

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 promised you a big forthcoming announcement in GC200. Here it is ...

Become a Patron of Stourbridge Glass Museum

The Trustees of the British Glass Foundation invite you to take your place in history by officially becoming a **Founding Patron** of the new home of glass - **Stourbridge Glass Museum**. Join us in protecting one of the finest world-wide holdings of 17th, 18th and 19th century British and international glass - the outstanding Stourbridge Glass Collection.

Our founding vision is to use this remarkable collection to educate and inspire.

'The very rich collections of the museum are an excellent reflection of this important part of British industrial and artistic history and they have an international standing.'

Reino Liefkes Senior Curator and Head of Ceramics and Glass V&A Museum.

The museum has opened during times of extraordinary economic challenges and we must ensure that we can continue to meet these challenges head on and that the remarkable new opportunities for engagement with the arts and culture that the museum can offer people are not diminished.

You are invited to join us as we embark on our first year of opening by becoming a **Founding Patron** and help support us at this time of exceptional challenge and opportunity.

By becoming a Founding Patron, you can help secure the museum's sustainability, support operating expenses, enable us to conserve and care for the Stourbridge Glass collection, work with local communities and create opportunities for learning and enjoyment.

In return, to say thank you for your support, we offer:

- Free admission to the museum for you and a guest
- Patrons curator lead tour of the museum, for you and a guest
- Invitation to a Patrons' reception with the Foundation Chairman, Museum Director and Museum Curator
- Invitations for you and a guest to temporary exhibition previews with the artists
- Priority booking on selected events
- A Patrons e-newsletter offering special 'behind the scenes' content and updates
- Acknowledgement of support as a Founding Patron on our website and in our annual review

We would be delighted to welcome you as Founding Patron, during this our inaugural year. Patrons are invited to make a minimum founding contribution of £1,000 p.a. or £83.33 per month.

An application form in Word and PDF format is attached as a supplement to this *GlassCuts*. If you would like to find out more, or speak to us directly then please contact Secretary to the Trustees Lynn Boleyn on 01384 900447 or email lboleyn@stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk

WHAT'S ON AT SGM

Full details of our packed programme of events are contained in our brochure (available free of charge from the Museum and other local outlets) or via the Stourbridge Glass Museum website by clicking here: <https://www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk/events/>



Photographs by Simon Bruntnell



Photograph by Allister Malcolm

On the map

It must be the thick end of ten years or more now since I first met Rory Walsh of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) <https://www.rgs.org> and collaborated with him on a guided walk along the Stourbridge Canal. He graciously based the walk on my 2010 book *Jewels on the Cut; an exploration of the Stourbridge Canal and the local glass industry* and kindly updated it when a heavily revised *JoC (II)* arrived in 2017. In the intervening seven years much water had, quite literally, flowed under the bridge, not least the formative transition of a certain derelict glassworks into a world class museum that was by then on its way towards the reality of it opening to the public in 2022. I was really rather chuffed with all this and I am delighted to say the walk is still up there at: <https://www.discoveringbritain.org/activities/west-midlands/walks/stourbridge-canal.html>

Now, to cut to the chase. *Geographical* is the monthly magazine of (RGS-IBG). It carries, *inter alia*, articles that offer a flavour of a hugely comprehensive series of walks and encourages readers to try them out for themselves. Rory informs me that he is working on further developing the Stourbridge Canal walk by way of a forthcoming feature for *Geographical* and is aiming to highlight the town's glass making heritage including, of course, the opening of Stourbridge Glass Museum.

I am grateful to Rory for offering us advance notification of his intentions so I do not propose stealing his thunder other than to say this will be a substantial piece in one of the most prestigious geographical periodicals in the land. If anything is going to help cement the synergy between our unique inland waterways and our equally unique glassmaking history - an amalgam that has been close to my own heart for quite some time - then here it is in spades.

Details will appear in *GC* in due course but I mention it now in recognition of the support that has been given to us by RGS (with IBG) from the earliest days of our Grand Project. My particular thanks also go to Rory Walsh himself, not only as an advocate of BGF but who has as a consequence of our collaborations also become a valued personal friend. Thanks, Rory.

Another Chance

Regular readers will know of our long-standing support for Chance Heritage Trust chanceht.org, formerly known as Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust until broadening its remit some while back, and its efforts to rejuvenate the historic Chance Glass site on the Smethwick-Oldbury border.

Leanne O'Connor, Communications and Engagement Coordinator has forwarded us a press release on their 'Made In Smethwick' initiative; a new Season of family-friendly events celebrating local history throughout this summer. Leanne tell us: *'The first events begin on 8th May and will explore and celebrate the richness of Smethwick's industrial heritage. There'll be something for all generations - from guided walks and trips to local historic landmarks, to photography lessons and craft workshops and admission is free'*. Learn more at chanceht.org/Events or contact Leanne at leanne@chanceht.org or 07948 145058

CHANCE HERITAGE TRUST

#MadeinSmethwick

Glass Trails:
a visit to Stourbridge
Glass Museum

8TH MAY 2022, 12PM
31ST MAY 2022, 1PM

Find us online at: chanceht.org/

DigVentures UK Government West Midlands Combined Authority

Glass on the airwaves update

As trailed in the last edition, the Clash of The Titans did indeed take place via the airwaves when at around half past midnight on Thursday 21st April I grilled presenter OJ Borg live on air on BBC Radio 2 as part of his *Midnight Mastermind*. OJ's specialist subject for the duration was Stourbridge Glass and it has to be said he did very well indeed; three questions that he had to find the answers for within the time taken by one tune being played. Ok, a little bit of a struggle on the significance of Paul Tyzack but in like a shot with the modern use of obsidian and bang on the money with the identity of Portland Vase. Very impressive, and all great fun.

