



GlassCuts

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation

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THE 'FIRST EDITION OF 2014' EDITION

From the *GlassCuts* team and all at BGF, a belated Happy New Year and best wishes for 2014 to all our readers. At full flow, we hurl with joyous abandon beyond the festive period and into a new glassy season with lots already on the anvil. *You lucky people!*^{©Tommy Trinder}

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New Year encomium from BGF bunker HQ

As loyal foot soldiers responsible for the day-to-day machinations of the BGF, we tend to keep our Big Guns in reserve, ready to be rolled out as the occasion merits. The start of a New Year and the prospect of a brighter era for the Stourbridge Glass industry is surely one such occasion. So, we asked our biggest gun to offer a few words and he kindly sent us a note. I am advised that it would have been two notes but for the elderly BGF carrier pigeon nowadays having only the one good leg.

Anyway, enough already; here it is:

'The New Year brings with it a renewed optimism. The BGF remains committed to securing a permanent and appropriate home for one of the most important glass collections of its type in the world. Progress may, at times, appear slow. But there is, and has been, considerable progress, nonetheless. BGF will continue to work constructively with both its partners and all other appropriate parties. BGF will remain unstinting in its support of the glass industry in general, and that of Stourbridge in particular. Thank you for working alongside us. A very prosperous 2014 to you all.'

Graham Knowles
Chairman, BGF



Much obliged, Sir.

Fair enough

'Hi Graham', writes Christina Glover 'I hope it's not too late to wish you a Happy New Year'. Certainly not, and right back at ya, thanks.

Together with her colleague Paul Bishop, Christina, *az eny eejut knose*, works her little socks off throughout the year to pull together some of the best known fairs on the circuit. Here, from the shimmering opulence that is the Editorial suite of *GlassCuts Towers*, we are delighted that she chooses *GlassCuts* as the medium for telling the world all about it. So, in her own words, courtesy of a recent press release, here we go ...

'The next **Cambridge Glass Fair** will be held on Sunday 23rd February 2014 and is one of the major specialist fairs in the UK with up to 80 exhibitors selling fine antique and collectable glass from all periods. Exhibitors will also include many contemporary artists showing their own work.

Held at Linton Village College in Cambridgeshire, this twice-yearly event often features exhibitions, demonstrations and book signings. As always there will be a foyer exhibition and this time it will be curated by exhibitor Nigel Benson and showcase British Art Deco glass.

Rare enamelled decanter by
Keith Murray for Stevens
and Williams, c1933.



Whitefriars.com, the online collecting group, is once again going to stage a display of Whitefriars glass at the fair. If you are interested in Whitefriars then this is the perfect opportunity to meet fellow enthusiasts and also see some rare and interesting pieces. *'The Designs of Harry Powell 1873-1920'* is the title of the February exhibition.



The Cambridge Fair is one of those events that serious glass enthusiasts can't afford to miss. The fair caters to the diverse interests of glass collectors, bringing together some of the most respected and experienced glass dealers in the UK and providing a welcoming atmosphere in which to seek out rare and unusual pieces. You will find a broad range of different types of glass on offer, including everything from 18th century drinking glasses and decorative Victorian glassware through to Art Deco and 20th century studio glass.

Refreshments and free parking are available.

Linton Village College, Linton, Cambs. CB21 4JB. Open from 10:30am - 4:00pm, admission is £5 with free entry for accompanied children under 16.

Further information at www.cambridgeglassfair.com e-mail: info@specialistglassfairs.com
Telephone: 07887 762 872.

Also, **The National Glass Fair** will be held at the National Motorcycle Museum on Sunday 11th May and Sunday 23rd November 2014.'

