



GlassCuts

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation
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Howdy, friends. A mixed bag for you this time around, with the promise of a real treat coming up to keep you hanging in there. Enjoy ...

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An experience; an update



In the previous edition of your fave-rave glass fanzine I made a tantalizing reference to *A Black Country Experience*, a two-day extravaganza celebrating the 50th anniversary of the British Cartographic Society. Well, as my mate, a Professor of English, from Gornal says: 'It's bin and cum and gone.' And what an event it turned out to be. The plot was to take a bunch of cartographers - wake up at the back, that's people who make maps - and, by way of transporting them several leagues from their more usual comfort zones, expose them to the delights on offer around The Dark Region.

Festive Fayre included a boat trip through the Dudley limestone caverns, a jaunt around the Black Country Living Museum, an examination of documentary jewels in the local archives and, but of course, faggots 'n paes at Ma Pardoe's. That was just Day 1. It was Day 2 that will be of interest to glass fans, as we took them on a guided canal walk through the Stourbridge Glass Industry, then let them roam in desultory fashion around Red House Cone for a while, before wantonly abandoning them to the mercy of Charlotte Hughes-Martin, who wrapped them all in pinnies and safety goggles to teach them the finer points of glass engraving. The mood was heightened by this being the same time that RHC was holding its 1940s weekend, with Charlotte suitably attired and creating the impression of a rather dominant school-ma'am, a role which she evidently relished with glee. Honestly, you should have seen them all at it, brows knotted in concentration, with more than one showing a remarkably quick grasp of the knack. If there is a way to have more fun without taking all of your clothes off, then drop me a line at the usual address and I'll give it a go.



The afternoon concluded in slightly more erudite fashion, with a presentation on the 2012 Portland Vase Project. Highlight of the entire occasion was the amazed looks on the faces of everyone present as, courtesy of Project Coordinator Ian Dury who had raided the vaults, the 2102 vase was revealed. And, amidst gasps of oohs and aahhs, they actually touched it! The upshot of all this is the glowing testimonials we received, all of which gave universal acclaim to the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{©GF}

The purchase of various glass items was topped by one delegate who was sufficiently moved to buy some blank tumblers and a Dremel to take up engraving for himself. But, but, but... most important of all... the Stourbridge Glass industry now enjoys the wholesome support of a group who hitherto knew little or nothing of us. That alone makes it all so worthwhile.

The event was organized by my other 'arf, herself a carto-thingy-person; I was merely the factotum for the duration, having been promoted by her to General especially for the event (I used to be just dogsbody, now I'm ... you get my drift) but big thanks from us both to everyone who helped make this a stonking success and a memorable showcase for Stourbridge Glass. A full report will also appear in due course on www.cartography.org.uk

More on Charlotte

Although our colleague mentioned above decided to take up engraving off his own bat, Charlotte has asked me to point out that if anyone is interested in engraving, from learning the skills to acquiring materials, then email chchcharlotte@gmail.com or give her a tinkle at Red House Glass Cone on 01384 812750. If that sounds like a blatant plug, it is. And after the way she helped this all go with a bang, I reckon it's the least we can do. *'It's always good to bring people over to the Dark Side'* she tells me. Hmmm ... whatever can she mean?

New faces, always welcome

Say hello to Mike Gibbs, a man who has, over the last few months, become a friend both to me personally and the wider world of glass in general. Mike is one of those unforced enthusiasts who get genuinely passionate over just about everything they come across. I have no doubt we will be hearing more of Mike in due course, but in the meantime he has very kindly sent me a link - thanks, Mike - showing how a group of scientists have discovered a near-foolproof way to non-destructively date stained glass. It's fascinating, and, particularly with the amount of the stuff dotted around these parts, may be of particular interest to some of you good folk. Check it out at <http://heritagecalling.com/2013/07/16/historic-window-glass-the-use-of-chemical-analysis-to-date-manufacture/>

Far and wide

I've just got to mention this, if only to show how the tendrils of *GlassCuts* are inexorably spreading. We have, by dint of a letter received direct at the BGF bunker HQ, received notification of the 5th International Glass Festival - nope, not our own biennial International Festival of Glass; this one is being held over 15th-18th August 2013. In Luxembourg. It's a wee bit off our patch, but if anyone is interested, we have a couple of lovely posters and about 50 leaflets up for grabs. Our thanks to Atelier Dart Du Verre for extending us their courtesy in bringing that one to our attention.



