



## *GlassCuts*

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation  
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It's just the way the cookie crumbles, but the latest installment of your fave-rave glass fanzine has a theme based largely around presentations, shows and promotions. It's all good stuff, so let's get on with it ...

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### Friendship indeed

Leigh White may have moved on from Ruskin, but he's not about to forget his friends easily. With typical thoughtfulness, he decided to show his appreciation to one in particular who has stood firmly by his side the last three years. Step forward our very own Graham Knowles, Chairman of the British Glass Foundation. Leigh tells us: *'As one of my final acts before leaving I was delighted to present Graham with a beautiful piece of Vic Bamforth Glass on behalf of Ruskin Mill Educational Trust for his personal support over the past three years. He has been a real help to the organisation throughout the refurbishment of Ruskin Glass Centre and Glasshouse Arts Centre.'*

The image reproduced here shows the piece in question being presented by Leigh to Graham, watched by Vic - whom we hope is recovering well from his recent operation - and Paul Gawdan, Assistant Principal of Glasshouse College. Thanks to Ian Dury for the piccie. Good luck, Leigh; we wish you well in your new venture. And we thank you, in return, for your support of BGF.



## One for the archives

In previous *GlassCuts* we have been mentioning Diane Matthews and the Open Day at the new Dudley Archives, held as part of Archives Awareness Week, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Well, as they say in Gornal, 'it's bin an' cum an' gone' (*translations available at the door on your way out - Ed*) and what a day it turned out to be. The new building is not yet quite complete, but it is already a splendid looking affair that should do the job nicely for decades to come, and the good folk of Dudley and beyond turned out by the truckful to take a peek.



Yours Truly was there flying the flag for the cause, and I am again indebted to Ian Dury who must have downed quite a few tots of Dutch Courage before again entrusting me with the whole caboodle of his priceless gems to show off. Ah, but - wheels within wheels - Ian's neighbor has, via his mother in law, a connection with the legendary Kny dynasty of engravers. There is very little that can enhance the already considerable provenance of the 2012 Portland Vase Project artifacts, but a selection of treasures from the Kny family vaults has to be there up amongst the big boys.

And thus did it come to pass that, for a day that I cannot envisage being replicated any time soon, the stunning array of Portland Vase pieces sat majestically alongside a gloriously eclectic collection of items engraved by the legendary Kny dynasty. The combination proved irresistible and my stand was buzzing non-stop as the enthralled visitors clamoured to get what would possibly be their closest glimpse of both that they would ever encounter in one location in one lifetime. My afternoon presentation on the 2012



Portland Vase Project, enriched by the unannounced presence of Terri Colledge who kindly took to the stage to explain her work, was greatly oversubscribed. This alone can only be interpreted as an indication of the passion that local folk still have for their glass and the skill of its exponents.

The accompanying images, courtesy of our good pal Mike Perkins from Amblecote History Society, set the scene. Taking a keen interest is Becky who, at just 15 years old, is the youngest member of AHS and who represents what will be, with good fortune and a fair wind, the next generation of enthusiasts to take the reins on the *Wonderful World of Glass*<sup>©GF</sup> when me and thee are pushing up the daisies.



My sincere thanks, and gratitude for the trust they reposed in me, to Ian Dury and his Portland Vase assemblage, and to Wendy and Phil Brown and mother in law Margaret, owner of the Kny selection. Man, that sure was one car-load of items that I was mightily relieved to get safely back to their rightful homes.

Much obliged also to Diane Matthews, Local Studies Librarian at the Archives, for her kind invitation to contribute to a rather splendid day, and to afford me the singular honour of being the first official public speaker in the new facility. Nice one, ta.

## *Croeso -y-Cymru* (Welcome to Wales)



Since getting involved in this man's game I have met some delightful people, and I reckon I can now add two more to the list following my recent visit to Eirian Glass out in the bracing air of the Welsh borders. Proprietors Paul Brown and Rowena Lloyd have been working together here for the best part of twenty-odd

years, developing their distinctive range by exploring chips, powders and enamels to create high quality studio items ranging from paperweights and lighting to decorative bowls, plates and a deucedly *avant garde* take on modern glasscutting.

