

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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Gone but not forgotten

The Glynne Arms, or The Crooked House if you will, is - or rather, was - an endearingly charming pub with not a right angle or flat level in sight ever since subsidence from local mining took its toll. If you know it, you will recognise the affection in which it was held. If you didn't know it before, you may well do by now courtesy of the massive publicity this quaintly eccentric landmark has received following its sale, a mysterious fire and a clearance of the rubble all within a matter of a few days in early August. As we went to press, two people have been arrested and released on Police bail.

Those are the facts; we don't pay our lawyers enough to make allegations so we instead invite you to follow the legions of postings on the internet and think it through for yourself. Whatever, this sorry episode has affected a lot of folks around here very deeply - including Yours Truly - but none more so than Thomas Southall.

Thomas, y'see, is an alumni of Ruskin Glass Centre. He has been a glass engraver for ten years and is a lover of local history. The Crooked House was a place where Thomas and his family would meet, so when he heard the news of the fire, he wanted to commemorate the community space within his work. The piece took around seven hours to complete and Thomas is looking to do more local landmarks as this has been so well received. And no, his eyes haven't gone wonky, the pictures shows the true angle of lean; it's a gem and I confess it has caused me to wipe a couple of tears from my eye.

This touching tribute to a small outpost of the Black Country, the likes of which we may never see again, is now on display at Stourbridge Glass Museum. Come and visit us to check out his work, and to appreciate a personal record of something the likes of which we may not see again.



New arrivals at SGM

Another day, another auction and another exciting set of acquisitions heading our way. Curator Harrison identified that some Whitefriars items coming up for auction at Filedings (Stourbridge) would slot neatly into our collection. He tells us:

'I'm delighted to say we have acquired five of our top desired lots. After a viewing of all material, a shortlist was drawn with seven lots as priority bids; on the day we were able to win five of these. Two we were unable to acquire, but they were lower priority. Our high priority ones were a mixed batch, which include a poem written about the glassblowing team scribbled on the back, together with Geoffrey Baxter's Random Strapped design, and the Streaky Design. I will be working to have these lightly conserved before then displaying them in the Museum as soon as possible.'

We chose examples best representative for design, technical production, industry and glassblowing narratives, ones which can easily be displayed beside the physical glass products, and iconic designs. This is all evidence to prove we are actively working towards collecting items which are key for Designation arguments, including a few lots good for research opportunities.'

Our congratulations to all concerned in acquiring these items and our thanks to those organisations and individuals who contribute to our acquisitions fund.



Closures double whammy

Back in GC222 (7th June) we reported on the impending closure of Nazeing Glass in Broxbourne. Sadly, that day has come to pass and a proud history traceable back to the earliest days of glassmaking in the UK ended when the factory ceased trading on 17th August.

As if that isn't bad enough, we now learn of the loss of another glass facility, this time at the far end of the country; North Lands Creative, up there in Lybster on the rugged east coast of Caithness. Latest news as we went to press is the three full-time and three part-time staff were told on July 31st that the company had ceased trading and were further informed, without any advance warning, that they had all lost their positions at the glass studio. More [here](#)

These are indeed dark days for a once-mighty industry. We might well rejoice at the prospect that glass may be on the cusp of a renaissance, yet for some that day cannot come too soon and our thoughts are with all those who are suffering in consequence.

Volunteering at Stourbridge Glass Museum

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at Stourbridge Glass Museum. Whether they are wanting to learn new skills or meet new friends, it is an exciting time to be joining us. Stourbridge Glass Museum opened its door to the public in April 2022 and one year later was officially opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester.

Fully Accredited the glass museum, currently No 1 on TripAdvisor, cannot be run without our very enthusiastic team of volunteers and we are currently recruiting volunteers for our Front of House team, a key role welcoming visitors to the museum. If you are friendly and enthusiastic and enjoy talking to people, interested in local history and heritage then please come along for a look round and a chat. Volunteers at Stourbridge Glass Museum work at one of the most historical sites in the area, surrounded by beautiful Stourbridge Glass, at what was formerly Stuart Crystal Glassworks where you will make new friends and enjoy social events together. There are many other volunteering roles within the museum and full training is given.

