

# GlassCuts

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

STOURBRIDGE  
**GLASS MUSEUM**

**Celebrating BGF History 2009 – 2022**

Click: [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/) or <https://grahamfisher.co.uk/resources>

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Days since SGM opening on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022

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## Meet the 'Make it at Market' glass Artists!

Meet and greet the artists  
New art work unveiled  
Live glass making demonstrations.

Sat 4th Feb 10.30am - 4pm

As seen on BBC One!



STOURBRIDGE  
**GLASS MUSEUM**



From 10.30 a.m. meet and greet the artists in museum galleries.

9.30 a.m. - 11.30 - Glass Making demonstration by Allister and Maddy.

Hot shop demonstrations:

12.00 p.m.	Belinda King
1.00 p.m.	Alison Vincent
2.00 p.m.	Mark Fenn
3.00 p.m.	Emmy Palmer

Drinks served throughout the day.

Artists work will be available for sale in the museum shop



Also on 4 February Terri Malcolm will be holding a Pendant Making Workshop from 10 a.m. – 11.15 a.m. where you will learn how to layer glass, add pattern, colour and embellishments. The workshop lasts 40 minutes, suitable for age 12 upwards. Pendants will be available for collection the following week. Cost £35 per person.

Book here:

<https://www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk/event/pendant-making-workshop-2/>

## Grim up t'north

We open with news that Sunderland's National Glass Centre is set to be forced to move because of multi-million-pound repairs to its building.

Owner Sunderland University (*my old Alma Mater, which makes this especially poignant for me – Ed*) said a series of works have been carried out in recent years, which has seen the closure of public access to the roof. It follows a specialist review of the Riverside site, which opened in 1998. The move has been described as a 'devastating blow', but a city centre relocation is currently being assessed.

The University said it was 'actively exploring' options which include moving to multiple locations. The centre also houses the Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art and the University's glass and ceramics academic programmes.

More can be found here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-64250082> but we will, of course, bring you updates as soon as we know them ourselves.

Matters are certainly moving apace on this one, for just as we had collated the news above we received this update from various sources:

"A specialist external review commissioned by the University has concluded that a multi-million-pound investment would be required to address these issues if the NGC were to remain at its current riverside location. As a result, the University's Board of Governors have decided that the best way forward is to find an alternative location – or locations – for the NGC.'

"The University is actively exploring a variety of options which would put a reimagined National Glass Centre at the heart of Sunderland's cultural regeneration, with the potential to reach new and larger audiences and is working with key partners, including Sunderland City Council and Sunderland Culture to establish suitable sites. [Culture House](#) is one of the sites being discussed.'

## Showing the way

Our new sign is now up on the waterside frontage of the museum adjacent to Glasshouse Bridge, which means that thousands of drivers and passers-by along the A491 at Wordsley, and indeed the Stourbridge Canal for that matter, can now see exactly where we are. Nice one.



## In the spotlight

We happened across a delightful piece on BBC News about our friend way up north, artist in glass and musician Alison Kinnaird MBE [www.alisonkinnaird.com](http://www.alisonkinnaird.com)

No, we won't spoil the surprise. Just click this link and see for yourself, it's delightful. Bravo, that lady. [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-64223224](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-64223224)

## More inspirational news



2022 was the International Year of Glass and in recognition of the 'international' element Corning Museum of Glass NY has produced a short (just 53 seconds) but stunning video on their '7 Glass Wonders'. Included in the eclectic selection is the Lycurgus Cup, housed in the British Museum, alongside the Hubble telescope. It all stirring stuff and makes you realise, as if you didn't already, the significance and potential (*and increasing relevance – Ed*) of glass in the contemporary world. Get your fix here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9BL7vUjUfU>

## WHAT'S ON AT SGM

Full details of our packed programme of events are contained in our brochure (available free of charge from the Museum and other local outlets) or via the Stourbridge Glass Museum website by clicking here: <https://www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk/events/>

## Days of yore

By a coincidence that was as amazing as it was unexpected, no sooner had I put the finishing touches on the news from Sunderland (above), where I was a science student in the 1970s long before it was the National Glass Centre, I received a missive via my personal website [grahamfisher.co.uk](http://grahamfisher.co.uk) that delved back even further into the mists of my youth. It was from a former school acquaintance – let's call him Nick, for that is indeed his name – and it ran not unadjacent to the following lines:

*'Hello Graham. This will be a blast from the past for you. To put it in What3words format: Bumblebee; Leicester; 1967. (\* see below). You might remember me as the multi-instrumental music nut at RRGs, (Rowley Regis Grammar School, since demolished – Ed) and we were both on the cruise to Leicester Inland Waterways Association rally in 1967'*

*'I have lived in Jersey (C.I.) for the last 50 years, and a new pal is Marc McCarty, Jersey's only glass blower. He obtained his degree in glass art at Wolverhampton Uni in 2000, and won a scholarship to Dale Chihuly's Glass School at Pilchuk, Seattle. I lent him my copy of your first edition of Jewels on The Cut (now in its second edn. – Ed) and he is fascinated by it. I am also finding your website very interesting, and it's great to see what you have been up to in the last half-century. Anyway, good to touch base with you, and we must swap notes on our respective activities since school days.'*

And swap notes we already have; what a delightful surprise from a lifetime ago and all courtesy of an internet that was not even remotely imaginable in our youth.

