

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

2

6

Revisiting a masterpiece. Or two.

We are always on the look-out for opportunities to keep our exhibitions looking fresh, so we are pleased to announce that the cameo section at Stourbridge Glass Museum has had a bit of a shuffle and the 2012 Portland Vase Project artefacts are now housed in the upper level in a spot that affords them more prominence within the Grand Scheme.

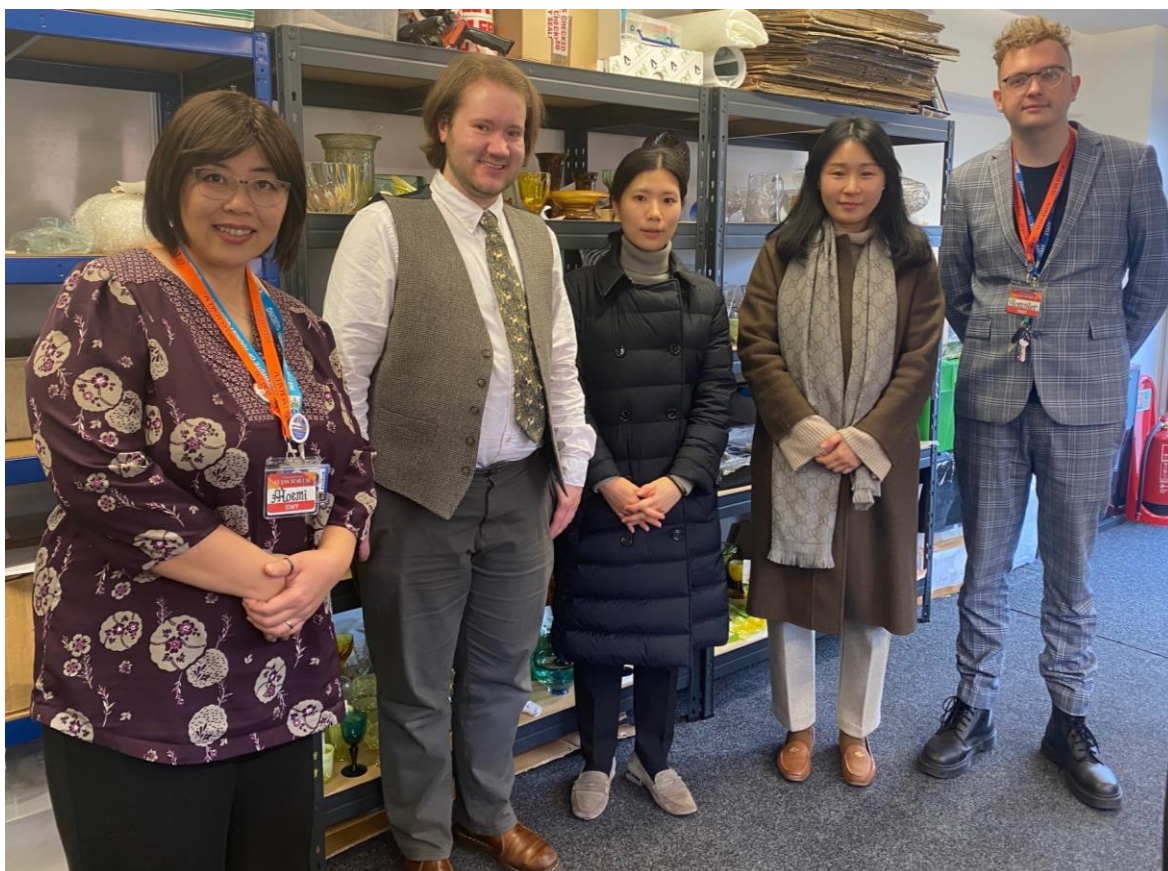
Project Coordinator for that memorable 2012 achievement, Ian Dury, tells us: *'This is lovely; the Portland Vase project is a wonderful example of showcasing the glassmaking talents we still have here in Stourbridge and I am delighted its revised siting will further brighten the light on our gifted and world-renowned glass makers'*. You think so too? Do come and take a look for yourself and give us your opinion.

