



## *GlassCuts*

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation  
Issue No: 59                      Dated: 18.11.14

For latest updates also visit our news section at [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)  
Archives of *GlassCuts* and the BGF *Newsletter* are held at [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)  
Donate via individual contributions direct to BGF, by standing order, by using the QR code at footer or clicking <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1005650>

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

Carnival treat  
Reckon you're good enough?  
Pyramid schemes  
WIGs (Women in Glass)  
Money matters  
*And finally ...*  
    Housewife's - and househusband's - choice  
Dates for your diary

### **Carnival treat**

It is usual practice when giving a presentation to have a report or notice appear in some subsequent in-house publication emanating from the host organization. Par for the course. Even so, it still came as a very pleasant surprise to see the rather effulgent tribute following my recent address at the AGM of the Carnival Glass Association in Market Harborough - for which, many thanks - ensconced within the pages of a circulation that stretches the definition of 'newsletter' to the limits. To the extent that we felt we had to draw it to wider attention via our own modest pages.



*Newsletter 149 - The Peacock Issue* is something of a self-contained culture-fest addressing in considerable detail the more arcane elements of carnival glass right from its opening gambit: 'Peacocks - what would Carnival Glass be without them? This issue of the CGS Newsletter is devoted to peacocks (more or less). We hope you enjoy it. The peacock and its fabulous iridescence seem to epitomise all that Carnival Glass represents, so in this issue we delve into some familiar and some less well-known aspects of the bird'.

There then follows some 36 electronic pages of erudition ranging from the development of iridescent techniques through to Da Vinci's 'Golden Mean' in artistic design as employed by the likes of Harry Northwood (John's son) and thus by implication pointing to the intriguing correlation with the Fibonacci numerical sequence that *per se* for me epitomizes the subtle, and still largely unexplored, interplay between fine art and pure science. Plus the aforementioned very generous review of my chat; much obliged.

This is quality stuff that goes well above your usual routine round-up of what's going on in your average Society - which CGS most emphatically is not - and for just a small fistful of dollars in membership dues could be delivered regularly to your inbox. [www.thecgs.co.uk](http://www.thecgs.co.uk) and follow the links. Go on, treat yourself ...

### Reckon you're good enough?



We are delighted to have recently made the acquaintance of two lovely ladies down at Ruskin Glass Centre in sunny Amblecote who are doubtless right now basking in the unbridled joy of being the latest recruits to our happy little *troupe*.

In slightly more serious mode, between them Sharon Harris and her *oppo* Sarah Kite seem to have the Human Resources side of Ruskin neatly tied except for one very special hole they need to fill. So, if you've ever considered yourself up to the task of being Guest Curator at a British Glass Biennale, now's your big chance.

The British Glass Biennale is, as Sarah is keen to remind us via her press release, the largest selling exhibition of glass in the UK and has developed an international reputation for excellence in displaying contemporary glass by British based makers. It is the highlight of the International Festival of Glass, the next one being scheduled for May 2015. [www.ifg.org.uk](http://www.ifg.org.uk)

She goes on to say: *'We are looking for a Guest Curator for a term of 40 days to lead on the 2015 exhibition who will bring experience and enthusiasm to create an impactful and innovative display and increase the Biennale's scope and influence. The successful applicant will work with a small team to support the jury in the selection process, liaise with artists, organise, display and interpret the work and arrange special events throughout the exhibition period.'*

Interested? Sharon Harris, Head of Human Resources and Operations, is at 01384399448 or [sharon.harris@ghc.rmt.org](mailto:sharon.harris@ghc.rmt.org)

## Pyramid schemes



The Contemporary Glass Society (*not to be confused with the Carnival Glass Society above - Ed*) is, *az eny eejut knose*, widely regarded as the foremost organisation in the UK for promoting and encouraging cutting edge glass and glass-makers within the wider art world. And, despite being doubtless very busy doing all this, they still find time to kindly send us details of what they are getting up to. The latest missive from their direction, courtesy of our good chum Pam Reekie, is all about their forthcoming exhibition. It's some way off yet, which gives you ample time to shove it in your planner. I'll let Pam take it from here ...