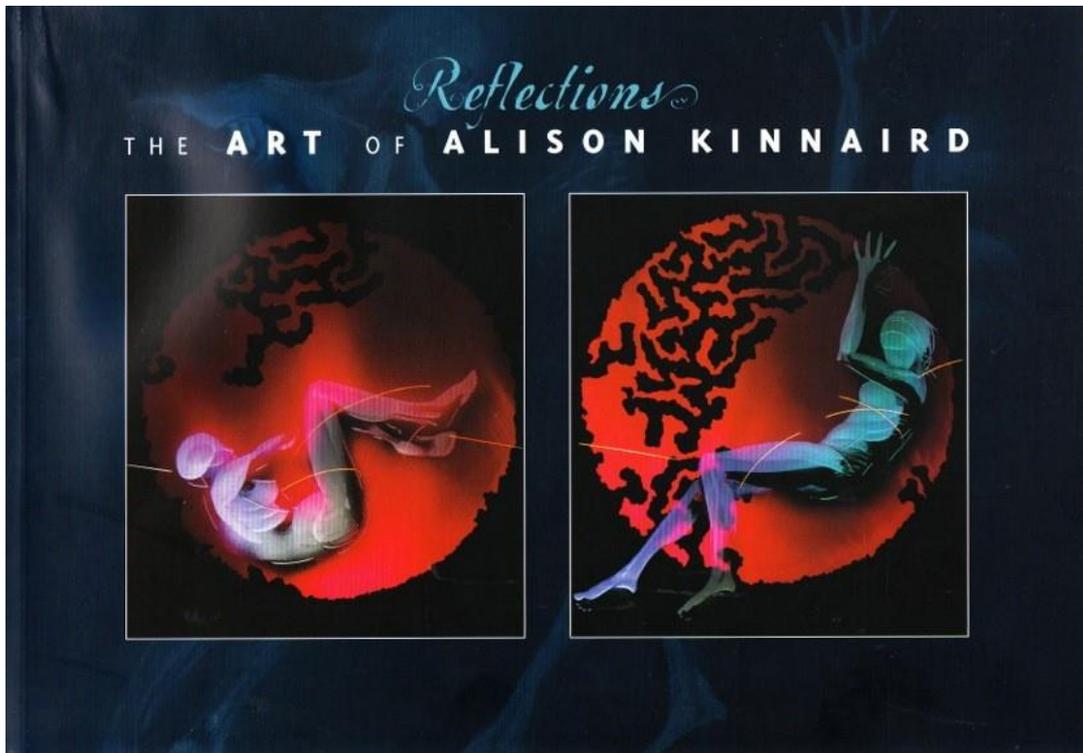
Much obliged, Christina. All noted and, from this issue onwards, included in our *Dates for your diary*. Which makes you the first new entry this year. Fellow Organizers; please take a leaf out of her book and get those submissions in right now. As Mr Punch famously remarked: *'That's the way to do it'*.

Oh, and good luck with the shows, by the way; do let us know how they go.

'Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms'

Such prescience from the Master Detective (*Sherlock Holmes, The Adventure of The Greek Interpreter*) has always exercised a particular resonance for me on the occasions I have been called upon to to evaluate or critique those near-ethereal abilities in others, which, to my chagrin I freely admit, are notably absent from my own corpuscles. To possess a skill which *per se* tinges my philistine soul with envy, but which is then further elevated beyond speciality and into the realm of the *virtuoso*, well, I figure even Holmes would have been blown away by that notion.

Thus do I turn to my desk whereupon lies a copy of *Reflections; The Art of Alison Kinnaird*, kindly sent to me by the eponymous lady herself, Alison Kinnaird MBE. *GlassCuts* doesn't usually carry book reviews, so please don't all jump at once. However, to a grizzled old hack whose day-job formerly included a book review column and who subscribes to the maxim that only people who read the things for a living can truly appreciate the modest percentage that are actually any good, there was something about this one that screamed 'take a closer look'. So I did. And it's a stunner.



'Alison Kinnaird creates pictures based on expansive narration charged with powerful emotions. Although her glass objects are usually closed forms, the scenes on them seem to have the potential to be continued'. (page 42)

Not so much a book as a visual exposition of a master glass *artiste's* back-catalogue, this is an exquisite evocation of what is possible using little more than melted sand as a medium. I'll go further and say that, to my untrained eye, I can't readily see how it is possible to achieve such stuff. To cite a comparison, as a wannabe *muso* who has murdered a guitar for over 40 years, I once had the privilege to be sat feet away from one E. Clapton Esq. At close quarters not only could I not fathom how he played the notes, I couldn't even work out how he managed to get his fingers in that position on the first place. Awesome. If you are into glass then take a peek at *Reflections* and you'll get my drift. However, please don't take this as a shameless plug for a lovely book but consider it more an endorsement of what is possible in the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{®GF} and as yet another example, as if more were needed, to the those beyond our arcane shores who may need reminding of the sheer talent - genius - that still runs deep through the profession.

