



GlassCuts

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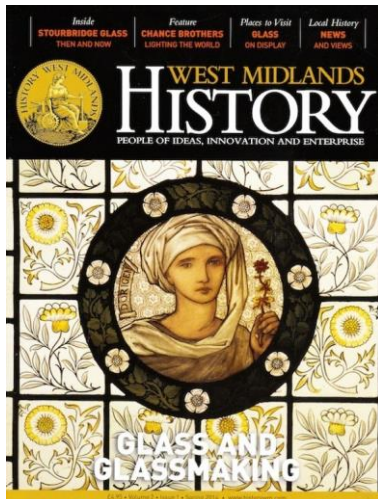
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Photography by Simon Bruntnell
www.northlightphotography.co.uk

IN THIS ISSUE

Romanesque bits and bobs
Encouraging signs
Worth a visit
Doodle update
More from Our Pal Al
A day to remember
Summer glass workshops in Stourbridge
Money matters
And finally
 Notes from far afield
Dates for your diary

Romanesque bits and bobs



History West Midlands is a recently launched high-end magazine that does what it says on the tin; it celebrates the rich history of our wonderful area. It also has an accompanying website. Issued quarterly at £4.95, each edition focuses on a specific aspect. Subscribe via www.historywm.com

The latest - *vol 2, issue 1 Spring 14* - covers Glass and Glassmaking and includes contributions by, amongst others, James Measell, Doreen Hopwood, Charles Hajdamach, Nick Baker and Yours Truly. The online version also includes interviews that select specific areas for discussion and I was delighted to be invited to do an on-screen bit for the cause - the Portland Vase, as it happens - which has just been uploaded into cyberspace. If you would

like to warn the kids as to what a lifetime of debauchery can do to their features if they're not careful, click on <http://historywm.com/films/the-portland-vase-an-enigma-in-glass/>

I suspect there may be more of these on the way; we will keep you posted. In the meantime, my thanks to the History West Midlands team, and especially Simon and Hayley at IDM Media www.idm-media.com for involving me in on that one. Smashing stuff.

Encouraging signs

Great to see that the *Centuries of Glass* auction held recently at Fieldings Auctioneers, Stourbridge, raised over £250k in sales; even more so to see Auctioneer Will Farmer quoted in the local rags as saying '*local glass was the star of the show*'. The future for Stourbridge Glass - past and present - gets to look brighter by the day. Remember you read it here first.

Worth a visit



Regular reader and contributor Kate Round has a Ph-thingy in chemistry. No fool, our Kate. She is also a fellow Outreach Worker and a Tour Guide at Red House Glass Cone, so with those credentials it no surprise that she has an interest in mixtures of super-cooled non-crystalline amorphous silicates. (*That's glass. Oh, do wake up at the back - Ed*).

But it's not all dry and dusty academia for Our Kate, she likes a bit of a holiday as well every now and then, and she has kindly put the unpacking and sun tan oil to one side to send us this missive following her latest jaunt. She tells us:

'Hi Graham. I have just returned from a holiday in Málaga accompanied by my daughter Sarah, where we made an amazing discovery that might be of interest to GlassCuts fans:

Nestling in a quiet square, secreted among the narrow streets, is a beautiful and carefully restored 18th Century 'casa'. It is relatively insignificant on the outside but step through the huge original hardwood doors and you are in a treasury of glass.

This is the Museum of Glass and Crystal, situated in the old craftsmen's quarter of San Filipe Neri. The rooms are on two floors and are arranged around four sides of a cool central secure courtyard. The walls, floors and decor have been retained and restored as original, as far as possible, so you really feel that you have stepped back in time.

The owners and tour guides are Professor Ian Philips and Sr- Gonzalo Fernandez-Prieto, whose passions are this private collection of more than 3,000 pieces of glass of different epochs, accompanied by pictures, furniture, and decorative objects in a setting that corresponds to each historical period represented, that immerses you in an environment close to the domestic context of the time.

The darker ground floor has back-lit stained glass windows. Restored to near original conditions the mainly Pre-Raphaelite exhibits have vibrant colours and exquisite details; there are works by George Parlby, and Albert Moore; a Triptych entitled 'Industry Discovery Commerce' by William Warrington; and fine work by the seemingly incongruous partnership of Burne-Jones and William Morris.