But there's more we can reveal; shortly after the 2012 Portland Vase project was complete, Ian mooted the idea of recreating the Blue (or 'Naples') Vase. Regular readers with long memories will recall we then found a suitable cameo blank. And there, for various reasons (not least the opening of a museum), the notion ended. Until now, where rumours are afoot that certain people may have caught the Blue Vase bug and are beginning to scratch at it. Say no more, just watch this space.



Making new friends

Thursday 24th February was a busy day for volunteers and staff at the museum when, amongst other things, a kiddies half-term umbrella-making event came face-face with a visitation of delegates from the National Museum of South Korea, here on a fact-finding mission researching glass and other items at Royal Palaces.



They were ably shown around by our volunteer co-ordinator Moemi Madigan, herself rising rapidly up the ratings of the coveted Blue Badge Tourism Guide Scheme, so our visitors were in competent hands. Moemi takes up the story of how it all came about ...

'National Museum of South Korea is housed in a former Korean Emperor's palace: they have some collection of lighting items and they are planning on the exhibition around them. Many were made by Japanese glass makers and some were by Thomas Webb (pieces were Burmese glass and part of a candelabra or chandelier). Last year, the group went to Japan for their research about the Japanese items and they met Ms Sally Haden who was also happened to be in Japan on a research visit for her book. She specialises for Japanese Kiriko Glass. (She planned to come to the museum around last June to give us a talk on the historical link between British glass cutting and Japanese Kiriko Glass, unfortunately it was cancelled due to ill health back then.)

She recommended Stourbridge Glass Museum, mentioned Harrison our Curator and informed them that I am qualified Blue Badge Tourist Guide for Heart of England and can speak Japanese / English. She also suggested they contact David Willars of the Glass Society for some information, hence his involvement.

I have been co-ordinating the itinerary for their visit to them since last December. They wanted to visit Red Glass House Glass Cone, then visit Stourbridge Glass Museum for our tour and have a meeting with Harrison. They invited David to come along.



I picked them up from the Stourbridge Junction, brought them to the RHGC for a tour by their guide and lunch during which I offered further information, then brought them for our guided tour of SGM, followed by a meeting with Harrison and David for which had Harrison prepared some pattern books to show them. After their visit, I took them to the station and they left happy with the result of the research. (I hope!).

The gifts they brought included some embroidered coasters of Korean Motifs and Lantern making kits, together with their museum guidebook in English version'.

In a warm gesture of 'hands across the water' Harrison, David and Moemi were presented with lanterns together with a copy of a book featuring the Korean Royal Palaces collection. Even our umbrella-makers, which were otherwise unconnected with the Koreans' visit, were presented with a lantern. This was a great day for both of our respective museums and yet another inspirational example of the Power of Glass to encourage cooperation and friendship on a global scale.



Very many thanks



Following his sad death as reported in a special supplement to GC182 in June 2021, the legend that was, and still is, Fred Bridges is now secured in perpetuity at Stourbridge Glass Museum by way of his posthumous support of, and affection for, our efforts.

As we speak, BGF Secretary Lynn is compiling a letter of thanks to his son and executor Dr Richard Bridges in recognition of Fred's expressed wish to offer a pre-determined percentage of his estate to our funds. The amount is a substantial one and will go a considerable way to furthering our aims in the medium to long term. Which is just what Fred would have wanted. Our heartfelt thanks to Richard and of course, the man himself - Fred Bridges.

Fred's supplement is available at <https://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/proposals/glass-cuts/> However, in tribute to a wonderful and singularly generous man we are delighted to again enclose it here in case you missed it first time around. Thanks, Fred.

