



# *GlassCuts*

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Crystal roots  
Glass Heritage Weekend goes ahead  
Talking of which ...  
Fill yer boots time  
Net change  
A call to arms  
Money matters  
*And finally*  
    *GC@50*, an opportunity  
Very last word, for now  
Dates for your diary

## Crystal roots

Regular *GlassCuts* reader and BGF supporter Dave Tyler can trace his ancestry via his relatives who once graced the *Wonderful World of Glass*<sup>©GF</sup> and we are delighted that he has chosen to share with us a gem of a document he has happened across in his rummagings.

William Breese (1866 - 1921) was his great grandfather and we have in front of us a transcript outlining the Articles of Apprenticeship entered into by William at the age of 19 years on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1885 with Henry Gething Richardson, Glass Manufacturer, of Wordsley. The document is signed by William, his father Thomas and Henry Richardson.

The language is of its time and some of the quaint terminology may need a bit of explanation to the uninitiated; footmaker, for example. And what on earth is an apprentice these days? My oh my, how times change. But the document gives such an absorbing contemporary insight into the terms and conditions of going into the glass game that we felt it deserved a full airing. So here it is:

*This Indenture witnefseth (sic) that William Breese of the age of nineteen years, by, and with the consent of his father Thomas Breese, of Brettell Lane, in the parish of Kingswinford and County of Stafford, Glass Cutter, certified by his executing these presents doth put himself Apprentice to Henry Gething Richardson of Wordsley in the parish of Kingswinford and County of Stafford, Glass Manufacturer, to learn the art of Glass footmaker and with him after the manner of an Apprentice to serve from the day of the date hereof unto the full End and Term of Two Year from thence next following to be fully complete and ending.*

*During the Term the said apprentice his master faithfully shall serve, his secret keep, his lawful commands every where gladly do. He shall do no damage to his said Master nor see to be done of others but to his Power shall tell or forthwith give warning to his said Master of the same. He shall not waste the Goods of his said Master nor lend them unlawfully to any.*

*He shall not contract Matrimony within the said Term nor play at any Cards or Dice Tables or any other unlawful Games whereby his said master may have any loss with his own goods or others. During the said Term without Licence to his said Master he shall neither buy nor sell, he shall not haunt Taverns or Playhouses nor absent himself from his Master's service day or night unlawfully But in all things as a fretful Apprentice shall he behave himself towards his Master and all during the said Term. And the said Henry Gething Richardson shall teach and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed his said Apprentice in the Art of a Glass footmaker which he useth by the best means that he can, paying to his said Apprentice the following wage weekly and from the day of the date hereof unto the tenth of march one thousand eight hundred and eighty six, ten shillings per week and for the remainder of the Term eleven shillings per week and for overwork one shilling per more over, and all time lost from sickness or any other cause, to be fetched up or worked out by said Apprentice. And for the true performance of all and every Covenants and Agreements either of the said Parties bindeth himself unto the other by these presents.*

*In Witnefs (sic) whereof the parties above named to these Indentures interchangeably have put their Hands and Seals the tenth day of March and in the forty eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Eighty Five.*

*Signed ..... William Breese. Thomas Breese. Henry G Richardson.  
Witness ..... H Billingham.*

Written by hand at the bottom of the document are the words "Faithfully Served"  
Signed ..... Henry G Richardson

Dave tells us: *'The original is a piece of parchment that is falling apart. William worked all his life for Richardson's and finished up as a valued member of staff. I thought this represented an interesting piece of social history'.*

We couldn't agree more. Which got us thinking; just how many more items like this - all with their own unique stories to tell - are lying out there, and is there anyone who would be prepared to research and collate the information? I could just imagine someone getting a PhD or something out of that lot. Talking of which, Dave is always willing to show the original document to serious enquirers. Contact him via [dave@drtyler.plus.com](mailto:dave@drtyler.plus.com) or, of course, via the usual address at your own fave-rave glass fanzine and we'll pass it on.

## Glass Heritage Weekend goes ahead



**Glass Heritage Weekend 2014**

**Sat 11th & Sun 12th Oct. 10-4**

**Look back with pride...**  
View findings from our **Archaeological Dig**  
“Glass Echoes” Exhibition sponsored by BCE  
**Local History talks** with: Paul Collins and Graham Fisher MBE

**Have-A-Go Taster sessions:**  
Glass making, Glass painting, Glass fusion, Glass enamelling, Glass sand engraving and Bead making  
**Glass repairs** while you wait

**Amblecote History Group:** Book research group, Genealogy help and advice, Photo scanning.  
We've also invited local history groups from **Wordsley and Wollaston**  
See plans for the new White House Cone museum  
Glasshouse students' Young Roots project  
Plus **YOUNG DIGGERS** Come and have a go at finding valuable artefacts buried on site.  
Black Country menu: inc. Faggots and Peas

**Webb Corbett Visitor Centre**  
bringing glass history to life  
The Glasshouse Wollaston Road, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4HF Tel. 07985 098877

Logos: European Union, Department for Communities and Local Government, Lottery Funded, ruskinmill, NEXUS HERITAGE

Way back in the dim and distant mists of time, or more accurately *GlassCuts 54*, we gave you an early ‘heads up’ for the Glass Heritage Weekend down there in sunny Amblecote over the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 10:00am - 4:00pm. It’s also been in *Dates for your diary* for yonks, so whad’ya mean you don’t know about it?

