

Glasscuts

The Journal of the British Glass Foundation
The Voice of Stourbridge Glass Museum



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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)

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.

A special ***‘It’s ages until Christmas but this is our last edition before Christmas because that’s the way it is’*** edition

What you say? The next edition is January?

Yes indeed, that’s how we are rolling in our new extended format that shows our imminent bits and bobs as a regular Newsletter, with the more juicy goings-on and Glassville gossip appearing alongside in your ever popular GlassCuts. Evolution, not revolution.

Keeping up with events

As always, you can keep up with all the happenings at SGM by signing up to our free regular mailings, including GlassCuts, direct to the inbox on your chosen electronic device via our contacts in updates and events, below. So there’s no need to miss out wherever you are.

A tale from your Editor

I was having a bit of a clear-out recently, the consequence of a family bereavement several years ago, when I came across some items of glassware that were surplus to requirements. One of these was a delightful little cruet set with hallmarked silver lids; thus I set about tracing one similar on eBay to get an idea of a bid price. I was horrified to see virtually the same set for sale at £5.40p. To be honest I wasn’t all that surprised, since I have seen sets of three or four classic lead crystal decanters, ignominiously tied together on a rope at auction for less than thirty quid, tops.

So I did a bit of cyber-digging and came up with an array of goodies, the price of which defied belief, including a comprehensive set of delightful glassware going for £21.48. Then, in a recent edition of Country Life (it's all I ever read, friends), I happened across a selection of 32 Edinburgh drinking glasses, some in cased ruby, under the hammer for the princely sum of £12.50. Yep, £12.50.

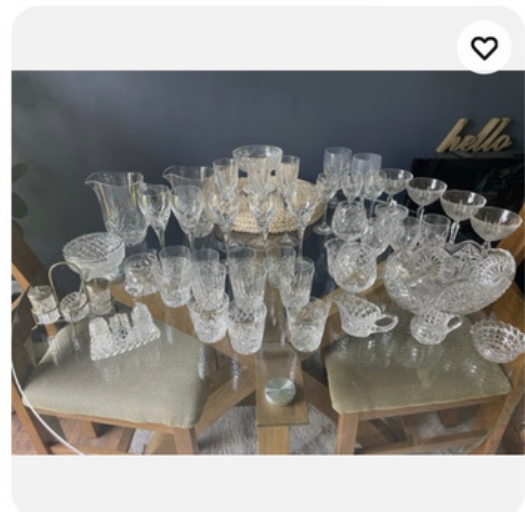
It is mere coincidence that I have recently undertaken a series of lectures looking at the demise of the glass industry and there on the lengthy list of reasons for the residual price of cut crystal glass, somewhere towards the top alongside 'lack of investment' and 'cheap competition', lies the part-explanation that it simply went out of fashion. Glancing sideways at my cruet set again, I understand what this means - who else, other than a collector or enthusiast, would nowadays remotely consider buying or using a cut-glass cruet set?

And therein lies the tragedy; these forlorn tankards, decanters, goblets and ornaments, still gracing a thousand lofts, cubby-holes and mantelpieces, each represent decades of someone acquiring the skills to actually make them. Yet here they are at two bob a dozen. It's a crying shame, it really is.

Then, ever the idealist, these depressing grey clouds clear to reveal the bright backdrop of optimism in the realisation that technology may be the precursor of salvation. The home computer market, the explosion in smart-phones, interactive displays in everything from cars to radios ... the list goes on. And the common denominator? Screens. Glass screens. Glasscreens by the ger-zillions.

Then we have fibre optics and lenses for astronomical telescopes that peer back to the beginnings of humanity whilst borosilicate heat-resistant applications help hurl us headlong into that same humanity's future. Closer to home, this technology is also now allowing our studio glass artists to express their unbridled creativity using ever-greener energy sources. For a pragmatic example of that, look no further than Allister Malcolm's Hot Shop here at Stourbridge Glass Museum. Solar powered. A further positive of the 'green' kind that should help keep our cousin Greta in a good mood comes from certain types of glass (though admittedly not all) being entirely recyclable.

