



GlassCuts 23

Issue dated 5.3.13

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

Welcome to the first *GlassCuts* of 2013. Is it, I wonder, a tad late to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year? Surely not. But methinks at least an explanation is called for, before we catch up big-time with what's going down in the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{©GF}

IN THIS ISSUE

A writer writes

David Whitehouse

Moving on

Bye bye Jim

Bye bye Roger

Bye bye Charles

Oh, dear

Money matters

On your marks

Extra, extra, read all about it

Extra, extra, hear all about it

Onwards and upwards

Getting stuck in

More auction action

And finally ...

Dates for your diary

STOP PRESS +++STOP PRESS+++STOP PRESS

A writer writes

My thanks to my colleague Lynn Boleyn for manning - or, should I say, womanning - the fort admirably in my temporary absence and sending out a holding message on my behalf, informing you that the latest stumper-bumper fix of your fave-rave glass fanzine would be, erm, a trifle delayed, to say the least. Nothing furtive; the reason is simply down to me moving house. To where? I hear you ask. Well, type the words 'end of the world' into your satnav and ours is the last place on the right just before you drop off it. Here, in deepest rural Welsh borders country (*motto: 'Wee durnt git mony strarngers roond ere'*) there are, I kid you not, still pockets where the Pony Express, carrier pigeons and pre-decimal currency have yet to be phased out. So, not surprisingly, it has taken an age to link up with 'tinternet. But now we're back on line, it's business as usual. Thank you all for your patience.



David Whitehouse

We commence on the saddest of notes with the heartbreaking news that David Whitehouse, Senior Scholar at Corning Museum of Glass, Corning NY, recently lost his brave battle with cancer and died at home surrounded by his family. He was 71. It seems like yesterday, indeed it was only last August, that David visited us during the International Festival of Glass. His presence was germane, since not only was he here to celebrate 400 years of Stourbridge Glass, the 2012 Portland Vase Project, Hagley Hall *et al*, he was also returning to his roots.

Although latterly resident in the USA, David was born in Nottinghamshire and raised from an early age at Wildmoor, near Lydiate Ash, just up the road from Stourbridge. He took an active part in the festival with evident glee, including a speaking presentation and the live link-up with Corning, plus a memorable evening of jollities with a few of the 2012 Portland Vase team whence his easy charm and joyous wit came to the fore. Ostensibly as fit as a fiddle during his stay here, he made a brief trip to Europe before returning home feeling unwell, whereupon, as reported in *GC 21*, the diagnosis was made. An understated man of deft touch, and sparkling erudition, he was one of those rare charismatics who effortlessly shine a light 'pon wherever they tread. A tribute from BGF appears in the latest edition of *Newsletter* and a full obituary can be found by following the links to the blogspot at www.cmog.org

Not only has the realm of glass lost a gifted specialist in the field of Roman cameo glass, the wider world is now considerably the poorer for the premature departure of a truly lovely man. Our condolences go to David's family, his colleagues at Corning and his many admirers. RIP

Editorial mea culpa: The news of David's death as reported in the latest BGF *Newsletter* (issue 5 March 2013) regrettably contained some information that was not entirely accurate. No excuses, but in mitigation we were so anxious to disseminate the sad news that we took our eye off the ball and committed the cardinal sin of not checking everything fully. Whilst this does not alter one iota the tragedy of David's loss, the Editorial team nevertheless apologizes unreservedly for any offence this may have inadvertently caused.

Moving on

Three stalwarts of the glass industry, all of whom have contributed immensely in their own special way for a combined period of oodles of years, have decided that a change is as good as a rest ...

Bye Bye Jim

A matter of mere moments after the last *GC* went out, and frustratingly just too late to be included, came news of Broadfield House resident glass artiste, Allister Malcolm, losing his right-hand man, when his long-time associate, Jim Cartwright, chose to call it a day. After a lifetime in the trade, Gentleman Jim, as I came to think of him, tells me he plans to spend more time enjoying his family. Although we'll see how that one pans out as he has already been spotted back at the old place, where I am sure he will be welcomed just as long as he wishes to visit.