Any road up, Webb Corbett Visitor Centre Heritage Officer - yep, that man Ian Dury - has fastidiously pulled together a veritable cornucopia of events for your delectation, entertainment and scholarship, including exhibitions, taster sessions in various aspects of glassmaking, presentations, guided walks, genealogy; even something especially for the youngsters. And, get this, a Black Country menu including Faggots ‘n’ Pays. (*Please excuse the wet marks on your computer screen, that’s the Editor dribbling.*) But do you recall comedian Jimmy Cricket’s catchphrase? *‘And there’s more ...’*

The on-site archaeological digs are scheduled for back-fill at the end of October so Ian and the team are opening up the two glass cone excavation sites for a this-is-definitely-your-last-chance gander. If you’ve not seen them they're amazing and are believed to date back to the 1690s. Finds from the dig will be on display in an array that shows a time capsule of Stourbridge glassmaking going back almost to its earliest days. And if that isn’t enough to tempt you, the *Black Country Echoes* exhibition, featured in recent *GCs*, is transferring from Plowden & Thompson to here for a month.

There is a nominal charge on one or two bits and bobs to cover costs and booking for some events, such as guided walks, is advisable but otherwise it’s all free of charge. For details call 07985 098877 or pop along to The Glasshouse, Wollaston Road, Amblecote DY8 4HF. Go on, don’t be shy.

## Talking of which ...



Here's the aforementioned Time-Capsule Team, or more precisely the Glass House College Student Council together with BGF supporter and general good egg Mike Perkins of Amblecote History Society, seen shoving a few items back into a big hole for posterity before it's all filled in again. And just who is that dude on the DVD cover? Thanks, folks. It comforts me no end to think that in several hundred years' time someone may unearth this and marvel at the strange-looking hairy creatures that once inhabited Amblecote.

## Fill yer boots time

The call for entries for the British Glass Biennale 2015 is now open. Deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Don't hang about. <http://www.biennale.org.uk/2015-biennale/call-for-entries-.php>

## Net change



The brand new all-singing-all-dancing-spangly-spongly BGF website is now up and running. There's a shed-load on there, including a film on the Portland Vase (with acknowledgements to History: West Midlands), back copies of your fave-rave glass fanzine and lots of other stuff such as our accounts for 2011. And 2012. And 2013. Nope, we ain't got 2014's yet but when we have they'll be up there. It's called 'transparency', dudes.

Take a peek at [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk) and let us know what you think of it all. Ta.

## **A call to arms**

As the deepening hue of autumn firms its shivering grip and the dark grimness of winter looms around the corner (*This is depressing; stop it - Ed*) the season is quietening a little. So this may be an opportunity to call those digits at the end of your arms (*geddit?*) into typing emails to us here at *GlassCuts Towers* and give us your details for next year's shenanigans.

If you are a newcomer to our happy gang of ne'er-do-wells then let us remind you that we promote just about anything with a glassy feel, but especially if it relates directly to the known epicentre of global glassmaking, ie Stourbridge, and its world-leading practitioners who can beat anyone else hands down with their eyes shut and an arm tied behind their back at a half-warm furnace, so yah boo sucks. (*Marketing Dept; check this bit for possible bias please - Ed*).

As Aleksandr Orlov, the BGF's very own pet meerkat, (*with acknowledgements*) always says: '*No obligation, no fees, no kidding. Simples!*' Just send us the stuff and let us do the rest.

For reasons associated with our legendary impartiality we don't usually solicit information; we prefer you to do the sending rather than us do the asking, if that's OK with you. Equally, we are no *prima donnas* when it comes to you good folk passing our output onwards, so do please forward *GlassCuts* to your membership, colleagues or anyone else who you feel may find it of interest. There are no copyright implications or associated costs; all we ask is that you may consider giving us a bit of a mention where appropriate.

Free coverage, unbiased reportage and superbly erudite editorial of the highest calibre. Ah well, two out of three isn't bad.