There, I'm off now for a rub down with a soapy rag and my afternoon nap. Meanwhile, what about this rather nice collection of venerable old glassware still staring back at me? Lots of people out there still love this stuff. Ah-ha, that's the answer; I'll donate it all to the museum for sale to raise funds. Two birds with one stone. Everybody happy; job's a good 'un. (GF)



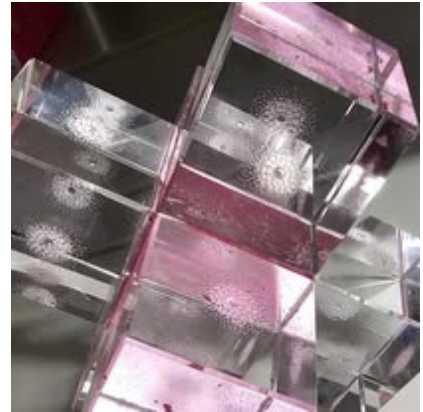
Crystal Ware Glasses, Jugs, Salt And Pepper Shakers Etc Job Lot

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Seller with 100% positive feedback



Bye bye Nancy; a tribute and a thank you

We were greatly saddened to hear of the death of internationally-renowned glass engraver Nancy Sutcliffe on 23rd September at too young an age and when she was still at the height of her powers.

Stourbridge Glass Museum is honoured to receive a stunning piece titled Pink Puzzle, gifted in loving memory of Nancy by her family Dennis, Ferielle, and Chris. This generous donation, supported by Blowfish Glass UK Ltd. [blowfishglassart](#) ensures Nancy's work will continue to inspire future generations.

Pink Puzzle is a luminous sculpture of solid crystal, its brilliant optics catching and reflecting the light to reveal Nancy's masterful engraving. Shimmering pink silver leaf reflects through the piece; a signature touch of Nancy's unique style.

We are deeply grateful to Nancy's family for sharing this extraordinary work. Visitors can now experience Pink Puzzle as part of the museum's growing collection, celebrating the life and legacy of a remarkable artist.

The internet and social media are understandably rich in testimonials to Nancy but you can read more about her story and influence in a moving personal tribute from Blowfish Glass Art [here](#). To offer donations visit the JustGiving page set up in her memory to aid Cancer Research [here](#).

Nancy Sutcliffe (1957-2025)
R.I.P

We're gonna need a bigger trophy cabinet (an occasional series)

Yet another award comes our way in the form of a 2025 Visit England Hidden Gem Accolade.

According to their guidelines: 'This Accolade is awarded annually to participants in the Visit England Visitor Attraction quality scheme and is a testament to the high standards you have achieved, which our assessor felt were truly deserving of recognition. Nominations for the Accolade are based on a range of feedback, including your annual Visit England quality assessment, the observations of your assessor, customer feedback direct to Visit England and online customer reviews'.

There's a Big Bash coming up at the British Motor Museum in Warwickshire where a chosen couple from our team will be presented with our accolade certificate so no doubt a report from them will be forthcoming in due course.

For now, it just remains for us to once again congratulate our Ace squad of professionals at Stourbridge Glass Museum supported by our simply amazing team of volunteers. Nice one, folks. 'To infinity and beyond' (© B. Lightyear)

Also flying the flag in the recent Express & Star Black Country awards:

Fundraiser of the Year: SGM Manager Alex Goodger

Sustainability Award: SGM Resident glass maker Allister Malcolm



And as if one accolade weren't enough, the silverware keeps rolling in...

We're thrilled to report a double triumph for our recent exhibition, which has been turning heads both regionally and nationally.

First up, we scooped the inaugural Museum Development Midlands Award, rising to the top against museums from across the region. Not content with stopping there, the very same exhibition then went on to claim one of the sector's most prestigious honours: a 2025 Museums + Heritage Award. This places our work shoulder-to-shoulder with the biggest names in the cultural world – and this year, rather delightfully, a step ahead of organisations such as the National Trust and the Natural History Museum. Not bad for our corner of the Black Country. At the heart of this success story is the brilliant Elizabeth Pardoe, a home-grown Wordsley talent. At just 22, Elizabeth joined us through her postgraduate placement in Art History and Curating and immediately set to work with clarity, creativity, and an unshakeable passion for glass history. Her meticulous research and fresh curatorial approach shaped the exhibition from its earliest spark to its final shine. These awards are a glowing testament to her skill and dedication.

Elizabeth's achievement reminds us just how inspiring the next generation of museum professionals can be. We couldn't be prouder of her, nor more delighted that her work has brought such distinction to Stourbridge Glass Museum.

These wins also speak volumes about our valued partnerships, the depth of our collection, and our commitment to sharing Stourbridge's extraordinary glassmaking heritage with ever-wider audiences.

Our warm thanks go to everyone who supported the exhibition. With momentum like this, we look forward to bringing you more innovative, and possibly award-winning, adventures in glass before too long.



