



GlassCuts

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation
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Photography by Simon Bruntnell
www.northlightphotography.co.uk

This latest impression of your fave-rave glass fanzine lopes languorously through the double-rainbow spectrum of the glass world, effortlessly transcending all boundaries and leaving no stone unturned in its quest to bring you the *crème de la crème* on what's going down, who's who, where's where and what's what.

Blimey, did I just write that nonsense? Nurse I don't think these pills are strong enough. Let's get on with it ...

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Engrave rave

Just the mention of Charlotte Hughes-Martin takes me back to the languid days of last June when I had the great pleasure of introducing a group of visitors to her ministrations with her engraving bits and bobs. Within minutes a group of dubious adults who didn't know quite what to expect were, with fevered brows and lips grimaced in concentration, reveling in the pleasures of scoring their marks for posterity on a glass tumbler. Brilliant entertainment. Engaging, too; one of our delegates was inspired to go straight out to buy a Dremel and a van-load of glass tumblers. Last I heard of him he was ensconced in a shed somewhere up his garden, with fevered brow and lips grimaced in concentration.

Tempted? Well, here's your chance to have a go for yourself, courtesy of a missive from our good friend Claire Weston at the Black Country Living Museum. She writes ...

'Hello Graham. I wondered if you would be able to promote the following please?

On 17th May 2014, 10:00am - 4:00pm, we are holding a Glass Engraving Day Course where participants will learn the basics of hand engraved glass. This is a fun class ideal for beginners wanting to spend a creative day making something special. The course will cover technique and pattern with the choice of creating personalized designs or working from found images. Delegates will learn to engrave on flat glass and also create a personalised drinking glass to take home.



The course leader is Charlotte Hughes-Martin (Yippeee! – Ed) a glassmaker currently based at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley. Charlotte has been making glass for the past 15 years and often combines glass with a mixed media approach to create sculptural work. She makes quirky and fun objects that are influenced by how she sees the world.

Cost is £50 per person, to include a certificate of completion, free parking, use of materials and tools necessary to the course, refreshment vouchers and lunch voucher. Pre-Book only, please, either via <http://www.bclmbookings.co.uk> or 0121 520 8054.'



The moors the merrier

Way back in the mists of GC6 I reported on how I happened across Gillies Jones Glass. As I remarked at the time: *'On a jaunt across the Yorkshire Moors a few weeks back with my other 'arf, I found myself in the most charming spot at the foot of a valley that time seemed to have forgotten. So what a surprise to find a sign pointing to a nearby glassmaking facility, smack in the middle of a gorgeous nowhere.'*

What a place to make glass; it must be so tempting for Stephen Gillies and Kate Jones just to put everything down and watch the world go by. But

they do no such thing and are still very much hard at it, as their latest information sheet confirms:

'We officially open our doors on 1st March though we have been working away through the worst of the weather making work for Taste Contemporary Craft and an exhibition in April at the Royal Academy with Walpole Crafted, sponsored by Vacheron Constantin.

If you've seen this weekend's Financial Times monthly magazine 'How To Spend It' you may recognise a piece of glass on the 'eclectibles' page!

Plans for our studio exhibition and new bowl designs are in hand, expect invitations in the very near future.

Exhibitions this year include:

London Glass Blowing - June

The New Craftsman St Ives July - August

Cambridge Contemporary Art - October

& locally in York at Priestly's at No 36 - December

Full details of each exhibition to follow in due course.

Look forward to seeing you in 2014. With warmest regards ... Kate & Stephen.'

For more click on www.gilliesjonesglass.co.uk or contact studio@gilliesjonesglass.co.uk

AIM high

The Association of Independent Museums (AIM), of which BGF is a member, is holding its National Conference this time around at the Black Country Living Museum over 20th-22nd June 2014. Details and booking at

www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/booking_conference/



Czech mate

This item is somewhat unorthodox for the pages of *GlassCuts* but we felt it may be of interest to you good folk in the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{©GF} and so we are happy to reproduce it here *verbatim*:

To all glassmakers and glass designers in the West Midlands: Could you offer a Czech glass-making student (18 years + old), from the School for Applied Arts for Glassmaking in Zelezny Brod in the Czech Republic, an opportunity to develop their skills - glassmaking and language - in the UK for a few weeks, this Summer?

There is no direct cost to the work host. All we ask is that companies and organisations have appropriate insurance to cover an unpaid work placement and will complete and return a feedback form at the end of the placement and provide the student with a reference stating their tasks, responsibilities and capabilities, when the student leaves. Students are being funded by an EU mobility programme and are looking for either 3 weeks in May or 4 weeks in June.

