

# GlassCuts

The journal of the British Glass Foundation  
[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

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## WHITE HOT

The new building takes shape



## Getting hotter by the day

Allister Malcolm's new working area is taking shape (see photos below) and the furnace and ancillary equipment is all being sorted right now with a view to AI being ready to show off his skills very soon.

More details as and when but in the meantime we thought you may like to share this insight from Allister himself as to just what is involved in creating a new Hot Studio from scratch: *'Anyone who has set up a glass studio in the past will appreciate that it has taken a great deal of thought over the last couple of years to get the details right. Taking into consideration things such as; Is there physically enough space for the equipment? Is it double height? Will the public have enough room to watch? How will the layout work? I have been on site for the last two days problem-solving and so I am becoming increasingly familiar with the space. I'm starting to get a real sense of what the studio is going to be like and it is shaping up to be something quite special!'*



Glassblowers Studio





## RICH MIXTURE



### Simply breathtaking

These staggering pieces of glass art, captured to fine effect through the lens of *image-meister* Simon Bruntnell [www.bruntnell-astley.com](http://www.bruntnell-astley.com), are just two examples emerging from the collaboration between Allister Malcolm and Helen Millard during their recent residency at Corning Museum of Glass, Corning NY. They are a most unusual technique called 'Padeo', or padded cameo, which Allister and Helen have been exploring of late.

The two items are the largest made by the duo at Corning and have been signed and dated by them both. They are also each accompanied by a signed copy of the commemorative hardback book describing their Stateside collaboration. The pieces are surely destined to become historic examples of considerable provenance. And, in an inspirational piece of altruism, Allister and Helen are offering them for auction at *Centuries of Glass* to be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Fieldings, Stourbridge, with proceeds going toward the fitting of the new studio mentioned above. Auction details at <http://fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk>



## **New leaflet launched, new friends made**

Our thanks to Nicola Beckley, Tourism Officer at Dudley MBC, who informs us that the recently updated *Contemporary Makers and Designers* leaflet, featuring the Stourbridge Glass Quarter, is now available from Dudley Council Plus, Dudley Libraries and other visitor attractions across the Borough. The PDF version is available from [www.discoverdudley.org.uk](http://www.discoverdudley.org.uk) on the downloads page and also at [www.glassquarter.org.uk](http://www.glassquarter.org.uk)

Our further thanks to Nicola for her invitation to attend, and indeed address, a recent meeting of the Dudley Visitor Attractions team in the splendid surroundings of the new Portal building at Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust just off the A4123, adjacent to the Black Country Living Museum. This amazing new canalside facility was in itself well worth the visit but the meeting offered us an excellent opportunity to promote BGF and to 'network' with other movers and shakers representing the tourism hot-spots around the Borough. We saw at first hand the tremendous efforts by all involved to promote the attractions of Dudley and are delighted to offer our continuing support to this group and its work.

## **Naming and branding of the new site**

Suggestions are still welcomed. Closing date is 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Following final consultations and the drawing up of a shortlist BGF will then go into *purdah* and publicly announce the final decision shortly thereafter.

## **Volunteers**

Our list is growing daily. Thanks to all who have expressed an interest. Whatever your talent, we can utilize it. More welcome; contact us at the usual address.

## **Digitisation and technology – a policy statement and an appeal**

In response to recent enquiries BGF would like to clarify its position on the use of technology.

Our default position is that we will continue to embrace all relevant aspects of technology, which is seen as crucial to our ongoing development. Our engagement across platforms is constantly under review and in light of the rapid progress at White House we recognize the need to further expand our exposure via all available outlets. The recently-revamped [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk) which is refreshed regularly via the blog, together with our electronic distribution of all material especially **GlassCuts**, have spearheaded our efforts to date but as the opening of the new museum draws closer we will be looking to extend our reach, in particular *through* social media. This may require the assistance of additional personnel with expertise in IT, websites and social media.

Applications to our volunteer-base, mentioned above, are thus invited from those who would be willing to offer a measure of their time specifically to this vital element of our operations. Thank you.

## **Congratulations (1)**

Chris Blade, formerly of the National Glass Centre, has kindly dropped us a line to say that he has been appointed MD at Cumbria Crystal. Heartiest congratulations.

Ever the enthusiast, he goes on to say: *'I'm not sure whether there is a story here but the company was founded 40 years ago this year and originally employed glassmakers from Stourbridge. I'm trying to raise awareness of the company, as there are so few of us left these days. Perhaps you can help?'* We sure can.

Chris also tells us he will soon be circulating details of the remainder of his '40-day sale'. Contact him to sign up to his Newsletter and/or Facebook and be entered into a draw for a 'Grasmere Double' classic whisky tumbler - best known for it's use by 007 Daniel Craig in *Casino Royale*.

Good luck, Chris. And thank you for remembering us here at **GlassCuts**.  
Cumbria Crystal: Oubas Hill, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7LB. 01229 584400 [cumbriacrystal.com](http://cumbriacrystal.com)



## Congratulations (2) ... and an intriguing connection



On behalf of everyone at BGF we are delighted to carry the news that our colleague Ian Harrabin of Complex Development Projects Ltd has at last decided to become an honest man and will be marrying his long-time partner on Sunday 14th February 2016.

