

Photograph By Simon Bruntnell

GlassCuts

The informal email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation

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Christmas is a'coming /
The goose is getting fat /
But your fave-rave glass fanzine /
Is where it's all at

IN THIS ISSUE

We start off with ...

More fascinating follow-ups (1)

More fascinating follow-ups (2)

More fascinating follow-ups (3)

Keeping it in the family

Money matters

It's that man again

And finally ...

A teaser

Dates for your diary

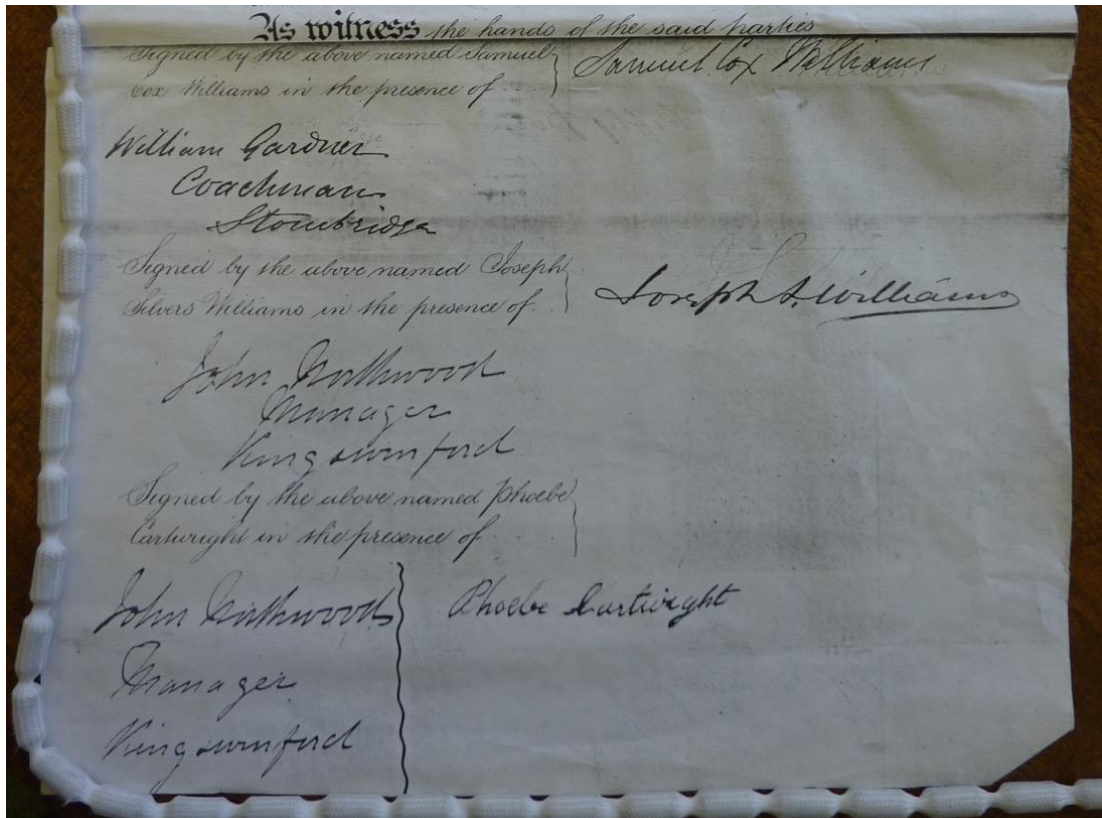
We start off with ...

... a huge thank you to all of you who have supported us one way or another in our bid to secure Heritage Lottery Funding (GC58).

And if you were really meaning to all along but haven't yet done so then you can put that to rights by dropping us something in writing via our snail mail address at BGF, c/o Hulbert Properties Limited, Peartree Lodge, Hulbert Drive, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 OXW or attaching it as an email to our usual cyber-hidey-hole, shown above. Alternatively you could try working your way to *The White House survey* at the end of this issue and clicking on the link. Then again you could really push the boat out, have a stiff G&T for courage and then do both. Ta very much. We'll let you know how it goes just as soon as we know ourselves.

More fascinating follow-ups (1)

GlassCuts 59 carried an item courtesy of Dr Kate Round who is researching various aspects of glass history, not least the somewhat under-sung role of women in what was very much, in its time, a man's world. She has since sent us some examples down the wires, and fascinating they are too. Just take a look at this extract from the indenture dated 16th August 1882 of one Phoebe Cartwright, native of Delph in Brierley Hill, who was taken on by Stevens & Williams (later to become Royal Brierley) for 5 years as a decorator's assistant at a rate of 7/- (35p) per week. Now take a closer look at the signature at the bottom. Looks familiar? Yep, Northwood. It is one thing researching and writing about history, it is quite another to hold it in your hand and this is all tremendously exciting stuff.