Spreading the word



Congratulations to our very own curator Harrison Davies who recently addressed Wolverhampton Society of Artists on the subject of the history of Stourbridge Glass and, in particular, our new museum. He was rewarded for his efforts with paeons of praise from an appreciative Society, together with the possibility of a later visit to our humble emporium so they can see for themselves what we have to offer.

This is what my friend Boris would call a 'double whammy' of addressing an audience and then getting that same audience to visit us. It's hugely rewarding and there's always the glow of satisfaction of a job well done. But lest this begin to sound all too glamorous, there is an awful lot of work goes into researching and preparing a talk before taking it lock, stock and barrel to a venue ... and then having the courage and talent to stand in front of an eager group to deliver the goods. After a lifetime of doing it myself I can tell you it's bloomin' hard work, so good reason to offer Harrison our thanks for his sterling efforts in helping maintain our public profile at the sharp end.

More on Harrison's contribution here: <https://www.wolverhamptonsocietyofartists.co.uk/harrison-davies-new-stourbridge-glass-museum/>

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.**



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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**.

Old for new

Back in GC216 we mentioned the forthcoming 'Something old for something new' sale at Fieldings Auctioneers, courtesy of colleague and fellow Trustee Will Farmer. Well, as my grannie used to say: *'Es bin 'n cum 'n gone agen'* on 16th February and we are very pleased to report that a figure not unadjacent to several hundred pounds was raised on the day, which has since gone straight to BGF funds. Congratulations all round plus a special thanks to Will and participants for their support.

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*)



** One green bottle, hanging on the wall. Well, not quite hanging, but at least it is green. And we think it may be 19th C French, but we'd value your opinions which, in turn, our correspondent Sally Tomlinson will no doubt be delighted to hear.*



** How long does a fortnight of candlesticks last? About two wicks (you have to be born within 5 miles of Dudley to fully appreciate the mordant wit in that one.) Anyway, the unusual marking may give the game away in identifying this pair of beauties.. Any takers? Reader Pauline Jacobs would love to know.*



** And one more for this session: Barbara Weaving would be interested to learn more about a couple of intriguing glass she picked up at auction. She tells us: 'They stand 11cm high and have rough pontil marks. There are a few bubbles in the glass and they have a greenish tinge'. We have a few ideas floating around GlassCuts Towers on these but we would be keen to hear on Barbara's behalf if there's more we can tell her.*



... over to you, glass-detectives. We appreciate your help, we really do. As do our readers who raise the queries in the first place. So, just to show we can sometime sort it ourselves 'in house', here's an example of a response sent out recently by our curator Harrison Davies to a reader enquiring about a rather curious vase ...

'It's Italian in style and I presume it's mid-century. It's possibly Murano glass, or under the name and sold commonly to tourists, which was produced in the islands of the same name in northern Italy.

The area has historic roots in glassmaking and during the 19th and 20th century, it became one of the global, collectible labels for glass exports. Murano glass as most known is very artistic and explorative, with glassmakers exploring new colours and techniques in a playful, Italian style.

Your vase has an 'owl' or 'fish' shape which is very distinctive of Italian taste and the decoration of little twists and the circles is created by twist stem work added into the vase as it was blown, and cut millefiori. Millefiori comes from the Italian for 'thousands of flowers', due to the patterns in their cross section. They could be used as beads most commonly, but were worked into whole glass pieces like vases, or just a few added. This sort of bold colour and playful style suggests mid to late 20th century.'

Keep 'em coming.



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** @allistermalcolmglassltd

There's plenty going on right now, with a major furnace refurbishment also in the offing. We'll keep you posted.

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, news from upstairs ...

'I found some old carpet in the loft today so I used it to make a ventriloquist's dummy. It's ruggish.

I'll ket my goat and a gottle of gear. Silly gugger.

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

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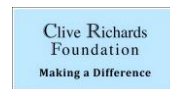


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BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

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

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

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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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