But here's the intriguing bit - they are tying the knot at Charterhouse in what will be the first wedding there since Henry VIII destroyed the monasteries. It seems that Anne Boleyn has a lot to answer for. And, if the name sounds familiar, our very own Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE has for some time been conducting enquiries into her lineage and suspects she could be a direct relation of the Lady. A nice little twist to a joyous occasion; our sincere best wishes go to the happy couple. As for Lynn, following the recent attention from the Prince of Wales we do hope that she won't be losing her head!

<http://www.charterhousepriory.org.uk/>



## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

*Please note:* In acknowledging the support of donors *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.

All donations are greatly appreciated. BGF is entirely philanthropic and its Trustees are unremunerated. BGF policy is that all monies go directly to the cause. Donations can be as one-off contributions or standing order to the BGF direct, via the QR codes below or at

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1005650>

## CRYSTAL CALENDAR

### **Red House Glass Cone**

To be notified

### **Elsewhere around Glassville®GF**

21<sup>st</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016.

*The Glass Fair @ Knebworth (featured GC83)*

Knebworth House, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2AX. 10:30am - 4:00pm. Admission £5.

[www.nationalglassfair.com](http://www.nationalglassfair.com) [info@specialistglassfairs.com](mailto:info@specialistglassfairs.com) or 07887 762872

8<sup>th</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

*The National Glass Fair (featured GC83)*

National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, West Midlands B92 0EJ. 10:30am - 4:00pm. Admission £5.

[www.nationalglassfair.com](http://www.nationalglassfair.com) [info@specialistglassfairs.com](mailto:info@specialistglassfairs.com) or 07887 762872

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

*Hot stuff!* Demonstration by Richard Golding and Stuart Akroyd (*featured GC83*)

Shenton Station, Dadlington Lane, Shenton, Leicestershire CV13 6DJ

[www.stationglass.com](http://www.stationglass.com)

4<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016

*Connections*. CGS exhibition in partnership with The Scottish Gallery (*featured GC76*)

16 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 6HZ.

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

16<sup>th</sup> September - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016

*Black to white and back again*

CGS exhibition hosted by London Glassblowing (*featured GC81*)

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

## PARISH NOTICES

*Guild of Glass Engravers Spring Lecture*. 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016. Caroline Swash: *The 100 Best Stained Glass Sites in London for everybody to enjoy*. [enquiries@gge.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gge.org.uk)

*National Glass Centre January Newsletter*. Valentine's Day events, courses, activities and the launch of a new range *Made in Sunderland*. <http://nationalglasscentre.com/>

*Alan J. Poole's Glass Newsletter*. Bumper first edition of the New Year. [alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk](mailto:alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk)

*Contemporary Glass Society News Release*. Members' exhibition at Etienne Gallery in Oisterwijk Netherlands. 4<sup>th</sup> June - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016. [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.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)

### The White House Survey

The success of this project depends greatly on public support. BGF is very grateful for yours. Please spare a few moments to visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/96BDTV7> and complete the survey form. It will take very little of your time but will be of immense value to us. Thank you.



These are the QR codes for the British Glass Foundation (left) and Virgin Money Giving (right).

Scan to browse the work of the BGF or to make a donation.



THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



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European Regional  
Development Fund 2007-13



Details of other BGF partners and sponsors at: [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/)

- fin -

### Disclaimer

I once had a girlfriend who was a farmer's daughter. I thought a lot of her but I didn't like her tractor. I hadn't the heart to say so to her face so I sent her a John Deere letter (*boom boom*). Even now I feel remorseful so I thought I should dedicate this *Disclaimer* to the world of farming and its devoted practitioners.

**GlassCuts** is the cerebral silo of the British Grass Foundation (*Grass. Nice one - Ed*). It is compiled in the dark at 4:00am in sterile conditions by a dedicated team in white hats and coats sitting on three-legged stools - upside down, you can sit more for less like that - pondering the difference between a GCE 'O'-level and BSE high-level. It has no other function than to supply locals with yoghurt, rustle a few sheep and even perhaps say a bit about glass.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure ackeracy, no responsibility etc etc ... (*usual bubble-wraps apply*).

This email is sent to you solely on the basis that you appear on our list of key suppliers in the food chain. If you do not wish to receive further **GlassCuts** then either appeal to the Common Agricultural Policy at Brussels (please mark your enquiry 'urgent - life or death' and you'll get a reply within a matter of mere months) or send an email marked: '*I suspect that farmers make their own crop circles using a protractor*' (*clever - Ed*) to [baf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:baf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk). A brief indication as to why we are no longer your favourite mangle-wurzlers would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission to anyone whom you feel may be vaguely interested in our healthily organic way of life. Complete with worms on your lettuce, that is. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our fellow agrarians then send it to BGF at the usual address.

Perhaps it's me being easily upset, but isn't it just so annoying why farmers always seem to put their gates in the muddiest part of the field? I raised this once at my anger management class. It was all going so well until that bloke next to me gave me a funny look ...