



GlassCuts 26

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Hello, and welcome to issue 26 of *GlassCuts* that, you will notice, comes hard on the heels of issue 25. This is easily explained. According to my mate down the pub, your fave-rave glass fanzine is now so popular that it has officially-audited readership figures in the millions, is available across 93 countries and has been translated into 17 languages, including the little-known Tiptonese and Gornalonia (Upper). Admittedly, my mate is a certified idiot, so you may reasonably question the accuracy of that last bit, but the truth is, we are becoming so inundated with information from the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{®GF} that we can barely keep up with collating it and turning it round to you good folk. It's a lovely problem to have to cope with, so do please keep it up. And thank you for your support in helping make *GlassCuts* what it is. Whatever that is.

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Go on, have a bash

News has come in from Clare Weston on clare.weston@bclm.com – she's the Curator of Domestic & Cultural Life at the Black Country Living Museum, don'tcha know – about a 'glassy' course coming up. She tells us:

Saturday 15th June 2013, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Black Country Living Museum. Glass engraving. Course Leader: Charlotte Hughes-Martin, glassmaker at Red House Glass Cone.

Cost: £45 per person, includes free parking, admission to the museum, use of materials and tools necessary to the course, lunch & refreshment vouchers, certificate of course completion.

Attendees will be taught the basics of hand engraved glass, with the choice of creating their own design or working from found images. Learn to engrave on flat glass and create a personalised drinking glass to take home. *This is a fun class ideal for beginners*, it says here. Having done something similar myself with Charlotte a while back, I just know this will be a cracking day out.

Booking Office is on 0121 520 8054, bookings@bclm.com or visit www.bclm.com/courses

Light Fantastic



Shortly after *GC25* went to print, this fascinating email dropped on my desk:

Hi Graham. My name's Ali and I work at Neon Workshops, an arts company based in Yorkshire that teaches and exhibits neon as a creative medium. We are looking to promote our workshops and forthcoming exhibition, and were hoping you may be able to help us do this via your GlassCuts newsletter. Any feedback would be much appreciated.

Check Neon Workshops at www.neonworkshops.com, it is rather imaginative. Comments to Ali on info@neonworkshops.com would be welcomed. Or, if you are in the West Yorkshire area, try knocking on the door at 70b, George Street, Wakefield WF1 1DL: 01924 200069.

Ali also tells us that *You are (on) an island*, a mobile neon work by American specialists Alicia Eggert and Mike Flemming, is running until 11th May, and that participants are still being accepted for their 2013 workshops programme, details as *per* the website.

Red House goings-on

The latest info brochure from Red House Glass Cone, giving details of forthcoming attractions, has just hit the shelves. Get your copy from the usual outlets, including, of course, Red House Glass Cone, or see our *Dates for your diary* summary below.



Money matters

Our facilities to donate to BGF by standing order have been up and running for some time now, so thanks to all of you who have advised us you will be renewing your mandates. And for those who may wish to commence regular donations by standing order, please contact us and we will be happy to advise how to go about it. We do, of course, accept 'one off' donations from any source; there is also our Virgin Money Giving facility at the header plus the QR code below. As always, all monies received go directly to the cause, with not one penny-piece lining the Trustees' pockets. Much obliged.

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.

We're in!



A few months back we reported that BGF had successfully applied for membership of the prestigious Association of Independent Museums (AIM). Today we had our first email bulletin from them, and an informative missive it is, too. Membership of the AIM is just one more piece in the jigsaw that is The Grand Plan, so we are chuffed to have our feet under the table. AIM is at <http://www.aim-museums.co.uk>; follow the home-page link to the bulletin.

News from the front



It is a sad cycle of life that has been, over the years, all too often repeated; talented lad becomes top-notch glassmaker and enjoys brilliant career, builds up a lifetime of expertise, retires, whereupon all accumulated knowledge disappears into the ether.

So, it is joyously refreshing to see the mould being broken at Ruskin, where Malcolm Andrews, 70, has been named Number One Volunteer at the new Webb Corbett Visitor Centre, after a relationship with the works spanning 67 years. If you have never heard of Malcolm then you don't deserve to call

yourself a glass enthusiast; he is nothing short of a legend.

Malcolm first visited the site, which was once home to the glass greats of Webb Corbett and Royal Doulton, when he was 3 years old. He was taken to visit his father who himself worked in the glass industry for 50 years. Malcolm started working for Webb Corbett in December of 1957 at the age of 15 and progressed rapidly through the hierarchy of the glassmaking teams, under the mentorship of well-known glass industry figure Frank Austin, until he was the youngest employee of Webb Corbett to have his own glassmaking chair, whilst still only in his mid twenties. On Frank's retirement, Malcolm took over the role of Chief Glassmaker and remained in that capacity until he left the factory in 1988. He concluded his sparkling career as a lecturer at what was the International Glass Centre in Brierley Hill.

