



## *GlassCuts*

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation  
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From new shows to no-goes, from golden oldies to the next generation of enthusiasts; like Ol' Man River, the *Wonderful World of Glass*<sup>©GF</sup> just keeps on rolling along.

Photography by Simon Bruntnell  
[www.northlightphotography.co.uk](http://www.northlightphotography.co.uk)

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

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#### **One that got away**

If you were planning to go to the Valuation Day at Ruskin Glass Centre on 9th November, then you'll need to know that it has been cancelled. It may, just may, be rescheduled for next year, so keep your eyes peeled. But if you were planning to go to Ruskin on that day anyway, then don't let this minor setback stop you; there is still a shed-load going on, especially in the run-up to Winterval, as my Stateside mate calls it. Just tell them we sent you.

#### **One still very much on the cards**

We have plugged this already, but here is a timely reminder about the Grand Bash at the spangly-new Dudley Archives on Saturday 16th November 2013. The splendid new facility, which replaces the venerable old institution at Mont Pleasant in Coseley, is not actually fully operational yet, but as part of Archives Awareness Week it is being opened to the public.

Allow me a bit of unashamed trumpet-blowing here; I will be manning a stand all day and will also be presenting the story of the 2012 Portland Vase Project, together with a few bits and bobs about cameo glass, at around 2.30pm. It may tempt you to know that, courtesy of a colleague who must for now remain nameless - or else it will give the game away - I hope to be having some once-in-a-lifetime exhibits on display. It may tempt you even more to know that, as far as I am aware, all of this is entirely free of charge. Do come along, say hello, and talk glass. Or anything else, for that matter.

If we have never met, then I am the long-haired weirdy-beardy who looks like a pig on a stick sucking a sour apple. You can't miss me. The new Archives are smack next door to the Black Country Living museum in Tipton Road, right opposite the Dudley Guest. The what? Blimey, that dates us all a bit, don't it? Cheers.



### **An email has flooded in**

We recently received this from the Organisers of the National Glass Fair. We have also been plugging this one for months now, but, seeing as they have gone to the trouble of kindly including us on their lists, we are happy to mention it again. I was there myself last year; it is a brilliant event and I personally wish them well. Here it is, *verbatim*, or as near as darn it ...



*Dear Visitor,*

*We would like you to know that the next National Glass Fair will be held at the National Motorcycle Museum in Solihull, West Midlands B92 0EJ on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 10.30am until 4.00pm. Admission is £5. Named as Homes and Antiques magazine's 'Fair of the Month' for November, the National Glass Fair is the original specialist glass fair attracting around 80 of the most knowledgeable and established dealers and glass artists from all parts of the UK, Europe and the United States and it is recognised that they make a point of saving their best pieces for this major event.*

*There will be a variety of exhibitors ranging from those selling Georgian tableware to glass artists showing their current work meaning that this is an event not to be missed. Another feature at the fair will be an exhibition of some unusual and interesting items of Hungarian glass. The exhibition will be curated by Attila Sik and Zsuzsanna Molnar and will include both older glass and contemporary pieces. You will also be able to find our popular Christmas stand in the foyer where we will be selling gifts and decorations for your tree and table.*

Full details can be found on the fair's website, [www.glassfairs.co.uk](http://www.glassfairs.co.uk)

### **It's that man again**

And a nice big early notification, too - for which many thanks. Photo-whizz Simon Bruntnell (*GCs passim*) is certainly keeping himself busy; his latest proposal is called *Glass is more!* and is described as '*An exhibition by some of the finest names in contemporary glass art.*' He tells us that there will be various works on display including new unseen items.

He will also be opening up his photographic studio to the public and will present a 'Pop up' gallery showcasing artists from the Bruntnell Astley website, and guests. All works are available for purchase, so there's no excuse for not putting a note in your diary right now. As we already have, in fact. (see *Dates for your diary*). It cracks off between 21<sup>st</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at his place. What'ya mean, you're not sure where it is? Northlight Studio, *az eny eejut knose*, is based at Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote DY8 4HF.

In the meantime, try [www.bruntnell-astley.com](http://www.bruntnell-astley.com) or [www.heartofenglandglass.co.uk](http://www.heartofenglandglass.co.uk)

### **Nice one**



We have received news that on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October this year, the National Glass Centre at the University of Sunderland welcomed their 100,000<sup>th</sup> visitor since re-opening on 29<sup>th</sup> June. As if that wasn't good enough, the lucky visitor was none other than a five-year-old lad who was visiting with his family. Great to see the youngsters being encouraged into glass at the earliest opportunity.

