

Stourbridge Glass Museum – how it came into being.

The remarkable tale of the period from the formation of BGF in 2010 to SGM official opening in 2013.
Now available direct from the museum. All proceeds to BGF.

Edition: 241
Dated: 26.3.21

A SPECIAL CUT OUT AND KEEP
'yet another round of great news' EDITION

Science in action

We are absolutely chuffed to bits to announce that Stourbridge Glass Museum has been chosen as one of thirty-six small museums across the UK to be awarded funding of up to £3,500 by the Royal Society in the latest round of its (*click the link*) [Places of Science](#) scheme to engage communities with their local science stories.

Places of science aims to celebrate projects that will evoke curiosity, interest and enthusiasm by exploring science in a creative way, while also contributing to the museum sector's recovery. From family days at the museum, through community-led creation and curation, to workshops for schools and documentary filmmaking, projects offer an exciting way for people to engage with science in the local area and beyond.

These things don't just get awarded by themselves, so a huge 'thank you' to every one of the 'A' team down at SGM that have helped make this happen. You know who you are. Well done.

CGS returns to SGM

Following on from their successful 25th Anniversary exhibition at Stourbridge Glass Museum in 2022, the Cotemporary Glass Society (CGS) www.cgs.org.uk are returning with a new presentation.

New Horizons will showcase both traditional methods of glass making along with modern techniques, all producing contemporary work that challenges and explores the boundaries of glass. All the work on show will be either be made especially for the exhibition or is work which has been made since 2022 but has not been previously exhibited. Consequently, "*New Horizons*" provides a unique opportunity to experience work never before seen in public.

A diverse range of glass making processes from hot glass, casting, kiln formed, pâte de verre, lampworking, neon, and stained glass will be represented by artists including: Anthony Amoako Attam, Emma Baker, Philip Baldwin and Monica Guggisberg, Heike Brachlow, Sarah Brown, Karen Browning, Penny Carter, James Devereux, Catherine Dunstan, Fiaz Elson, Dominic Fonde, Richard Jackson, Verity Pulford, Susan Purser Hope, Laura Quinn, Tim Rawlinson, Opal Seabrook, Ruth Shelley, Angela Thwaites, and Brian Waugh.

New Horizons runs from 13th July to 17th November 2024 and coincides with the International Festival of Glass & Biennale. CGS considers Stourbridge Glass Museum is an ideal venue to host this display and is also running supporting events including talks and an opportunity to meet some of the makers.

Making it at market latest

Here's an update from resident glassmaker and prospective poet Allister, whom, as can be seen, we do hope does not intend giving up the Hot Studio day job in pursuit of literary excellence.

Al tells us: In January 2024 I hosted the second *Make It At Market* reunion. During the last demonstration here at SGM all four glass blowers from season 1 - Emmy Palmer, Alison Vincent, Belinda King, Mark Fenn and I as mentor - teamed up to make a collaborative piece. We've named it '*Dragonfly goes out to sea*'. Here's a commemorative verse wot me haz writ ... (*oh no! – Ed*)

The Dragonfly went out to sea in a beautiful purple boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five-pound note. (Because glass making costs an arm and a leg)
The Dragonfly looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar, (you'll have to imagine that)
'O lovely Glassy! O Glassy, my love,
What a beautiful Glassy you are,
You are! You are!
What a beautiful Glassy you are!'

... with apologies to Edward Lear who, if he were still alive today, would be turning in his grave (eh?) – Ed

Ah, but; now's your chance to own this unique collaboration piece (imagery courtesy of Simon Bruntnell). Plus there are some additional prizes up for grabs! We plan to donate all proceeds to these favoured charities:

Emmy 12% - The Lily Foundation
Belinda 12% - National Autism Society
Alison 12% - Sea Shepherd, WDC Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Mark 12% - Bees for Development
AMGlass Ltd 52% - The Lily Foundation

In addition to the main prize draw we have the following items that will be individually drawn ...

- two free entrance tickets to Stourbridge Glass Museum
- voucher for a glass paperweight making Saturday session at Allister Malcolm Glass Ltd.
- pea green pip from Emmy Palmer Glass
- tumbler from Belinda King Glass
- glass piece by Alison Vincent

To enter, we are asking for a £5 donation per entry. You can enter as many times as you like. Please make sure that your donation includes your full name and contact details. Winners will be drawn and announced on our social media platforms.