So, on your behalf, we asked Kate if she would mind be willing to share her information. 'Of course' says she. 'These are legitimately sourced and referenced public documents, all I would be doing is pointing people in the right direction.' kateround.round@gmail.com

And there's more. Our Kate, a 'regular' on the local speaking circuit, is already booked for a five-day stint presenting *Women in the Glass Industry* at Halesowen Over-50s Club, Halesowen College, Whittingham Road B63 3NA (*I've addressed them in the past and they are a lovely bunch - Ed*) commencing 11:00am, 9th - 13th February 2015. Visitors welcome; Vanessa Buffery will advise on directions etc via 0121 602 7769 or vbuffery@halesowen.ac.uk

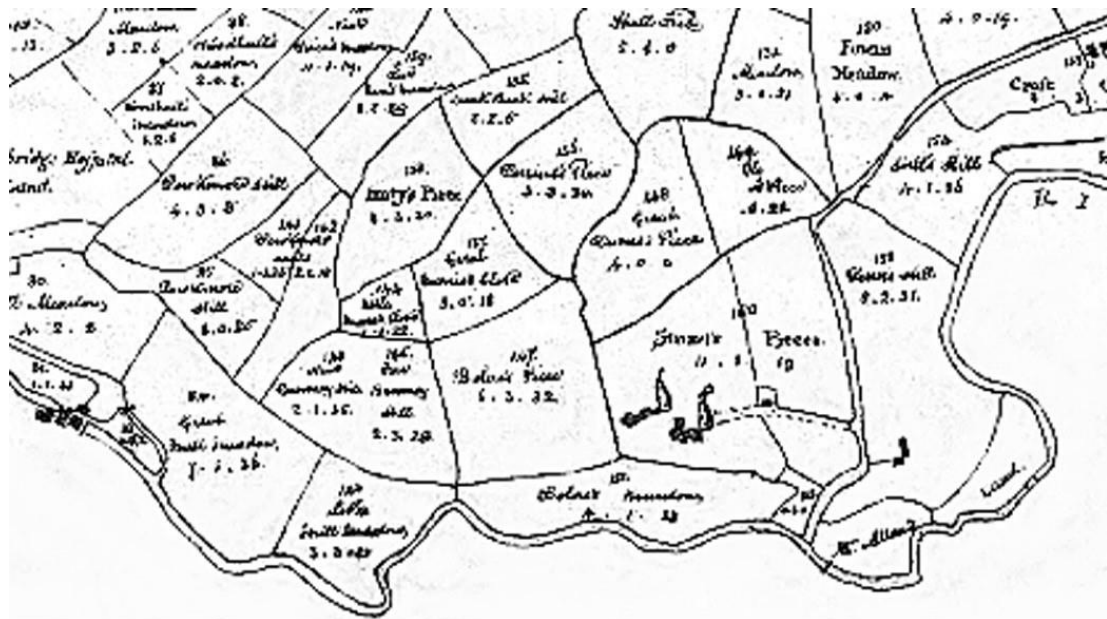
More fascinating follow-ups (2)

Still with *GC59* and we are delighted, as always, to hear from long-time colleague John Smith, who offers more toward our remembrance of the late S. Donald Stookey. We sourced our information from an obituary in a certain well-known newspaper; John went down another route in telling us:

'Hi all. Regarding the article about S. Donald Stookey and the discovery of Pyrex. It was Jesse Littleton who developed a Corning product called Nonex that had been developed by a Corning chemist E. Sullivan in 1908 and the German glass Duran by chemist O. Shott who first made borosilicate glass in 1893. By removing the lead from Nonex it became known as Pyrex and was first introduced to the public in 1915 as an alternative American consumer product to Duran. Most of this info is available on good old Wikipedia.'

More fascinating follow-ups (3)

For this one we are indebted to Mike Perkins, BGF supporter and 'Yer Man' at Amblecote History Society, who has a penchant for sourcing fascinating old maps of the area. He has come up with some crackers in the past and this time around he has sent us details of an illustration of Amblecote in 1760 that seems to indicate the cone(s) at Hungary Hill. *'This is the only record I have seen of their location'* says Mike.



In these days of inter-googles, navi-webs and all that fancy stuff, such simplistic mapping may look a trifle primitive in comparison. But don't be fooled; as recent experiences at the Webb Corbett Archeological Dig indicated, they can echo down the centuries with an unerring accuracy that we disparage at our peril. The full version of this particular extract is at: http://www.oldstourbridgemaps.kjdocs.co.uk/images/maps/1760_approx_Amblecote.gif

Sincere thanks to Kate, John and Mike for that lot. And a reminder, if we may be so bold, it is contributions such as this that elevate your fave-rave glass fanzine from mere info-sheet to having an authoritative voice in the *Glassville* community. So do keep them coming in.

Keeping it in the family

Good to hear from Roger Noons and Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum who between them appear to have had a fine evening's entertainment recently courtesy of a presentation by renowned glass artiste Jonathan Harris. Roger tells us: *'A gallery full of Friends was educated, entertained, indeed exhilarated by a talk from Jonathan on 13th November. Under the heading of 'Glass, Art and Mystery,' he told the story of The Family, beginning with the graduation of his father, Michael, from the Royal College of Art in 1959, up to the present day, when one of his twin daughters, Amy, is designing for the business.'*

For those not yet familiar with *Friends* and their activities, this is just the latest in a regular series of talks on an eclectic range of topics that usually, but not always, have a 'glassy' element. We carry brief details of the programme in our *Dates for your diary* section below; the next one on December 5th happens to be by Yours Truly but don't let that put you off.