The news release goes on to say: '*Since the Centre re-opened, following a £2.3m re-development, it has welcomed visitors from across the region and further afield, with people coming from as far away as Australia, Mexico, Canada and Malaysia. More than 85 per cent of National Glass Centre's visitors have rated the new Centre 'Excellent' to 'Good'. The Centre has received unprecedented media coverage and some fantastic accolades over the summer, including a Visit England Rose Marque, a Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor and was recently awarded a Special Commendation at the Sunderland Echo Portfolio Business Awards.*'

James Bustard, Director of National Glass Centre said: '*Welcoming our 100,000<sup>th</sup> visitor since we opened four months ago is a landmark achievement and is testament to the support that our Centre has attracted from the region and nationally.*'

This really is news to lift the spirits and, without invoking any political or contentious connotations whatsoever - 'cos we don't do that - it is surely an indicator of what could be achieved here in Stourbridge. The lesson of Sunderland must therefore be: '*Help BGF to get the job done.*'

The National Glass Centre opens daily 10.00 - 17.00 and admission is free.

[www.nationalglasscentre.com](http://www.nationalglasscentre.com)



### *And finally ...*

Here's a little teaser to keep you with a worm on your tongue (i.e. baited breath) until the next edition. Back on my old afternoon radio show I ran 'Connect 3', a competition with no prizes but just the amusement of linking three elements together by a common thread. The good folk of Stourbridge and beyond, their intellects tested to the max, responded in their droves. Great fun. And so, in a variation on a theme and with blatant plagiarism of my own idea, here's your clues: what links the 2012 Portland Vase, the Stourbridge Glass industry and the BGF?

No idea, eh? Oh, go on then, I'll give you a hint. I do the odd bit of writing hither and thither, and my other 'arf is a publisher. Now watch this space! Toodle-pip, chums.

### **Dates for your diary**



For the good ol' General Public, this is the time of year when everything seems to go quiet. But you and I, good friends, know different; we understand full well it is about now that everyone starts running round frantic behind the scenes trying to sort things ready for the new season. Yep, it's hectic, and yep, Christmas may be on the way. But do try and spare a few minutes to advise us what's going down, and we will be happy to do the biz. Plain fact is, if you don't tell us, than we ain't gonna know. So, take a leaf out of Simon B's book (*see feature above*) - by dint of telling us nice and early, he not only has a splash in his super-doooper fave-rave glass fanzine, but now also gets a mention, via our *Dates for your diary*, in every *GlassCuts* between now and

his event. As Aleksandr Orlov, the BGF's very own pet meerkat, always says: *'No obligation, no fees, no kidding. Simples!'*

### ***Events & Exhibitions at Broadfield House Glass Museum***

[www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/glass-museum/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/glass-museum/)

30<sup>th</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013

*Christmas Festival*

May - August 2014

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bead Fair (featured GC35)

Broadfield House Glass Museum

[pauline@jazzylily.com](mailto:pauline@jazzylily.com)

Until 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014

*The Roger Pilkington Glass Collection* (featured GC36)

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

[www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/)

26<sup>th</sup> October - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 - *Made at the Cone*

30<sup>th</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 - *Christmas Festival & Craft Fayre*

7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 - 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014 - *All I Want for Christmas*

***Elsewhere around the highways and byways of glassville***

10<sup>th</sup> November 2013

*National Glass Fair*

National Motorcycle Museum B92 0EJ (featured GC31)

[www.glassfairs.co.uk](http://www.glassfairs.co.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> November 2013

*Black Country Living Museum*

Glass Fusion Day (featured GC38)

[clare.weston@bclm.com](mailto:clare.weston@bclm.com)

21<sup>st</sup> August - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014

*Glass is more!* (see feature above)

Northlight Studio, Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote DY8 4HF

[www.bruntnell-astley.com](http://www.bruntnell-astley.com) or [www.heartofenglandglass.co.uk](http://www.heartofenglandglass.co.uk)

***From Friends of BHGM (as listed GC37, and other than shown above)***

21st November 2013

*Rebel in Glass-The Art of Louis Comfort Tiffany. Charles Hajdamach will be unveiling some new information on the fascinating and colourful production of Tiffany Glass.*

