



GlassCuts

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation
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We got some sad, we got some glad, we got some really makes you mad. News. It's all here.

IN THIS ISSUE

Kevin Andrews: a tribute

A little birdy tells us

Muchos gracias

Answers on a postcard, please

Clever stuff

Horse's head on pillow time

All change

Money matters

And finally

A collection for a collection

Dates for your diary

Kevin Andrews: a tribute

Just as the last edition of *GlassCuts* was about to hit the airwaves we were told the sad news of the death of one of the finest copper wheel engravers ever to grace the Stourbridge Glass arena. Kevin's funeral has taken place in the interim and, in a manner that typified the man, it was a joyous affair, with his choice of music designed to alleviate the sadness and all conducted in accordance with his express desire that there should be no tears of sorrow, only laughter. We promised to carry a more fulsome tribute just as soon as were able and so we are grateful to his friend and colleague Ian Dury, Heritage Officer at Webb Corbett Visitor Centre, for his personal appraisal of the life of this supremely gifted man. Ian tells us:

Kevin attended Stourbridge High School; once a week he attended Foley College, Stourbridge on day-release. From this early age he was brushing against some of the giants of the industry and he particularly enjoyed the art lessons given by ex-Webb Corbett designer and legend, Irene Stevens.

It was at the college that Kevin developed his ambition to become a glass engraver and he wrote to all the major crystal companies in the district applying for a job. In 1962 he was taken on by Thomas Webb and served a five-year apprenticeship.

In 1970 Kevin was approached by David Smith, then Designer at Webb Corbett, who offered him a position of copper wheel engraver. He relished working alongside Len Postins who was in charge of the intaglio workshop. Kevin assisted Len in the training of the young new engravers such as Andy Cope and Steve Piper. It is testament to Kevin's teaching skills that both are still practicing their craft today and are regarded as two of the best engravers left in the UK.

In 1988 Kevin was persuaded to return to Thomas Webb where he worked until its closure. He was also a part-time tutor at the International Glass Centre, Brierley Hill. To the end of his working life Kevin loved nothing better than passing on his skills to anyone who showed a desire to learn his trade, posting instructional videos on *YouTube* that are still today watched by thousands.

Kevin was also renowned for his generosity and this was exemplified when a young engraver, Tom Southall, recently took up copper wheel engraving. Seeing his potential he donated equipment to Tom and subsequently paid for a two-year subscription to the Guild of Glass Engravers, an organization that Kevin promoted and was an active member of.

Kevin may have left this world, but his skills will live on through the hands of those he taught and his craftsmanship will be enjoyed in perpetuity by everyone who owns a piece of his work. He was a wonderful ambassador for the Stourbridge Glass trade and though his talents will be missed by many, the man himself will be missed by many more.



Kevin Andrews. 1945 - 2014. RIP.

A little birdy tells us

We have learnt that our good pal Roger Dodsworth, former Keeper of Glass & Fine Art for Dudley MBC before his recent retirement, has had a bit of a relapse in his health. Regular readers will recall our reporting on him first being taken poorly some months ago, and from which he subsequently fought back valiantly. So we are delighted to say that we understand he is getting over this latest setback in equally defiant style. Our best wishes, as always, go to him for a speedy and lasting recovery.

Muchos gracias

Just a quick personal note to all my new chums at the Carnival Glass Society. I had the privilege to address their annual shindig held at the Three Swans in Market Harborough over last weekend. They made me and The Gaffer (a.k.a. my dear ol' mom, who doubles as my minder and roadie when she's not getting the coal in) so very welcome, it was a genuine pleasure to be there. Similar pleasures await you in return for a very modest sum of cash that will secure not only your membership but an ample supply of lovely people, all fascinated by the iridescent stuff. And also now perhaps The 2012 Portland Vase if I did my job properly. www.thecgs.co.uk will point you in the right direction. Lovely. Ta, everybody.

Answers on a postcard, please

Now this sounds novel; a *Wish You Were Here* exhibition. Hmmmm ... it looks exciting stuff and it's all linked in with the International Festival of Glass 2015, so we are happy to report the full monty here. Pam Reekie of the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) tells us more:

We are pleased to offer the opportunity to participate in a vibrant CGS exhibition to be shown at the heart of the International Festival of Glass in May 2015 (*reported GC53 – Ed*)

The sending and receiving of postcards is a tradition that goes way back. From the seaside to the sick bed, this deceptively simple form of communication offers a chance for humour, ritual and information as well as affection and tenderness - all dressed up in a punchy visual form. The CGS challenges its members to send us a glass postcard. What will you say?

Wish You Were Here follows on from the great success of our Medallions exhibition at the Festival of Glass in 2012. 83 glass medals were submitted and over half of these sold. The show was a huge hit with press and public alike.