After passing through their enchanting shop and sales outlet, I was invited backstage to the hot area. I may not be qualified to say whether the furnace, glory hole, warmer and all the other modern paraphernalia is 'state of the art', but even to my untrained eye it appeared serious kit. In a touching contrast to all this hi-tec stuff, I chatted with them from the minimalist comfort of a traditional glassmaker's chair that looked like it came out of the Ark.



Paul's velveteen brogue is difficult to nail and belies his Scottish ancestry and Welsh background, whilst Rowena is proud of her Celtic upbringing but actually started life in Liverpool. So, where's the Stourbridge connection, I hear you ask? Well, it turns out they both undertook their training at the former Brierley Hill Glass Centre, later to become the International Glass Centre. Rowena tells me how she had already known Paul for a while before undertaking the course and, when she completed it, they started work together the very next day. A family connection brought them to what was, at the time, a brand new unit in the book capital that is Hay-On-Wye.

Though far away from 'the old place' they still wax lyrical about their time in the Midlands. I even suspect they may miss it, just a teensy bit. I could have spent all afternoon hearing them reminisce, especially about the changes they have seen in the industry, and I was personally delighted by their enthusiasm for BGF's work in seeking to create a new home for the collection that doubtless helped inspire them all those years ago.



It may be a bit off the patch, but if your travels take you down their way then I am sure they would love to receive visitors, especially those who can rustle up a half-tidy Black Country accent. The address is 5 The Craft Centre, Oxford Road, Hay-On-Wye HR3 5DG and the phone is 01497 821346. By the time you read this their site at [www.glassgallery.co.uk](http://www.glassgallery.co.uk) should also be up and running. Keep an eye open for possible courses coming up sometime in 2014.

Ah yes, that unusual name. Well, Eirian is pronounced *eye-ree-an* and is Welsh for bright, glowing or beautiful. Just like the glass they make, as it happens, so no coincidence.

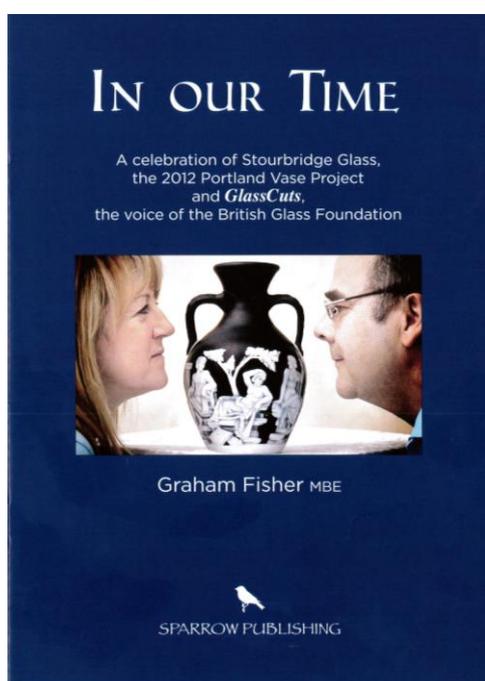
My thanks to Paul and Rowena for their time and friendship. Wider, ever wider, do the tendrils of the BGF continue to spread.

## Nick of time

Just as we were going to press, BGF Trustee and all-round ace glass-man Allister Malcolm reminds us of the Winter Festival weekend, held 10:00am - 4:00pm each day over Sat 30<sup>th</sup>/Sun 1<sup>st</sup> at Broadfield House Glass Museum. We have in fact been covering this for some time past (*see Dates for your diary, passim and below*) but Allister has hung a bit of meat on the bones by pointing out that no less than one S. Claus Esq. will be there in person (*Also known as Saint Nick - gedit?*). Allister will also be making his baubles with the youngsters and there will be competition for blowing the biggest bubble featuring one of his special works as a prize, with proceeds going equally to Friends of Broadfield House and BGF. Further details on Allister's facebook page, via his email [info@allistermalcolm.com](mailto:info@allistermalcolm.com) or Broadfield House direct on 01384 812745.