Here are some comments from our volunteers:

“Volunteering at Stourbridge Glass Museum is not only interesting but is also a complete inspiration. Everyone who works here is friendly, kind and incredibly knowledgeable. Each day I'm here I discover something interesting and enlightening, from my Colleagues and from the lovely people who visit. To volunteer is truly worthwhile, not only for the Museum but it also offers a wide range of knowledge and history so valuable to this area”.

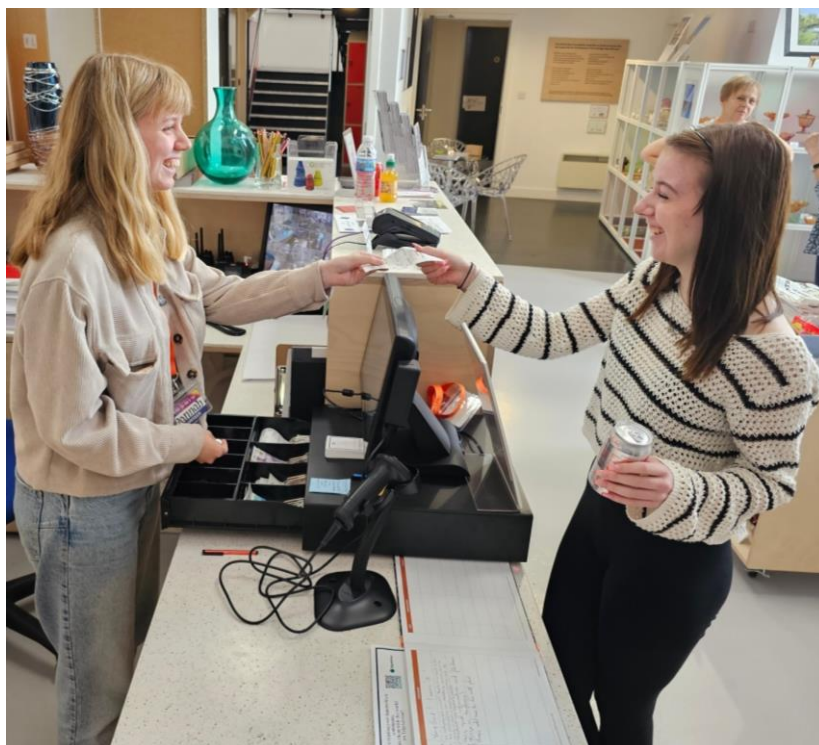
Antonia (Front of House, In-house Tour Guide and Back of House)

“Volunteering is a rewarding experience, it's lovely to meet and talk with visitors and to feel that I have helped to make their visit a positive one. As a volunteer it's a great way of helping to promote and preserve the history of the local area by talking to visitors and telling them some of the history about the site. We have visitors from all over the world as well as locals with family members who worked in the glass industry and it's great to hear their stories and be able to make their visit a positive experience”.

Sue (Front of House, Activity Support and Event support)

“I've been a volunteer since the beginning and I've enjoyed every minute. It's great engaging with the public but most of all it's great volunteering with some of the loveliest folk, both staff and fellow volunteers. It was one of my best decisions”.