Wish You Were Here is open to all CGS members. Space is limited, so acceptance is on a first come, first served basis until the maximum number we can display is reached. Members must register an expression of interest by 31st January 2015. There are deadlines for applications and submission of items. There are also specifications to be met, including the requirement that the postcard must be offered for sale. Prizes include a people's prize of £250, sponsored by Alan J Poole and a first prize of £250, sponsored by John Agnew. Download forms from <http://www.cgs.org.uk/news/wish-you-were-here-cgs-open-exhibition>

Non-members of CGS can see www.cgs.org.uk for how to join CGS. As well as becoming eligible to take part in the exhibition, new members will be part of a dynamic contemporary glass community and receive valuable membership benefits. **- end -**

Good luck with this Pam, and thanks for thinking of *GlassCuts* to help promote it.



Clever stuff

The School of Creative Arts and Design MA Degree Show highlights the work of over 60 graduating Master's students in ceramics, photography and sculpture. Plus, natch, glass. This year's show just happens to be on our doorstep at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Neat.

The show runs from 6th - 11th October 2014, 10:00am - 5:00pm and admission is free. The gallery is situated just about as smack in the middle of Wolves as it's possible to get, but help for the lost soul is at hand at www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/getting-here

Horse's head on pillow time

Listen; the National Glass Centre up there in Sunderland is gonna make you an offer you can't refuse. Let NGC's Chris Blade tell you more:

One of our smaller studios is available to rent to a glass or ceramic artist. The studio is unfurnished and is 14.5 sqm. The rent is £155 per month including utilities and business rates. The term of hire is in 6-month cycles. We offer special rate for graduates in their first year after graduating, and postgraduate students receive 50% discount off their rent in Year 1 and 25% discount in Year 2. Tenants also benefit from a generous package of discounted access to specialist glass and ceramic production facilities.

Contact Michelle Daurat on 0191 515 5510 or michelle.daurat@sunderland.ac.uk
Non-tenants can also hire our production facilities at competitive rates. Contact me, Chris Blade, on 0191 515 5507 or chris.blade@nationalglasscentre.com

All change

Time and tide doth indeed wait for no man, or woman for that matter, so it's a big 'cheerio' from Ian Dury who, after what seems like about a million years of being in charge of Stourbridge Glass Engravers (SGE) down in sunny Amblecote, has decided to move on.

In his place say 'hello' to Kim Walsh and Mark Whittaker, both living in nearby Wollaston so they'm one o' we (translations available at the desk if yo' bay one o' we) who are now in the process of a phased transition over the next few months. Which means that although you will still see Ian around for a while, he will gradually disappear into the ether. But only to re-crystalize about 50 yards away, where he will henceforth be strutting his stuff more as Heritage Officer at the Webb Corbett Visitor Centre. In the meantime Kim and Mark will not only be continuing the SGE lineage but will be adding to it with their own interpretations of what can be engraved on glass.

It all sounds like exciting times but I am revealing no more. Get down to SGE, still in the same place at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote, to see for yourself. And do give a warm welcome to the new incumbents. We wish them well. SGE are on 01384 399466 or sales@stourbridge-glass-engravers.co.uk

Money matters

'All I ask is the chance to prove that money can't make me happy' - Spike Milligan. Help increase our happiness quotient and give 'til it hurts, friends. Usual address. 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

A collection for a collection



*Josiah Wedgwood – The First Day's Vase c1769
Photograph by Phil Sayer*

Here, from the shimmering opulence that is the Editorial suite of *GlassCuts Towers* we continue to pride ourselves on our reputation for being objective, dispassionate and apolitical in bringing you all the news that is the news from the *Wonderful World of Glass* ^{©GF}

Even so, we admit that this one is so desperately sad that it has brought a collective lump to our throats and we know is a topic that already will be very close to many of our reader's hearts. For those not *au fait* with the facts here they are in a nutshell:

We start with a brief lesson in recent social history, when the activities of the late Robert Maxwell led to changes in the pension laws. Let's keep it simple - and litigation free - by just saying that these changes had unexpected and profound consequences, the upshot of which is that the Wedgwood Pension Fund, in discreet terms, is not quite what it should be.

So here's the griff; the world famous Wedgwood Collection may have to be sold to fill the financial black hole. This would be an utter ... (*insert your own adjective here, but we suggest something along the lines of 'tragedy' or similar - Ed.*)

A fund has been set up but despite everyone's best efforts it is still some way shy of target. Hence there's an urgent appeal going out for donations. The good news is that an anonymous donor is giving 1:1 hence any donation is automatically worth double. So every little really does help, big time. The not-such-good news is that the appeal closes at the end of November, so best do it right now.

Just go back to the 'impartiality' bit again and see why we don't usually do this sort of thing, so please don't try jumping on a bandwagon that doesn't exist. But this one is a real bad rap on so many levels we felt you just had to know about it and decide for yourself what to do. Details and updates at www.savewedgwood.org/ or aregent@artfund.org, 020 7225 4847.

Our best wishes to Simon Wedgwood and his team and our thanks for the update. Let us all fervently hope that the next one we receive is headed 'Job Done.'

