

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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Reaching across the water, final cut (*the follow-up to 'Reaching across the water' in last issue*)

This just has to be one of the most exhilarating lead articles we have ever brought to you. Now that's not the sort of statement that should be left hanging around unattended for too long so let me offer some context by exposing the longstanding mindset of BGF.

Way back in the early days of BGF we identified the need for establishing parameters within which we could chart and report upon our development within a logical and progressive framework. For example, it was little use pontificating too extensively on what might eventually be before we had identified a site or secured any finance. We had our dreams, or course, but we had to root them in reality. So, our first paradigm was to develop the vision; the next phase was to generate support, then identify a location, then obtain funding ... and so on, you get my drift. All of this over a space of around 13 years, was geared to the day the museum would open. And, in hindsight, we like to think we might have made a decent fist of it.

But we also recognised we would then need to close that particular chapter; the aspiration had become reality, the museum was open, the job was done. So now we had to enter the whole new gamut of taking this wonderful new facility by the scruff of the neck and establishing its provenance as one of the finest of its type in the world and, crucially, a suitable long-term home for the historic Stourbridge Glass collection and contemporary practitioners.

There's the background, and the reason for the immense significance of this latest news. As alluded to in *GC201* three of our team were recently invited to partake in an online presentation to *The Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass* based in the USA as part of the celebrations surrounding the International Year of Glass 2022.

Well, the deed is done. And the end result is simply stunning; an hour-long tour of the new museum featuring our resident glassblower (Allister), our curator (Harrison) and our inaugural visiting exhibitor (Vanessa) that is available online and thus viewable around the globe.

The significance of this cannot be understated, not least because it is a definitive demarcation between our 'work in progress' and the new 'era of provenance' into which we lunge headlong. A hugely significant presentation, and a rather excellent one too. See for yourself and feel mighty proud of your heritage. We also like to think this may demonstrate to the wider world that this same heritage is reposed for the long haul in safe hands ... <https://youtu.be/PJySwGzIB1U>

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/>

The CGS and a new Day at the museum

As part of their 25th anniversary celebrations the Contemporary Glass Society www.cgs.org.uk recently held a competition to produce a commission for Stourbridge Glass Museum. It was won by none other than local glassmaker Chris Day. And the word is that it is a beauty. It will be unveiled at the *CGS at 25 Exhibition* in SGM on Friday 25th August at 11.30am and the CGS event will be officially opened at 6.30pm by Andy McConnell of BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* fame. More on Chris Day's work here: <https://www.vesselgallery.com/artist-detail/245862/chris-day> and Andy McConnell here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/profiles/2n00DPwnGc0JQmRnqhSbXRr/andy-mcconnell>



Chris Day, Angel Monzon, Sue Purser-Hope and Allister Malcolm

New Trustee - Chris Day



Chris has graciously accepted our invitation to become a Trustee of the British Glass Foundation. His appointment will add a new perspective to our direction of travel and will greatly strengthen our already-broad base of governance. Welcome aboard, Sir.

Graham Knowles, Chairman, said "We are delighted that Chris has accepted our invitation to join our Board of Trustees and we all very much look forward to working with him in the future".

Growing up in the West Midlands, Chris is one of only a few black glassblowers in the UK. He creates highly personal works in glass and mixed media and his intention is to discuss and investigate the treatment of black people in Britain & the USA, with much of his research focussing on the history of the slave trade in the Eighteenth Century and the events leading to up & during the Civil Rights Movement.

A reoccurring and signature theme are 'copper cages' which enclose his glass, representing the restriction of movement both physically and mentally that traders possessed over other human's lives that were viewed simply as 'commodities'. These are created from simple copper tubing and wire but to dramatic effect. The glass, by contrast, Day compares to the human spirit, attempting to break free despite the restrictions that hold it in place. His recent work also features the war in Ukraine.

Chris says:

"Like the glass I have pushed my approach in how I work with glass and ceramics in both traditional and experimental methods, to create contemporary artworks that represent my passion for this part of our history. As a black glassblower, I am one of few and on a quest to find and inspire more. My main purpose, however, is to engage the audience on issues that are hard to confront on many levels, using art to help overcome some of the traumas that haunt our collective past"

An emerging artist and a recent graduate from Wolverhampton University, Chris received a special commendation at the 2019 British Glass Biennale held in Stourbridge, UK. He has not only become a leading voice within the contemporary British art-glass scene but also with the continued conversation surrounding Black Lives Matter and racial inequality, giving his time for numerous interviews for both TV, radio and social media:

Chris Day on ITV Central News 20 August 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU8XIHXKSp0>

Forging links



We are delighted that the Patrons of the V&A <https://www.vam.ac.uk> will be visiting Stourbridge Glass Museum on 16th June. This will be a further opportunity for us to enhance our provenance as a key player in the world of glass. We trust in anticipation that the Patrons enjoy their stay and thank them for their consideration.

News don't get much worse than this

There's no sugar coating we can put on this one; it is simply a quite momentous announcement. By the time this issue of *GlassCuts* hits your inbox it will be widely reported that most of the BA, and all the MA, courses at Wolverhampton School of Art (WSoA) are suspended and that there will be no new intake this academic year.

BA Fine Art and some other BA Graphics design courses will remain but in effect this means the permanent closure of the Glass and Ceramics BA and MA courses. Glass as a teaching subject at WSoA will finish and the course will no longer be part of the West Midlands landscape as it has been since the 1850s. It is - or was until now - the oldest Glass course in the country and its loss will doubtless impact widely across the world of glass.

We anticipate that many of our readers will be moved to make some form of representation and so to facilitate this Dr Max Stewart, Course Leader (MA Design and Applied Arts) at WSoA has suggested that communications can be sent to his personal email stewart_max@rocketmail.com whereupon he will forward them through the appropriate channels.

Meanwhile, we will monitor the situation and will report further as developments unfold.

Tell us what you think

With thanks to our Louise Deakin and Wondrous www.thisiswondrous.co.uk Stourbridge Glass Museum is now on Trip Advisor. And, as Louise says: *'If you enjoy your visit please tell everyone. If you don't, please tell me'*. Nice one. https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g616275-d23980250-Reviews-Stourbridge_Glass_Museum-Stourbridge_West_Midlands_England.html



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 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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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 have received several queries for this period, but we managed to answer them all ourselves. Nonetheless the very next one that stumps us will appear here with a plea for your assistance.

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 throughout 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
- * *The Glass Society Events Schedule*. <http://glassassociation.org.uk>

From the Hot Studio:

www.allistermalcolm.com **Facebook** @allistermalcolmglass **Twitter** @allistermalcolm **Instagram** @allistermalcolmglassltd

- * See 'Reaching across the water', above.
- * Allister has confirmed demonstrations in the studio during the International Festival of Glass:
Friday 26th August: Emoji Mania with Allister Malcolm, Maddie Hughes and Darren Weed
Saturday 27th August: Darren and Allister Showcasing their Latest Pieces
Sunday 28th August: Maddie will be taking you to The Sweet Shop!
Monday 29th August: Allister Malcolm working with Precious Metals for Monday
- * Meanwhile, Allister continues to welcome guests ...



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, employment news

'Our local bakery is recruiting staff; they have a number of roles that need filling. It's a good job. I met my wife there and ever since we've been through thick and thin together'.

Start the car, I've given up on the coat.

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.

Keeping in touch

BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE

Direct Line: 01384 900447

Email: bof@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Snailmail: 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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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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