Reserved, modest and unassuming - dare one suggest, typical of the genre he represents - Jim's enchanting self effacement concealed a broad knowledge of the trade from his days at Webb Corbett and a stint at Okra in Richard Golding's time, together with an undimmed passion for glass which he would willingly share with anyone who cared to listen politely. Plus, of course, he was for a period of 10 years of great assistance to Allister, who will now have to do his own donkey-work for a bit. Bless.

But not for long, one suspects, for indeed if you are interested in the fame, influence and prestige that all come with being Allister's new Best Boy and Key Grip, contact him at info@allistermalcolm.com, or direct at Broadfield House, and give him your best shot. In the meantime, our best wishes go to Jim for a long, happy and thoroughly well deserved retirement in the company of his loved ones.

ByeBye Roger



Roger Dodsworth, Keeper of Glass & Fine Art at Broadfield House Glass Museum and founder of The Glass Association, has also decided that enough is enough.

Regular readers will recall *GCs passim* in which we followed Roger's remarkable return to health following his illness some while back and, after bravely returning to the fray, he feels the time is now right to bow out. Roger has given 35 years to Dudley Museum Service, during which he has overseen one of the finest collections of glass in the world whilst also carving a reputation as an internationally acknowledged authority on Stourbridge Glass.

Described by his peers as 'a champion for the region's glass heritage', he is also the author of numerous publications. I referred to Roger in a previous *GC* as 'one of life's nice guys' and am personally pleased to place on record what a pleasure it has been to work alongside him. He departs from Broadfield House with the best wishes of everyone who knows him ringing in his ears. Roger would be the last one to sing his own praises, but I guarantee there is no-one amongst us who would dispute him being a very hard act to follow.

Bye Bye Charles

Someone once remarked - I think it was me - that the degree of fame is inversely proportional to free slots in the diary. In other words, the better you get at what you do, the less time is your own, as audiences clamour increasingly to hear the word. One such man now subject to Graham's Law is our very own Charles Hajdamach, whose star continues to rise in its ascendancy. For those of you who have been living under a rock for the past thirty years and may need a brief reminder of a fulsome career which would merit a book in itself, Charles is a renowned authority on glass in general and British Glass in particular.



A founding father of Broadfield House Glass Museum, his subsequent freelance calling has since taken him around the globe - he has only recently returned from a lecture tour down under - and still he found time along the way to compile a two-volume definitive history of British Glass that will set the standard for at least a generation to come. So, it was perhaps inevitable that, with his diary bulging at the seams, the moment would come when, with characteristic integrity, he had to review his options. It is thus with much sadness that BGF Chairman, Graham Knowles, has accepted Charles' resignation from the BGF Board of Trustees.

That's the bad news; the good is that Charles will continue to support the work of the BGF. And what an ambassador he will continue to be, as he mingles effortlessly amongst the very highest echelons of the glass world as if to the Manor born, yet still maintaining his roots on *terra firma* alongside us mere mortals. We will all carry our own fond memories of Charles but I have particular reason to bid him well, being mightily grateful for his encouragement, and the generous provision of a Foreword, for one of my own modest tomes a few years back. BGF joins with everyone in universally wishing Charles ever-greater success. Yet I am surely not alone in noticing that, as he moves forward, he has left behind him a rather large hole. Best of British, Chas. And thank you.

Oh, dear

If there's one thing that makes my knees shake it is climbing up ladders. I hate the things, probably 'cos I fell off one once and know at first hand the pain of dropping from a height where the only thing to help break your fall is a concrete patio. So sincere and heartfelt commiserations to our ol' pal Brian Clarke, Chairman of the Glass Association and another all-round Gentleman, who came a bit of a cropper recently when he sustained a nasty bump to the head after falling from a roof.

