

NEW BOOK NOW OUT: The Blue Vase - the 2024 interpretation of an iconic cameo by contemporary Stourbridge glass artisans.
Available from usual sources or direct from the museum. All proceeds to BGF. (SEE BELOW)

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ALSO ON SALE: 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.
Available from usual sources or direct from the museum. All proceeds to BGF.

We're gonna need a bigger mantlepiece

We did it again! Praise be, and thanks to everyone concerned, in achieving our latest accolade. In the face of fierce opposition including the National Trust and Natural History Museum, and despite us being operational for less than three years, and in addition to all the goings and trophies we have accrued so far (Arts Council Museum Accreditation, Trip Advisor Top Attraction, etc etc) we can now add the biggest and most prestigious to date. Yes friends, we have been awarded ...

SUSTAINABLE PROJECT OF THE YEAR

This extract from the official release says it all ...

Stourbridge Glass Museum is an example of a capital project which has embedded sustainable technology throughout. The judges were impressed by the excellent, exhaustive work to transform the carbon position of a high energy traditional craft resulting in an impressive, world first carbon neutral glass studio.

Dubbed the 'Oscars of the museums world', the ceremony was held at Hilton Hotel, Park Lane London on the evening of Thursday 15 May 2025. The evening was hosted by National Geographic Explorer, palaeoanthropologist, evolutionary biologist and stand-up comic, Ella Al-Shamahi.

Full details here: [2025 Winners - Museums + Heritage Awards](#)



And there's more ...

The evening of Saturday 17th May saw the launch of the spectacular Blue Vase, re-envisioned for the 21st Century here at the museum and reported in in *GlassCuts* for the past several months. This was a quite amazing spectacle that attracted the thick end of 200 visitors all eager to partake in celebrating the skills and sheer craftsmanship involved and meeting the artists in the flesh. SGM staff, spearheaded by Manager Alex, have put together a delightful little clip that captures the essence in just one minute; find it on click on our Facebook and Instagram feeds.

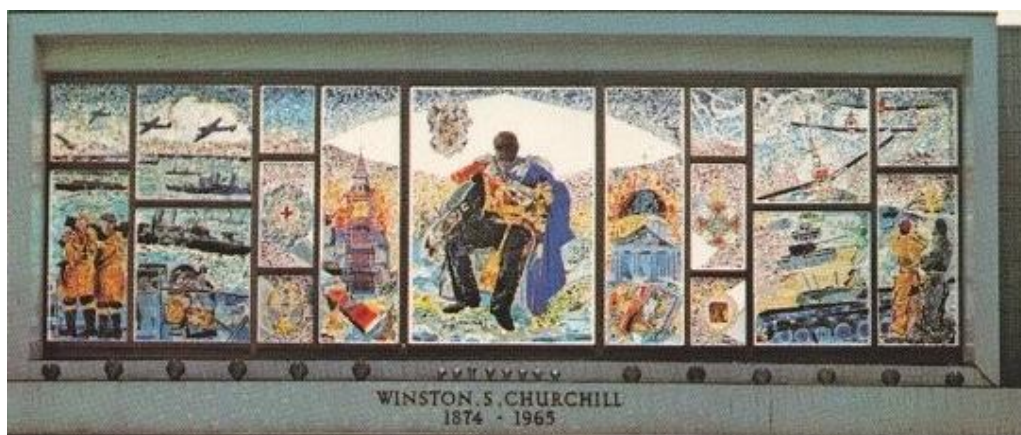
The accompanying book *The Blue Vase; the 2024 interpretation of an iconic cameo by contemporary Stourbridge glass artisans*, written by Yours Truly and published by Sparrow (his other 'arf'), was launched simultaneous with the actual vase. If you weren't at the evening then you've missed your chance for a free copy but it is instead now available to purchase at Stourbridge Glass Museum, with all monies to BGF funds.



On no, not yet another award?

Ok then, so for this issue we have reported news of a major accolade, the unveiling of vase and the launch of a new book. So, lest anyone thinks we're now sitting on our laurels and twiddling our thumbs for a bit, how does this one sound?

Many of our more mature readers (*that sounds much better than 'older' - Ed*) will recall the magnificent glass-panel mural of Churchill in the eponymous Churchill Precinct, Dudley. The Churchill Screen, originally spanning 12 metres with 17 panels, was a monumental glass artwork created in the 1960s by artist Edward Bainbridge Copnall and depicted the Great Man's life through intricate appliqué glass - a technique bonding coloured glass to clear plate glass. Commissioned for Dudley's shopping precinct, it was a technical marvel weighing five tonnes. In 1984, an enthusiastic gaggle of 'dead-eye-dicks' used it as target practice and shattered its central panels, including the Spitfire-themed section honouring Churchill's WWII leadership. Fragments were salvaged, but the screen's fate remained uncertain until Stourbridge Glass Museum assumed ownership in 2024. Only 11 panels of the original 17 are salvageable and the central Churchill panel is seriously damaged.



Now, here's the fantastic news - Stourbridge Glass Museum has been awarded a £25,000 *Victory 80 Fund* grant to conserve and reinterpret the historic Battle of the Atlantic Panel. The project, supported by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and Museum Development Midlands (MDM), will culminate in a permanent display of the panel at the Museum, alongside community events marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in Japan (VJ) Day.