We have CVs and examples of work by students who want to be glass designers, cutters, blowers, painters and engravers. Some are from families of glassmakers. Some have exhibited their own work and attended exhibitions in China and the US, with examples of their and their companies' work. If you could accommodate a specific skill, please let me know and I can see whether we have anyone still available and forward a CV.

Levels of spoken English vary, with some students lacking confidence and some with very good command of the language. We will provide students with support whilst they are in the UK, and look for accommodation appropriate to their work location.

Please email or call if you can use any additional help this Summer! Thank you

Yvonne Rush

Placements Praktikum (UK) Ltd 8c Wishaw Close Shirley Solihull B90 1BX

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*Please note: By reporting on this offer it must be clarified that BGF, its Trustees and staff at *GlassCuts Towers* have no proprietary association with either the offer itself or the agency promoting it, either express or implied, and cannot accept responsibility ... blah ... (usual caveats apply).*

From the archives

I am grateful to my pal and fellow Broadfield House Glass Museum Outreach Worker, Dr Kate Round, for drawing my attention to a cracking little glassy video that someone somewhere has planted on the worldwidethingy. *Glas* is a captivating 1959 documentary by Bert Haanstra (*Who he? - Ed*) that, at only 10 minutes long, actually won an Oscar.

We shoved it on the steam powered laser disc player here in the shimmering opulence that is the Editorial Suite at *GlassCuts Towers* and we couldn't pull ourselves away from it either; truly fascinating. Thanks, Kate.

<http://io9.com/we-cant-stop-watching-this-documentary-about-glass-mak-645601416>

Money matters

Our thanks to Mr & Mrs S of Ledbury for sending us a nice cheque. If you, dear reader, have a few bob hidden under the cat's basket and not doing anything, then don't be shy in sending us a nice cheque too. We won't mind, honest. Ta.

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 ...

Dig this

The archaeological dig at Glasshouse College, Amblecote that we mentioned in *GC43* appears to be coming up trumps, with all manner of stuff from yesteryear seeing the light of day. Including the base of a glass cone and - phew, wipe me down with a soapy rag - traces of the canal arm into the site. Now that *really* turns me on. Our ace undercover man on the scene code-named *Broadsword* (real name Ian Dury - darn it, I've done it again) is so excited that we haven't been able to get the full dibs yet. But we're working on it. Watch this space.





Photography by Mike Perkins, AHS

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

11th May and 23rd November 2014

National Motorcycle Museum

The National Glass Fair (*featured GC42*)

info@specialistglassfairs.com

17th May 2014, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Black Country Living Museum

Glass Engraving Day Course (*see feature above*)

£50 per person. Pre-Book only

<http://www.bclmbookings.co.uk> or 0121 520 8054

20th-22nd June 2014

Black Country Living Museum

Association of Independent Museums National Conference (*see feature above*)

www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/booking_conference/

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

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

14th September 2014

Friends AGM

Bulletin Board

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

Neues Glas: New Glass - Art and Architecture.

Subscriptions invited for the launch of a new magazine, first edition scheduled for May 2014.

Planned themes include The Coburg Prize for Contemporary Glass; Narcissus Quagliata.

www.neuesglas-newglass.com

National Glass Centre. Chris Blade - Arctic Circle (8th March - 27th April 2014)

Stunning photographic works inspired by the Arctic from a man who, having made his life in glass, is now showing there are other worlds beyond that he can tackle with equal aplomb.

www.nationalglasscentre.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

I recently came across a book entitled 'My Life' by Adolf Hitler. I found it very worrying - how come this man knows so much about my life? Then, silly me, I remembered it is just symptomatic of the surveillance society we all now live in, and which must be reflected in our *Disclaimer* if we wish to avoid being sent to Room 101. We know from the recorder in your lounge that you never read it, anyway. We also know from the cameras in your bedroom that you wear a wig and have acne, so there. *GlassCuts* is the micro-chipped email output of British Glass Foundation, distributed at a frequency that could eventually fry your brain. It is collated on a secret basis from covert information gained by the highly dubious means of you actually sending it to us and has no other function than to promote the fall of capitalism, destroy the Catholic church, impregnate your women-folk and perhaps even tell you a bit about glass. Whilst every drop of scopolamine is injected into the Editorial staff to ensure accuracy ...blah...no responsibility...etc. (*usual caveats apply*)

This secret file is sent in good faith on the basis that you appear on our Eastern bloc list of people with contracts out on them and who suspect that Burgess, Philby and Maclean were just naughty boys having a laugh. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* then send 'unsubscribe' via short wave transmitter to bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. Before being cast out to a lingering eternity of hell in a Gornal salt mine - or a Gornal pub, same thing - a brief indication as to why you have turned subversive commie pinko would be appreciated. And remember, just because you are really paranoid doesn't mean to say they aren't still all out to get you. Sleep safe, comrades.