To learn more about *Friends*, or to join them, visit www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk

Money matters

News of a very welcome contribution towards Allister Malcolm's *Celebrity Doodles* project, covered in *GCs passim*. An excited Allister contacted *GlassCuts Towers* to tell us that Dartington Crystal www.dartington.co.uk have kindly agreed to donate what he describes as 'a sizeable amount of cullet'.



Allister says: *'This is great news as it will enable us to develop the proposals further allowing artists to produce some amazing works in the coming months.'* It also ties in nicely with ongoing plans to attract some real big guns to support the actual translation of the doodles into unique works of art that can then be subsequently auctioned to raise funds. More to follow as plans take shape.

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.

It's that man again



23rd November saw The National Glass Fair ensconced once more for the day at the National Motorcycle Museum. It's a smashing event that, to my regret, I was unable to make this year. But flying the flag valiantly for BGF was our man Allister Malcolm, who evidently did a sterling job in making new friends on our behalf.

In particular we welcome the The Paperweight Collectors Circle as the latest recruits to our happy gang. The PCC is a non-profit making organization dedicated to glass paperweights and related objects and has a membership stretching across the UK and Europe and into Asia and the Americas. Allister tells us he made the acquaintance of

Chair Ann Slater, Secretary Derek Carter and Angela Faulkner, who would all be interested to hear from anyone wishing to join them. Glad to do our bit to help, folks. paperweightcollectorscircle@gmail.com is where it's all at.



And finally ...

A teaser

On Tuesday 25th November 2014 the British Glass Foundation was immensely proud to host a meeting. No change there, you may think. But this one was a bit special and brought together a group of people whom the fates may decree are unlikely ever to meet again in the same room for the same purpose and in the same circumstances. And, be assured, this one already has the mark of history written in big letters all over it.

Curious? Then keep your eyes peeled on a computer screen somewhere near you, because full details will be coming at you real soon. We guarantee you will be impressed.

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/

13th & 14th and 20th - 23rd December 2014
Santa at the Cone

Elsewhere around the highways and byways of Glassville^{®GF}

6th - 7th December 2014

Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote DY8 4HF

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

9th - 13th February 2015, commencing 11:00am daily

Halesowen Over-50s Club, Halesowen College, Whittingham Road B63 3NA

Dr Kate Round: *Women in the Glass Industry*, an illustrated presentation (*see feature above*)

Visitors welcome; contact Vanessa Buffery 0121 602 7769 or vbuffery@halesowen.ac.uk

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

14th March - 5th May 2015

Pyramid Gallery, 43 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW

RIPPLES - Glass Inspired by Nature (*featured GC59*)

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

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; ice cream interval, tea and biscuits. £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

Bulletin Board

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

Bruntnell Astley email 'flyer' for an exhibition of contemporary glass, 25th - 31st May 2015. Wordsley Methodist Church, Stream Road Kingswinford DY6 9NP.

https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B7TeOZSCgiNoRElJcHNCYm81bDZDUTZsbTBXUEp2OW84bzU0/edit?usp=drive_web

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher

Press & Publicity,

pp British Glass Foundation

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

Ken Dodd, now there's a true showman. About the only thing that goes on longer than one of his shows is one of our meetings. And you know the secret of his success? A tickling stick made of feathers. Hmmm ... I may try that one at the next meeting. But in the meantime, let us see if we can pay due homage in this *Disclaimer* to the humble feather. Here goes ...

GlassCuts is the quill-pen bulletin of the British Grouse Foundation. It is compiled by a team of Jonathan Livingston Seagulls and has no other function than to lift you ethereally skywards, protect you when the north wind doth blow and maybe even say a bit about glass. Whilst every effort is made to ensure you don't read this in vane (*vein, geddit?*) no responsibility etc etc ... (*usual caveats apply*)

This email is sent to you via a well-fed carrier pigeon on the basis that you appear on our list of those who don't mind warm splats on their heads. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* then try either sellotaping breadcrumbs on the inside of your bedroom window so you can watch our little friends batter themselves to death or sending us an email marked 'the birds! the birds!' to bfg@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. A brief indication as to why we have ended up on your eider-down side would be appreciated.

OK, so what goes: '*Quick, Quick?*' Answer: A duck with hiccups. Oh dear. Ken, help me out. BGF welcomes onward transmission of its little missive to anyone whom you feel may be about to migrate for winter. If you know someone who may need it to line their nests then please feel free to forward it. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our fellow *grouseers* then send it to BGF at the usual address.

We've got a load of owls that have started nesting in the gap in our bricks. The bad thing is the house is choc-a-bloc with feathers. The good thing is we now have cavity wall hooting. *Boom boom!* Mind how you go.