Congratulations

We have received notice from the Glass Art Society www.glassart.org confirming the winners in the *Saxe Emerging Artists Awards 2024*. This award, established by Dorothy and the late George Saxe, recognizes emerging talent in the community and provides a platform for artists at a pivotal moment in their careers. Recipients receive a cash prize, provide a lecture on their work at the Annual GAS Conference and are featured in a virtual exhibition and catalogue.

The winners are: Priscilla Kar Yee Lo, Sadhbh Mowlds and Abegael Uffelman. Full profiles of each can be found [here](#)

Glass donations

Our thanks go to a reader who has kindly donated a number of rather fine-looking glass bowls to the museum. Their provenance is being assessed as we speak but appear to be of sufficient merit to be added to the collection. We will know more in due course, but in the meantime, we remind our readers that if you have an item of unwanted glass that you feel may merit such consideration then we can discuss finding it a permanent home. Equally, if you have glassware that may not be quite so noteworthy but is surplus to your requirements, we do sell items through our shop with all proceeds to our funds. Contact Curator Harrison for details.



The Italian Job

No, not that one. The *Venice Glass Week* festival is being held in Venice and Murano 14th - 22nd September 2024.

Applications are invited from individuals and organisations who would like to participate. Applicants can either propose their own event venue, or apply to exhibit within one of *The Venice Glass Week HUBs* or request support in sourcing another venue elsewhere in the city. Deadline for applications is 8th April 2024. Application is free and there is no participation fee. Just try to avoid blowing the bl**dy doors off (*with a nod to Michael Caine's original Italian Job - Ed*). Information about the festival is [here](#) and application forms [here](#)

The things they get up to

Let's be clear, SGM just couldn't operate as it does without our wonderful team of volunteers, headed up by Volunteer Coordinator Moemi Madigan. But it's not all graft and sweat y'know, as can be seen from these image that show what they get up to when not busying themselves at SGM.

Moemi tells us: 'During the winter season, our museum has been bustling with various training and activities for our dedicated volunteers. Since our winter opening started, we've prioritized enhancing our understanding and inclusivity through specialized training such as Deaf Awareness, Dementia Awareness, and Disability Awareness for both our staff and volunteers. Additionally, we've fostered connections through volunteer exchange visits with several independent museums. Our visits to institutions like the West Midland Police Museum (Birmingham), Coffin Works (Birmingham), and The Museum of Carpet (Kidderminster) have been enriching experiences, with guided tours provided by their passionate volunteer staff. In turn, we've welcomed visitors from these museums, offering them tours of our own museum accompanied by warm cups of tea and coffee. These exchanges have not only expanded our knowledge and network but have also reinforced the spirit of camaraderie among museums and their volunteers'.

Our volunteers are crucial element of our operations so it's only proper they get to enjoy themselves too. If you feel tempted to join them, give us a call or drop us a line and we'll do the rest. See the *Volunteering* panel, below.



Be there or be square

The Gala Evening at Stourbridge Glass Museum, Friday 19th April 2024. Details and tickets [here](#)

This prestigious event to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of Stourbridge Glass Museum will include a VIP reception followed by an evening of presentations and 'live' demonstrations showcasing the museum's work. Speakers will include Yours Truly, glassmaker Chris Day, and glass expert Dr Max Stewart. Allister Malcolm and his team will be showing their skills at glassmaking and their exhilarating *Fire Poi* performance.

A highlight of the evening will be a raffle/blind auction with the opportunity to win a truly unique work of glass specially made for the event by glassmaker and fellow BGF Trustee Chris Day. Plus, there will be a very distinctive surprise courtesy of our resident glassmaker Allister.

Tickets are £50 and are going fast so don't miss out. All proceeds will support SGM.

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
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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 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*)

* An update on the query from Emma Jones in last edition regarding tracing one of her glassmaking ancestors came from James Measell: *'There is an Arthur H. Jones born in the Stourbridge area in the last quarter of 1920 (mother's maiden name was Holt). Should be info in the 1921 census'*. We have passed this and other similar information on to Emma and her enquiries are continuing.

