

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>

Edition: 226

Dated: 1.8.23

A SPECIAL 'YET MORE ACE NEWS' EDITION

STOURIDGE GLASS MUSEUM ELEVATED TO ROLE OF MAJOR PLAYER

'Delighted' doesn't do it justice; 'ecstatic' more like. Yep, ecstatic's the word, we'll go with that.



We are ecstatic to announce that Stourbridge Glass Museum has been awarded Full Accreditation Status. Lest there be any uncertainty about the magnitude of this attainment, this is the Gold Standard of recognition and elevates SGM to the very highest echelons, setting us squarely amongst the major players of the museum world. Our news release says it all and is reproduced here *verbatim*:

Stourbridge Glass Museum is a museum dedicated to the history of glassmaking. The museum aims to preserve the heritage of glassmaking and promote understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of glass to a diverse range of audiences. It also offers visitors an opportunity to observe contemporary glass artists in action, participate in hands-on workshops, and purchase unique glassware from their shop. The Museum provides an excellent insight into the rich history and craftsmanship of glassmaking in the region.

Administered by Arts Council England on behalf of the UK Accreditation Partnership, Accreditation is the benchmark for well-run Museums and Galleries.

The new accreditation status means that Stourbridge Glass Museum is properly managed and governed to the nationally agreed industry standard and shows the museum takes proper care of its collections, sharing them with visitors and keeping them safe for future generations.

Accreditation opens up exciting funding opportunities, allows museums to host touring exhibitions and gives access to professional advice and support. It also gives confidence to donors and sponsors who may wish to support the museum in preserving heritage and inspiring future generations.

Accreditation covers museums of all types and sizes - from the smallest volunteer-run museums to national museums - and more than 1,700 museums are currently taking part in the scheme across the UK. More information about the Accreditation scheme can be found [here](#).

Alexander Goodger MA, Museum Manager at Stourbridge Glass Museum said:

'We are over the moon that over a decade of hard work and dedication by the British Glass Foundation, twinned with the culture of support and teamwork fostered between staff, trustees and volunteers, has culminated in our Museum achieving its accreditation. It is a fantastic place to work and volunteer, and a privilege to develop an internationally-celebrated glass collection right here in Stourbridge. Clearly our visitors share the love, because we are currently number 1 on TripAdvisor for Stourbridge. Thank you to everyone.'

British Glass Foundation Chairman Graham Knowles added: 'This is a great day for Stourbridge in reinforcing its position as a centre of excellence for glass and glassmaking and I would like to pass on my thanks and congratulations to all concerned.'

Liz Johnson, Director Museums and Cultural Property at Arts Council England said: 'We're delighted that Stourbridge Glass Museum has been successful in gaining their Accreditation status. This means that their Collections will be looked after and maintained offering inspiration, enjoyment and learning for the local community and visitors to enjoy now and in the future.'

Cllr Adam Davies, Ward Councillor (Audnam area) said: *'It's fantastic news that Stourbridge Glass Museum now has Full Accreditation status. The efforts of the British Glass Foundation, the trustees, museum staff and volunteers have ensured that the museum keeps going from strength to strength - helping to preserve and promote our areas proud glassmaking heritage. This Accreditation is a well-deserved testament too all of their dedication, vision and hard work.'*

Stourbridge Glass Museum Survey



We would be most grateful if you could kindly complete this short survey about Stourbridge Glass Museum. This is an anonymous survey and your Google account or email is not shared with the museum.

[Survey](#)

At the end of the survey you can enter our **Prize Draw** to win this beautiful vase created by resident glass artist Allister Malcolm (approx. 15 inches in height).

Link to Survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfeH_Lajp9DzasF7XajbbTpMVvaYmhW1Qhk8SWbLdrFeykYQg/viewform

Molecular follow-up

In GC224 (28.6.23) we featured the work of Luke Jerram and his amazing *Glass Microbiology* sculptures in which we explained: 'He (Luke Jerram) didn't actually make the glass bugs himself but was facilitator working with people at the National Glass Centre, Sunderland. These included Kim George, Norman Vetch and Brian Jones, some or all of whom we suspect may have since retired'.

We have since been contacted by Joanne Mitchell <https://www.jomitchellglass.com> who informs us that lamp worker Brian Jones is still working and making viruses for Luke at his studio in the National Glass Centre. We are grateful to Jo for her clarification and offer our best wishes to all concerned in the creation of these quite incredible glass creations.

