

# GlassCuts

The journal of the British Glass Foundation

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

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## WHITE HOT

### How it looks right now

The latest imagery through the lens of BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE



### Your suggestions sought - an appeal by BGF

Following the recent official naming of **White House Cone - museum of glass** (see GC88 & Special Commemorative Supplement) BGF is seeking the help of the public it serves in identifying the optimum usage for additional space it proposes to take possession of at the new site.

The renowned Stourbridge Glass collection is internationally recognized and the brand new museum, itself built on the historic site of Stuart & Sons, has a display area in which to show it that is three times bigger than its former home at Broadfield House, Kingswinford.

**Graham Knowles, Chairman of BGF** explains: *In reviewing the importance of the exhibitions, and considering the consultation process with the community, the overwhelming preference is to take on more space for glass-related activities to widen the scope for visitors. We propose this takes place in the units that were originally going to be rented out to raise income towards running costs. So, we must also ensure that we can raise that equivalent amount of income to provide sustainability for the whole attraction.'*

*'We would therefore like your ideas about what the additional spaces could be used for, e.g. educational space or interactive facilities for children, and also how funds could be secured to cover the cost of making these spaces part of the new museum. It's quite a challenge but we are confident the people of Stourbridge and in the glass world beyond can rise to it!'*

All correspondence can be sent to Graham Knowles via email to [bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk) or by post to BGF c/o Hulberts Properties Ltd., Peartree Lodge, Hulbert Drive, Dudley DY2 0XW

## Access to the new museum - an announcement from BGF

As the official opening of [White House Cone - museum of glass](#) draws nearer we are hearing of comments regarding car parking and access facilities. Regrettably, many of these are inaccurate and unhelpful. We are therefore happy at this juncture to offer an official clarification.



The area is still a building site and will not be cleared until the builders leave in a few months' time, taking all of their equipment with them. We therefore cannot spray lines onto the tarmac just yet; that will come as soon as we can thereafter. However, we know precisely the amount of ground we have for the purpose and we have a rough idea how big a car is, so dividing one by the other we can state with certainty that the available car parking on the White House Cone site will be **in excess of** what was on offer at the former Broadfield House Glass Museum, and will be **on a par with, or even exceed**, any other equivalent glass facility in the area. There will also be a *dedicated coach drop-off point* and the museum itself will be DDA compliant, ensuring those visitors with restricted mobility or other impairment may still enjoy the full experience of what is on offer.

Buses along the A461 stop virtually outside our front door and there are numerous local taxi services. Thanks to the newly refurbished and RADAR-accessible canal towpath, courtesy of the Canal & River Trust, the route from Stourbridge - where there are further parking facilities - is a pleasant stroll or cycle of less than a mile and a half on virtually flat ground right through the heart of the local glass industry. Bring your tablet and tap *The Crystal Canal* (Discovering Britain) into your browser to find a free-to-access website that will transform your jaunt into an entertaining and informative heritage-trail experience, complete with voiceover if preferred, along the way.

Our arrangements will be constantly under review so do please remember that if you want the full and accurate facts on this or any other matter then contact us at any time. And, as always, we strongly advise that all other sources should be treated with a liberal dose of sodium chloride before consumption. Thank you.

## RICH MIXTURE

### Serendipity or what?

This little gem, for which many thanks, comes from [GlassCuts](#) reader and Curator of The 20th Century Museum of British Domestic Glass, Stephen Pollock-Hill:

*'Are you aware of the incredible co-incidence - or is it fate? In 1916, 100 years ago, Stuart & Sons bought the White House Cone site! A new Glass Works was built there in 1934. It lasted 65 years and made glass there until the company was closed by Waterford.'*

See a brief history of Stuart Crystal at [http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Stuart\\_and\\_Sons](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Stuart_and_Sons)

And, whilst we are at it, we have been afforded an unexpected little glow of pride by the comments of Reino Leifkes, Senior Curator of Ceramics & Glass Collection at the V&A in London, who attended our first meeting in the new museum on 13th April. Commenting favourably on the suitability of the name he suggested that it also tipped a nod in recognition of David Whitehouse, former Senior Scholar at Corning Museum of Glass NY who sadly died on returning to the States shortly after his visit to the 2012 International Festival of Glass. (obituary; [GlassCuts](#) 23 dated 5.3.13 - Ed)

David was a great supporter of our work and so this is indeed a fitting coincidence that, I confess, we hadn't yet noticed for ourselves. Thanks Reino; a nice touch.

## Station calling

Richard and Sandra cordially invite *Friends of Station Glass* to their Summer Open Day on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016. RSVP by 27<sup>th</sup> May please, to [richardgolding@stationglass.com](mailto:richardgolding@stationglass.com) or 01455 290799 - so that Sandra can organize refreshments. In addition to seeing a glassmaker at the top of his game doing what he does best, visitors may also wish to congratulate Richard on having examples of his work selected for *The Heat is On* at White House Cone – museum of glass on 11<sup>th</sup> June (*GCs passim*).

Regulars will know the way by now but for newcomers Station Glass is situated in the delightful setting of Shenton Station, Dadlington Lane, Shenton, Warwickshire CV13 0LZ. And, if whilst you are watching Richard you hear what appears to be a steam engine pulling up outside just inches away from his studio window, then don't be alarmed; it really is a steam engine. A magic place.

## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

BGF is reviewing its donation procedures. Upgraded facilities will be announced in due course but in the meantime we continue to accept donations direct by cash, cheque and BACS. For donations by BACS our bank details are:

**HSBC Bank**  
**Branch Identifier Code: MIDLGB2108U**  
**Sort code: 40-38-07**  
**Account number: 72076780**

BGF recognizes those who wish to donate via *Virgin Money Giving*. Go via the *Virgin Money Giving* QR code listed below or click here: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1005650> **Potential donors are advised that contributions via VMG may invoke commission fees that are beyond the control of BGF.**

Donations made by a UK taxpayer can attract Gift Aid, which is a great supplement to our funds and costs the donor nothing. All we need to claim this is your Gift Aid declaration; contact us for details if you have not already supplied us with relevant particulars.

*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 received go directly to the cause. Donations can be as one-off contributions or standing order.

## CRYSTAL CALENDAR

### **Red House Glass Cone**

As always, Red House Cone has a jam-packed programme of exhibitions and events running throughout the season. The list is extensive so for details click here for a pdf download: <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=280652&type=full&servicetype=Attachment> or visit <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/>

### **Ruskin Glass Centre**

See <http://ruskinglasscentre.co.uk/events/>

### **Elsewhere around Glassville<sup>®GF</sup>**

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

*Connections*. Contemporary Glass Society partnered with The Scottish Gallery (*featured GC76*)  
16 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 6HZ.

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

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

12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 - 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017

*Exhibition: The life and work of stained-glass artist Margaret Agnes Rope (featured GC85)*

Shrewsbury Museum, The Square, Shrewsbury SY1 1LH.

[www.shrewsburymuseum.org.uk/events/?c24event=EVENT532611](http://www.shrewsburymuseum.org.uk/events/?c24event=EVENT532611)

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

*Black to white and back again*

Contemporary Glass Society exhibition hosted by London Glassblowing (*featured GC81*)

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

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

## PARISH NOTICES

*Neon Workshops News.* Local and international events and workshops from the world of neon.

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

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher

Press & Publicity,

pp British Glass Foundation

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### 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. If you are donating by VMG then please note that VMG's own commission fees, over which BGF has no control, may apply.



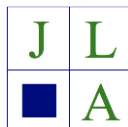
THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



EUROPEAN UNION  
Investing in Your Future  
European Regional  
Development Fund 2007-13



Also Jane Alexander and colleagues at JLA Consulting for advice on the securing and management of funding  
[www.jlaconsulting.org.uk](http://www.jlaconsulting.org.uk)



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

- fin -

*Disclaimer*

I read somewhere recently that the Earl of Tipton had been awarded an OBE and is now officially an Earlobe. Perhaps not, but in view of my own modest recognition for Services to the Continuing Profitability of the Brewing Industry - plus, of course, our own Secretary's recent gong for doing something far more sensible - I thought this may be an opportune moment to dedicate a *Disclaimer* to our wonderfully arcane Honours system. No-one can ever tell where they will next be awarded; in fact even *Star Wars* have got their very own O.B.E. Wan Kenobi, apparently for services to post-mortem ophthalmic science. I'm not entirely sure but I think that's something to do with jed eyes. (*Note: you'll only get that gag if you live within the sound of the Gornal bells*). Anyway ...

**GlassCuts** is the Most Loyal Garter of the British Glass Foundation. It is carefully selected, approved and vetted by a team of flunkeys in the palatial surroundings and shimmering opulence that is the Editorial Suite of *GlassCuts* Towers before being dubbed with a ceremonial faggot (*American readers may wish to contact us for an explanation of that one – it's not what you think*) and has no other function than to differentiate between Call Me God, Kindly Call Me God and God Calls Me God, create angst for Australian Prime Ministers and perhaps even say a bit about glass.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure ackeracy, no responsibility etc etc ... (*usual cabbage patches apply*).

This email is sent to you solely on the basis that you like the cut of our ceremonial jib but If you do not wish to receive further **GlassCuts** then either return your Sherriff's badge to the Milky Bar Kid or send an email marked: *'off with their heads'* to [bf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk). A brief indication as to why we are no longer your favourite enoblements would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission to anyone whom you feel may be vaguely interested in our hierarchy of supercooled amorphous silica, or 'glass' as it's more popularly known. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our fellow social elite then send it to BGF at the usual address.

By the way, under incoming DPA legislation this *Disclaimer* is probably now utterly non-compliant. Not that, in all likelihood, it ever was remotely compliant anyway. So, if for some reason you now suddenly feel affronted by all this tosh, do get in touch. What took you so long? At least it will show that someone actually reads it when we get hung to dry by the Data Commissioner.

In concluding our tribute to the inscrutable Great British System we finish with the tale of the lady from Pensnett who had 23 children in 23 years. *'Blimey'* says a neighbour *'your husband deserves a Knighthood.'* Glorious was it to be there on that morn to witness the classic reply: *Oh, he's got one already. But he never wears it. Boom Boom.* I just know I'll be in trouble for that one.