

GlassCuts

The journal of the British Glass Foundation
www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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WHITE HOT

Doodles under the hammer

The *Decades of Design* auction hosted by Fieldings (Stourbridge) on Saturday 24th October was by all accounts a stunning success, with several delegates relaying back to us here in *GlassCuts Towers* tales of almost a carnival-like atmosphere. The upshot of all this salesroom merriment is that the total raised as a result of *Allister Malcolm's Doodles Project* was somewhere north of £10k, every single penny of which is destined for BGF coffers.



And there is more to come, with items not finding a new home on the day being re-scheduled for auction early in the New Year.

For months past we have tried our level best to promote the enormous significance of Allister's achievements in blagging and cajoling his chums in *Glassville*^{®GF} to support our work. But now, at the climax of yet another magnificently madcap venture, we confess to being somewhat short on superlatives.

So forgive us for being a little breathless after Allister's latest revelation that he is not yet done and that he is, as we speak, looking to repeat it all in two years time. He tells *GlassCuts*: *'The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers have indicated an interest to be involved again and celebrities are being approached! I'm hoping we can entice a fresh batch of the famous to provide some novel doodles for us to interpret. The School Doodle Challenge will also be part of the next project.'*

The world of glass in general, and the British Glass Foundation in particular, will continue to be indebted to the unimpeachable support shown by those practitioners of their art who have, by their talents, supported our *Grand Vision* - and, by extension, the BGF - from the very outset. They may be assured that BGF is already considering some suitable way to acknowledge in perpetuity their contribution and their unswerving faith in our endeavours.

In the meantime BGF would like to record thanks here to Will Farmer and colleagues at Fieldings Auctioneers (Stourbridge) <http://fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk> and the man behind the lens for many of those wonderful images of glass you see in **GlassCuts**, Simon Bruntnell of Northlight Photography <http://www.northlightphotography.co.uk>

BGF Chairman Graham Knowles concludes: *'Massive thanks to everyone concerned for showing their respect and trust in us to enable the charity to generate this level of funding. We have an obligation to show £14,000 of match funding for HLF and the £10,000 raised by the glass community will go towards that along with £4,000 that has been donated by The Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum. Their generosity is very much appreciated by the Trustees and gives us the flexibility to achieve our ultimate goal'*.

The supplement accompanying this edition of **GlassCuts** records BGF's appreciation of the contribution made by all of those who have assisted in this quite outstanding achievement.

Amazing Nazeing

We have received the following unsolicited email that, with kind permission of the sender, we are delighted to reproduce virtually *verbatim*. The message is significant inasmuch that the author is a glass *aficionado* with a track record extending back over half a century and who was for a time in its early years closely associated with BGF.

*What a great sight it was to see builders already at work on the Stuart Crystal White House site in the last **GlassCuts**!*

Next year I will be celebrating surviving in the glass industry for 50 years; I joined the family firm in 1966 as a proper employee working holidays with leave for University studies.

I have known the Stuart site for forty years, first with Bill Stuart then Ian Stuart and finally Roger Pauli; the tank furnace, the automatic blowing of tumblers, too little too late; attending GMF hand Section Meetings at 10.30am after a three hour drive, visiting the works and always buying a piece of Stuart crystal in the Factory Shop before driving three hours home.

I still have my favourite thinly blown extra large 22 oz. brandy balloon from 1980, with a magnificent ring (complete with large stone in the foot, a 'second') whose maker is probably long since gone.

To see the site, empty, then derelict and unloved and uncared for, like a rotting magnificent beast ravaged by the ferocious wild animals of machine-made crystal and non-lead recipes, was tragic.

I suppose as an erstwhile crystal competitor one is supposed to rub ones hands in glee but, a little like some of the French peasants must have felt seeing their masters (some good, some bad) lose their heads as their bodies roll into the tumbrels, the mighty Stuart Crystal, one of the leading companies and an aristocrat of glass was humbled and closed, like Thomas Webb and others to follow. It was a very sad time.

But in life luckily if you survive; scars heal, and bones mend. This is what is happening.

Like a phoenix from the fire (to use a glass metaphor), glass, its wonder, beauty, timelessness, and brilliance will return to this site for countless unborn glass lovers to wonder at and admire the skills of the past and the challenges of the future.

An ENORMOUS debt of gratitude is due to Graham Knowles and his team and to everyone who believed, persevered, battled and who have now triumphed.

Kind regards,

Stephen Pollock-Hill

Nazeing Glass Works Limited: Nazeing New Road: Broxbourne: Herts. EN10 6SU www.nazeing-glass.com

ps ... I started here in 1966 as a fresh faced kid during my three years university holidays, and I was on the payroll. But I picked up my first wage aged 7, the princely sum of 'half a crown' - 25p - for a Saturday morning's work in the packing dept. I still have that coin. It was too big to fit into my piggy bank!

We value such feedback not only for the sheer pleasure it gives us in receiving it, but also for the contribution it adds to identifying the widespread and crucial public support that the White House project enjoys. Your backing would be similarly welcomed so please spend just a few moments to complete the on-line *White House Survey* cited at the end of this [GlassCuts](#). Much obliged to you all, and our thanks again to Stephen Pollock-Hill.



Hot Glass Studio Area At White House Cone Site 28 October 2015

RICH MIXTURE

Please allow at least two weeks notice wherever possible. Entry not guaranteed; usual Editorial prerogatives regarding space, content etc. apply. Brief details will also be considered for our free-to-air CRYSTAL CALENDAR up to the date of your event; early notice equates to longer exposure. *E&OE*. All rights reserved.