Word on the street

Local media are currently a'buzzing with suggestions that boundary changes are afoot. Discussions are advanced and if proposals go ahead it could mean that in 2004 Mike Wood's Dudley South constituency (Mike is a great supporter of BGF and SGM, for which many thanks) will go completely with its wards split between Stourbridge and the newly named Dudley (formerly Dudley North) and Kingswinford & South Staffordshire, meaning that Wall Heath will revert back to South Staffs.

We bring you this advance news in recognition that things may change, particularly with regard to our local representation. Both BGF and SGM have always aimed to be entirely apolitical; we have always enjoyed cordial relations with political figures across the spectrum and assure our readership that we will continue to positively and equally engage with all in promoting the 'People's Museum'.

Tickets please



We have received some lovely comments regarding George the cat and the campaign to save the ticket office at Stourbridge Railway Station, as featured in last *GlassCuts*. But it did get us thinking that newer readers not familiar with our quirky ways may wonder what on earth this has to do with Stourbridge Glass Museum.

The answer is simple; we want you to visit our fine new museum and so we encourage a holistic array of ways you can get to Wordsley. We do, of course, have our own car park – even space for a bus – and although this is as generously sized as we could make it there's not always enough room. So we also point out the car parks in Stourbridge and the bus stop right outside our front door – join the two together and you're here – or the zillion or so taxi firms within a 5 mile radius of us.

But a more unusual, yet very enjoyable, route we definitely promote for environmental reasons and for your edification and entertainment is the approach from the towpath and which is about the most illuminating you can get with the least carbon footprint. Or so we reckon. Anyway, the trick is to get on the canal towpath at Canal Street (*sat nav DY8 4LU*) and take a leisurely stroll by Shanks' Pony (there's disabled access, too) of less than a mile and a half through 400 years of glass history culminating right outside the museum. Dare I mention there's even a comprehensive guide book by Yours Truly available from the museum and other outlets (*Jewels on the Cut II, all proceed to BGF – Ed*) or a free downloadable guide 'The Crystal Mile' for phone or tablet available [here](#).

'But how do I get to Canal Street?' I hear you ask. Well, you hop on the train to Stourbridge (see local rail timetables for details), take a short and not unpleasant stroll from one end of town to t'other and, hey presto, Robert is your mother's brother. So, if you plan to use this method it will be handy to know where you can get your ticket from in the first place. We pass no judgement on the fate of the Stourbridge office; we merely point out its ultimate fate may be a consideration in your travel plans. So there you go. (*Plus there was a cat in the story, so we just had to include it - Ed*)

Cone gets the treatment

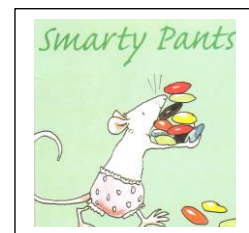
Out of all the glass cones that once dominated the glassmaking scene across the UK landscape only four remain intact, of which the one at Wordsley is arguably the best preserved example. *'Not a lot of people know that'* according to my friend Michael (*quiz question; name the other three cones - Ed*).

But seeing how it has been plastered all over the local media of late, it's a fair bet that far more people will know that this venerable Grade II listed structure is having £1.5m thrown its way over the next 18 months or so to restore it to its former glory.

Here at SGM our own long-demolished cone is now represented by the new lighting installation sited on the same spot where its cone once stood (*GC222 dated 7.6.23*) and we reckon this will offer an excellent complement to the real deal standing just a few yards away directly on the opposite side of the road. We extend to our colleagues at Red House Glass Cone our congratulations in securing this major award and our best wishes for their continuing success. Full details of the cone restoration can be found at: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/news/red-house-glass-cone-restoration/>

