

Stourbridge Glass Museum – how it came into being.

The remarkable tale of the period from the formation of BGF in 2010 to SGM official opening in 2013.
Now available direct from the museum. All proceeds to BGF.

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Just so's yer kno'se

This one is a bit off the wall, but stick with me to the end of the item and it all makes sense.

You may have noticed, and occasionally perhaps clicked on, one of our items we cover every edition in *Parish Notices* (in its spot below, as always). Here in the shimmering opulence that is the Editorial Suite at *GlassCuts Towers* we try to acknowledge as much as we can that is going on out there in the *Wonderful World of Glass*^{®GF} beyond Stourbridge and our museum. We work on the basis that if someone extends us the courtesy of getting in touch then, wherever possible, and providing there is some 'glassy' link however tenuous, we'll try and give them a mention.

Of course we have a vested interest so the newsletters from some of our major sponsors and supporters are included and we commend you to take a look at what they are getting up to. However, we also like to mention things further afield and it is surprising what pops up that might otherwise pass by unnoticed. It's fascinating, and all it takes is a mouse click whilst you're sitting back with a coffee for a few moments.

Take, for example, the latest entry *Coherence*, exhibition by Danish artist Karin Mørch. All you want to know about her and her exhibition is there at <https://www.vesselgallery.com/event-details/50160/coherence-by-karin-mørch-solo-exhibition> - the web address takes a lot of space so you can see why we normally condense it to a one-word link. But then, just make one more click at 'Artists' on the top left of the toolbar and hey presto; a gallery of exhibitors that features, amongst others, BGF Trustees Allister Malcolm, Elliott Walker and Chris Day, plus our ol' pal Vic Bamforth based down the road at Ruskin, and many more familiar names showing their incredible work. Of course, it's always better to visit the actual gallery but for those who can't this is a wonderful facility that would have been unimaginable less than twenty years ago.

I love this technology; it's fascinating stuff, and it's all here on the keyboard or touch screen in front of you right now. A world of talent, all the latest news from far and wide and for no more effort than making a few clicks of a mouse to access the lot. I don't remember it being like this when I was a schoolkid writing times-tables on a slate with my stick of chalk. Honest, I did! Any more of you out there recall those halcyon chickenpox-raddled days with our sticks of chalk, caterpillars on the lunch salad, canings off Sir and nit-nurses with their blue unction? Happy days. (*Get back to the point - Ed*)

So what do you do for the artist with just a few presses of a digit? Quite a lot, actually. For starters you are appreciating their work, which is what it's all about, but those innocuous clicks are all counted y'know, and at the end of the day the amount of 'hits' that the gallery gets as an expression of your interest is all-important and is a tool that can be used lots of things from collating audience matrices to grant funding. It's how it works nowadays, and it's all a long, long way from blackboards and chalk.

Click and enjoy, friends; click and enjoy. Were not just looking at the future, we're actually in it.

Ullo John! Gotta new motor? (©Alexei Sayle)

Well if you have, or indeed if you're still driving around in that old knacketty one, we've got some good news for you as to where you can park it when you next stop and say hello. Commencing Monday 7th April we have major doings outside the museum and our car park will be barriered off whilst they goes on. But what a treat when it's finished, with a newly tarmacked area getting an improved soakaway to prevent flooding, two EV charging points for reformed petrol-heads, landscaping and lighting. And don't forget to smile, 'cos it's all covered by security cameras. The work should be completed by the end of April and will enhance the area and improve both safety and security of the site for us all.

Our thanks to The Ocean Boat Fish & Chip Shop, purveyors of mighty fine morsels and recently voted the world's favourite chippie (according to this note I have just been passed - other chippies are available) for allowing us to use their facilities in the interim. Then there is also limited car parking at Red House Glass Cone opposite, although please be aware they do lock the barriers at 3.30 p.m. and we hold neither keys nor bolt-cutters so don't be caught out or caught in, as the case may be. Of course, you can always get the 'bus, which stops right outside our plaice (*'our plaice', next to the chippie, geddit?*) and which links direct with the town railway station with easy access to all ports. If all that fails, quite apart from the option of walking or cycling here along the adjacent canal towpath from Stourbridge (we have a secure peddly-bike area), there are an estimated 25 taxis a minute (*recent official Government figures*) whizzing pass our doors every hour of the day. So there; you're left with absolutely no excuse not to come and visit us. Ta very much. Our wonderful volunteers at the front door will take it from here.