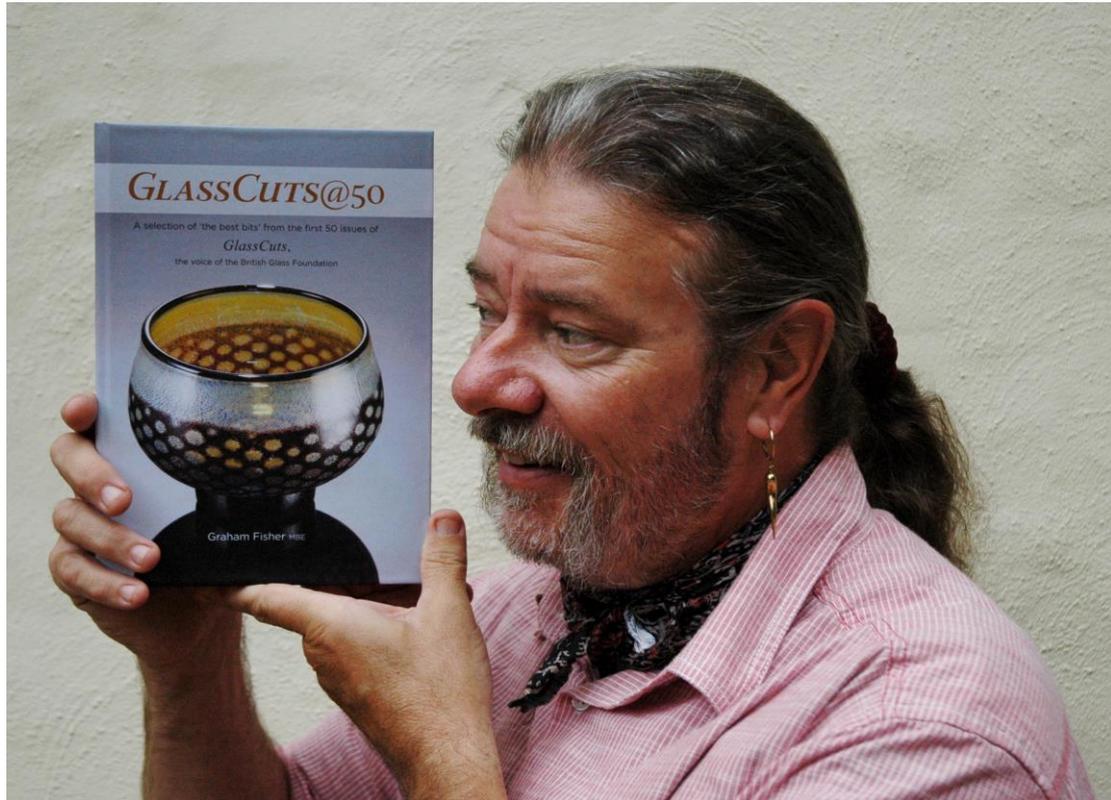
## **Money matters**

*'Money don't get everything it's true. But what it don't get I can't use'*. (*Lyrics courtesy of an unremarkable 1960s rhythmic musical beat combo that subsequently faded into obscurity - Ed*)

Help us to give aid and succour to Ms E Rigby as she wears a face that she keeps in a jar by the door. Usual address. Ta. And remember that she loves you yeah, yeah.

*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*  
***GC@50, an opportunity***



As reported a couple of issues back *GlassCuts@50*, a compilation of all the ‘tasty bits’ from the first 50 editions of your fave-rave glass fanzine, has made it to the surface and has already been variously described as ‘brilliantly entertaining’, ‘thought-provoking’ and ‘a masterpiece.’ All by my mom it must be said, but’s it’s a start. Bless her.

Anyway, just to recap that the primary purpose of *GC@50*, which has been released in a limited edition of only 50 hard-bound copies worldwide, is to act as a promotional vehicle for BGF as well as provide researchers of the future with a comprehensive snapshot of the industry and its practitioners in the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To this end the book is, even as we speak, being lodged in repositories ranging from Dudley Archives to the Corning Museum of Glass in the USA. For legal reasons they are also wending their way to the British Library, the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, the Bodleian Library of Oxford, University Library Cambridge and the library of Trinity College Dublin. Phew, that’s quite some coverage; no one can say the BGF isn’t spreading its wings far and wide.

Other copies will be distributed at the discretion of BGF Trustees; we feel they may be particularly helpful when, for example, securing grants and funding from external agencies. However, this still leaves the odd one or two without a home and this is where you good folk come in.

BGF is retaining a very limited supply of this rather special book for those who may wish to get a little something in recognition of their kind donation to our coffers. And so, in return for a cheque with a figure followed by several noughts, we will be happy as you to see one of these gracing your coffee table down at the old *chateau*.

