



GlassCuts 21

Post-auction special

Issue dated 31.10.12

For updates also visit our blog at www.britishglassfoundation.tumblr.com

Archives of *GlassCuts* and the BGF *Newsletter* are held at www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

21 Today! **IN THIS ISSUE**

Auction action
News from 'that site'
Fair enough
Talking of which ...
Even more on that jug
And finally ...
Dates for your diary

Auction action

The story so far, in case you have just returned from a visit to Mars and may have missed it. Back in August 2012, Allister Malcolm and Elliot Walker bring out the big guns from their contacts book and, aided by some of the top names in the *Wonderful World of Glass* (© GF) went head to head in a glassblowing challenge as part of the International Festival of Glass celebrations. The end result was a shed-load of exquisite top notch, one-off pieces that Will Farmer and colleagues over at Fieldings Auctioneers at Stourbridge offered to auction on Saturday 27th October to raise funds for the British Glass Foundation.

OK, let's now cut straight to the chase. Immediately following the auction and before leaving the site our BGF Trustee and Lady-On-The-Spot Meriel Harris sent out news that the total raised up to that point had reached a whopping £9,830, to add to that already collected during the weekend of the challenge.



Photography Simon Brunnell
01384 399465 www.northlightphotography.co.uk

And it isn't over yet. To achieve an improved final figure, Will kept back a further seven lots for the next appropriate glass auction, on top of which Meriel informs us that she was approached by a gentlemen in possession of a piece that doesn't fit in with his own collection and which he is willing to pass to BGF for inclusion in this next mini-auction.

This is a simply sensational achievement by Allister, Elliot and their compatriots, full details of which are in the associated commemorative brochure described in *GlassCuts 20*. The British Glass Foundation is honoured to be the recipient of such largesse and offers its sincere thanks to everyone who gave their time and effort towards this wonderful attainment. Quite apart from the substantial amount of funds raised, this is yet a further unassailable demonstration of the energy, commitment and passion generated by Stourbridge Glass and its exponents; both of which are the finest in the world. No bias there, then.

And *still* it isn't over yet. Details of the aforementioned mini-auction will be released as and when. In the meantime, you can still help build up the kitty by making donations to Allister via <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/allistermalcolm>

I declare a modicum of interest here, since a couple of delightful items by Lynn Baker and a veritable masterwork by Jonathan Harris now grace my mother's mantelpiece. I confess that I covet them greatly. Hmm, if I can just get her to eat those mushrooms ...

News from 'that site'

A feature in the *Express & Star* on Monday 29th October concerning developments at the White House site, the proposed home for the new Glass Museum, has elicited this comment from BGF Chairman Graham Knowles:

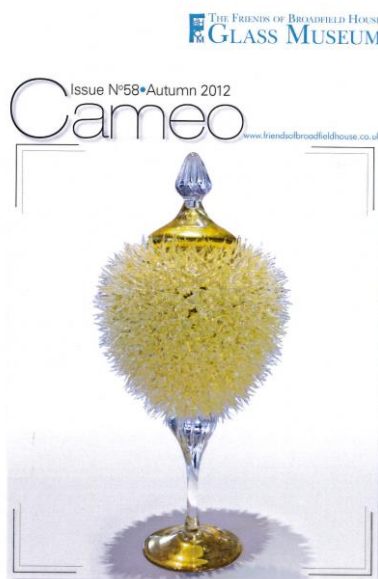
'We wish to clarify that we remain loyal to our initial aims and objectives (*see BGF website for details - Ed*) and recognize the frustration created by the delays that are taking place. We are supporting all viable initiatives that bring the enhanced museum a step closer. We are still in discussions with both the Council and the site developer and it would now appear that the most mutually favourable route is to form a charitable trust to actively take control of the collections, with an option on the future building also. This would incorporate educational projects and become a facility that would be sustainable and successful in the long term. We are most grateful for the support of the local glass industry and regret that the pace at which we would all like to advance is determined by factors beyond our control. This is a long term process; BGF remains committed to the long term.'

Further meetings *inter alia* are scheduled; *GlassCuts* will, as always, aim to be the first to bring you the news.