To top it all Alison extends her flair to the realms of music, and has a parallel career as one of the finest exponents of the Scottish harp. Art in the blood is clearly not only liable to take the strangest forms but, to the especially gifted, is evidently not limited to one mode of expression. The glass industry is typified by the unprepossessing reserve of its exponents and one thing I have learnt in spades is that they are, by and large, a most delightfully self-effacing collective who almost balk from their own divinely bestowed abilities.

Then, as sporadic as it is unexpected, something like this comes along to underpin the dictum that *'you may, in your own modesty, choose to hide your light under a bushel but it doesn't hurt every now and then to let people know exactly where your bushel lies.'*

Reflections; The Art of Alison Kinnaird comes with accompanying CD and can be obtained by following the links on the news section of her website www.alisonkinnaird.com

Friends indeed

I can say with some certainty - because I've had mine - that *Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum* will have by now received details of a packed programme of events. If you're not on the list despair ye no further; a synopsis is included in *Dates for your diary*, below.

Money matters

Start the year as you mean to go on and give 'til it hurts, friends. Don't forget the BGF standing order and Virgin Giving facilities; details at head of opening page

Please note: In recognizing donors and acknowledging their support, *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.

And finally ...

New kid on the block



If you follow the local rags, notably the *Express & Star* 31.12.12, you'll know there's a new incumbent at one of our most famous local glass attractions. If not, let *GlassCuts* fill you in. Signwriter Chris Cook, whose clients include Estée Lauder, found his business was rapidly bulging the walls of his garage outwards and has sourced a new home next to some of his more parochial clients in the units right alongside the Red House Glass Cone.

Although not directly involved in the glass industry, Chris has a penchant for historic buildings and has settled in his new home like the proverbial *canard* to H₂O. He designs, manufactures and installs vinyl signs and recently turned Manchester's branch of Selfridge's pink for breast cancer awareness. He has also raised thousands of pounds for cancer charities in memory of his father who died from the disease 16 years ago. Chris says: *'I love being based here. It sounds silly, but I just felt drawn.'* His business partner and loyal working companion, Benji the West Highland Terrier, was heard to say: *'Woof'*. Or it might have been *'Sausages'*. Any road up, Chris is on chris@akcsigns.co.uk or 01384 880196.

Dates for your diary

Events & Exhibitions at Broadfield House Glass Museum

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

May - August 2014

10th Anniversary Bead Fair (featured GC35)

Broadfield House Glass Museum

pauline@jazzylily.com

Until 10th August 2014

The Roger Pilkington Glass Collection (featured GC36)

Events and Exhibitions at Red House Glass Cone

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

All quiet on this front at the mo'.

Elsewhere around the highways and byways of glassville

23rd February 2014

Cambridge Glass Fair (*see feature above*)

Linton Village College, Linton, Cambs. CB21 4JB.

Open from 10:30am - 4:00pm, admission £5; free entry for accompanied children under 16.

www.cambridgeglassfair.com e-mail: info@specialistglassfairs.com

11th May and 23rd November 2014

The National Glass Fair (*see feature above*)

National Motorcycle Museum

info@specialistglassfairs.com

From Friends of BHGM

All held at Broadfield House Glass Museum unless otherwise indicated. Costs may apply.

Details, and booking forms where appropriate: www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk

25th January 2014, 1:30pm

An Afternoon at the Flicks with ice-cream!

