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## *GlassCuts Issue 4*

Hallo there, glass-o-philes ...

... when Sherlock Holmes lamented Watson with '*how shall we while away these dread autumnal evenings*', he might have been wishing for something like the latest *GlassCuts*. Because, dear friends there's enough great news of good cheer from the wonderful world of Stourbridge Glass to brighten even the dullest day ...

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### **What a difference a year makes**

Well, where has the time gone, eh? 24th November 2011 sees the first anniversary of the official launch of BGF at Hagley Hall. And indeed there has been the proverbial load of water pass under the bridge since. In just those few intervening months the BGF has transmogrified from a pressure group to protect the glass collection into a much-respected organisation that is now widely recognised as much for its integrity as its breadth of intellect and which is welcomed as a serious player in the highest echelons. Empowered by the boldness of vision for a world class glass centre on the old White House site, and working closely with all concerned, including DMBC and Complex Developments, owners of White House ([www.complexdevelopmentprojects.co.uk](http://www.complexdevelopmentprojects.co.uk)) in efforts to make this a reality, BGF's startling progress is a remarkable achievement by a committed team of enthusiasts spearheaded by Chairman Graham Knowles. I reckon we might even justify a wee glass on bubbles on the day before getting back to the grindstone. **Happy birthday, BGF.**



There are, of course, many people who have also helped BGF along the way. It would be a lengthy exercise to mention them here individually, but you know who you are so please take this as an indication of BGF's appreciation. However, someone to whom we must give special mention is the advisory team made up of George Green LLP (solicitors) and Clement Keys (accountants) for their continuing support in getting BGF here and beyond. Thank you.

The birthday celebrations, together with all the latest news and updates, will be featured in greater depth in the next edition of the BGF Newsletter, out soon.

### **Cyberspace calling**

The new website is up and running and, with thanks to all concerned, looks absolutely ace. But don't just take my word for it - click here: [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)



### **10 green bottles hanging on the wall**

Well, not quite, but a goodly load of soda siphons and bottles that have come our way from the British Soft Drinks Association, who were having a bit of a clear-out and asked if we could find a home. This splendid little gathering of some 20 syphons and 50 glass and ceramic bottles, real odd-ball and eccentric items from yesteryear if ever there was, have attracted the attentions of no less than Brian J. Clarke of the The Glass Association. Brian will be popping up from 'dahn sarf' to see us next week, when we may just also be able to announce something special by way of a donation shortly thereafter. Ooh, what a tease! Keep reading *GlassCuts*, and all will be revealed in due course.

### **Blue basket matters**

A reminder for your diary that monies raised for The Blue Basket will be celebrated by way of a formal presentation and exchange at Broadfield House, 10.00am Monday 7th November.

As reported in *GlassCuts 3*, The Blue Basket, by Jacqueline Cooley, featured at the recent Fielding's auction to raise monies for BGF but unfortunately failed to sell. Accountancy firm Clement Keys, who very kindly act pro bono for BGF, have purchased the plate and are donating proceeds to BGF funds.



### **Cameo appearances**

I was recently invited by Broadfield House to present an informal coffee afternoon based around a presentation on cameo glass held in the delightful surroundings of the Cameo Gallery at Broadfield House. The success of this will be for others to decide; personally, I thought it was magic - a truly genteel afternoon amongst enthusiasts in beautiful surroundings, it don't come much better than that. I understand that it may be offered again on a wider scale at some stage. Watch this space.

The programme of events for next year at BH is already being put together as we speak. This will include a range of new exhibitions, talks, events, guided walks and so forth, most of which are free, or at very most attract a modest charge to cover costs. Of course, there is a range of events going on over at Red House too. As always, if there is anything that you, dear reader, wish to draw attention to in the world of Stourbridge Glass, or even beyond, then do send it in to us here at *GlassCuts* and, space permitting, we'll happily do the biz.

Talking of cameo, work on the 2012 Portland Vase is going on steadily down at the Ruskin Centre. It's now at the stage where cameo engraver Terri Colledge is beginning her magic with her dentist's drill. I called there yesterday (2nd) and, following Steve Piper's excellent work on the handles, I found Terri marking out the figures in pencil on the white outer layer. It's going to look astonishing, believe me. Work is already well in hand to record it all by way of a DVD. Professional film-maker Andy Hayes is your man for this. I have been privy to seeing the first 'rushes' and it is looking superb. Project Manager Ian Dury is off to Corning on a mission next week, so doubtless he will be bending a few ears over the pond as well. More updates as they happen.

### **Something in the air**

I was delighted to be able to wax lyrical about BGF via the airwaves recently on Alex Jackson's Saturday Brunch show, 102.5FM. Copies are available f.o.c. in return for a CD or a USB stick of at least 75 Mgb. Media player or similar will be required on your base computer.

### **Mark this**

Everybody needs a bit of a hand sometimes, so a big hello to Mark Ashbourne of Ash Funding who is currently offering us invaluable advice on how to secure much-needed funds. Welcome aboard, Mark. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

### **Yet more money, thank you**

A donation to BGF has been received from Peter Wren Howard, Enville Street, Stourbridge. Thank you, Sir.

***Please note: BGF welcomes all donations. In recognising donors and appreciating their support BGF feels it is appropriate to keep the amount donated confidential unless the donor indicates otherwise or the circumstances are in the public domain or public interest.***

### **Roger the Lodger**

We are delighted to hear that Roger Dodsworth, Keeper of Glass at Broadfield House, is making steady progress. Roger, you'll recall from *GlassCuts 2*, had a bout of ill health recently and found himself whipped sharp-ish into Russell's Hall Hospital. He has since been discharged into the care of his brother over in the East of England and, by all accounts, is chomping at the bit to get fit and well again. Our continuing best wishes to you, Roger, for a speedy and full recovery.

More soon ... in the meantime, Keep it Glass.

**Graham Fisher**  
**Press & Publicity,**  
*pp* **British Glass Foundation**

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