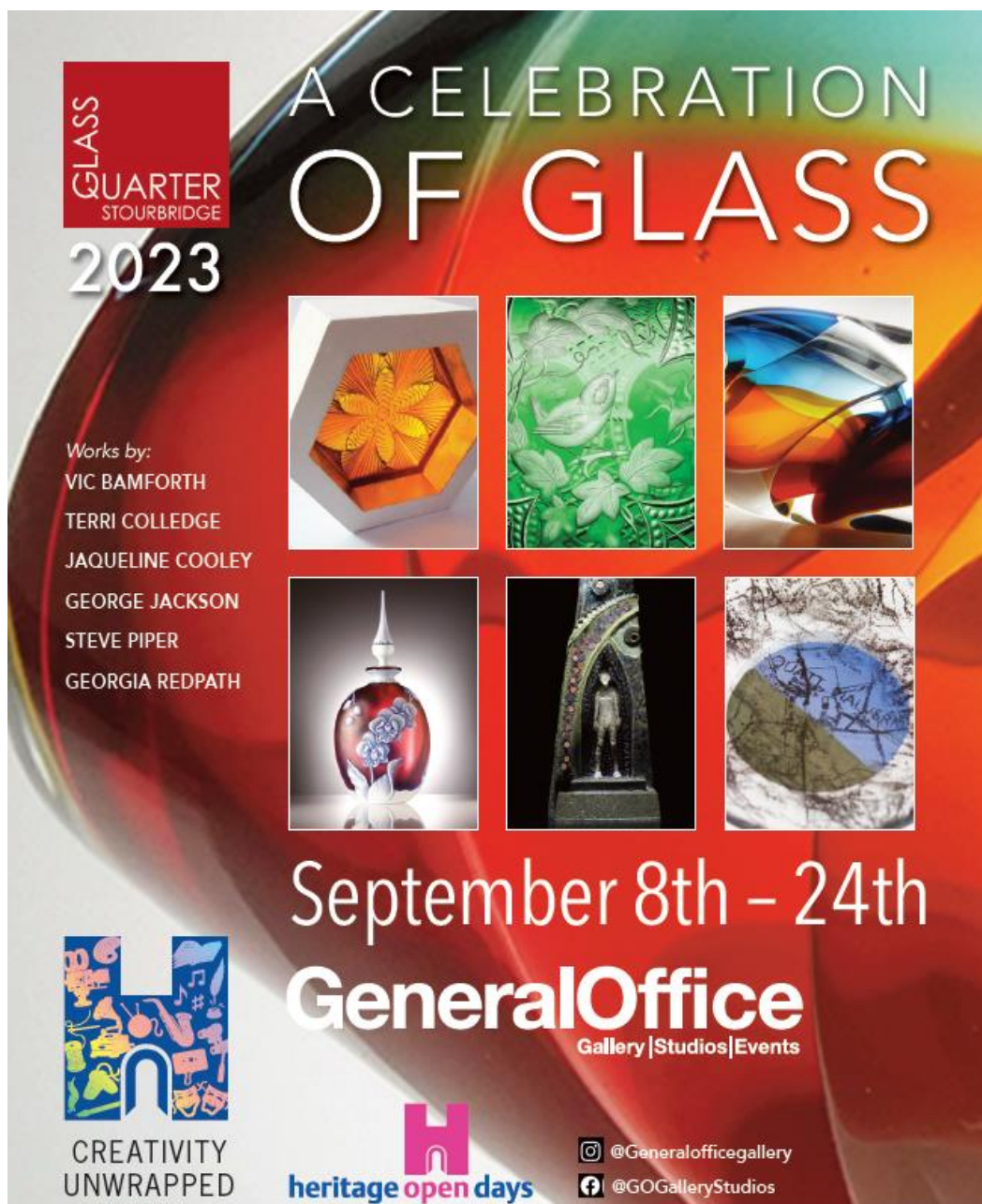
Roy (Tour Guiding and Event Support)



Volunteer application form can be downloaded from our website:
stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk/volunteer/

A Celebration of Glass


We are pleased to present the first of a new annual celebration of local glass making from the Stourbridge Glass Quarter. The exhibition hosted by General Office, Stourbridge showcases the work of six diverse makers from traditional copper wheel engraving, cameo glass and enamelling to contemporary studio glass and sculptural works. There is a talk by Georgia Redpath on 9th September and Stourbridge Glass Museum will also be holding a Glass Handling Session in the museum galleries with Harrison Davies where there will be the opportunity to see glass conservation work taking place in the activity room at the museum. On 23 September Terri Colledge will be demonstrating her techniques of enamel painting onto glass and talking about her cameo glass engraving and the Portland Vase.




