



GlassCuts Issue 6

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www.northlightphotography.co.uk

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Ho Ho Ho, Fellow Glass-Fans!

Yes, 'tis that time of year again, as the season to be jolly is once more upon us. And lo, as we all prepare for Santa's visitations and brace ourselves for yet another airing of *The Guns of Navarone*, let us raise the jolliness bar yet further with a special bumper festive edition of *GlassCuts*, as we limbo through the very latest from the wonderful world of Stourbridge Glass and beyond.

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... and a Portland Vase in a pear tree. (Traditional)

More multi-media megastars

No stranger to the airwaves, Kevin Barry of the Ruskin Centre (<http://ruskinglasscentre.co.uk/tennants/kevin-barry-crystal>) was again a welcome contributor to my Breakfast Show on 102.5 recently - ok, so he was on the telly as well - when he waxed lyrical about our glorious Glassboys football team, Stourbridge FC. Kevin did his bit by decorating a delightful piece of glass that was presented to the club following their tremendous run in the FA Cup. Also hitting the airwaves was Charlotte Hughes-Martin (www.charlottehughesmartin.com) who came in to the studio to tell us all about her exciting proposals for a major installation over at Corbett Hospital. If you didn't catch the details, then assuage your guilt by contacting Charlotte at Red House Cone to find out more.

IFoG plans in progress

Preparations for the next International Festival of Glass in August 2012 are already afoot. We will, of course, be keeping you posted but the website is already up and running at www.ifg.org.uk. BGF plans to offer contributions to the festivities by way of, amongst other things, a special event at Hagley Hall, a world record attempt and a book launch associated with the 2012 Portland Vase project. Hmmm ... has that got you thinking? All is yet to be finalised, but will be revealed in due course. Watch this space.

White House presentation

Trustees and supporters of BGF gathered at Red House on Wednesday 16th November for an address by Ian Harrabin of Complex Developments Ltd (www.complexdevelopmentprojects.co.uk) and Duncan Lowndes of DMBC in which we were brought up to speed with developments at the White House site. If you haven't yet seen these exciting proposals for a world-class glass facility, then take a peek on www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk. There's a long way to go, and there are no certainties in this game but Messrs Harrabin and Lowndes gave a very impressive account of what could be if all fits into place. As usual, we will keep you updated, either via *GlassCuts*, the BGF *Newsletter* or the website.

Anyone left in New York?

They're coming back from the USA in their droves, it seems. Latest returnee to blighty, hot on the heels of Charles Hajdamach's recent jaunt across the pond, is Ian Dury, of Stourbridge Glass Engravers (www.stourbridgeglassengraversdy8.co.uk). Ian, as everyone must surely now know, is Project Co-ordinator for the 2012 Portland Vase Project and he took the opportunity to call in at Corning to make a few comparisons with previous efforts. Ian tells us:



'The visit was, of course, most beneficial for my 2012 Portland Vase Project but for me personally was the fulfilment of a career ambition to see what is possibly the best glass museum in the world, together with a chance to see what wonderful glass the craftsmen of Stourbridge have produced over the centuries.' The picture shows Ian drooling over some instantly recognisable pieces of the glassmaker's art. Coincidentally, it also happens to show a certain book. I suspect I owe him big-time for that.

Bottles find a good home

You may recall that *GlassCuts* 4 and 5 (c'mon, do try and keep up) covered the news that that the British Soft Drinks Association have had a bit of a clear-out recently and asked if we could find a home for a splendid little gathering of some 20 syphons and 50 glass and ceramic bottles. Well, we have. The British Glass Manufacturers' Confederation, for indeed it is they, have offered to put as many as they can on permanent display at their base in Sheffield, with any overspill going on similar display at the nearby British Bottle Museum at Elsecar. Now that's what you call a lovely tale with a happy ending, and thanks go to all concerned in safeguarding the future of this intriguing collection from yesteryear.

Publicity update

As the end of the year approaches, with BGF also having recently celebrated its first anniversary, the BGF publicity machine continues apace and has already clocked up some impressive statistics since its major overhaul of just a few weeks back. We could give you chapter and verse right here, but a bland list of figures would most likely bore you rigid. So give us a call or drop us an email and we'll be pleased to present the facts, if you prefer. But something we will happily promote here is our distribution arrangements; *GlassCuts* and the BGF *Newsletter* now go out to several hundred people via email, with the list increasing all the time. This includes all 72 local Councillors plus local, national and international individuals and organisations. Both *GlassCuts* and *Newsletter* are also archived on the website so anyone visiting www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk can have free access. Thank you for the kind comments you have already pointed in our direction; much appreciated. However, whilst it may be my name that has 'Publicity and Communications' tagged on the end of it, I freely confess that I could not do this without the enthusiastic support of BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn, who also happens to be a real treasure to work with. Ta, Lynn.

There is now a blog facility on our website. This will be set 'live' in the near future; details to be announced soon.