Centre Manager Leigh White leigh@ruskinglasscentre.co.uk, himself no stranger to the pages of *GlassCuts*, has put out a fulsome news release on Malcolm's appointment, for which many thanks. Even better, go down and see Malcolm in action for yourself. He's a smashing chap, and if he doesn't fire you up with his passion I'll eat my hat. What's more, if you would like to join Malcolm as a volunteer, then either Leigh or Glass Heritage Officer Ian Dury (01384 399466) would love to hear from you.

The new Webb Corbett Heritage Centre is glued steadfastly onto the side of the Ruskin Glass Centre in Amblecote and is open 10:00am - 3:00pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

What a lovely story. There, I've got a nice warm glow now.

It's that man again

And back with Leigh White once more - for indeed it is he - who is anxious that we tell you all about his latest extravaganza, heading to a Ruskin Glass Centre near you. He is a chatty sort of chappie, is our Leigh, so let him tell you all about it in his own words:

Stourbridge Open Studios goes on over May 18th & 19th 2013. Artists and makers based at the Ruskin Glass Centre in Stourbridge will be opening their doors to the public to coincide with the *National Craft and Design Month*. This will be the second time the centre hosts an event of this kind but the first time artists have been invited from the wider area to take part. Organisers say: *'There is so much talent in the Stourbridge area and it will be great to see the public getting involved and being able for the first time to meet and talk to individual artists in their own studios.'*



The idea of Open Studios originated in the salons of 17th century Paris and has been carried through up to the present day. As an internationally recognized phenomenon, Open Studios are run in a number of countries, including the UK, Holland, Germany and America. An Open Studio is intended to foster creativity in an atmosphere of cultural exchange, conversation, encouragement and freedom of expression. *Craft and Design Month* was first launched in 2011 by *Craft & Design* magazine; the project receives no funding or grant aid and is financed by the artists themselves.

Thanks, Leigh. It's all there, and more, at www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk

Worth a peek

In *GC25 (Contemporary, both by name and nature)* we featured the virtual world of the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS); this time around they have their feet more on *terra firma* with news of a world-class exhibition of glass art they are staging at a somewhat more tangible gallery. It's in London, which is a bit off our patch, but seeing as it marks a special occasion, and that the CGS are nominally based at our own Broadfield House - not forgetting their work in supporting new talent - we are happy for it to slip under our radar and into *GC*.

Hot Glass takes place at the prestigious Contemporary Applied Arts Gallery from April 19 to May 25 and features 27 international artists showing both new work and ongoing series. It will be the last show at the Percy Street site before the gallery moves to 89 Southwark Street. With thanks to Rebecca Dearden for that one; full details, as always, at www.cgs.org.uk

Rebecca also tells us about a fascinating debate going on in the world of glass art about the link between creativity and skill. She has been speaking to glassmakers and specialists and has written an absorbing feature, a copy of which she has kindly sent to us. If this rocks your boat, then either contact her direct at the CGS address above, or give us a toot at BGF.

Forging ahead

Here's an early primer for an event coming to Dudley Town Centre on Saturday 1st June this year. Supported by Arts Council England, *Forge Forward Arts Day* seems to have everybody and his dog booked to appear; pavement artists, exhibitors, crafters, orchestras, education workshops, face painters and much more, including glass blowing demonstrations, and all backed by entertainment courtesy of my ol' pals at 102.5 The 'Bridge radio. More at <http://www.facebook.com/forgeforwarddudley>



Just in time

At last, a bit of good fortune insomuch that the latest word on the wire from Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum arrived in the nick of time to be included here. Their latest *Facets* leaflet mentions a few events that aren't already covered by the Broadfield House output and so have been included separately in *Dates for your diary*, below. The Collector's Cabinet (Gallery 9 at the Museum) this year features pressed glass from the Manchester area on loan from *Friend* Peter Holland. We are also advised that the popular Glass Opinion Service has been temporarily suspended due to staff resources, or, more accurately, lack thereof. Recommendations for alternatives include contacting local auction houses, the Glass Association www.glassassociation.co.uk or the on-line forum www.glassmessages.com

QR tips

Thanks to all of you expressing an interest in using the QR codes that we introduced to you in *GC24* (*Geeks corner*). In case you missed it, here's a reminder:

QR codes are the squiggly square box-thingies that have started appearing on everything from television schedules to biscuit packets. Scan them with your mobile or other suitably enabled device and they escort you straight to a website.

We have two for you to play with, for starters. One is the QR code for the British Glass Foundation; the other is for the Virgin Money Giving site set up by fellow Trustee and ace glass artiste, Allister Malcolm.