The glassware on display ranges from Ancient civilisations, from the 6th - 4th C BC Phoenicians, Byzantine, Islamic and Iranian; through the 16th - 18th C exhibits of Catalan, Venetian, Dutch and Bohemian work; and 17th - 18th C English glassware as fine as the Pilkington collection currently on display at Broadfield House. Complete up to the 19th C with pieces by Lalique and a wonderful vibrant colourful wall of Whitefriars glassware. There is also a full cabinet of English Cameo signed by Thomas Webb.



The whole collection is complemented by family portraits and we were introduced personally to the subjects by our learned guide. Amongst the artists were works by Adriaen Hanneman & John Riley; Philippe Mercier, John Vanderbank and Joseph Wright of Derby. The rooms are completed with elegant authentic furnishings in rich oaks, mahogany and walnut; and suspended from the ceilings are elaborate and ornate glass chandeliers.

This is a very young museum established less than four years ago and it already has five star Trip Advisor rating, with a Trip Advisor

Award displayed in the reception hallway. Tours take place daily from 11:00am to 6:00pm. The cost is a modest 5 Euros and the museum is completely privately funded. We were enthralled for two hours as we travelled through eight centuries exemplified by glass; it truly was a remarkable and enlightening experience that I would highly recommend.'

Thanks, Kate; I think we are indebted to you for uncovering this gem and telling us about it. Details at http://www.museovidrioycristalmalaga.com/museo_ingles/index.html

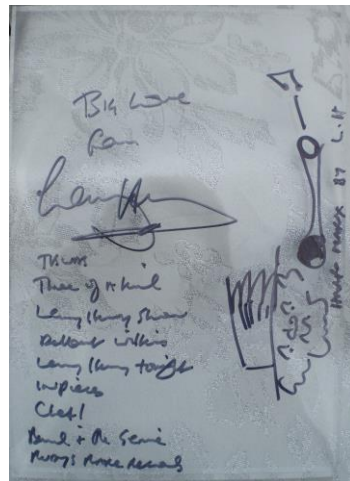
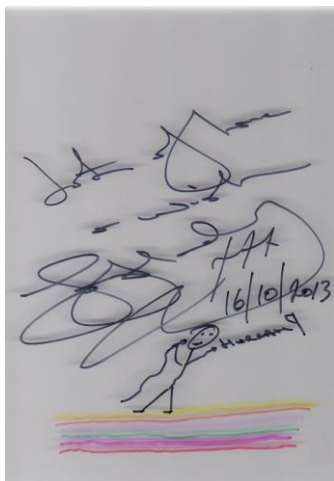
Doodle update

Some while back we mentioned a brainwave courtesy of glass-blower and fellow BGF Trustee Allister Malcolm (*The World's Longest Glassblowing Challenge?* - yep, that's him). So, how is it progressing? I hear you ask. Well, allow Allister to update you ...

The aim is to collect doodles from celebrities, which will then be used as a source of inspiration for artists to create a piece of glass. It can be anything from a poem or lyrics of a song to a spur of the moment scribble. Following the introduction to this project in GlassCuts the local press were straight on to me wanting to run an article. This became the most shared online report of the day. It was so good to see artists from far afield expressing an interest in working on this, for which I am very grateful. The finished art works are to be sold alongside their sources of inspiration to help raise funds for the BGF. Sponsors have also generously committed materials to help with the cause. I am pleased to say the first few doodles have come in, too. Local celebrities such as Lenny Henry (The professional footballer - Ed) and Steve Bull (Actor and comedian) have given us something to work with and celebrities from further afield such as Frankie Valli (Spandau Ballet) and Tony Hadley (Four Seasons) have also joined in.



A delighted Allister has also asked us to point out that specialist company Gold Leaf Supplies have again kindly agreed to donate gold leaf to the *Doodles* project. If that name sounds just a bit familiar, it is the very same good folk who kindly supported Allister in his *Glassblowing Challenge* back in 2012. For a splendid item covering both the *Challenge* and the *Doodles*, together with fulsome praise for Allister and his associates, take a peek at *Talented Glass Artists Raise Money to Support Britain's Glass-blowing Heritage* on www.goldleafsupplies.co.uk/blog or to browse the GLS website, just drop the '/blog' bit.