Quality radio entertainment indeed, as one would expect from the BBC. But, on a broader platform, it was also a wonderful *exposé* of Stourbridge Glass and the new museum via one of the most respected broadcasting organisations in the world. And you just can't put a price on that. Me? I had a blast.

My sincere thanks to all involved in setting this up, particularly OJ Borg and producer Sophie Tibbles. And should you find yourself at a loose end in the wee hours then tune in to Radio 2 (88-91FM, on line, digital and BBC Sounds) shortly before 00.30hrs and test your mettle on whatever next comes up on *Midnight Mastermind*.



Welcome aboard

We are delighted to introduce our newly appointed Curator & Projects Officer who commenced duties with us w.e.f. 28th April 2022. Harrison Davies holds a BA Hons in Archaeology and Ancient History and is currently completing an MA Conservation of the Historic Environment. He tells us: *'My with my passion lies in Black Country and Birmingham heritage. I have worked and volunteered in many local museums both front of house, delivering events, and in collections care. Most recently I was Collections Inventory Assistant for Birmingham Museums Trust, working on Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's historical collections and artworks, including glass. I am looking forward to joining the team and helping make our mark in the history of glass during such an important year'*.

Reaching across the water

Our new Curator, Harrison Davies, is joining forces with resident glassblower Allister Malcolm and inaugural temporary exhibition artist Vanessa Cutler in an online presentation to The Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass based in the USA. Viewing time is 1pm (EST) on Friday May 6th (or 6pm BST for us this side of the pond. This is all part of the celebrations surrounding the International Year of Glass 2022, which of course SGM and BGF is pleased to support. Good luck to 'the team'.

Farewell Julie

In the last issue we reported on the sad loss of Julie Nicholls following a short illness. Julie was front of house receptionist at Broadfield House and continued her enthusiasm for glass as a volunteer with us, also being for a while our Volunteer Coordinator. We have since been advised that Julie's funeral is at 11:00am Monday 9th May 11am at Gornal Wood crematorium, followed by a reception at Himley Hall. Flowers and/or donations will be appreciated.

On behalf of all at BGF we extend sincere condolences to Julie's family and friends.

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 via *JustGiving* visit:

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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*)

* The Power of *GlassCuts* strikes again! In the last issue we raised the query from Catherine Adie about her late father's vase engraved with the name 'Crannage'. It must have been all of 10 minutes after sending the issue into cyberspace that we received a reply from our old friend Ian Dury who told us: *'Regarding the Tudor vase. John and Alan Cranage are identical twins brothers, both brilliant artists and very talented glass engravers, who worked at Tudor. I believe they were there until the factory closed around 1990. Alan continued in the glass trade but John went into another trade.'*

We have, of course, informed Catherine who is delighted the mystery is solved. Success once more, thanks to our learned readership and The Power of *GlassCuts*.

* Kevin Marsden and David Bain, co-authors of *Colne Point; its history, people and wildlife*, have sent us a real brainteaser for which they would appreciate help from our readership. Kevin says:

'Hello, I wonder if someone in your organisation may be able to give us a steer as to where we may be able to access information in regard to the Glass Industry in Kent 1930's to 1960's? I and my co-author are compiling a history of a Nature Reserve known as Colne Point St. Osyth, Essex. Large volumes of sands and gravel were removed over many years from the beach at a site known as Lee Wick. Barges were run ashore, loaded and floated off, with material mostly going to help construction of roads in London and later Ford Dagenham Works.

However, and this is most interesting, in a recent interview with an octogenarian who's memory was razor sharp he mentioned that material from the beach was shipped to Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey in Kent for use in the glass industry. I have commenced an online search but thus far have drawn a blank. Any help or suggestions as to the history of this industry or search areas would be greatly appreciated.'

Editor's note: Just remind me again about the Power of *GlassCuts*? By an amazing coincidence I was undertaking some research into the Huguenot diaspora recently when I happened across a Doctoral thesis *The Glass Industry in the Woodland Economy of the Weald* by Colin Jeremy Clark <https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/15153/1/485886.pdf>. We have forwarded this together with contact details for the waterways side of the enquiry to Kevin but the quest does not end here and we are confident our readership can furnish more information. Send it to us at the usual address and we will happily pass it on. Result.

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 *The Joy of Glass* exhibition on their website. 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

From the Hot Studio:

www.allistermalcolm.com **Facebook** @allistermalcolmglass **Twitter** @allistermalcolm **Instagram** @allistermalcolmglassltd see 'Reaching across the water', above.

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,

Here's a heartfelt message to my childhood school Headmistress who always said I would never amount to anything. Yeah, that was just a lucky guess.

I'm having trouble finding my coat; it's a camouflage jacket.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS
Trustee, PR & Comms
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.

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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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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