***RIPPLES - Glass Inspired by Nature***  
***14<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015***  
***Pyramid Gallery, 43 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW***

*With glass artists all over the world responding in numbers to the call to submit work inspired by nature, CGS announces their final selection.*

*Over 80 artists entered outstanding work and the selection panel had an extremely hard task selecting just 27 for this intimate show at the Pyramid Gallery, York. The quality of work was exceptionally high showing the versatility of this engaging material.*

*The exhibition will showcase glass art works that are inspired by nature. Glass has the ability to emulate forms, patterns and structures found in nature; RIPPLES will highlight the breadth of inspiration that nature provides to many practicing glass artists (many of whom are well-known names around Stourbridge - Ed). That list is:*

*Ian Barrowcliffe, Effie Burns, Keith Cummings, Rachel Elliott, Peter Fricker, Laura Hart, Catherine Hough, Alisoun Howie, Elin Isaksson, Angela Jarman, Tlws Johnson, Brett Manley, James Maskrey, Roberta Mason, Faith Mercer, Lisa Pettibone, Cathryn Shilling, Boris Shpiezman, Helen Slater, Nancy Sutcliffe, Peter Smyth, Graeme Thyer, JanHein van Stiphout, Liz Waugh McManus, Rachel Welford, Elke Westen, Amy Whittingham.*

Thanks Pam; good luck to CGS and all the selected participants. Further details, as always, at [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)

## WIGs (Women in Glass)

Not quite as rich or famous as their WAGs counterparts, whose spouses nowadays make unimaginable fortunes from what amounts to kicking a pig's bladder across a ploughed field into an onion bag suspended between two sticks, the infinitely more remarkable WIGs are still being researched, acknowledged and celebrated by BGF supporter and regular GC contributor Dr Kate Round, whose efforts to extol the significant role of women in glassmaking continue unabated. Away from her studies, Kate has very kindly taken time to respond to a recent thread that commenced in GC56 when Dave Tyler gave us an insight into his forebear's initiation as a glassmaker. We'll let Kate take up the story ...

*Hallo Graham. I was interested in the indenture of William Breese, apprentice to Richardson's in 1885. I have photographs of two such documents, one for 16yr old Lawrence David Dudley, and an unlikely indenture for a female, Phoebe Cartwright, both apprenticed to Stevens and Williams. Phoebe's is actually signed by John Northwood who had recently been appointed Artistic Director at Stevens & Williams. (April 1882 - Ed)*

*I have transcribed them both and the similarities and more importantly the differences between the terms, contents and rates of pay tell a story all of their own. I have used a lot of this material in a section of my talk 'Women in the Glass Industry' and I wondered if you would be interested in publishing any of these images, transcripts and accompanying narrative in GlassCuts. It may in turn spark some interest to encourage someone to uncover more of these snapshots of our history; I agree with you and James Measell (GC57 - Ed) there is much to do which would be worthy of a PhD.*

We would be most interested to see more. And if any of you good folk would like to see Kate in action with her tale of women in the industry, contact her direct on [kateround.round@gmail.com](mailto:kateround.round@gmail.com)

*Kate goes on to say: While I'm at it, is it too late to publicise that Mr & Mrs Claus are at Broadfield House Glass Museum of 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November; 10.00am to 4.00pm? It is free and it is not just for children!! There will also be craft activities, glass blowing and story telling.*

Oh, go on then. And here's a picture to go with it. For those of you who don't yet know her, Kate is the one on the left without the beard.



## Money matters

We are delighted to announce that the BGF has been awarded a grant of £10k by the Heritage Lottery Fund towards a feasibility study into the transferring the assets of the Stourbridge Glass collection across to BGF. Our grateful thanks to Andy Duncan of AJD Regeneration [www.ajdregeneration.co.uk](http://www.ajdregeneration.co.uk) for steering that one through. And, of course, to HLF for their *largesse*. Much obliged all round.

Speak it softly, but coming on top of the news regarding planning permission being granted at White House (GC57) it's fair to say that things are really moving in the forward direction.

*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.

## What you got?



We have, via our colleagues at the Glass Association [www.glassassociation.org.uk](http://www.glassassociation.org.uk) received an email from a lady by the name of Charlotte Keyte, who tells us: *'We are currently producing the second series of Collectaholics for BBC2, a primetime show presented by antiques expert Mark Hill that explores people's passion for collecting. We are looking for great collectors who are passionate about their collections. We want to celebrate these collections and also look at the social history behind the pieces.*

*We want to speak to all kinds of people, from those who are constantly searching for that elusive final item, or maybe their collection is taking over their homes and they may want help to display, curate or thin out the collection. We want to find out about their collections and what inspired them to start.'*

Get foraging up that loft then ring 020 7013 4138 or email [charlotte.keyte@rdftv.com](mailto:charlotte.keyte@rdftv.com)

## And finally ... Housewife's - and househusband's - choice

We just couldn't let this issue pass by without paying our respects to a man whose name you've very possibly never heard but whose products faithfully served several generations of housewives and - quickly maneuvering to avoid any suggestions of sexism - loads of male cooks as well. S. Donald Stookey, for indeed it was he, died on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at the grand age of 99 following reported complications from hip surgery. *Who he?* I hear you ask.