More from Our Pal Al

Allister Malcolm - you may have heard of him - tells us he is due to make a special, brilliant, exciting, one-off, not-to-be-missed master-class demonstration (*Is this good enough?* - Ed) for an evening extravaganza at the Black Country Living Museum on Saturday 17th May 2014 from 7:00pm – 10:30pm. Now Our Al is more usually seen strutting his stuff at Broadfield House Glass Museum, so if you haven't seen his mobile set-up, here it is. Impressive, eh? Get more details from the usual on-line suspects; we'll be covering it too.

A day to remember

In previous *GlassCuts* we celebrated the opening of the brand new archives in Tipton Road, Dudley DY1 4SQ, right next to the Black Country Living Museum. And a splendid facility it is, too. Last November in *GC40* I reported on their Open Day, part of *Archives Awareness Week*, and their kind invitation to appear on behalf of BGF. It seems I must have done something right, because I have been invited back there on Monday 31st March. This time it is the *Black Country Echoes* project, an inspirational programme telling the story of global manufacturing with its roots in the Black Country. Supported by Arts Council England, it will run until March 2015 across Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley. The project is an ongoing collaboration between the museum services in the Black Country, working with companies to highlight our industrial heritage, and will culminate in the *Black Country Echoes Festival* from August - December 2014.

José Forrest-Tennant, Community Engagement Officer tells us: *The aim of our session on 31st March is to encourage people who worked in Bluebird Toffee, James Grove & Sons, Plowden and Thompson, Somers Forge, William Hackett Chains and Webb Corbett or Tudor Crystal to join us and share their memories of working life in the Black Country.*

We hope that they will bring along any memorabilia and take part in our roundtable discussions and talks with historians. These afternoon discussions will be preceded by guest speakers including Chris Upton, who will talk on the Black Country and its industries and Graham Fisher's presentation on glassmaking in the area. We are also welcoming Ian Dury, Heritage Officer at Webb Corbett Visitor Centre, to tell us about the epic 2012 Portland Vase Project, for which he was Coordinator. Proceedings will commence at mid-day and we should be concluded by about 3:30pm. A light lunch will be provided.'

All welcome but places are limited, so RSVP jose.forrest-tennant@wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 552055. (For catering purposes it would be helpful to also 'cc' Helen.Donald@dudley.gov.uk - Ed)
More information at www.blackcountryechoes.org.uk



Summer glass workshops in Stourbridge

We received this just as we were going to press: 'Some of the finest names in traditional and contemporary glass will be leading workshops for lovers and makers of glass. From summer 2014 a series of workshops will be run by ex-industry masters and international artists in their field. The workshops will be aimed at 'hands on' practical skills.'

Intrigued, I took a peek myself. No doubt about it, there are some big hitters here. Details and bookings at www.bruntnell-astley.com/collections/glass-workshops-in-the-heart-of-england

Money matters

All contributions gratefully received. Dig deep. And remember, we know where you live. Do we *really* have to send Igor round?

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.



Warp/Fade by Liam Reeves
Photograph: Sylvain Deleu

And finally **Notes from far afield**

Back in *GC45* we threw down the gauntlet and asked you to help identify the most far-flung reader of *GlassCuts* as measured in metric crow-flights from good ol' Blighty here in the Stourbridge Glass Quarter. We also promised we would give a free big-up-massive to our distant cousins; the further away the better.

You good folk have responded in your droves, for which many thanks, and we have already received stuff from Latvia, Canada and Australia. To get the ball rolling we have selected this one from Jasmien Vanhoof of Belgium, for the very good reason that it features our own home-grown talent.

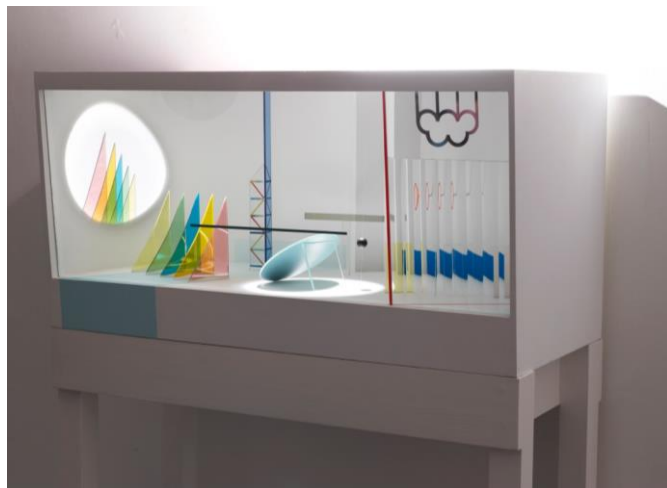
Jasmien asked: *'We are presenting an exhibition of contemporary artistic glass from the United Kingdom. Is it possible to include this event in GlassCuts?'* We replied: *'Most certainly, yes.'* Here, in abridged form, is what came back ...

