



## *GlassCuts*

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation  
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[www.northlightphotography.co.uk](http://www.northlightphotography.co.uk)

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### **A grand show**

We crack off with exciting news from Victoria Scholes of the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS). She tells us:

*‘Two of the UK’s top glass organizations have joined together to create a new contemporary glass showcase featuring the work of CGS members. A special display case in the lower foyer entrance at National Glass Centre will be dedicated to a year-long display of a wide variety of glass made by members of the CGS.*

*From Spring 2014 to Spring 2015, the work of sixteen artists will be put on show, with a total of eight showcases each displaying two CGS members’ work for a six-week period. The work will be a vibrant and varied range of sculptural, decorative and functional pieces, and they will all be available for sale.*

*This is not the first time these two organizations have worked together. In 2014 CGS staged a major international conference, ‘Glass Skills: Exploring the fusion of art and technique’ (Yep, we covered that - Ed) at the National Glass Centre. This new collaboration is just the beginning of a commitment by both groups to work together to bring the medium of glass to the widest audience possible.*

*Visitors to the Centre will be able to see the CGS showcase from April 2014. Further information: For the CGS, [admin@cgs.org.uk](mailto:admin@cgs.org.uk) or 01379 741120. For National Glass Centre, Izzy Macdonald-Booth on 0191 515 5501/5524’.*

## Dudes, where are you all?

Over the last few months we have received communications from as far afield as Latvia, Australia, Luxembourg and even Tipton. Which is really impressive for a bulletin that supposedly focuses on the arcane few square miles that is the Stourbridge Glass Quarter. So, this got us thinking.

We already know that *GlassCuts* is your fave-rave glass fanzine - because we keep telling you, that's how - but, we wondered, just how far do our tendrils stretch? So, here's your chance to put us out of our misery.

To attain the *kudos* and sheer pride of being able to say 'I am the reader of *GlassCuts* furthest away from Stourbridge in the good ol' UK' and to receive a thunderous round of applause, just send us an email quoting your location, address, zip code or some other way of sticking a pin into you on a map.



Tell you what; as an added incentive to help us in our quest, we will give a free promotional spot in *GlassCuts* to what we judge to be the most distant reader. Give us your details plus a couple of images and, subject to the usual *caveats*, we promise to big you up massive.

Thanks ever so much; we look forward to hearing from you, wherever you are. In fact, the further away, the better. You know it makes sense.

## More engrave-rave

*Apropos* the mention in *GC44* of the engraving course coming up at the Black Country Living Museum this June, we are advised that those lovely folk at the Guild of Glass Engravers (GGE) will be holding their International Exhibition at the Morley College Gallery, London 9<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 and will be also holding an International Exhibition at the Red House Glass Cone on dates to cover the IFoG and Biennale of 2015. More on these in due course, no doubt, but you'll notice the Morley College Gallery job is already straight in our *Dates for your diary*, below.

In the meantime, Sandra Snaddon, Fellow & Chairman Guild Glass Engravers, says: *Hi Graham. Loving GlassCuts* (OK, so I put that bit in myself - Ed). *Nice to see glass-engraving courses running, hope they are full of students who might of course like to join the GGE.* What a good idea; why not indeed? Satisfy your engraving-craving by clicking with a quick click on [www.snaddon.com/glass](http://www.snaddon.com/glass)

## Crystal clear

You want off-the-wall and glassy-eclectic stuff? Then *GlassCuts* just has to be your natural home. This one is a gem and comes courtesy of a notice from our good friend Dr Malcolm Dick at the University of Brummagem. He tells us that the Midland Branch of the Newcomen Society, in collaboration with *Thinktank*, Birmingham Science Museum, is hosting a talk that promises to be an absolute blinder. Here are the details:

7:00pm, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. *Housing the Great Exhibition - The Crystal Palace of 1851* by Jim Andrew.



The Great Exhibition was in part the project of Prince Albert but was languishing in a committee. In June 1850 Joseph Paxton was asked to produce a design for the building that was to go in Hyde Park, London without excavated foundations as it was considered a temporary structure. Possibly this was the largest single constructed building in England, maybe the world, yet it was designed within a month and opened in ten months. (*That alone is amazing, and remember it was made of glass - Ed*). Doors open 6:30pm and admission is free. The Thinktank Theatre is at Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham B4 7XG.

Thanks for that, Malcolm. Have a great evening. And, with word on the street of rumours that plans are afoot for the recreation of a new ‘Crystal Palace’, this is a great opportunity to see how the original was constructed using local talent and skills. Beat that.

