



**GlassCuts 22**  
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## Cool Yule Special



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*Festive tip of the week: if you are planning to enjoy a Yuletide tippie, remember that it always tastes better out of a proper Stourbridge glass. Warning: you are now entering a No Plastic Cups zone.*

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### From the Bunker

We tend to reserve our big guns for special occasions. They don't come much more special than Christmas, so herewith a seasonal message from our Chairman ...



*Hallo everyone,*

*2012 has certainly been a very busy and productive year and we are looking forward to some exciting developments next year, which will include the BGF continuing negotiations with Dudley Council and we are also looking to becoming a Museum Trust. On behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a most enjoyable Christmas and a very happy, healthy and successful New Year.*

Graham Knowles  
Chairman, BGF



### A lovely day

As reported in GCs *passim*, I was delighted to be invited to the National Glass Fair and set up stall with my literary offerings, which, naturally, included *The 2012 Portland Vase Project; Recreation of a Masterpiece*. Held on 11<sup>th</sup> November at the National Motorcycle Museum, for a grizzled ol' biker such as Yours Truly, the location alone was inspirational.

Visitors were treated to a veritable cornucopia of just about every type of glass imaginable, not least the 2012 Portland Vase that was being exhibited by a proud Terri Colledge on an adjacent stand. As a first-timer to this particular gig, I was impressed; even more so by the warmth of welcome shown by everyone.

In a different sphere, I have helped put enough of these things together to know what it takes; hence my personal thanks to organizers Christina Glover and Paul Bishop for their consideration. And thanks to all you kind folk who helped me spread the word by shifting a few books; much obliged.



### Talking of which ...

It must be about four years back when, during one of my guided walks along the canal towpath through the Stourbridge Glass Quarter, I was asked what I knew about Harbridge. I freely confess that, up to that point, the answer was a bit fat zero. However, having identified the glaring deficiency in my knowledge, I promised the enquirer I would find out and get a response back to him, which subsequently I did.

Thus it was how little more than a chance remark led me, within a relatively short space of time, to become fascinated by this relatively modest operation and to meet some equally fascinating enthusiasts for the marque along the way. So I am delighted to report that one such *aficionado* has advised me of plans for a celebration of Harbridge, scheduled for a major event during 2013.

Step forward the Glass Association's very own Maurice Wimpory - for indeed it is he - who, together with wife Pauline, will be hosting an exhibition on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at the Cambridge Glass Fair, featuring not one but two of the more arcane members of the glass gazetteer. Alongside Harbridge, of which Maurice and Pauline have amassed a sizeable personal collection over the years, they will also be showcasing output from the little-known Watford Glass Company.

And, as if you didn't know already, the Cambridge Glass Fair is organized by the same good folk who put on the rather splendid aforementioned show at the biker-shrine. 24<sup>th</sup> February is a little way off yet, but be honest, that's got you all fired up already, hasn't it? In the meantime, our Maurice, has prepared a few bits and bobs of interest to go on the Cambridge Glass Fair website. A keen supporter of us here at BGF, he has kindly sent us the link; take a peek at <http://www.cambridgeglassfair.com/exhibitions/foyer-exhibit.htm> and prepare to be impressed as we are. Thanks Maurice, and good luck.

### It's all at the Co-op, now

Readers of a certain vintage who remember that particular catchphrase in an advert from donkey's years ago would never have envisaged that the 'it' available at the Co-op would one day include the British Glass Foundation. But lo, did it come to pass on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December that I was invited to be part of the pre-Christmas festivities at my local branch by way of a stand at the end of the aisles, wooing a captive audience into my glassy tendrils as they negotiated their trolleys through the tills.





This was a not-to-be missed opportunity to promote the BGF, the 2012 Portland Vase, Stourbridge Glass and a shed-load of other things that cropped up *en passant*, and the good folk of Kingswinford did not disappoint in sharing it all with me. My thanks to Simon Hartland, Manager of Kingswinford Co-op, for his initiative in helping us broaden the scope of our involvement within the community, and for his kind assistance in affording me the use of his facilities to spread the word. Great stuff.



