

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.

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Gasps of excitement time

Honestly, things are happening around here so fast it's difficult to keep pace. So, when we get our breath back from the exhilaration we can tell you how absolutely thrilled we are to see your very own Stourbridge Glass Museum ('The People's Museum') being shortlisted for the decidedly prestigious Museums & Heritage Awards *Sustainable Project of the year*. To put this in perspective, the M&H Awards are considered the 'Oscars' of museum attainment.

This is simply amazing, especially when one considers that less than a decade and a half ago our site would have been better known as a vandalised ruin of a glassworks that had long-since seen better days. It was also the time that the fledgling BGF was unknown and experiencing no small difficulty in convincing people that we weren't crackers. We really have come a long way in the meantime and to see the company we are now keeping take a look at the full awards shortlist [here](#).

BGF, working in conjunction with our friends at Dudley MBC and Complex Development Projects Ltd amongst others (see our 'flannel panel' and website for full details) are understandably chuffed to bits. Already, as we speak, our 'A' Team of BGF Chairman Graham Knowles MBE; BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE; Curator Harrison Davies, Events organiser Corrina Field and Museum Director Alexander Goodger are dusting off their glad rags to pop down to London in mid-May later this year.

SGM Director Alexander Goodger tells *GlassCuts*:

Our entry, *Greener Glass* - our sustainable glass exhibition powered by solar energy, alongside our eco-friendly workshops such as Terri Malcolm's driftwood workshops, have been recognised among the best in the sector, which is a tremendous achievement given the highly competitive nature of these awards: we are in the same category as the National Trust & The Natural History Museum.

This recognition not only highlights our commitment to sustainability and innovation but also provides a unique opportunity to showcase our work on a national platform. Being shortlisted brings several benefits, including:

- **Enhanced visibility:** Our project will be featured on the Museums + Heritage Awards website and Museums Association, in press releases, and across their social media channels, helping to raise our profile within the cultural sector and beyond.
- **Networking opportunities:** The awards ceremony, held at the Hilton London Park Lane on **15 May 2025**, is an event attended by industry leaders and funders, offering a chance to celebrate our team's hard work and connect with peers.
- **Proof we are a leading organisation:** The awards are part funded by NLHF, so we can be a badge of honour to our four key sector funders that have supported this project: National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, Museum Development Midlands and Association of Independent Museums. They also show our credibility on a local level.

This is a fantastic achievement for the Stourbridge Glass Museum and a testament to the dedication of our team, partners, and volunteers. Let's celebrate this milestone and continue to build on this success!

Special thanks to:

- Terri Malcolm and her award-winning workshops.
- Corrina and the event volunteers for the diverse programme of workshops, and for her design and marketing of exhibition.
- Harrison for curating, and student co-curators including Elizabeth Pardoe (Liz).
- Allister Malcolm for his work on the solar and net zero project.
- Lynn Boleyn MBE for administering the grant.
- Jacqui Watson for writing the Arts Council Grant for the net zero project.
- Artists featured in the exhibition, including artists-in-residence Thomas Southall, Terri & Allister Malcolm, Maddie Hughes.
- All the trustees that were involved in this project, including editing, finances - Gavin, marketing - Graham.
- Anyone I have forgotten to mention!

To have reached the shortlist is in itself a massive achievement. But what might happen on the night? Fingers tightly crossed; we'll keep you posted.



Spring has sprung ...

... and with it comes our extended opening hours at Stourbridge Glass Museum for the new season. With effect from 1st April we will be delighted to greet you from 10.30am until 4.30pm Tuesday to Sunday (closed Mondays). We are also pleased to advise you that despite ever-increasing costs we have pegged our admission fees and they remain unchanged for 2025. More details [here](#).

The new season also brings with it a range of activities, events and displays including glassmaking 'hands-on' sessions, open days, displays by skilled glassmakers, tunnel tours, whisky tastings, Easter egg hunts and much more. They're all on our website so just click [here](#).

Our membership is now also up and running. Fees vary depending on the level chosen but a single adult can become a member for what we consider to be a very reasonable £15.00 per annum. So, if you wish to further demonstrate your glassmaking support together with becoming eligible for a whole bucket-load of benefits, click [here](#).

It's all looking good to go so do come along and see what's going on down in sunny Wordsley; we look forward to greeting you.

Better than the original?

Well, perhaps not quite, but it certainly is a stunning interpretation that is destined to make a big impression in the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{©GF} (Just as its predecessor, *The 2012 Portland Vase*, did – Ed)

Yes, it's the Blue ('Naples') Vase we are talking about here. We have been covering this from the outset (see *OffCuts 4* dated 20.8.24 and other back issues of GC) and we are all getting really excited as it nears completion and launch. The team, led again by Ian Dury, are oh-so-close to putting the final bits and bobs on to the nearly-finished item, so we look forward to bringing you details of The Big Unveiling just as soon as we know ourselves.

Here in the shimmering opulence that is *GlassCuts Towers*, we have already enjoyed a sneak preview and can guarantee you this promises to be a real belter. Keep your diary free for the announcement of the date; coming soon to a glass museum near you.



Sit. Vac.

The Guild of Glass Engravers is seeking a salaried part-time Administrator. The position is open to all but the duties are mostly London/Winchester-centric. More details [here](#).

Stourbridge Glass Museum information corner

Details of forthcoming events are [here](#) or subscribe [here](#) for updates of events and other GDPR-compliant communications from SGM, including *GlassCuts* and promotions, direct to your inbox.

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.
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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**.

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*)

Come on, now – we know those queries are out there just itching to test us.

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. Sponsors and supporters listed first.

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

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 developments down at the studio and his work throughout IFoG via AI's media feeds. His latest news is also now available [here](#)

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 ...

'A friend of mine was in an Italian restaurant recently, celebrating Valentine's Day and trying to impress his new girlfriend. The waiter handed him a menu. 'Ah' he said confidently 'I'll have the Pageone'. The waiter, baffled, looked over his shoulder. 'That, Sir, says page one'.

Be honest; we've all been there at some time.

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 [here](#)

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

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Keeping in touch

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THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



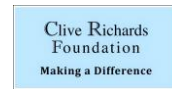
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BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

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 bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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