18th February 2014

Haberdasher's Hall, 18 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9HQ. Dress code applies

Milestones and Masterpieces in British Glass Making - 400 years of genius

The Ravenscroft Lecture. A talk by Charles Hajdamach

20th February 2014, 7:30pm

Metal Collections from Staffordshire

A talk by Mark Hannam of Fieldings Auctioneers

26th March 2014

Visit to Bristol Blue Glass

4th April 2014, 6:00 for 6:30pm

25th Friends Anniversary Dinner

9th May 2014, 7:00 for 7:30pm

A string of beads - A talk by Pauline Holt (aka: Jazzy Lily)

10th May 2014, 10:00am-4:00pm
Annual beads day

1st - 7th June 2014
Trip to Germany. Itinerary and costs available from Friends

14th July 2014, 10:00am-3:30pm
Fieldings valuation day
Assistance sought.

14th September 2014
Friends AGM

Bulletin Board

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

Bilston Craft Gallery, Facebook posting

'We are seeking work by designer makers, working in the field of contemporary glass and producing functional tableware for our summer 2014 exhibition. Visit the opportunities page of our website to download the full brief and for information on how to apply. Applications must be received by Monday 10th February 2014'.

<http://www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/supporting-creativity/current-opportunities/>

European Glass Experience Project, by email

EGE is a contest for glass artworks and sketches created by young artists and designers between 18-40 years old from all over Europe. Three exhibitions will be held at The Finnish Glass Museum in Riihimäki, the Glass Museum in Segovia (Spain), and the Murano Glass Museum; a total of 40 glass artworks will be exhibited together with 80 sketches. The best 20 sketches will be later realised by the Murano Glass Masters to be shown in the final exhibition in Murano. More information via uta.lauren@riihimaki.fi

AJ Poole Associates, forwarded email press release re. Coburg Prize

The Kunstsammlungen of the Veste Coburg, in cooperation with the Alexander Tutsek Foundation, are organizing the Coburg Prize 2014, a European competition for modern glass. An international jury has selected 150 artists from 26 nations (*including some familiar names from our part of the world - Ed*) to exhibit 177 works from April 13th to September 14th 2014 in Coburg. The prize winners will be announced on April 12th 2014.

Contact s.hauschke@kunstsammlungen-coburg.de

National Glass Centre press release 10.1.14

Spectacles - The Oliver Goldsmith Collection 18th January - 6th May 2014.

An exhibition of iconic spectacles, designed by Oliver Goldsmith Ltd, and photographic works of the famous faces that wore them. National Glass Centre is encouraging members of the public to get involved with this exhibition by uploading their own iconic spectacles images using the Twitter and Facebook hashtag 'bespectacular'. These photos will be displayed alongside the exhibition on a digital Twitter wall. www.nationalglasscentre.com

New work for 2014; Balman Gallery news item, 21.1.14

Introducing 'bright and beautiful' works of art, including glass pieces by Joanne Mitchell.

www.balmangallery.com

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher
Press & Publicity,
pp British Glass Foundation
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

My other half is Scottish, and oft talks with pride of an early descendant of hers who emigrated to America where he became Chief of a tribe of native Americans and took the name of *Hawkeye the Noo*. Pause for applause for that one. So, in recognition that it is Burns Night soon, this *Disclaimer* is dedicated to her noble race. A land of opportunity, even the firm of Pirelli are now based in Scotland. *Yes* - altogether now - *they've been Mackintires for years!* Oh dear, now we're really going downhill fast.

GlassCuts is the *braw bricht moonlicht nicht the nicht* of the British Glass Foundation. It is entirely committed *tae nae deein' the Malki* even if yer a *feckless bairn* and this is a *hoots mon there's a moose loose about this hoose* production. Whilst every effort is made to *avoid calling yer a' a bunch o' soothren safties if ye tak offence*, the usual caveats apply with regard to getting a *Glesga kiss the back o' yer heid*. Whatever that means; I've really no idea.

A final dedication goes to my other half's friend who is a Scottish school meals supervisor named *Dinna Ken*. Hold on; it gets worse. As for the age-honoured gag of *how do you tell the clan of a Scotsman?* - well, you'll just have to contact us for the answer to that one, 'cos you just know it's going to be naughty. But hilarious. Perhaps even *Jock-ular (Geddit?)*. There, that should show how many of you get to read this guff. Happy Hogmanay. And no, I have never, ever heard anyone in Scotland say '*Och aye the noo*'.