SGM Museum Director Alexander Goodger tells *GlassCuts*: *'The Churchill Screen is a cultural treasure, both a testament to the creativity of post-war glass art and a powerful symbol of resilience. This project not only restores a vandalised masterpiece but reconnects the Dudley community with its heritage. The Battle of the Atlantic Panel's imagery, celebrating Churchill's leadership, makes it a fitting centrepiece for future VE Day commemorations. 42 years after the panel was vandalised, we will finally be able to showcase a panel fully restored'*

Event Dates for your diary:

- **VJ Day Tea Party:** 15 August 2025
- **Churchill Screen Launch:** (date TBC- sign up as a member of Stourbridge Glass Museum to receive a free invite:

[Become a member – Stourbridge Glass Museum](#)

Editor's note: To put the magnitude of this award into context, only those who have grappled with the labyrinthine procedures that normally accompany a major funding application can appreciate just what it takes to even fill in the bloomin' forms, let alone secure a successful bid. It requires many hours of graft, research and a high degree of sheer bloody-mindedness to do it all properly to even stand a chance, so our congratulations go to those 'behind the headlines' - namely 'The A Team' led by Alex down at Stourbridge Glass Museum, for all they have done – and continue to do – in bringing such *kudos* to what is rapidly becoming a world class facility. Our thanks also to Jacqui Watson, whose sage advice on these matters is greatly valued.

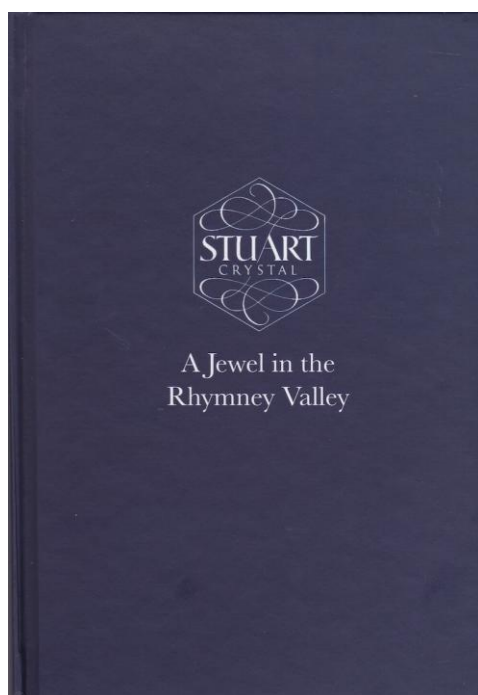
Stourbridge Glass Museum information corner

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.

In Memoriam

In the last issue we mentioned the death of Chris Stuart and promised a more fulsome obituary would be forthcoming. Attached to this issue is a special single-topic *OffCuts* 5; our tribute to a lovely man.

The Welsh connection



Entirely coincidental with the sad news of Chris Stuart, a book has landed on your Editor's desk which Chris would have appreciated, largely because it covers the south Wales factory mentioned in his eulogy cited above and by dint of the author knowing Chris well over many years.

Stuart Crystal: A Jewel in the Rhymney Valley is probably the only book that life-long glassman Ian Dury is ever likely to write. I suggest this with a degree of conviction, since I know he has no aspirations to become a writer in his retirement, but throughout the time I have known him he has been doggedly driven simply to right a wrong in telling a story that he believes has hitherto never been fully told, at least in print.

By compiling a combination of documents, lists, records and, most importantly, first-hand accounts from employees many of whom are still alive to tell the tale, Ian has conjured a delightful recollection of the understated Stuart Crystal Pengam Glassworks, which operated in a distant land far away from the Stourbridge Quarter down in the Welsh valleys between 1966 and 1997.

The reasons behind the plant, its personnel and what they achieved for the area are recalled in a delightfully uncontrived style that feels like one is secretly peering into the personal diary of an old friend.

Interspersed along the way are little gems of information not readily found elsewhere, such as Ian's estimate as to how many pairs of hands one piece of glass passed through from start to finish, and the career progressions of employees who have since become local legends amongst the *cognoscenti*. I declare an interest here as one of them happens to be a distant relative of mine by the tenuous association of his family connections to the second husband of my widowed mother. Which, until now, I knew nothing about. Lest that sounds convoluted, this and similar aspects are all resolved in a straightforward prose that lacks pretension but is packed to the hilt with conviction.

Stuart Crystal: A Jewel in the Rhymney Valley is one of those rare contributions to a genre that may be filled with specialist tomes from equally specialist writers yet which still manages to rise to a niche of its own, propelled by someone who has clearly lost none of his passion throughout a whole lifetime spent doing what he loves. At last, after years of vowing to me he intended to do it, Ian Dury can sit back with the satisfaction of knowing that his efforts have plugged a gap in a hole that few outside the arcane world of glass - and perhaps inside too, for that matter - even knew existed. For that attainment alone, he can deservedly rest awhile on his laurels.

Hardback, 68pp, b&w and colour illustrations on semi-glass paper, 24.5cm x 17.5cm format. Copies are to be donated to all former employees or their surviving descendants by the author; reference copies are lodged in Dudley Archives. The book will be available to purchase at £5.00 with profits split equally between Stourbridge Glass Museum and Red House Cone.

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.
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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.

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.

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**.

'It's a funny old game' (Jimmy Greaves)

Crystal Palace excites the nation. Headline from May 1851 following the opening of one of the most ground-breaking and iconic buildings in London's history. More [here](#)

Crystal Palace excites the nation. Headline exactly 174 years later in May 2025 following the success of the eponymous football club in winning their first ever FA Cup. More [here](#)

... with acknowledgements to *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London* for spotting that one.

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*)

None this time around – keep 'em coming in.

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.

- * *Alan J. Poole* newsletter latest edition. alanipoole@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>

From the Hot Studio:

www.allisternalcolm.com **Facebook** @allisternalcolmglass **Twitter** @allisternalcolm **Instagram** @allisternalcolmglassltd
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 ...

'If any of you want to talk to me about poor carpentry work, my door is always open.'

Yes, I know. Same to you *avec les knobs on*.

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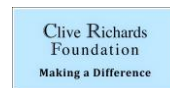
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BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

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



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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