His better half, Gaby Marcon, despite being understandably otherwise engaged, has graciously taken time to keep us posted and to let us know that after a fraught period in hospital, 'our Bri' is on the mend and should, by the time you read this, be heading in the right direction on the way to recovery. He does so with our very best wishes.

Money matters

BGF is graciously indebted to the Anthony and Gwendoline Wylde Memorial Trust for their kind donation towards running costs, and for our fundraising chum, Mark Ashbourne, in helping to secure it.

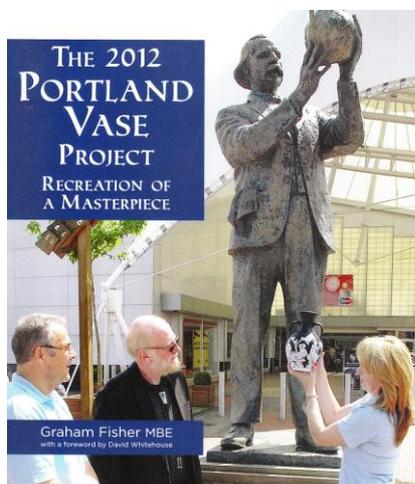
BGF is also grateful for those who are continuing to maintain and renew their donations by standing order. If you would like to donate to BGF by this method, do let us know and we will sort the rest.

Thank you all.

Please note: In recognizing donors and acknowledging their support, *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.

On your marks

2014 may seem a long way off, but plans are already afoot for the next International Festival of Glass. My thanks to Keith Brocklehurst and Natasha George for their kind invitation to attend preliminary discussions a couple of weeks back. A most productive meeting; I suspect they are right now fired up on making the 2014 gig even better than 2012, which was itself an absolute blinder. No doubt they are already in the zone and on top of things, but I don't suppose they will mind one little bit if you would care to contact one or t'other of them and offer a hand. We will, of course, be delighted to offer full coverage of plans as they progress.



Extra, extra, read all about it.

The 2012 Portland Vase Project - Recreation of a Masterpiece; a conference lecture at Red House Cone on 8th October 2012. As reported in the Winter Special 2012/2013 newsletter of the Guild of Glass Engravers. Lovely stuff; much obliged.

(*Extra, extra, read all about it* is, in fact, the title of a Who song from the rock opera *Tommy*, which, at just 7 seconds, is one of the shortest tracks ever recorded. There, it's an education reading *GlassCuts*, ain't it?)

Extra, extra, hear all about it

Next time you sit down with your copy of The Times / Independent / Telegraph / Guardian / Daily Star / Sunday Sport (*delete as applicable*), spare a thought for those less fortunate whose sight does not extend to being able to do something as take-for-grantable as reading a rag. So thank heavens for the likes of Black Country Talking Newspapers (BCTN), a charitable organization that sends out audio versions of the news to the visually impaired. I did a bit for them some years back, and, alongside fellow Broadfield House Outreach Worker, Dr. Kate Round, have since undertaken some work with the associated Thomas Pocklington Trust in giving the partially sighted an opportunity to feel and experience the world of glass. The tremendous interest shown was way out of proportion to the work undertaken in setting it up, and this novel initiative has already punched well above its weight in introducing the visually impaired to something they may not have otherwise experienced.

I was thus really chuffed to be invited to record a few words for BCTN during a session on 12th February, for which the guys and gals at BCTN have already kindly sent me a copy. And, dare I say, mighty fine it sounds too.

The conversation ranged long and wide, but of course it turned eventually to the importance of Stourbridge Glass, proposals for the new Museum and the work of the BGF – all of which will help spread the message to a new audience of potential enthusiasts who would not otherwise be exposed to any of it. Wonderful stuff, wonderful people. My thanks, and much respect, to interviewer Roger Green and producer Claire Bayley, for the privilege of contributing to such a stimulating afternoon. Thomas Pocklington Trust and BCTN are at the Mary Stevens Centre, Oldswinford. www.pocklington-trust.org.uk

(Extra, extra, hear all about it is one of mine, and of no musical significance whatsoever.)

