Bank
Branch Identifier Code: MIDLGB2108U
Sort code: 40-38-07
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To donate via Just Giving visit

<https://donate.justgiving.com/donation-amount?uri=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBpLmp1c3RnaXZpbmcuY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvN2FIMjkxYTM1NDIhNDUxMjk1NzdlODgzOTRiZjhkMDQ=>

To donate *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.

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.

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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



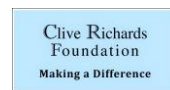
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... also Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers, Enover Community Trust, Ibstock Enover Trust, Clive & Sylvia Richards Charity



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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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

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