If you have a smartphone or hand-held device of recent manufacture, chances are you will already have the necessary software built in. For those of you with something more of a collector's piece, then go to your App store and download what will almost certainly be a free app to enable you to scan them.

QR codes will henceforth be an integral part of our output, including *GlassCuts*, where they will appear routinely at the foot of the concluding page.



And finally ...

Regular readers will be aware of recent developments and progress at the White House site. There's still a lot to do, these things can be sensitive and no-one would wish to upset the apple cart by talking out of turn. But things are bubbling, *mes braves*, they are indeed. And as soon as we hear anything, we will, as always, ensure that you are the very next to know.

Dates for your diary

Details of your spectaculars and festivities via the usual address for inclusion here, possibly a mention in the main body of *GC* as well. You know it makes sense.

Events & Exhibitions at Broadfield House Glass Museum

www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/glass-museum/

10th February - 9th June 2013 - *Collectomania; West Meets East*

18th May 2013 - *Beads Day*

16th June 2013 - *Paperweight Day*

20th July 2013 - *Bonhams Valuation Day*

17th August 2013 - *Family Fun Day*



Events and Exhibitions at Red House Glass Cone (see feature above)

www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/

13th April - 26th May 2013 - *The Black Country Seen* (sic)

1st June - 27th July 2013 - *Contrasts: The Lace Guild*

3rd August - 8th September 2013 - *Schools Out For Summer*

7th September - 20th October 2013 *OMG - Oh My Glass*

26th October - 1st December 2013 - *Made at the Cone*

7th December - 5th January 2014 - *All I Want For Christmas*



In addition, as notified by Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum (see feature above)
(open to all comers; modest fees may be involved)
<http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk>

28th April 2013
10.30am, Broadfield House Glass Museum
Women in the Glass Industry; a talk by Dr Kate Round

22nd May 2013
2.00pm, St Augustine's, Holly Hall
Rev Christine Brown discusses stained glass windows in the church

6th June 2013
6.30pm, Broadfield House Glass Museum
Highlights of my time at the museum; Roger Dodsworth

15th - 16th June 2013
Paperweights weekend
Saturday at Himley Hotel, Sunday at Broadfield House Glass Museum (see listing above) 16th includes
Ysart, celebrating creativity of the eponymous family

29th June 2013 - 23rd February 2014
Broadfield House Glass Museum
Just Desserts
Changes in fashion in all things sweet, and accompanying glassware

30th November - 1st December 2013
10:00am - 4:00pm, Broadfield House Glass Museum
Christmas Festival

Elsewhere around the highways and byways of glassville

19th April - 25th May 2013
Hot Glass, an exhibition by the Contemporary Glass Society (see feature above)
Contemporary Applied Arts Gallery, 2 Percy Street, London, W1T 1DD
www.cgs.org.uk

18th May 2013
Spring Open Day & Treasure Hunt (featured GC25)
Station Glass, Shenton CV13 6DJ
www.stationglass.com

18th May - 19th May 2013
Stourbridge Open Studios (see feature above)
Ruskin Centre, Amblecote DY8 4HF
www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk

1st June 2013
Forge Forward Arts Day (see feature above)
Dudley Town Centre
<http://www.facebook.com/forgeforwarddudley>

25th August 2013
10th Anniversary Bead Fair (featured GC25)
Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge DY8 4LU
www.stourbridgebeadfair.co.uk

Various dates throughout September 2013 - October 2013
North Lands International Master Classes & Conference; and exhibition of new works from the North Lands Creation Glass Collection of Contemporary Glass (featured GC24)
info@northlandsglass.com or Lorna MacMillan on 01593 721229

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher
Press & Publicity,
pp British Glass Foundation
www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk



These are the QR codes for the British Glass Foundation and Virgin Money Giving.

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

Congratulations to the lady based in Amblecote – no names, no pack drill, but she knows who she is – who is the first, and, so far, the only one, to spot the nonsense I have been including here for ages. See if you can emulate her feat and prove to me that people really do read this bit. Still, we have to do it, so here goes. *GlassCuts* is the *ad hoc* email newsletter of the British Glass Foundation. It is collated on a philanthropic basis and has no other function than to entertain and inform its subscribers. Whilst every effort is made...blah...no responsibility...etc. (*usual caveats apply*)

This email is sent to you in good faith on the basis that you appear on our list of interested parties. However, if you do not wish to receive further *GlassCuts* emails then send 'unsubscribe' to bfgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. A brief indication as to why would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission of *GlassCuts* to interested parties; if you know someone who you think may also wish to receive *GlassCuts*, then feel free to forward it. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our readership, submit it to BGF at the usual address. Ah thang yew all.