Fair enough

Organizers of the National Glass Fair have kindly invited representatives of the 2012 Portland Vase Project team, including Yours Truly, to their Grand Extravaganza at the NEC on Sunday 11th November. Don't say you don't know about this, 'cos it's been in our *Dates for your diary* bit for yonks. But now, if you happen to pop along, at least you know you'll see some familiar faces from your fave-rave glass fanzine. Plus a rather special piece of cameo or two.

Talking of which ...



Readers may recall my reference in *GC20* to *Cameo*, the magazine of Friends of Broadfield House, where I mentioned their plans to feature recent events in and around the International Festival of Glass. Well, it's out. And a little belter it is, too.

Issue No 58, Autumn 2012 hit my doormat just as *GC21* was about to go to press, and we just couldn't let it pass by without a special mention. Always an erudite and entertaining read, this particular edition has really pulled out all the stops in a glorious full-colour extravaganza that puts many an expensive monthly glossy from your newsagents to shame.

It's absolutely brilliant coverage, and well worth mugging Barbara Beadman or one of her chums to see if you can blag a copy. Alternatively, if you'd just dip your hand in your pockets for a miserly few quid a year and join up, you can get your regular fix of *Cameo* delivered free as part of the deal. Go on, give it a try. www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk

Even more on that jug

The aftermath of the making of the 2012 Portland Vase continues, with interest in the story of its creation gaining momentum. On 10th October I was delighted, and rather satisfyingly exhausted by the end of it all, to offer lunchtime and evening presentations on the same day in the sumptuous setting of Dunsley Hall near Kinver. Thanks to Terri and Wilf of Dunsley for helping set up that one, and to Terri Colledge and Ian Dury for their support on the day.

On the evening of 25th October the same theme was presented for a local Rotary Club, this time in the setting of the new Heritage Centre at Ruskin. Something of a trial run for this recently opened facility, the setting proved eminently suitable and I confidently predict this will become a popular venue for similar events in the future. If you haven't yet seen what's going on at Ruskin, then it may just be worth your time diverting the few yards off the A491 at Amblecote and taking a peek. As alluded to above, this is just yet more evidence that the Stourbridge Glass industry is not only surviving but, in its own uniquely specialist way, is once more actually beginning to flourish.

And finally ...



Many of you will recall David Whitehouse, Senior Scholar at Corning Museum. A local lad by extraction who made good 'across the pond', on his recent brief return to the UK he managed to squeeze in lots of social and personal engagements but still found time to fulsomely support the International Festival of Glass. His address on *Stourbridge Glass at the Corning Museum* and his appearance by my side during the live transatlantic link up with colleague Bill Gudenrath, together with the man's sheer affability, will have left an indelible mark on everyone who met him. So I am sure you will all be as saddened as I to hear that, following a brief sojourn around Europe on his departure from our shores, he returned home feeling unwell. In a gesture that I would describe as typical of the man, he took time to extend me the singular courtesy of explaining all this, with a request that I tell his many friends that he is seriously ill. I have

no doubt that everyone will join me in personally extending David our very best wishes.

Dates for your diary

As the dismal autumnal days enfold us, it's all a bit quiet out there right now. Anything going down? You know what to do ...

Until 27th January 2013

Back to the Future: Contemporary West Midlands Glass Artists Celebrate 400 Hundred Years of Stourbridge Glass

Broadfield House Glass Museum

www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk / www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum

11th November 2012

National Glass Fair (*see above*)

<http://www.glassfairs.co.uk/>

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

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

Disclaimers 'n stuff (*Yes I know, but we must*)

GlassCuts is the *ad hoc* email newsletter of the British Glass Foundation. It is collated on a philanthropic basis and has no other function than to entertain and inform its subscribers. Whilst every effort is made...blah...no responsibility...etc. (*usual caveats apply*)

This email is sent to you in good faith on the basis that you appear on our list of interested parties. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* emails then send 'unsubscribe' to bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. A brief indication as to why would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission of *GlassCuts* to interested parties; if you know someone who you think may also wish to receive *GlassCuts*, then feel free to forward it. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our readership, submit it to BGF at the usual address