* Short and simple, from Julia Preece: *'Can you tell me what this and where it came from? We can see nothing like it on the internet. It is reeded glass on a copper base, no markings, and was bought from a charity shop in Cornwall.'*



Something perhaps a little trickier to nail down comes from reader Norma Sztencel who asks: *'Could you possibly help identify a vase I have acquired? I cannot find an identical one by internet search. I was wondering if the vase could be by John Walsh (New Opaline Brocade), as there are similarities to some of the vases I've seen pictured. The vase is approximately 7 inches high and quite delicate. It glows under UV light'*.



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.

- * Alan J. Poole newsletter latest edition. alanjpoole@aol.com
- * The Glass Hub newsletter. Notice of forthcoming visiting artists. More [here](#)
- * Contemporary Glass Society latest news. www.cgs.org.uk
Monthly Glass Network Digital also available.
- * The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London. Updates: info@glass-sellers.co.uk
- * The Glass Society Events Schedule. <http://glassassociation.org.uk>
- * Artlight email magazine. News from the world of glass in art. info@artlight-magazine.com

From the Hot Studio:

www.allistermalcolm.com **Facebook** @allistermalcolmglass **Twitter** @allistermalcolm **Instagram** @allistermalcolmglassltd
Follow all that's going on via Allister's feeds.

Keep up with the latest via AI's media feeds.

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* or *OffCuts*. Usual address. There's no fee, but if you've got a few bob lying around in a spare pocket we can always find a good use for it.

And finally ...

Spelling and grammar? It's not rocket science. So, here's a quote from Shakespeare I remember exactly from my schooldaze: 'All the world's an ashtray and we are the Players upon it.'

Exit Editor stage left pursued by a bear.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS
Trustee, PR & Comms
pp British Glass Foundation
www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Volunteering at Stourbridge Glass Museum

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 Stourbridge 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 & Business Manager Lynn Boleyn MBE

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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)

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

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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 bof@britishglassfoundation.org.uk



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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STOP PRESS !!! STOP PRESS !!!! STOP PRESS

Just as we were about to push the 'Go' button we received this update which, contrary to our optimistic opening headline at the start of this edition, is not such great news ...

As you will know, we have been exploring the option of relocating a restructured glass and ceramics programme from the National Glass Centre (NGC) to Priestman Building on City Campus, Sunderland, as part of its work to find alternative locations for activity based in the current NGC building.

We commissioned an external project team to produce a feasibility report to assess the scope and viability of relocating, and to provide a high-level cost estimate. The report concluded that moving equipment and undertaking the necessary changes to the building – for example, ventilation and extraction facilities – would cost in the region of £9.4 million.

Based on this report, and considering the number of glass and ceramics students, the University's Board of Governors has concluded that relocating glass and ceramics is not financially viable. Yesterday evening, the Board therefore decided that the University's glass and ceramics academic programme should close in summer 2026. This will allow current students to complete their courses at the University though the University will also stop recruiting to the undergraduate glass and ceramics course due to start in September 2024.

As you can imagine, this has been a difficult and complex decision for all concerned, and consultation has begun with all staff affected by this decision. The University has also triggered its Student Protection Plan and informed the Office for Students (OfS).

The University remains committed to providing a range of courses in the arts and creative industries. However, the focus of our curriculum will be on subject areas which are financially viable and offer our students the best graduate opportunities. In addition, we want to ensure that we have a forward-facing outlook as an institution and can exploit the possibilities afforded by new developments such as the Crown Works/Fulwell 73 film production studios which will be built in the city very soon.

This announcement does not have an impact on our work to find alternative locations for other activities based at the NGC. The University remains in active discussion with its key partners, Sunderland Culture and Sunderland City Council, including on the potential to take space in the Culture House. In the meantime, the National Glass Centre building and the activities within it remain open. No decisions have been made regarding the future of the site beyond summer 2026.

As a key supporter of our glass and ceramics students, I wanted to reiterate my thanks for your continued support to date. Do feel free to come back to me if you need any further information on this matter.

My kindest regards.

David

SIR DAVID BELL KCB DL
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive
University of Sunderland