Onwards and upwards



Congratulations on yet another feather in the cap for Ruskin Glass Centre and Glasshouse Arts Centre, with news from Glass Centre Manager, Leigh White, that sculptor, Phil Potter, one of 18 practicing artists based there, has picked up a commendation for the work he submitted to the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists Friends (RBSA) Exhibition.

The presentation was made at a private viewing at the St Paul's Square Gallery in February. Phil was commended on both pieces entered, out of the total of 110 pieces in the exhibition, with the winning pieces back on display within Ruskin Glass Centre for visitors to enjoy.

The RBSA is an artist led charity that supports artists and promotes engagement with visual arts through a range of artistic activities. The 'Friends Group' is a diverse mix of practicing artists with a common passion for art. With thanks to Leigh (07811 143871 leigh@ruskinglasscentre.co.uk) for flagging up that one.

And, whilst we are still with Ruskin, take a peek at newcomer Jamie Hubbard, who has brought his woodworking skills to a glass-orientated home. It is widely cited that the key to success in the 21st Century is diversification, a concept that the guys and gals at Ruskin Glass Centre are evidently embracing with gusto. We wish Jamie well. See him strutting his stuff at <http://ruskinglasscentre.co.uk/tenants/jamie-hubbard-creative-woodworking/>



Getting stuck in

A big thank you to all of those kind souls who have made enquiries or volunteered their efforts to help with BGF work. More, please! Contact us at the usual address.

More auction action

An early reminder about the *Centuries of Glass* Auction to be hosted by Fieldings of Stourbridge on Saturday 23rd March, which will feature some of the remaining work from Allister Malcolm's recent glassblowing challenge (see below).



And finally ...

Here's a tempter to whet the appetite.

Word is on the street that the aforementioned A. Malcolm Esq., he of Broadfield House, and our fellow BGF Trustee, being empowered by the energizing success of his World's Longest Glassblowing Challenge against both the clock and Team Elliott (covered extensively in GCs *passim*; commemorative brochure still available), is formulating ideas for his next altruistic endeavour.

Details are sparse - mainly 'cos he hasn't thought of them yet - but he is reportedly looking for it to be an even greater extravaganza than last time. Watch this space, friends. You know it makes sense.

Dates for your diary

The season is beginning to crank up, so let's have details of your spectaculars and festivities via the usual address, please. Remember, if you don't tell us, then we won't know. So neither will the millions and millions (*officially audited figures*) of avid GC readers.

Saturday 23rd March 2013

Centuries of Glass Auction, Fieldings Auctioneers, Stourbridge

www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk

Events & Exhibitions at Broadfield House Glass Museum

www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/glass-museum/

10 February - 9th June 2013

Collectomania; West Meets East

18 May 2013 - Beads Day

16 June 2013 - Paperweight Day

20 July 2013 - Bonhams Valuation Day

17 August - Family Fun Day

STOP PRESS +++STOP PRESS+++STOP PRESS

The latest BGF Newsletter, issue 5 dated March 2013 (contact us if you haven't had it yet) reports news of steps in the forward direction for BGF to become of a Museum Trust, to eventually take over the running of the brand new glass museum.

GlassCuts can go one further in bringing you bang up to speed; as we go to the wire with print deadlines, BGF is pleased - no, actually, BGF is absolutely delighted - to announce that the Organisation is now a member of the Association of Independent Museums. We do indeed live in exciting times. Have faith and stick with us.

Phew, I did say this would be a bumper edition, but at least we seem to be back on an even keel. So there you go; I'm off for a lie down and a rub with a soapy rag now.

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

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

Disclaimers 'n stuff

I could write my best filthy joke here, or slag the Pope off in Latin, and no-one would notice because this is the bit that nobody ever reads. Still, we have to do it, so here goes. *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. *Nomine et file patris in sanctum sic gloria mundi*, with smutty knobs on. Now, let's see who spots that lot first.