5th December 2013

*Xmas get together; Pressed Glass, speaker Peter Beebee.*

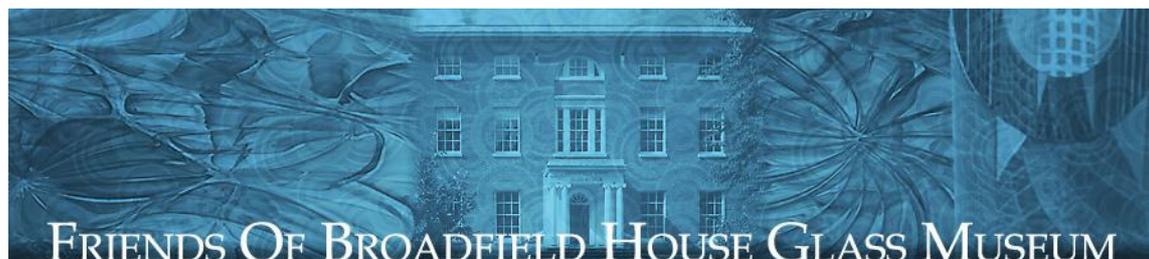
25th January 2014

*An Afternoon at the Flicks with ice-cream!*

First week in June 2014

*Trip to Germany. Itinerary, costs etc will be sent out in January.*

Details, and booking forms where appropriate: [www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk)



## Bulletin Board

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

*AJ Poole Associates monthly Newsletter* (November edn)

The usual bumper offering of fairs, exhibitions, markets and studio events, many with a Christmas flavour. Local offerings include an item on page 22 outlining various courses at Dudley, plus some great news involving the legendary Malcolm Andrews. Check it out for yourself. Then there's the WantAds, which are worth the journey alone. It's all here; fascinating stuff. Get it while it's hot at (note new email address) [alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk](mailto:alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk)

*Contemporary Glass Society media release* (October 2013)

News update of the five lucky winners in the first ever CGS raffle. Also mention of *Glass skills: exploring the fusion of art and technique*, part of the CGS Glass Skills 2013 programme, reported on in GCs *passim*. Details at [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)

*Neon Workshops News* (dated 5.11.13)

Mobile neon facilities being taken to Reykjavik, workshops, gift vouchers, gallery news and just about all you need to know in the fascinating world of neon. [info@neonworkshops.com](mailto:info@neonworkshops.com)

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

**Graham Fisher**  
Press & Publicity,  
pp British Glass Foundation  
[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)



These are the QR codes for the British Glass Foundation (left) and Virgin Money Giving (right).

Scanning with a suitably enabled mobile or hand-held device will escort you directly to the websites, where you can either browse the work of the BGF or make a donation.

Devices of recent manufacture will most likely already have the necessary software built in. Older devices may require a download, usually free. If difficulties are encountered, contact your provider and not, please, BGF.



### Disclaimers 'n stuff

For this issue, we celebrate the life of Malcolm Renfrew, who died recently. Here is a man whom many have never heard of, but everyone knows. Why so? Because he invented Teflon, that infamous material that lets absolutely nothing stick to all sorts of things, from frying pans to politicians. So, in memory of the non-stick egg coddler, we dedicate this *Disclaimer* to him.

*GlassCuts* is the *ad hoc* email newsletter of the British Glass Foundation ... *oh no, that bit slipped off the edge of the keyboard*. It is collated on a philanthropic basis ... *don't let that go* ... and has no other function than to entertain and inform its slippery subscribers ... *damn it, try sellotape*. Whilst every effort is made...blah...no responsibility...etc. (*usual caveats apply ...now look what you've gone and done with that spatula-thingy.*)

This email is sent to you in good faith on the basis that you appear on our list of interested slippery parties. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* emails then send 'unsubscribe' to [bfg@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bfg@britishglassfoundation.org.uk). A brief indication as to why would be appreciated ... *will it help if I hold it down and nail it?*

BGF welcomes onward transmission of *GlassCuts* to interested slithery people; if you know of any Teflon-lovers who you think may also wish to receive *GlassCuts*, then feel free to slide it their way. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our readership, submit it to BGF at the usual address. *When grandpa was poorly, the Doctor told us to rub his back with Teflon, but after that he went downhill very quickly. Boom boom!*