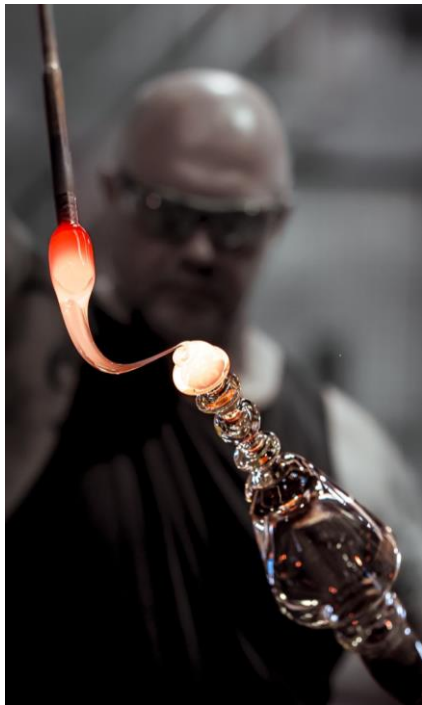


Editor's note: lest we need reminding of the unrivalled glass cone heritage we have in this area, just a few yards down the road at Plowden & Thompson is a cone which, although long since truncated, is believed to be the last in Europe still being used for its original purpose, ie. making glass. And the answer to that quiz question: the remaining three intact cones in Britain other than Red House are Catcliffe (Sheffield,) Lemington (Newcastle Upon Tune) and Alloa (Scotland). Here's the BGF limited edition 'cut out and keep' award if you got all three:



Spotlight on Cumbria, and a Stourbridge connection

Cumbria Crystal www.cumbriacrystal.com was founded in 1976 by Lord and Lady Cavendish and a small group of local business people to produce exceptional, handmade full lead crystal tableware. The artisan workforce was initially recruited from Stourbridge and a team of craftspeople re-located to Ulverston at the southern edge of the Lake District. *(Also the birthplace in 1890 of one Arthur Stanley Jefferson, aka Stan Laurel, who was not a glassmaker – Ed).* Their output is by any yardstick quite exquisite and attracts a certain clientele; next time you sit down with a beer and a recent 007 movie, take a look at the crystalware in the rear passenger drinks cabinet of Daniel Craig's Aston Martin and have a wild guess who made it. We are talking serious stuff here; Cumbria Crystal produces crystal for all the British Embassies and Residencies across the world to grace formal dinners and state occasions. In addition to Our Man Bond the company has supplied the majority of the crystal for TV drama Downton Abbey; the Georgian inspired Grasmere pattern, designed by Lady Cavendish, deemed to suit the formal Edwardian tables to perfection. Collections are frequently favoured by royalty and a number of commemorative gifts celebrating significant Royal occasions such as the Diamond & Platinum Jubilees, the Royal Wedding and Royal Christenings have also been produced. Yet despite its reputation and attainments Cumbria Crystal has remained small and true to its artisan roots where visitors are invited to watch traditionally skilled artisans at work.



We regularly receive news releases from Cumbria highlighting their latest creations but every now and then they come up something a little off the wall. Their latest missive to hit our inbox this time around includes the first part in a series of snippets aimed at the newcomer and introducing the origins and manufacture of fine lead crystal including reference as to why 'lead' (in the form of lead oxide) is now no longer widely used. The full article is much more detailed and as it is released it will indeed cover the various issues Cumbria Crystal face as manufacturers still working with 24% lead crystal. It's all fascinating stuff. Plus, of course, there is the glassware itself; just take a look at the images kindly supplied here by Cumbria Crystal and judge for yourself.

Subscription to the newsletter or sales gallery, or sourcing further information, is as simple as it is free, just hit on www.cumbriacrystal.com and follow the links.



Editor's note: regarding the aforementioned Stourbridge connection, how about this for a little gem of a follow-up? Chris Blade MA, Chief Executive Officer at Cumbria informs me: *'We still have one of the original Stourbridge trained glassblowers at the factory - Steve Brettle, who does all our hand-made work (decanters, vases, etc). Our wine servitor (Steve McDougal) was taught by one of the first Stourbridge masters and still casts on stems and feet the old fashioned 'Stourbridge' way. My understanding is that he may be the last glassmaker on the country who still does this.'* Now be honest, it makes you proud to be part of this beautiful madness we call glassmaking.

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/>

Volunteers

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at Stourbridge Glass Museum. Whether you are wanting to learn new skills or meet new friends, it is an exciting time to be joining us. We opened in April 2022 and the museum is dedicated to glass making and heritage in the Stourbridge area. We are developing a new volunteer programme where there is plenty to get involved with from front of house welcoming visitors to the museum to tour guiding. Full details of the volunteering opportunities and an application form are on our web site:

<https://www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk/volunteer/>

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 we currently 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:

HSBC Bank
Branch Identifier Code: MIDLGB2108U
Sort code: 40-38-07
Account number: 72076780

To donate via *JustGiving* visit:

<https://donate.justgiving.com/donation-amount?uri=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBP1c3RnaXZpbmY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvN2FIMjIxNDIhNDUxMjIzODgzOFRiZihkMDQ=>

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.

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.