GLASS QUARTER STOURBRIDGE
2023

A CELEBRATION OF GLASS


Works by:
VIC BAMFORTH
TERRI COLLEDGE
JAQUELINE COOLEY
GEORGE JACKSON
STEVE PIPER
GEORGIA REDPATH





September 8th - 24th
GeneralOffice
Gallery | Studios | Events



CREATIVITY UNWRAPPED



heritage open days

 @Generalofficegallery
 @GOGalleryStudios

www.generaloffice.co.uk

12 Hagley Road, Stourbridge DY8 1PS | 07976 935413 | NB Stair access only

The next generation

The Contemporary Glass Society have been joined once again by the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers and Professor Mike Barnes to offer their Prize & Review to 2023 Graduates.

Their August news release states: 'As part of our ambition to support emerging graduates at the beginning of what they hope is a long career in glass making, CGS offers an annual Graduate Prize and produces the New Graduate Review, featuring the work of some of the best of the UK's glass art graduates emerging from British, Irish, Universities and Colleges. To enable CGS to do this we are grateful to receive funding and support from the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London Charity Fund together with Professor Michael Barnes MC FRCP and our other sponsors, Creative Glass, Pearsons Glass, Warm Glass, Neues Glas and Alan J Poole.

The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers is one of the Livery Companies of the City of London. Granted a Royal Charter by Charles II, the role of the company is to stimulate interest in the many and varied aspects of glass and carry out charitable works, with special emphasis on education.

The judges had a long and arduous task in selecting the 4 Prize Winners; 5 Highly Commended, and the 10 Commended graduates to be included in the New Graduate Review 2023. Many of this year's Graduates had to navigate through Covid and all the barriers that followed. We are delighted to give four Prizes plus produce the New Graduate Review that will offer a window to their work and help them on their glass journey'.



More via Pam Reekie: admin@cgs.org.uk

Hitting the airwaves (round 2)

What seems but like yesterday I was interviewed by Brett Birks of Radio WM regarding the state of play on our inland waterways as he and his colleague Caroline undertook a week's cruise around the region for a documentary-style reportage. So, I was both delighted and amazed to hear from him again recently (Thursday 17th August) when he reminded me that all of this was actually *five years* ago. So, would I like to have a chat with him on his afternoon show to catch up on what's happened down on the towpath-side since? You bet. There has indeed one or two things happened in the interim, not least the opening of a certain glass museum, about which *inter alia* Brett kindly allowed me to wax lyrical.

My thanks once again to Brett for his support. Local radio - don'tcha just love it? (*Other radio stations are available – Ed*)

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/>

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:

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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.

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**.

Proposed closure of National Glass Centre

We have reported on this in *GCs passim*. There is now a petition. Sign or learn more here: #Save the National Glass Centre or here: savethengc@gmail.com or here: <https://savethengc.art.blog/>

Ooops

In the last edition we noted that Jersey glassblower Marc McCarty honed his skills at Seattle's Pilchuck Glass School. This should have read Pilchuck. More at www.pilchuck.org

One for the diary

We don't very often hear from the scientific side of glassmaking so let's shout it out for the The Society of Glass Technology <https://sgt.org>

As *per* their website: 'The Society of Glass Technology exists to serve people who are interested in the production, properties or uses of glasses, whether from a commercial, aesthetic, academic or technical viewpoint. It is a non-profit making organisation serving a worldwide membership publishing journals and text books, organising meetings, symposia and conferences on glass related topics, coordinating the activities of special interest groups and technical committees, and providing a communication framework geared to the needs of the glass community'.

SGT are holding their annual conference in Cambridge over 4th - 6th September which will doubtless prove fascinating, featuring as it does a special History & Heritage section. Details and booking [here](#)

Notes and queries

No request this time around; keep 'em coming.

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*)

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.

* *Neon News: Autumn 2023.* Latest from Neon Workshops. <https://www.neonworkshops.com>

* *Paperweight Collectors Circle* news including talk 1st October. Derbyshire and Xmas lunch. [More](#)

* 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>

From the Hot Studio:

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

Follow all that's going on via Allister's feeds, above.

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 regret there is no foreign news in this issue. Our correspondent has Reuter's cramp.

I'll get my ... whatever

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 : bf@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



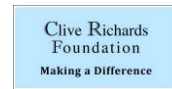
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BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

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 : FCC Communities Foundation ... plus many contributions from other trusts, foundations and individuals. (E&OE)

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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 bf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk



www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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