Wildlife panels

Some while back Allister Malcolm primed us with news from his colleague Lynn Baker (veteran of *The World's Longest Glassblowing Demonstration 2012* and *Celebrity Doodles 2015* www.lynnbakerglass.co.uk) about a lady who had in her possession some delightful glass panels of German origin, each up to five feet tall and sand-carved with spectacular scenes of river life, that she wanted to go to a good cause.

Discussions have evidently moved apace and we can report that these are destined to be auctioned by Fieldings, Stourbridge <http://fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk> with proceeds to BGF.

More details in due course; in the meantime our thanks and congratulations to all concerned.

National stage for contemporary practitioners

The Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) www.cgs.org.uk and National Glass Centre have announced their list of artists for a showcase of contemporary glass. A special display at the National Glass Centre www.nationalglasscentre.com will be dedicated to a year-long show of pieces made by members of the CGS since Spring 2015. The items range from elegant production ware to vibrant sculptural pieces. Each one is unique and they are all for sale.

Artists include: Sinead Brennan, Catherine Brown, Emma Butler-Cole Aiken, Evy Cohen, Nicholas Collins, Samantha Donaldson, Shaun Fraser, Karl Harron, Rachel Laycock, Jessie Lee, Leigh-Ann Maclean, Yoshiko Okado, Verity Pulford, Lesley Pike, Nicholas Rutherford, Victoria Scholes, Max Lamb/Fiona Wilkes, Catherine Wilcoxson.

Padding it out

Regular readers of *GlassCuts* will have been following the fascinating tale of how Allister Malcolm and Helen Millard recently wowed Stateside audiences during their collaborative residency at the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning NY in which they focused on exploring the somewhat arcane technique of padded cameo.

An alliance of these two highly successful artists was sure to produce some intriguing results and this is your opportunity to judge for yourself when Allister and Helen unveil all of their pieces at the National Glass Fair later this month (see [Crystal Calendar](#) below).

All, that is, except the one shown here. This was the first piece made and the duo felt it appropriate that it should be donated to Corning Museum of Glass where it now resides. But the rest will be very much to hand at the National Motorcycle Museum on 22nd November, where both Helen and Allister will be delighted to meet and greet. Full details of the event at www.glassfairs.co.uk/preview-gallery.html



GIFTS AND DONATIONS

BGF is grateful to *Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum* for their *largesse* in supporting our grant application by way of a contribution to matched funding. Details as *per* our Chairman's comments in [WHITE HOT](#) above. *Friends* indeed; thank you.

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

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

No notifications.

Elsewhere around Glassville^{®GF}

22nd November 2015

National Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Solihull B92 0EJ

National Glass Fair (*featured GC66*)

OxbridgeFairs@aol.com

28th - 29th November 2015

Ruskin Glass Centre, Wollaston Road, Stourbridge DY8 4HF

Christmas Craft Fayre. 10:00am 4:00pm

also:

10th December 2015

Candlelit Shopping Evening 6:00pm - 9:00pm

www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk

4th - 28th May 2016

Connections. CGS Exhibition in partnership with The Scottish Gallery

16 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 6HZ. (*featured GC76*)

www.cgs.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

Alan J. Poole's Glass Newsletter, November edn. alanjpoole@ajpglass.co.uk

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher
Press & Publicity,
pp British Glass Foundation
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.



Disclaimer

Scotland's finest, William Topaz McGonagall, is universally acclaimed as the world's worst poet, despite his unshakeable belief in his own literary gifts. *'On yonder hill there stood a coo, he must hae moved, he's nay there noo'* - you just couldn't make this stuff up. I am a big fan and so in recognition of all those ardent but ultimately doomed dingbats, weirdos and sheer oddballs who set themselves low standards that they consistently fail to achieve, this [Disclaimer](#) is dedicated to those who may be bereft of hope for the recognition they crave but nonetheless plug doggedly onwards, or who may simply baffle us by their own ... erm ... bafflement.

[GlassCuts](#) is the journal of the BGF and the 'on yonder hill' equivalent of sublimely inept poetry masquerading as a lost masterpiece by Byron. It is compiled by a team of hopefuls and wannabes whose sum total IQ remains doggedly set at two points below their shoe-size and has no other function than to strive for nirvana, expand the barriers of good taste (now *that's* satire - Ed) and even perhaps say a bit about glass.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, no responsibility etc etc ... (*usual camper-vans apply*).

This email is sent to you solely on the basis that you appear on our list of disciples of the recently deceased baseball whizz and intellectual colossus Yogi Berra: *'When you come to a fork in the road, take it'* and *'Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't go to yours'* are just two of his masterpieces. Should you not wish to receive further [GlassCuts](#) then either flag up your manifesto for the *Monster Raving GlassCuts Party* or send an email marked: *'I am fluent in George W. Bush-speak, therefore I am nuts'* to bfq@britishglassfoundation.org.uk. A brief indication as to why we are no longer your favourite delusionists would be appreciated.

BGF welcomes onward transmission to anyone whom you feel may be vaguely interested in plans for world domination by mass absurdity. Similarly, if you have anything you consider may be of interest to our fellow innocents (*did you know that if you say 'bananas' slowly enough it sounds like 'gullible' - try it yourself*) then send it to BGF at the usual address.

We leave you with a peerless testament of impenetrability from the great Donald Rumsfeld who, in a bubble of indulgence that insulated him from the utter bemusement of the population of the entire planet, sagely droned on from behind a perfectly straight countenance about *'known knowns; known unknowns and unknown unknowns - the ones we don't know we don't know.'* And this towering apex of gibberish coming from the man whose best mate had his finger very close to a big red button. Rest easy now, nurse will be along soon.