In addition to cash BGF is similarly grateful for donations of good quality glass to sell in our shop. All funds raised from the sale of donated glass go into a separate Collections Account towards future acquisitions for the museum. To make a donation directly into the **British Glass Foundation Collections Account** use sort code: **40-38-07** and account number: **52291789**.

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*)

Keep 'em coming. Our track record for solving your little difficulties is admirable. And if we can't sort it, we almost certainly know someone who can.

PARISH NOTICES

tell us the news from your world

Send us yours and we'll try to mention it. No guarantees other than we'll do our best.

* Latest news from the *Contemporary Glass Society*. www.cgs.org.uk

* *Alan J. Poole newsletter* latest edition. alanjpoole@aol.com

* *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London*. Updates. info@glass-sellers.co.uk

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

* *Glasscapes: Land & Seascape in Glass Art*. Seminar, London on 28.10.23. Details [here](#).

From the Hot Studio:

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

Making it second time around



If you missed it on its first outing, *Making it at Market*, which has featured participants in our facilities (see *GCs passim*) is being repeated from 31st July for a two-week run at 3.45pm on BBC1.

The episodes featuring glass are scheduled for the following dates, but you may just like to confirm them for your area via your local listings:

Belinda, Becky and Paul - 1st August

Emmy and Zita - 7th August

Alison, Fernando and Saurabh - 10th August

Mark's episode won't be shown on repeat but is available on iPlayer, as in fact are all of them if you can't catch them on broadcast day. The scheduling for this edition of *GlassCuts* might also unavoidably necessitate the iPlayer option for some.

If you are not yet familiar with our connections with *MIAM* there is a delightful example of how participant Becky challenged her autism through the medium of glass. It's inspiring stuff; click [here](#) for her experience; visit iPlayer or tune in to BBC1 for the rest.

And if you like what you see, then we actually have Belinda, Alison and Emmy's work on display here at SGM, with some of Mark's work on sale in the shop.

And this, from 'the man' himself

Here's some the new work from the studio ... '*Poised for flight*' ...



The Dragonfly evolves numerous times throughout its life.

Each time is the start of a new chapter.

To me they are a symbol of change.

With that comes an acceptance of new beginnings which in turn bring new opportunities.

Their final form, the dragonfly, only lives for a few months and is a reminder for everyone to live life to the fullest.

As the studio undergoes many changes these pieces celebrate this moment.

Thanks to Simon Bruntnell for the beautiful imagery.

We are soon to be creating more.

Stourbridge Glass Museum #dragonfly #artist #art #glass #decor #newwork #newbeginnings

Just a reminder ...

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 ...

We conclude with the latest news from Wordsley Crown Court where a local man today stood accused of assaulting a neighbour with sandpaper. In his defence he stated: '*I only wanted to rough him up a bit.*'

I'll sort my own coat, thanks.

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

Award-winning *Black Country Radio* and *BCR Xtra* broadcast throughout the Black Country on 102.5 FM and also via DAB and on-line around the world. Part of BCR's remit is to promote local events. If you are organising an event that satisfies the criteria of not-for-profit, charitable or philanthropic and is community orientated then you may be eligible for no-fee promotion.

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. And it's all entirely free of charge.

Second time around

GlassCuts is compiled and edited *pro bono* and distributed to its subscribers free of charge. To receive *GlassCuts* contact our Secretary (below). However, if you miss us first time around, or if you are searching for that elusive feature, then all issues of *GlassCuts* right back to number 1 are archived [here](#).

Keeping in touch

BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE
01384 900447 : bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk : 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



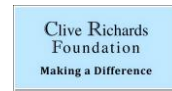
EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in Your Future
European Regional
Development Fund 2007-13



Made possible with

Heritage
Fund

... also Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers, Enovert Community Trust, Istock Enovert 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 : FCC Communities Foundation ... plus many contributions from other trusts, foundations and individuals. (E&OE)

Full details of BGF partners, supporters and sponsors at: www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/

Follow us ...



<https://m.facebook.com/GlassMuseumUK/>



<https://twitter.com/glassmuseumuk>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/glassmuseumuk/>

Disclaimer ...

We comply with the provisions of Data Protection and so we must remind you that *GlassCuts* exists solely for the information of its supporters and is distributed only to those who consent (as defined by GDPR) to being on our database in order to receive it or other relevant information.

Our full Privacy Statement is at www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk or can be supplied by us on request. Subscribers can withdraw at any time simply 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



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1139252 / Registered Company No 7344291