

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/ or <https://grahamfisher.co.uk/resources>

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Days since SGM opening on 9th April 2022

3

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Landscaping Work

The landscaping work at the front of the museum started on 8 February and should be completed by the 31 March.



Through the ages

In the last edition I related the tale of how Nick, a colleague from my schooldays with whom I have had neither sight nor sound for the thick end of six decades, suddenly appears on our radar with some wonderful reminiscences from our collective past. He also happens to be an enthusiast for Caithness glass and one thing led to another whereby he introduced me via cyberspace to Marc McCarty. Marc holds the distinguished position of being the only glassmaker on Jersey down there in the Channel Isles. But, and here's where it gets close to home, he actually spent his formative years in our neck of the woods and still maintains regular contact.

So, ever keen to embrace new members into our fold, I ask Marc if he would like to tell us a bit about himself. And he did. It is such a delightful tale that we have cast considerations of editorial space to the wind and reproduce it here *verbatim* ...



Hi Graham. Thanks for your email and for thinking of me and my endeavours. I've had so much fun chatting to Nick about his experiences growing up in the Black Country.

I have written a memoir about my glass journey and how it started in Wolverhampton. I would very much like it to be used by you in your publication so here it is. My fascination with glass as a material started when I was a child living in London. I used to collect the smashed safety glass from bus stop windows; tiny cubes like shiny gems felt so crunchy under your feet, although I can't abide that now!

After being a chef for a while I decided that I wanted to create something that lasted longer than dinner-time! I first saw molten glass being poured into a sand mold by Stewart Garefoot at a demonstration in 1997 at Wolverhampton University's hot shop. I was hooked! The next year I enrolled on the three-year degree course and after the initial 'you must have a go at everything' (which I hated at the time, but now find invaluable) I finally got my hands on the irons! Three years passed in a flash of eight-hour days in the hot shop; I was allowed to charge the furnace (with pints of banks mild at the Feathers, in between shovels full) I helped with demonstrations and proved myself worthy enough to assist Colin Renie making work for an exhibition in Sweden. On the opening night I drank champagne, had conversations that contained the word juxtaposition and danced with the Queen of Sweden. This is when I realized that I must be an artist.

I finished my degree and won a scholarship to the Pilchuck glass school. I was to study hot glass sculpture under the maestro Dino Rosin. I was in awe of his skill and passion and had a huge respect for his family's glassmaking history. Whilst in Seattle, I visited all the main studios. And even got offered a lift in Donte Marino's helicopter (!) which I turned down and regret to this day.

I returned to Jersey and tried to set up a furnace in the Jersey pottery ceramics workshop but to no avail. My love affair with glass making had come to an abrupt end. So I became a teacher and had a family (oh the irony.)

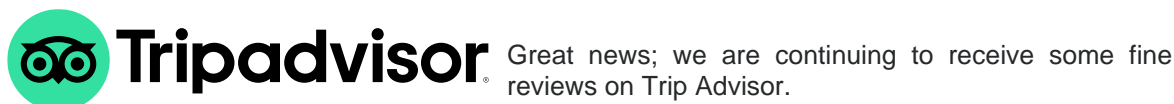
After 18 years of helping other people to make stuff, of which I was always slightly jealous, I decided that I must get back on the irons. I found a small furnace and a kiln with just enough equipment, and with my old toolbox I set up Glass Blowing Jersey. I have been operating now for five years.

I consider Glass Blowing Jersey an art glass studio, I become inspired to research and explore the idea, to make test pieces, finish the final piece, photograph, evaluate and sell the work at my studio shop. I accept commissions, and love working collaboratively with the clients and other artists. My studio is open to the public and I get an enormous sense of satisfaction from showing my visitors molten glass for the first time. Once at Brierley Hill I met a very old glassmaker with leather ties on his push bike. I can't remember he's name but he must have worked in all the main factories in the Black Country and he said: 'If you can make 150 swans a day you'll do all right, our kid'; words that still ring true to me. I hope to expand in the future. Glass making has always been a risky business. But I love it.

Thank you so much for sending me your books, it's very kind of you. I sometimes feel very isolated out here and your gift has helped me to feel more connected ... nice one! I've read *Jewels On The Cut* and am just starting *The 2012 Portland Vase Project*. Very interesting and brilliant illustrations (*Thank you - Ed*). I love what Beth and Elliot have done at Red House Cone and am hoping to visit them soon as I chat to Beth on line sometimes

I hope that you have a good day and thanks again. For anyone who wishes to keep in touch here is my *Facebook* page: <https://m.facebook.com/MarcMcCarty123/>

Keep it going



In fact I am told we are currently 'number 2 attraction' for the area and are only being pipped to the post by a venue that is, strictly speaking, not even in the Black Country. So thank you to all those who have so graciously contributed, and of course a huge thank you to all the super staff and wonderful volunteers at SGM who have made it all possible. These positive reviews don't just happen y'know; there's an awful lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes to help generate them. So spread the word and get your mates to come and see what's on offer. Who knows, with your help we may next time be reporting we are 'Numero Uno.'

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g616275-d23980250-Reviews-Stourbridge_Glass_Museum-Stourbridge_West_Midlands_England.html

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/>

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:

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

That man again

Our sincere thanks to fellow Trustee and Fieldings Auctioneers' very own Will Farmer for including surplus items from our recent 'Something Old for Something New' initiative in his latest sale. Proceeds are graciously donated to BGF coffers (which, as you will recall, all goes to 'the cause') and it all takes place at Fieldings in Stourbridge on Thursday 16th February. More details of the day on the Fieldings website lots number 292 – 316:

<https://fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk/auctions/243/page:6>

Evolution not revolution

It evidently hasn't gone unnoticed, because you are ever-eager to tell us, that we have of late subtly refreshed our appearance in distributing your favourite email bulletin and now highlight it as part of an even more comprehensive round-up including features, what's on and other developments. But at its core, as you can see, is still your very own *GlassCuts* that will continue, as it always has done, to bring you all the news that is news just as soon as we hear it ourselves. Yep, appearances may change but we're still there for you. And thanks, as always, for your kind comments and feedback.

Hitting the airwaves

You may recall that we had the BBC Antiques Roadshow team here a while back recording and generally doing their stuff for a programme. Well, the time has arrived for it to be aired on the telly so either get prepared to sit down with a cup of tea and a biccie, or set the video in readiness for 3.45pm on Wednesday 15th February when it all happens.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001j7kz>

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*)

Keep 'em coming in and we'll do our best.

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
- * *Alan J. Poole newsletter* latest edition. alanjpoole@aol.com
- * *The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London*. Updates, forthcoming Zoom presentations and more. info@glass-sellers.co.uk
- * *The Glass Society Events Schedule*. <http://glassassociation.org.uk>

From the Hot Studio:

www.allistermalcolm.com **Facebook** @allistermalcolmglass **Twitter** @allistermalcolm **Instagram** @allistermalcolmglassitd

There's a delightful, and well-deserved piece on Allister and his recent mentoring work featured in the latest edition of the bulletin from the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers. Click here for more: <https://www.glass-sellers.co.uk/news/bringing-back-glass-design-competition-results/>



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 ...

'It's not very often I go shopping but I took a stroll down our High Street the other day and couldn't help noticing that Curry's don't sell curries, Oddbins don't sell bins and Boots don't sell boots. I was especially disappointed with the Virgin Megastore'.

I'll get my coat.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS
Trustee, PR & Comms
pp British Glass Foundation
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 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
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... also Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers, Enover Community Trust, Ibstock Enover Trust, Clive & Sylvia Richards Charity



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/

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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



British Glass Foundation

www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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