## Money matters

We’d like some, please. Usual address.

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

### Film news

*GC44* carried a link to *Glas*, an Oscar-winning documentary from 1959 about glassmaking, which we described as ‘truly fascinating’. Thanks to all of you who took the trouble to tell us that you had watched it for yourselves, and agreed. If you missed it first time around then it’s still at <http://io9.com/we-cant-stop-watching-this-documentary-about-glass-mak-645601416>

## **Dates for your diary**

### ***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/)

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***

[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/)

All quiet on this front at the mo'.

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

11<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014

National Motorcycle Museum

The National Glass Fair (*featured GC42*)

[info@specialistglassfairs.com](mailto:info@specialistglassfairs.com)

7<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Thinktank Theatre, Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham B4 7XG.

Housing the Great Exhibition - The Crystal Palace of 1851 (*see feature above*)

6:30 for 7:00pm, admission free

[www.thinktank.ac](http://www.thinktank.ac)

17<sup>th</sup> May 2014, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Black Country Living Museum

Glass Engraving Day Course. £50 per person. Pre-Book only (*featured GC44*)

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

20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014

Black Country Living Museum

Association of Independent Museums National Conference (*featured GC44*)

[www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/booking\\_conference/](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/booking_conference/)

9<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014

Morley College Gallery, 61 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7HT

Guild of Glass Engravers International Exhibition (*see feature above*)

[www.snaddon.com/glass](http://www.snaddon.com/glass)

### ***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](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk)

26<sup>th</sup> March 2014

*Visit to Bristol Blue Glass*

4<sup>th</sup> April 2014, 6:00 for 6:30pm  
25<sup>th</sup> Friends Anniversary Dinner

9<sup>th</sup> May 2014, 7:00 for 7:30pm  
*A string of beads*  
A talk by Pauline Holt (aka: Jazzy Lily)

10<sup>th</sup> May 2014, 10:00am-4:00pm  
*Annual beads day*

1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
*Trip to Germany*. Itinerary and costs available from Friends

14<sup>th</sup> July 2014, 10:00am-3:30pm  
*Fieldings valuation day*

14<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
*Friends AGM*

### **Bulletin Board**

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

*Alan J. Poole's Contemporary Glass News Letter*. March 201 4edn.  
The works. Got mine. Get your own. [alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk](mailto:alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk)

*International Triennial of Silicate Arts*  
Kecskemét, Hungary throughout 2014. Information and applications at [www.kitsa.org](http://www.kitsa.org)

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)



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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**

Here at *GlassCuts* we are acutely aware of the inherent dangers in reading our output unsupervised - all that nasty small print and eye strain - and so we feel we have a duty of (couldn't) care (less) to remind you of any relevant Health & Safety aspects that may render us liable to be sued for condensation (that's compensation for wets) in the event that, say, you read it and keel over and die of a heart attack. After being mysteriously run over by a bus, that is. Anyway, just to be on the safe side - *careful with that mouse, they're vermin y'know, even if its tail is attached to a computer* - here is our *Disclaimer*. Which so few of you ever read - *don't lose that USB stick, just pop it into the electric socket for safe-keeping* - I'm not sure why we bother. So, purely for safety reasons, here it is:

*GlassCuts* is the smooth-edged output of British Glass Foundation, distributed by latex-gloved hands at an ambient room temperature of not less than 62°F. It is collated in a CFC-free environment for no more than 37 hours per week by migrant employees selected randomly from all parts of the EU and who have never picked a cockle in their lives. It has no other function than to lampoon the lampoonable, to give comfort to the afflicted whilst afflicting the comfortable, and maybe even tell you a bit about glass. Whilst the Editorial team are each issued with a J-cloth to wipe up any messy spills immediately to ensure accuracy...blah...no responsibility...etc. (*usual caveats apply*)

This toxin-free email is sent in good faith on the basis that you appear on our goggle-wearing list of conker-players who like to run around on icy playgrounds wearing smooth-soled shoes. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* then send 'unsubscribe' via sickly yellow hi-vis internet connection to [bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk). Before being asked to cut firewood on a band saw in a blacked-out room and check for the gas leak with a match, a brief indication as to why we have become a health hazard would be appreciated.

Ah, how different the course of English history could have been but for the *diktats* of H&S legislation: '*Mind 'im with that bow and arrow, he'll 'ave somebody's eye out*'. (Traditional, circa 1066)