OK, whilst the 'figure followed by several noughts' bit might be a tad ambitious we feel it would be tacky for us to set a formal recommended price. We therefore assure potential bidders that this is no tu'ppeny-ha'penny paperback rag and has in reality cost us a combination of scores of hours and a small fortune to shove out - all funded privately I should add, and not from BGF resources - so do please allow your aspirations as to what you may acquire one for to be somewhere close to what we would reasonably expect to receive. Hence we must reserve the right ... etc etc ... and the BGF's decision will be final. But be assured that, as always, all monies raised will go straight to 'the cause' and that the Trustees will not be trousering a penny-piece. We would also like to reaffirm our continuing gratitude for *any* donation, irrespective of whether there is a *GC@50* attached to the one end of it.

If you would prefer to see *GC@50* in the flesh first before re-mortgaging the love-nest then just nip into BGF Bunker HQ at our Peartree Lane address in Netherton. Full details are on our brand new all-singing-all-dancing-spingly-spangly-spongly BGF website, mentioned above. Alternatively, simply send us oodles of cash in a brown envelope together with your name and address and we'll sort it. And just remember, friends, *GlassCuts@50* makes a wonderful Christmas gift. You know it makes sense.



#### **Very last word, for now**

We reported in *GC55* on the parlous state of affairs surrounding the Wedgwood Collection. Latest news is that it has been saved, two months shy of the deadline. [www.savewedgwood.org](http://www.savewedgwood.org)

#### **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/)

See *Friends*, below

##### ***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/)

20<sup>th</sup> September - 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014

Looking Through - Wolverhampton Embroidery Guild

25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014

No Tricks just Treats. Halloween themed event

29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Craft fayre

8<sup>th</sup> November 2014 - New Year 2015

Made@the Cone exhibition

13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014

Santa at the Cone

***Elsewhere around the highways and byways of Glassville***<sup>®GF</sup>

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 (*featured GC45*)  
[www.snaddon.com/glass](http://www.snaddon.com/glass)

11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ian.dury@ghc.rmt.org)

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014

National Motorcycle Museum  
The National Glass Fair (*featured GC42*)  
[info@specialistglassfairs.com](mailto:info@specialistglassfairs.com)

25<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk)

13<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 7:30pm

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

5<sup>th</sup> 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

24<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 1:30pm

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

26<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 7:30pm

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

26<sup>th</sup> March 2015

To be announced.

## Bulletin Board

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

### *Station Glass Autumn Newsletter*

Delightfully informal catch up on all the goings-on in Golding-world plus news of future plans including something in which BGF is thrilled to be having an involvement. More at [www.stationglass.com](http://www.stationglass.com) or subscribe via [richardgolding@stationglass.com](mailto:richardgolding@stationglass.com)

*Alan J. Poole's Glass Newsletter*, October edn.

Including details of expressions of interest for IFoG 2015 (*above*). [alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk](mailto:alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk)

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)



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 was never any good at geography, me. Even at an early age I remember my teacher telling me I didn't know my Madras from my Elba, or something like that, so I am in always in awe of the Great Explorers such as Ranulph Fiennes who, together with his lesser-known siblings Speedin and Parkin, have done so much to educate us about the frozen wastelands beyond Sedgley and the vast tundra wilderness that apparently lies to the east of Great Bridge. Heroes, every one of them. Or, in frostbitten Ran's case, what's left of him. So, this session's *Disclaimer* is dedicated to those brave souls who selflessly explore the planet looking for new lives, new lands and new locations to build that next Asda or do a bit of fracking.

*GlassCuts* is the Cartesian-mapped tectonic plate of the British Glass Foundation. It is collated in a Mercator projection on the Pangean supercontinent by undiscovered primitives and has no other function than to help seed the new world order, shed light on unexplored lands and maybe even say a bit about glass. Whilst every effort is made to maintain a true bearing of magnetic north accuracy in our reportage, no responsibility etc etc ... (*usual caveats apply*)

This email is sent to you via the latitudes on the basis that you appear on our list of those to whom we have registered in our contour lines. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* emails then just ask our friend Ranulph to indicate your preferences by sticking any two available remaining fingers up at us (*That's terrible, you'll be asking him to play a banjo with one string next - Ed*) or send us a 'Git orf my laaand' email to [bef@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bef@britishglassfoundation.org.uk). A brief indication as to why we do not feature any more in your spot-heights and trig-points would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission of its modest little atlas throughout its extensive range of research stations. If you know someone who you think may also wish to receive *GlassCuts*, then feel free to plot a course in their direction. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our fellow *Homo Sapiens* send it to BGF at the usual address. Now, your final geography teaser; how do you get two whales in a car? Down the M5 and across the Severn Bridge. *Boom boom!* OK, Ran, take it away on that one-string banjo of yours (*I knew it - Ed*) a-one, two, three, four ...