(Just a reminder that if you have a large electric vehicle you can join the AA. Or, for cars with smaller batteries there's now also the AAA. Boom boom!)

Zoom in the room

Now here's a tale, entirely true I promise, that may amuse. Some while back I was asked by a certain internationally-renowned glassmaker what I knew about making glass. Brimming with confidence I proudly told him that I had already done the Allister Malcolm one-day glassmaking appreciation course so there wasn't much he could tell me! Yeah, right, whatever.

He saw through my bluff and threw a blowing iron into my hand. *'There you go'* he challenged. *'Here's the pot, fill yer boots'*. So with masterful ease aided by nothing more than pure good luck I gathered my blob of liquid silica, rolled it out on the marver, put a bubble in and handed it back. Or was it the other way round? Anyway, he was impressed. I was relieved. We both laughed. He called me an idiot. Thus endeth my sole experience of making glass, although in somewhat more serious terms it did me the power of good because I can now stand in front of an audience and speak with assurance as to the inordinate skills in glassmaking with the knowledge that if I tried for a lifetime I would never have the talent beyond my blob on the end of an iron. Simply amazing skills; I greatly admire every one of you out there who perform your magic day in and day out.

So, hands up, I confess I know next to nothing about glassmaking. But, on t'other hand, having been with BGF from the outset with *de facto* responsibility for its PR & Comms, I can say in all modesty that I do know a fair bit as to how Stourbridge Glass Museum came into being. Indeed, the eponymous book by Yours Truly is currently on sale in the foyer, with proceeds to BGF. So I was delighted beyond measure when I was approached recently by our chums at the Black Country Society with an invitation to present a Zoom-talk on that very subject. Yes friends, the man known as having an ideal face for radio (what?) is coming to a computer screen near you on Monday 28th April at 7.30pm to chat about how the museum was created and what it represents.

My thanks to the BCS for their invitation invite. Wanna join in? societyblackcountry@gmail.com is the one to click for the Zoom link. Ta ever so much.

The Black Country Society is the area's premier organisation for, well, keeping the Black Country alive. Them's my words, not theirs, but I actually think they do. If you are from our region - which is now officially recognised on O/S maps - or if you are not but otherwise have an interest in it, then a thousand plagues be upon your houses if you're not already a member. There, that's got it off my chest. Salve your conscience here: www.blackcountryandsociety.com

The power of the airwaves

'Stourbridge Glass Museum nominated for prestigious award'. With thanks to *Black Country Radio*.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0028y1n>

Stourbridge Glass Museum information corner

Details of forthcoming events are [here](#) or subscribe [here](#) for updates of events and other GDPR-compliant communications from SGM, including *GlassCuts* and promotions, direct to your inbox.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

to BGF funds, for which we thank you

Funding and maintaining a revenue stream is an ongoing requirement. We greatly value your contributions. BGF Trustees are unremunerated; all monies received go to the cause. Donations can be as one-off contributions or standing order.

BGF routinely reviews its donation procedures. Enhancements are announced as and when but we currently accept donations direct by cash, cheque and BACS. **We would respectfully ask that all cheques and orders be made payable to BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION.**



This is the QR code for the British Glass Foundation.
Scan to browse the work of the BGF or to make a donation.

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To donate *PayPal* visit: <https://www.paypal.com/uk/for-you/transfer-money/send-money> and donate to bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

To donate through our website visit: www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk and hit the 'Donate' button.

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.

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In addition to cash BGF is similarly grateful for donations of good quality glass to sell in our shop. All funds raised from the sale of donated glass go into a separate Collections Account towards future acquisitions for the museum. To make a donation directly into the **British Glass Foundation Collections Account** use sort code: **40-38-07** and account number: **52291789**.