### **And now for something completely different**

BGF Treasurer Meriel Harris seems to have so many pies on the go I sometimes wonder how she has enough spare fingers to put in them. One such is her involvement with NADFAS (oh, come on, the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies - do try and keep up) and her work as Chairman of the Stourbridge society has brought her into contact with our mates down at the Ruskin Glass Centre in a most illuminating way.



Meriel has recently kindly sent me a copy of a short PowerPoint presentation showing how tutors and mentors at Ruskin have been helping Glasshouse College students with varying degrees of learning difficulty to express themselves through the medium of glass. The result is a stained glass panel, designed by one of the students and made with help from another, to commemorate the 2012 Olympics and mark 400 years of glassmaking in Stourbridge.

It is fascinating stuff, and a genuinely innovative slant on the noble art of glasswork. If you would like to see for yourself, then drop me, or Meriel, an email via the BGF and we will get a copy of the PowerPoint to you. No charge involved, of course, just the pleasure of spreading the word about this warming and innovative initiative that is made the more exciting by actively engaging contemporary youth in the world of traditional glass. Honestly, it is stuff like this that makes it all worthwhile.

## Dates for your diary

As the festive season envelops us in the *Wonderful World of Glass*<sup>©GF</sup> we are grateful to Broadfield House Glass Museum and Red House Cone for bringing us up to speed with what's going on. Here's a quick resumé ...

### ***Broadfield House Glass Museum***

Details and bookings on 01384 812745

[www.glassmuseum.org.uk](http://www.glassmuseum.org.uk)

To 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Christmas Grotto

21<sup>st</sup> December  
10.15am – 1pm  
Christmas craft session for adults. £5.25, booking essential

To 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Noon – 4pm  
Winter trail. Find the festive clues around the museum

### ***Red House Glass Cone***

Details and bookings on 01384 812750

[www.redhousecone.co.uk](http://www.redhousecone.co.uk)

To 7<sup>th</sup> January  
All I want for Christmas  
Seasonal showcase of crafts by local designers

Made at the Cone craft studios  
For gifts by designer makers.  
[www.redconecrafts.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.redconecrafts.blogspot.co.uk)

Various days to 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
Santa at the Cone  
Charges apply, booking essential

To 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Winter trail. Find the festive clues around the cone

*Others that we already know about include ...*

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](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk) / [www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum)

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Cambridge Glass Fair

*See feature item above, further details when available*

If you have an event you would like mentioning in *Dates for your diary*, then you know what to do.



## The BGF review of 2012

And that's about it from *GlassCuts* for another year. So, as the sun sinks slowly on 2012, let us collectively share in a moment of reflection. What a year it has been, has it not?

For starters, it's 400 years of Stourbridge Glass. Then there's 50 years of the studio glass movement; the commemoration of 100 years since the Titanic went down, almost certainly loaded to the gills with Stuart Crystal; the 2012 Portland Vase Project; the splendid Hagley Hall Gala Afternoon; Allister Malcolm's marathon glassblowing challenge; the International Festival of Glass - arguably the best one to date ... the list just goes on.

To top it all there are positive signs of progress on the White House project; slow admittedly, but progress nonetheless, and, as mentioned in our Chairman's message (above) this is now spiced with the tantalizing prospect of BGF looking to become a Museum Trust.

The BGF is proud to have been there or thereabouts in just about everything of note that was happening over the past twelve months, in its continuing support of the Stourbridge Glass industry and its exponents. Which, it just so happens, we believe to be amongst the finest in the world. 2012 has showcased this assertion brilliantly, not only in terms of the area's proud history, but also as a clear indicator of what is yet to come.

More soon. In the meantime, from all of us at the British Glass Foundation, have a Full Lead Crystal Christmas and a Glassy New Year.



**Graham Fisher**  
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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### 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*)

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