Funding report

Again with BGF's first anniversary in mind, we thought this might be a timely opportunity to report on the Organisation's financial state. So we asked Treasurer Meriel Harris for an update; here is her reply verbatim:

It is something of an accolade to be invited by the editor to contribute to the BGF's first anniversary edition of GlassCuts.....or is it the editorial equivalent of a three line whip – either way I am delighted to have the opportunity to update readers on the British Glass Foundation's finances at the end of its first year. First of all to clarify my role as Treasurer – as I see it this is not an accountancy role, for accountants are sometimes inclined to spend money and I see my role as something quite different. It is my objective to attract money to our funds and to gather as much as we are able for the day when the reason for the Foundation's existence – to protect the interests and future of the Broadfield Glass Collections – coincides with the opportunity to contribute to its comfort in a future home. So far we have received almost £12,400 which has been achieved by events, a charity auction and varied donations from trusts and from individuals locally and from afar who feel an empathy towards this excellent cause.

No money donated to the Foundation has been used to meet day to day running costs and our focus remains on the need to ensure that our local history, and some wonderful and inspiring evidence of our history, will be available for the enjoyment and education of generations to come. I heard a story recently of a school's walking visit round their local town, Kidderminster, and when passing lots of empty buildings that had previously been carpet factories, were amazed to learn that their home town had been the country's centre of carpet manufacturing – they simply didn't know. After 400 years of glass manufacture in this area, how sad it would be if our children grew up not knowing their own town's history. All contributions welcome!

Thanks, Meriel. And just to add to that, for those who may be new to our number and not entirely sure how it all works, the purpose and aims of BGF are fully enunciated on www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk - simply click on the link and go straight there. BGF operates purely for philanthropic reasons and its Trustees are all unremunerated volunteers who receive no return whatsoever other than the lure of the satisfaction that may eventually come of a job well done. Are we all slightly mad? Quite possibly. Do we care passionately about this bloomin' glass collection? Most definitely. So there you have it.

More money, thanks.

'All contributions welcome' says Meriel (above). So a big 'thank you' to Peter and Anne Arlidge of Lower Assenden, Henley On Thames for their donation that was received at BGF on Tuesday 6th December.

Please note: BGF welcomes all donations. In recognising donors and acknowledging their support GlassCuts does not generally reveal 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, appearing elsewhere in BGF material.

From the wilds of Oop t'North

On a jaunt across the Yorkshire Moors a few weeks back with my other 'arf, I found myself in the most charming spot at the foot of a valley that time seemed to have forgotten. So what a surprise to find a sign pointing to a nearby glassmaking facility, smack in the middle of a gorgeous nowhere. The eponymous Stephen Gillies and Kate Jones, of Gillies & Jones, were out during our spot visit, but their colleagues made us very welcome and showed us a few examples made by this remarkably talented duo. So when I had a call from Kate to say she was at the Ruskin Centre on business, Mary (the aforementioned other 'arf) and I were down there like a shot to say hello. And what a fascinating tale Kate had to tell about life as a glass artiste up north. For us, new friends. For you, a chance to learn more at www.gilliesjonesglass.co.uk

Bigging it up massive, innit?

Thursday 8th December saw Yours Truly back at Ruskin Centre for the official launch of my DVD *The Crystal Mile; Along the Stourbridge Canal*. No, this isn't a plug, but an opportunity for me to give a huge thank you to all who turned out, and an even bigger one to Manager Leigh, Chris - bang on form following his recent appearance on TV's *Masterchef* - and indeed all the guys and gals at Ruskin who made us so welcome. Much obliged, folks.

Graham's new DVD The Crystal Mile is available from the BGF—the cost is £7.50 plus £1.50 p&p. Cheques should be made payable to Sparrow Publishing

Dates for your Diary

Until 31st December

Broadfield. Glass Detectives, how to identify glass
www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk / www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum

Until 19th February

Broadfield. Light fantastic, exhibition
www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk / www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum

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Saturday January 28th

Broadfield. An afternoon at the flicks. Opportunity to see some vintage glass-related film footage. £5.00 to include ice cream interval.
www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk

This is the time of year when plans are being formulated for next year's events. We will do our best to keep you posted via *GlassCuts* but do bear in mind that each facility, Broadfield House, Red House Glass Cone, Ruskin *et al*, has its own website where full details can be sourced direct.

Friends indeed

And, while we're at it, let's hear it for Barbara Beadman (Plowden & Thompson, www.plowden-thompson.com) and chums at *Friends of Broadfield House*. They do a cracking job of supporting not only Broadfield House Glass Museum but lots of other aspects of the glass world as well, including, of course, BGF. *Friends* also enjoy a full social calendar and various other activities, so anyone with the remotest interest in glass is well advised to consider coughing up a rather modest fee and signing on the dotted line. Membership tallies at around 180, which means actual numbers of around 350 like-minded enthusiasts. Details at www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk

Friends is just one of a number of Organisations that support BGF in its work. We are grateful to them all, and will be looking to carry similar brief informal profiles in future editions of *GlassCuts*.

Now, have I missed anything? Ah yes; nearly forgot ... a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. And what a year 2012 promises to be, does it not? Developments at White House to pontificate, the International Festival of Glass to celebrate, a 400th anniversary to commemorate, a certain Vase to deliberate (do please note the clever alliteration there, I don't just throw these together, y'know) and so much besides.



What more reason could anyone possibly need to **Keep it Glass**.

Ta-ra for now, chums ...

Graham Fisher
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pp British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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