Notes and queries

Whilst we are happy to facilitate this *ad hoc* information exchange on unusual items of interest BGF cannot undertake valuations or offer comment other than that supplied by our correspondents. Submission does not guarantee publication. No responsibility ... etc (*usual caveats apply*)

Come on, now – we know those queries are out there just itching to test us.

PARISH NOTICES

tell us the news from your world

Send us yours and we'll try to mention it. No guarantees other than we'll do our best. Our sponsors and supporters also here.

- * *Coherence*. Exhibition by Danish artist Karin Mørch. Vessel Gallery, London. Details [here](#)
- * *Venice Glass Week 2025*. Call for applications (deadline 16th April). Online application [here](#)
- * *Alan J. Poole newsletter* latest edition. alanjpoole@aol.com
- * *Contemporary Glass Society* latest news www.cgs.org.uk Monthly *Glass Network Digital* also available.
- * *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London*. Updates: info@glass-sellers.co.uk
- * *The Glass Society Events Schedule*. <http://glassassociation.org.uk>
- * *The Scottish Glass Society*. Annual members exhibition Sept.2025. Details & call for artists [here](#)

From the Hot Studio:

www.allistermalcolm.com **Facebook** @allistermalcolmglass **Twitter** @allistermalcolm **Instagram** @allistermalcolmglassltd
Follow all that's going on via Allister's feeds.

Keep up with developments down at the studio and his work throughout IFoG via Al's media feeds. His latest news is also now available [here](#)

Just a reminder ...

If you've got something 'glassy' to say and you want it said to somebody else, consider sending it to us and we'll do our best to help pass the information via *GlassCuts* or *OffCuts*. Usual address. There's no fee, but if you've got a few bob lying around in a spare pocket we can always find a good use for it.

And finally ...

'So I came home late the other night, OK, so I might have had the odd beer or two, but I swore I saw a baby stegosaurus on the drive. Was I mightily relieved next morning when the wife told me one of our cats had got a Toblerone stuck on its back. Oh, and while I'm at it, did I mention that tennis player Steffi Graf has a twin sister Poly? I'm not lying.'

Yes, I know.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS
Trustee, PR & Comms
pp British Glass Foundation
www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Volunteering at Stourbridge Glass Museum

Would you like to be part of a vibrant and enthusiastic group of volunteers dedicated to supporting the British Glass Foundation and its work at Stourbridge Glass Museum?

Specialist skills or knowledge are welcome but not essential. We are committed to equal opportunities and full training will be given where necessary. To find out more, contact us [here](#)

Promotional opportunities

Award-winning *Black Country Radio* and *BCR Xtra* broadcast throughout the Black Country on 102.5 FM and also via DAB and on-line around the world. Part of BCR's remit is to promote local events. If you are organising an event that satisfies the criteria of not-for-profit, charitable or philanthropic and is community orientated then you may be eligible for no-fee promotion.

Go to www.blackcountryradio.co.uk hover over 'Local' and click 'Local Events Guide'. Submit the form you'll find at upper left under '+ Add Event'. Your announcement will then appear on the *Events Guide*. Allow sufficient notice and the event may be 'voiced' and broadcast live on air during daytime broadcasting. Depending on the number of events, yours might be broadcast several times; there's no guarantee but it should appear at least once. Meanwhile it stays on the *Events Guide* listings on the world-wide web until the day itself. And it's all entirely free of charge.

Second time around

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Keeping in touch

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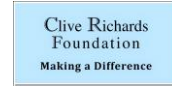
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BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Growing Places Fund : Garfield Weston : Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust : The Headley Trust : The Charles Hayward Foundation : W.A. Cadbury Charitable Trust : John Ellerman Foundation : The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London : The Pilgrim Trust : FCC Communities Foundation ... plus many contributions from other trusts, foundations and individuals. (E&OE)

Full details of BGF partners, supporters and sponsors at: www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/

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We welcome you passing *GlassCuts* on to anyone you feel may be interested in our work. You know the rest but if in any doubt then please communicate with us directly in the first instance via bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk



www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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