Well then, allow me to enlighten you: in a prolific career that spanned more than many people's entire lifetimes and then some, Stookey went to Corning in 1940 - yep, I guess you've spotted the glass connection - and was a physicist and chemist who secured around 60 patents for inventions in the field of glass and ceramics. He was the recipient of many awards including the National Medal of Technology from President Ronald Reagan in 1986 and was incorporated in the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2010. His celebrated autobiography describes the time he survived a seaplane crash in the freezing waters near the Arctic Circle but he will perhaps be best remembered for a serendipitous accident when he dropped an experimental glass dish out of an oven onto the hard floor. Instead of smashing to pieces as he expected, it bounced. Heat resistant and virtually unbreakable, thus was born Corning Ware. Better known on this side of the pond as Pyrex. The rest, as they say, is both culinary and scientific history.

S. Donald Stookey - 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1915 - 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

R.I.P. And thanks from just about everyone who ever donned an oven-glove in anger.

## 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/)

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

Craft fayre

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>**

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014

National Motorcycle Museum

The National Glass Fair (*featured GC42*)

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

6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote DY8 4HF

Christmas Craft Fair, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Free admission (*featured GC58*)

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)

14<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Pyramid Gallery, 43 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW

RIPPLES - Glass Inspired by Nature (*see feature above*)

[www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)

### **From Friends of BHGM**

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)

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; ice cream interval, tea and biscuits. £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

## Bulletin Board

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

*Neon News* Autumn 2014 edn  
Subscribe at [info@neonworkshops.com](mailto:info@neonworkshops.com)

*Alan J. Poole email notification*  
Circulation requesting support for petition against proposed closure of glass courses at Falmouth University and London Borough of Merton. Details [alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk](mailto:alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk)

*Giving to Heritage* workshops update and invitation to *Heritage Open Day*  
[www.givingtoheritage.org.uk](http://www.givingtoheritage.org.uk) and [www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/heritage-day-2014](http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/heritage-day-2014)

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)

## The White House survey (featured GC58)

Please now spare few moments to click on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/96BDTV7> and complete the survey form. Thanks.



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'll let you into a little secret; it's my missus that thinks of these topics. Every *GlassCuts* I'll say to her: 'Gimme a subject for a Disclaimer' and she'll shout out something random. It's thereafter utter gibberish that I scribble yet still the amount of readers who even notice this guff remains stubbornly minuscule. So far you've had everything from geography and travel to pussycats, the British class system and an entire smutty gag about the Pope in Latin. But it's all good stuff, and usually presents no problem. Until this time around that is, when the dozy mare shouted 'slippers'. What? Slippers? Am I behind with the housekeeping or something? Oh well, here goes ...

*GlassCuts* is the ultra-soft cushioned sole (*is there an 'R' missing here?* - Ed) bulletin of the fireside British Glass Foundation. It is snuggled together by Clarks (*clerks, geddit?*) who all suck routinely on a bag of Werther's Originals and has no other function than to inadvertently cause you to doze off in your armchair, end up reeking of street-grade pipe-baccy and maybe even say a bit about glass. Whilst every effort is made to ensure you don't lose your pension or your false teeth as a result of scrutinizing our large type no responsibility etc etc ... (*usual caveats apply*)

This email is sent to you via a pink fluffy foot warmer on the basis that you appear on our list of those who are trying to avoid chilblains. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* then try either throwing a damp bathrobe at us or sending us an email marked 'too tight around the unions' to [bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk). A brief indication as to why we are as welcome as an ingrown toenail would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission of its little missive to anyone whom you feel may be about to slip into a Horlicks-induced coma. If you know someone who may need a good night's rest then feel free to forward it. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our fellow *stay-at-homes* then send it to BGF at the usual address.

But it's amazing what you learn whilst relaxing. Only recently I slipped on my loafers and sat in front of the telly to hear that an ancient Egyptian site had been unearthed and inside there were all sorts of artefacts made of praline and wrapped in gold. Researchers believe they have found the tomb of Pharaoh Rocher. *Boom boom!*

That's enough; I remember some not-so-happy memories of what my old schoolteacher used to do with slippers. Now if the missus had said 'slappers'. Ah, therein lies a few tales of happier times. Perhaps another day. Careful, she's looking .... you can almost hear the creak of the thin ice I am venturing on here.