Dates for your diary

Events & Exhibitions at Broadfield House Glass Museum

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

See *Friends*, below

Events and Exhibitions at Red House Glass Cone

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

20th September - 2nd November 2014

Looking Through - Wolverhampton Embroidery Guild

25th - 26th October 2014

No Tricks just Treats. Halloween themed event

29th - 30th November 2014

Craft fayre

8th November 2014 - New Year 2015

Made@the Cone exhibition

13th & 14th and 20th - 23rd December 2014

Santa at the Cone

Elsewhere around the highways and byways of glassville

10th September - 3rd October 2014

Tudor Crystal, Stewkins DY8 4YN

Black Country Echoes exhibition and demonstrations (*featured GC53*)

www.blackcountryechoes.org.uk and www.tudorcrystal.com

9th - 23rd October 2014

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

Guild of Glass Engravers International Exhibition (*featured GC45*)

www.snaddon.com/glass

11th - 12th October 2014

Webb Corbett Visitor Centre (Ruskin), Amblecote DY8 4HF

Heritage weekend including presenters (*featured GC54*)

Details from Ian Dury: ian.dury@ghc.rmt.org

23rd November 2014

National Motorcycle Museum

The National Glass Fair (*featured GC42*)

info@specialistglassfairs.com

25th - 31st May 2015

Various sites but focusing on Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote DY8 4HF

International Festival of Glass and British Glass Biennale (*featured GC54*)

www.ifg.org.uk

From Friends of BHGM

We have received details of the 'Facets' programme for 2014-15, for which many thanks. All events are usually held at Broadfield House Glass Museum unless otherwise stated. Costs vary as indicated. Further details from *Friends* direct. www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk

2nd October 2014, 10:00am

The Hollies, 53 Audnam, Stourbridge DY8 4AE

Visit to The Lace Guild: talk by expert Mary Coleman. Numbers limited to 12. Cost £5.00

2nd October 2014, 7:30pm

History of Hungarian Glass. A talk by Attila Sik. Cost £5.00

13th November 2014, 7:30pm

Glass, Art and Mystery. An evening with Jonathan Harris exploring his inspiration, new creations, methods and 'madness'. Cost £5.00

5th December 2014, 7:00 for 7:30pm

Christmas event with mulled wine and supper, with a talk by Graham Fisher MBE:

Ten of the Best – 'a romp through my personal favourite pieces of glass from past and present.' Cost £6.50

24th January 2015, 1:30pm

An afternoon at the 'flicks'. A selection of movies, with ice cream interval, tea and biscuits. Cost £5.00

26th February 2015, 7:30pm

Vintage Fountain Pens and Writing Equipment with Mark Hill. Bring a suitable item for free valuation. Cost £10.00

26th March 2015

To be announced.

Bulletin Board

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

Craft Council Hothouse Programme email 11.9.14

An intensive development programme for emerging contemporary craft makers. Applications being taken 15.9.14 onwards; details at www.craftscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/hothouse/

Coburg Prize for Contemporary Glass 2014, press release 15.9.14

Full details of winners and prizes including an award for British artist Colin Reid.

www.kunstsammlungen-coburg.de

Creative short courses for all, October edn.

Forthcoming courses at University of Wolverhampton. Variety of subjects including fused glass jewellery-making. www.wlv.ac.uk/sad/shortcourses

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 love cats, me. A mate of mine also doted on his also and so when the poor thing died mysteriously of heart failure after being run over by a tram he vowed to give it a proper, dignified and respectful send-off. Friends, flowers, a party, the lot. But when he looked outside and saw it was raining he just shoved it in a bag and chucked it in the bin instead. That's the thing about weather, y'see, it can have such a profound effect on the way we conduct our lives and relationships. The fact that my wife knows that I fancy the pants off that blonde BBC1 weather-girl has certainly had a profound effect on mine; our dog-house is very comfortable and I am getting used to spending lots of time in it. So, in between compiling these messages whilst simultaneously avoiding rolling in those left by Fido and Towser I thought I would give this *Disclaimer* a meteorological flavour.

GlassCuts is the cumulonimbus precipitation of the British Glass Foundation. It is collated in the lower stratosphere by balloon pilots and has no other function than to shed rays of intermittent sunshine upon an otherwise dreary day, entertain those lost souls on Dogger, Rockall and Cromarty and even say a bit about glass. Whilst every effort is made to maintain constant barometrical accuracy of around 100 millibars in our reportage, no responsibility etc etc .. (*usual caveats apply*)

This email is sent to you via the Radio 4 shipping forecast on the basis that you appear on our list of those to whom we have registered in our cloud (*cloud, internet, gedditt?*). However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* emails then just ask Michael Fish to give us the all-clear via a 'there will definitely be no hurricane' warning marked bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. A brief indication as to why we do not feature any more in your barbecue summer arrangements would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission of its modest little missive throughout its extensive range of satellites. If you know someone who you think may also wish to receive *GlassCuts*, then feel free to set fair. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our shattered scowers of readers (*That could have been worse, I nearly got mist patches the wrong way round - Ed*) send it to BGF at the usual address via The Weather Girls when they have stopped raining men.

Teacher: Spell 'weather'. Pupil: Erm .. whet ... weeth ... weeth ... Teacher: that's the worst spell of weather we've had all week. Boom boom! (You've already used that one - Ed)