From 6th April till 14th September 2014, the glass museum GLAZENHUIS in Lommel presents an exhibition on contemporary artistic glass from the United Kingdom. This will be the 18th exhibition since the opening of the GlazenHuis in May 2007. For this show we have recruited 23 established and upcoming artists whose represented works are examples of excellent traditional craftsmanship or fascinating applications of new technologies, in addition to being artworks of exquisite, artistic and conceptual quality.

The roll-call comprises Sarah Blood, Katharine Coleman, Erin Dickson, Katharine Dowson, Fiaz Elson, Jerome Harrington, Shelley James, Peter Layton, Julia Malle, James Maskrey, Helen Maurer, Graham Muir, Keiko Mukaïdé, Michael Petry, Liam Reeves, Michael Ruh, Jeffrey Sarmiento, Louis Thompson, Andrea Walsh, Richard William Wheeler, Kathryn Wightman, Emma Woffenden, Jeff Zimmer.

GlazenHuis; Flemish Centre for Contemporary Glass Art / Dorp 14B-3920 Lommel, Belgium. Details: +32 (0)11 541 335; info@hetglazenhuis.be; www.hetglazenhuis.be

You send, we'll promote. That's the *GlassCuts Guarantee*, friends.



Relay Overlay – Helen Maurer. Photographer: Angela Moore

Final word from our *Department of Nice Tries* goes to one of our regular correspondents from 'dahn sarf' who wonders whether in view of the Ealing comedy suggesting we once needed a passport to get there, does Pimlico count? *All together now - Nice Try. No, it doesn't.* Keep those suggestions coming in.

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

7th May 2014, 6:30 for 7:00pm.

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

Housing the Great Exhibition - The Crystal Palace of 1851. Admission free (*featured GC45*)

www.thinktank.ac

17th 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

20th - 22nd June 2014

Black Country Living Museum

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

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

9th - 23rd 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

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 ...

New Creative Short Courses; University of Wolverhampton

An eclectic mix of short courses commencing in April 2014, including fused glass jewellery.

www.wlv.ac.uk/sad/shortcourses

Crafted: Makers of the Exceptional

Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington Gardens 3rd - 5th April 2014. Kate Jones of Gillies Jones Glass (*featured GC 44*) will be at the RA for the duration with three new Landscape Bowls.

www.craftedshowcase.co.uk/

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

Oh, joy; Spring has sprung and with it comes the bounteous pleasures of nature in its ever-changing cycles. Gosh, I am so alive with happiness at the impending rebirth of all that is new, I feel a Springy *Disclaimer* coming on. So here it is:

GlassCuts is the early daffodil of the British Glass Foundation, distributed by an electronic sprinkler system after being first soaked for 24 hours in Baby Bio. It is collated at the crack of dawn, just as its pods go 'pop', in an atmosphere of jasmine and lavender by workers who say 'Ooo, arr' at each other a lot. Probably in an east European accent. It has no other function than to mercilessly extract the pollen, to smell absolutely delightful when placed in a cut-glass vase on a windowsill with a sunny aspect, and maybe even tell you a bit about glass. Whilst the Editorial team are each issued with a pitchfork for scraping up the unpleasant bits in order to ensure accuracy...blah...no responsibility...etc. (*usual caveats apply*)

This GM-free email is sent in good faith on the basis that you appear on our extensive list of yokels. And others less gifted. Please feel free to forward it to like-minded worzels who may have by now grasped the power of reading some pretty big words. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* then send 'unsubscribe' via a naturally fertilized organic internet connection to bfg@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. Before being asked to lamb the cows and milk the sheep at 0500hrs for the next fortnight, a brief indication as to why we have become the equivalent of a bovine-dip would be appreciated.

Ah, how wonderful indeed is nature at its finest. Only this morning I saw a bushy-tailed Mr Fox, coat all shiny and sleek of belly, lying in silent majesty at my front gate. It had been run over by a truck.