## And finally ...

### All me own werk



In the last issue I threw a little 'Connect 3' teaser your way (check out *GC39* for an explanation of that one) and asked what links the 2012 Portland Vase, the Stourbridge Glass industry and the BGF. The answer is a book. But not just any old book. It's a book wot I writ. And it's just out. It's called *In Our Time* and is subtitled *A celebration of Stourbridge Glass, the 2012 Portland Vase Project and GlassCuts, the voice of the British Glass Foundation*. I think that lot may merit a bit of an explanation.

Regular readers will recall *GlassCuts 34*, our 'special pull out and keep edition' celebrating the conclusion and wrapping up of the 2012 Portland Vase Project. Here, from the shimmering opulence that is the Editorial suite of *GlassCuts Towers*, we thought no more of it than the preceding 33 issues, but its seems that you discerning folk thought differently, and the positive feedback to this one

issue in particular took us all somewhat by surprise. So, as we describe on the rear of the book itself, *'BGF decided to publish this commemorative souvenir linking the wonderful Stourbridge Glass industry, the remarkable 2012 Portland Vase Project and the unstinting work of the British Glass Foundation. Prepare to be amazed at what the magnificently resolute Stourbridge Glass industry can still offer to the world.'* Impressive, eh?

The work has been written and published *pro bono* by the irrepressible combination of me and she who must be obeyed, whilst the printing costs have been graciously defrayed personally by our Head Honcho Graham Knowles - for which many thanks - and we have elected that any monies made will go direct to BGF coffers.

*In Our Time* is available from various outlets right now but it may be easier just to go direct to [bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk) where our enthusiastic team of highly trained staff is, right now, sharpening her biro (*she's doing what? - Ed*) ready to take your call. It will cost you a measly £3.50 + £1.50 p&p. And it makes a wonderful Christmas gift for that special loved one, so buy now while stocks last. (*Marketing - please check if we can we get away with that one - Ed*)

Oh yes, I nearly forgot. There is a special bash being organized for the official launch on **Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>** at the Webb Corbett Visitor Centre, Amblecote. If we really like you, we may just send an invite. So, speak nice about BGF and keep an eye on your inbox. Or just turn up anyway – **7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.**

## Dates for your diary

See this box? Well, it with a few priceless lines to do is give us the everything is given fair for next season, now

Reportage only, please that entails) 'cos we

Remember our maxim: You know it makes

*Watch  
This  
Space*

could have your image in it, together of *GlassCuts* editorial. All you have details; preferably local but consideration. And, as we gear up might be just the time.

(contact us if you don't know what don't do adverts.

'No obligation, no fees, no kidding'. sense.

### ***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***

21<sup>st</sup> August - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
*Glass is more!* (featured GC39)  
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)***

5<sup>th</sup> December 2013  
*Xmas get together; Pressed Glass, speaker Peter Beebee.*

25<sup>th</sup> 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 ...

### *New Creative Short Courses*

A range of courses commencing February 2014 onwards at Wolverhampton University, including, amongst others, fused glass jewellery making. [arts@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:arts@wlv.ac.uk)

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

Well, Chrismush is cumin, and we've ... *hic* ... all had a little drink, shooooo, here is a bit of a tipsy *Disclaimer*.

*GlassCuts* ...*hic, hic* ... is the *ad hoc* email newsletter of the British Glass Foundation ... *whatever that means* ... It is collated on a philan, philanth ... *hic* .. philanthothropicalistic basis ... *just a double, please*... and has no other function than to entertain and inform its bacchanalian subscribers ... *don't spill it* ... Whilst every effort is made ... *blah* ... no responsibility ...etc. (*usual caveats apply ... no ice with mine, thank you.*)

This email is sent to you in good faith on the basis that you appear on our list of inebriated parties. Sorry, that should read interested 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 ... *your round, I believe, old chap?*

BGF welcomes onward transmission of *GlassCuts* to interested 40-proof people; if you know of any alcohol lovers who you think may also wish to receive *GlassCuts*, then feel free to dispense it their way by the optic-load. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our readership, submit it to BGF at the usual address. *I think, Sir, that you must be drunk, for I can see two of you.*