So, how can we welcome Mr McCarty into our fold? Well, for starters I have contacted him personally via [www.vibrantjersey.ie/destination/artists/marc-mccarty-glassblower/](http://www.vibrantjersey.ie/destination/artists/marc-mccarty-glassblower/) with an invitation to tell us all about himself and his work. In the meantime, here's a call to our readership and anyone who knows or recalls Marc from his days in our area around the turn of the millennium. And wouldn't it be a turn-up if any of our readers in the in the good ol' US of A can share memories of Marc's time with maestro Dale Chihuly? The connection with BGF and SGM is obvious here, since we hold a Chihuly piece.

My thanks to Nick for getting in touch and instigating what may prove to be a rather large and fascinating back-story. It is precisely this sort of off-the-wall stuff that elevates what we do into the realms of something magical and way beyond just another day at the office, especially so when the core element of the tale revolves around glass. And waterways. Gosh, I love this job.

(\*) The canals weren't always considered the gems in our heritage that they are now and not so long ago were under serious threat of abandonment and infill. For many years the Inland Waterways Association <https://waterways.org.uk> founded in 1946 and still going strong alongside the newer Canal & River Trust <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk>, organised campaign rallies at various locations around the network to highlight their plight. In 1967 one such IWA rally took place on the Leicester section of the Grand Union Canal. At that time in Rowley Regis Grammar School, woodwork teacher Mr Bernie Richards was honing his pupils' carpentry skills on restoring an old wooden narrowboat. This was *Bumblebee*, and the journey to Leicester was its finest hour prior to it subsequently being broken up some years later. It also cemented the author's lifelong passion for inland waterways that continues to this day. Putting two and two together, Stourbridge Glass Museum lies adjacent to the eponymous canal. So now you know how Your Truly ended up here.

By the way, any readers' memories of that 1967 *Bumblebee* trip wouldn't go amiss.

## 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.

For donations by BACS our bank details are:

**HSBC Bank**  
**Branch Identifier Code: MIDLGB2108U**  
**Sort code: 40-38-07**  
**Account number: 72076780**

To donate via *JustGiving* visit:

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To donate *PayPal* visit: <https://www.paypal.com/uk/for-you/transfer-money/send-money> and donate to [bfg@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bfg@britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

To donate through our website visit: [www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk](http://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**.

## 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*)

We have resolved several queries 'in house' for this period but will be calling on your expertise soon.

## 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.*

- \* Latest news from the *Contemporary Glass Society*. [www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)
- \* *Alan J. Poole newsletter* latest edition. [alanjpoole@aol.com](mailto:alanjpoole@aol.com)
- \* *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London*. Updates, forthcoming Zoom presentations and more. [info@glass-sellers.co.uk](mailto:info@glass-sellers.co.uk)
- \* *The Glass Society Events Schedule*. <http://glassassociation.org.uk>

### From the Hot Studio:

[www.allistermalcolm.com](http://www.allistermalcolm.com) **Facebook** @allistermalcolmglass **Twitter** @allistermalcolm **Instagram** @allistermalcolmglassltd

As publicised across all his social media feeds, Allister is holding a special **'Make It At Market'** reunion at Stourbridge Glass Museum on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023. All are welcome but places are filling fast so you'd better book right now.

### 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*. Usual address.

### And finally ... a music lover asks

*'Following the death of guitarist Jeff Beck, can anyone please tell me the colour he chose for his coffin lining? Asking for a friend.'*

I'll get my coat and meet you in the vestry.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS  
Trustee, PR & Comms  
pp British Glass Foundation  
[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

### Getting involved

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 the new 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 via the usual address and we will be delighted to do the rest.

### 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](http://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.

## Keeping in touch

### **BGF Secretary Lynn Boleyn MBE**

Direct Line: 01384 900447

Email: [bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

Snailmail: Stourbridge Glass Museum, Stuart Works, High Street, Wordsley, West Midlands, DY8 4FB

## THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



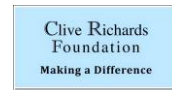
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BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

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

... together with many other contributions from other trusts, foundations and individuals. (E&OE)

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

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

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](mailto:bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk)



[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

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