Hands across the water

On behalf of Stourbridge Glass Museum, BGF Chairman Graham Knowles recently presented a gift of the Seahorse Trophy to Janet Grosvenor. She is Admiral of The Royal Ocean Racing Club which celebrates its 100th year in 2025. The Royal Ocean Racing Club has the biggest membership in the world and the seahorse is their emblem. The plaque on the front reads 'From Stourbridge Glass Museum' and on the back it reads 'The Fifi Trophy', after Graham's boat named Fiona. Graham presented the trophy at Cowes Club House, where he has been a member for many years, during the recent Cowes Regatta week, where he has been racing in the same boat for over half a century.

The intention is for this trophy to be used for their Youth Programme for the most outstanding cadet in the training programme and Graham is arranging for some replicas to be produced which the students can retain. The delightful seahorse, by the way, was made by glass artist Gail Turbutt [Gail Turbutt Glass](#)



One for the future

David Reekie is a renowned glass artist who has been at the forefront of glass sculpture since leaving Stourbridge College of Art in 1970.

He taught for ten years at North Staffs Polytechnic and has travelled the world giving workshops and lectures on lost wax glass casting. His work is held worldwide in many museums including the V&A London.

In 1985 he set up his studio in Norwich and in 2011 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Arts by Wolverhampton University. Now in his late 70s he is still keen to express his concerns about humanity through his output.

SGM has pondered proposals to exhibit David's work at some stage and this has been brought to the fore by the latest news that David has recently completed his first portraiture commission for collector Mark Holford.

The idea for the commission came about in 2023 during a summer break in Nice when Mark suggested the idea of a sculpture showing himself and David in conversation as artist and collector.

Back in the UK, David started some preliminary sketches and did a photography session with Mark before commencing work in 2024. He says: 'I used the lost wax casting technique to form the glass figures and recorded the whole process of making the piece from start to finish. It was completed in early 2025 and I was very pleased with the result.'

Mark is delighted and explained: 'While staying with us in Nice, David gave me a pencil portrait of myself. This started the conversation, which became an idea, which became a commission and is now a reality. The result is stunning and celebrates my long and fruitful relationship with David over many years. Long may it continue.'

A Thoughtful Moment Between Artist and Collector now sits proudly in Mark Holford's collection, alongside other pieces by David. Who knows, one afternoon in the not too distant future it may be sitting alongside our collection for a while. Watch this space. More at [David Reekie Glass](#)





Sometimes the image just says it all

On the right, BGF Chairman Graham Knowles. On the left, HRH The Princess Royal. Watching with immense pride in the background, GK's wife Carol with daughters Amy and Gemma. The red and silver brocade on GK's chest, membership of the Order of the British Empire, awarded for services to charity. That'll do nicely. Graham Knowles MBE. We salute you.

Stourbridge Glass Museum Updates & Events

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

Gifts & 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.

For donations by BACS our bank details are:

HSBC Bank
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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**.

You can donate when you visit in person, if you are a UK taxpayer we can add **Gift Aid** at no extra cost to you.

To donate via **Just Giving** visit: justgiving.com/britishglassfoundation

To donate via **PayPal** visit: paypal.com and donate to bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

To donate through our **website** visit: stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk/donate

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.

Notes and Queries

We no longer undertake individual research requests.

However, you may instead find the website Antique Stourbridge Glass: Research data & illustrations a useful source of information, which we suggest in good faith as a respected resource (others are available). Please note that the British Glass Foundation/Stourbridge Glass Museum has no formal commercial connection with this organisation. They may charge for access to their services (memberships currently start at £24), and their website states that £10 of each membership is donated to the British Glass Foundation.

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. alanjpoole@aol.com
- Contemporary Glass Society latest news 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. glassassociation.org.uk

From the Hot Glass Studio:

allisternalcolm.com Facebook @allisternalcolmglass Instagram @allisternalcolmglassltd

Keep up with developments down at the studio and his work 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 ...

The Editor writes: I can't wait for Christmas, Unfortunately last year I accidentally chewed on some Christmas decorations and ended up with tinsilitis. Never mind, my favourite present was a huge bag of rice. Thanks, Uncle Ben. This year I have asked Santa to bring me one of those brilliant new universal remote control units. That will change everything.

I

See you all back here in 2026. Have a great time.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS Trustee, PR & Comms *pp* British Glass Foundation
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 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

GlassCuts is compiled and edited pro bono and distributed to its subscribers free of charge. To receive *GlassCuts* contact our Secretary (below). However, if you miss us first time around, or if you are searching for that elusive feature, then all issues of *GlassCuts* right back to number 1 are archived [here](#).

Keeping in touch

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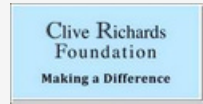
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... also Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers, Enovert Community Trust, Ibstock Enovert Trust, Clive Richards Foundation



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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:

britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation

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No responsibility etc. etc ... (usual caveats apply)

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