Change of address

Alan J Poole, of Dan Klein Associates, is a regular on our Bulletin Board; in fact, he's there again this time around. If you're a fan or follower of Alan's comprehensive newsletters and bulletins, or indeed if you would like to subscribe, then you'll need to know that his email address is changing. Out goes alanjpoole@aol.com, in comes alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk, with the website remaining as www.dankleinglass.com

And finally ...

It's early days yet, but our antennae are finely honed; we understand that a big announcement regarding a certain aforementioned vase may be imminent. And there is only one place in town that you are going to hear about it first. So, stay tuned to the one and only *GlassCuts*, coming soon to a terminal near you on the world wide wireless.

Dates for your diary

The height of the season; still plenty to see, do and enjoy. Go on, treat yourself for a change. You know it makes sense. And don't forget that many of these are free.

Events & Exhibitions at Broadfield House Glass Museum

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

17th August 2013 - *Family Fun Day*

Events and Exhibitions at Red House Glass Cone (featured GC26 & 28)

www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/

1st June - 27th July 2013 - *Contrasts: The Lace Guild*

3rd August - 8th September 2013 - *Schools Out for Summer*

24th - 26th August 2013 - *Knights in Shining Armour*

7th September - 20th October 2013 *OMG - Oh My Glass*

26th October - 1st December 2013 - *Made at the Cone*

30th November - 1st December 2013 - *Christmas Festival & Craft Fayre*

7th December 2013 - 5th January 2014 - *All I Want for Christmas*

In addition, as notified by Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum (featured GC26)
(open to all-comers; modest fees may be involved)
www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk

29th June 2013 - 23rd February 2014
Broadfield House Glass Museum
Just Desserts
Changes in fashion in all things sweet, and accompanying glassware

30th November - 1st December 2013
10:00am - 4:00pm, Broadfield House Glass Museum
Christmas Festival

Elsewhere around the highways and byways of glassville

29th June - 22nd September 2013
National Glass Centre, Sunderland SR6 0GL
Reopening of the Centre with a retrospective of the works of Erwin Eisch (see feature above)
www.nationalglasscentre.com

25th - 28th July 2013
Keep Neon and Carry On (featured GC29)
www.neonworkshops.com 70b, George Street, Wakefield WF1 1DL: 01924 200069

25th August 2013
10th Anniversary Bead Fair (featured GC25)
Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge DY8 4LU
www.stourbridgebeadfair.co.uk

12th - 15th September 2013
Moving Neon (featured GC29)
www.neonworkshops.com 70b, George Street, Wakefield WF1 1DL: 01924 200069

Sunday 22nd September 2013
Cambridge Glass Fair
Linton Village College CB21 4JB (see feature above)
www.cambridgeglassfair.com

Various dates throughout September 2013 - October 2013
North Lands International Master Classes & Conference; and exhibition of new works from the North Lands Creation Glass Collection of Contemporary Glass (featured GC24)
info@northlandsglass.com or Lorna MacMillan on 01593 721229

Sunday 10th November 2013
National Glass Fair
National Motorcycle Museum B92 0EJ (see feature above)
www.glassfairs.co.uk

Bulletin Board

Since *Glasscuts* was last on air, we have also been notified of ...

Dan Klein & Alan J. Poole Private Collection - Selection From The Glass Collection.

A further notification (last appeared *GC31*) of items on show until June 2014 at the National Glass Centre, and featuring work by household names in the glass world, some of whom stem from our parts. National Glass Centre is 0191 515 5544, www.nationalglasscentre.com; Alan J Poole's new email as *per* above item.

From the same stable: *Glass Books & Exhibition Catalogues For Sale.*

Alan J Poole advises us that graduating and current glass students at any level of education, with a postal address in either Great Britain or Ireland, can receive a 10% reduction on any glass titles purchased up until the end of August 2013. Also reductions for anyone else buying more than one title.

Wolverhampton University; Creative Short Courses For All.

Lots going on in a series of 10-week courses starting around September 2013. Details www.wlv.ac.uk/sad/shortcourses

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

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



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Disclaimers 'n stuff

Three wheels on my wagon, but I'm still rolling along, those Cherokees are chasing me, arrows fly, right on by, but I'm singing a happy song. In the form of a Disclaimer, as it happens. Y'all join in now ... *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 bfg@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. *Half a mile up the road, there's a hidden cave, and ...* complete at will. Then consult analyst.