

GlassCuts

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

STOURBRIDGE
GLASS MUSEUM

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.
Now available direct from the museum. All proceeds to BGF.

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Collaborative exhibition now on

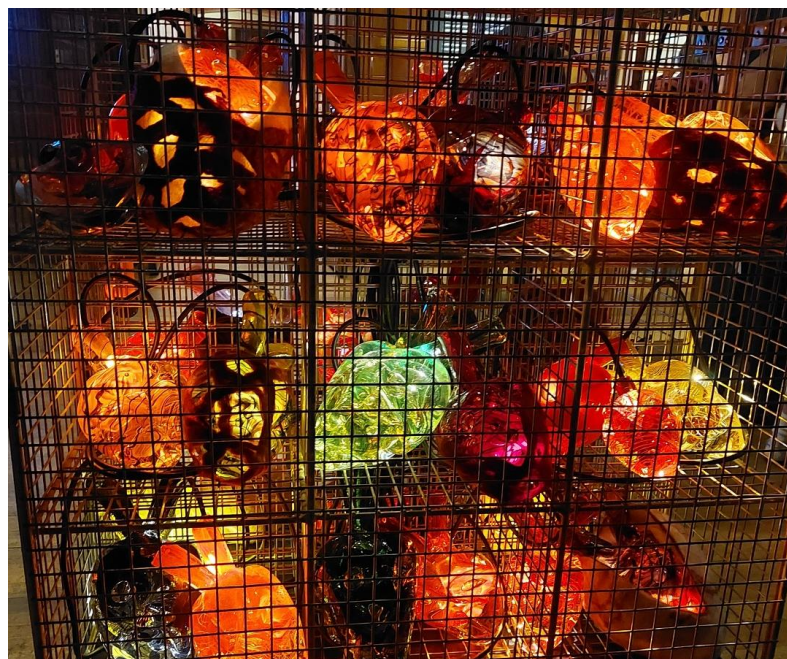


A new exhibition *The Glass Heart - Art, Industry and Collaboration* is currently being held in London. It is being run in conjunction with a number of organisations, including Stourbridge Glass Museum, and we are truly delighted that a couple of our own local artists feature prominently.

The organisers describe it thus: *'This bold new exploration of glass in the UK brings together for the very first time rarely seen works from key UK collections, celebrating this remarkable material – unforgiving, fragile, strong, sustainable. The Glass Heart will make you think again about glass as we explore how it has illuminated and contained human narratives and ideas'*.

SGM Museum Manager Alex Goodger attended the preview and tells us: *'This exhibition is truly a spectacular showcase, and we were delighted to see the work of two of our own esteemed BGF trustees and professional glassmakers, Chris Day and Elliot Walker, prominently featured. Their contributions, alongside those of other artists and industry collaborators, were truly exemplary and added depth and significance to the exhibition. The art, industry, and collaboration on display was inspiring and we thoroughly enjoyed our experience'*.

The Glass Heart - Art, Industry and Collaboration is at Two Temple Place in London WC2R 3BD until 21st April 2024. www.twotempleplace.org



Glass under discussion

If you happened to tune in to the consistently excellent *Start the Week* on Radio 4, 9.00am Monday 29th January you will have heard Tom Sutcliffe and his panel of experts discussing *Made Out of Glass*. Guests included Professor John M. Parker, Professor of Glass Art (University of Sheffield), Curator of the Turner Museum of Glass and Honorary Member, Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London. The new exhibition *The Glass Heart - Art, Industry and Collaboration* featuring two of our glassmaking colleagues Chris Day and Elliot Walker was also referenced.

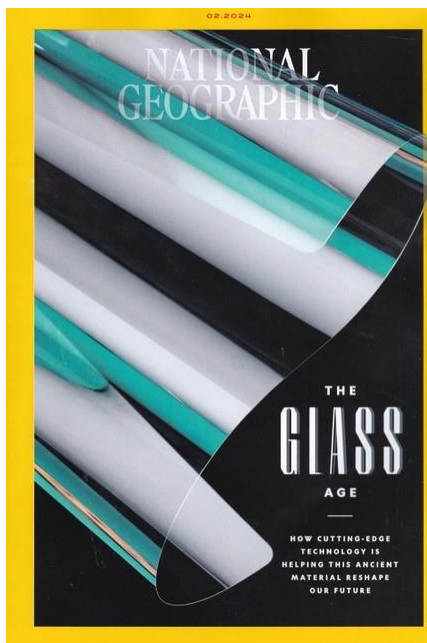
If you didn't catch it first time around, it's currently available in full (42 minutes) on BBC Sounds <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vs75>

Make you own

Bethany Wood's Blowfish Glass, based just over yonder from us in Red House Cone, is again hosting masterclasses throughout 2024. There are two upcoming masterclasses, one with Elliot Walker and a second with Layne Rowe. Don't hang about; these things are hugely popular, and at the time of writing this snippet, both are nearly sold out. No doubt there's a waiting list for the next round of masterclasses you can go on, but it is best to get in there now if you can. It also helps if you have done a spot of glassblowing with them on a previous course, but Blowfish will advise you on that. <https://obby.co.uk/schools/blowfish-glass>

For more information, email: bethany@blowfishglassart.com

The future is clear



Thanks to the largesse of a close family friend, I have been receiving *National Geographic* magazine every single month since 1966. That's quite a collection now, but in all those volumes I cannot recall seeing a detailed feature on glass. The February 2024 puts that to rights with a major piece that bridges the gap between venerable beginnings and future prospects for our favourite medium. It is also perhaps an indicator of how glass is moving into a new era with hitherto unimagined applications. Not surpassingly in view of NG's origins, there's a heavy focus on goings-on Stateside, in particular at Corning Museum of Glass NY, but the feature also examines places in far-away lands that are taking glass to the cutting edge of technological development; from telescopes in Chile to polarising lenses from China. Yet it is still sobering to realise that the development of simple glass spectacles was a key factor in the development of entire civilisations. <https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk>

A bit more time

The Biennales at International Festival of Glass 2024 (as featured GC231) are proving so well subscribed that the organisers have extended the submission deadline by one week to midnight 3rd March 2024. <https://biennale.submittable.com/submit>

Happy anniversary to us

My goodness, how time flies when you're having fun. It comes as a surprise to realise that it's almost a year since the official opening of Stourbridge Glass Museum in April 2023, so here is early notification that we intend to celebrate this significant anniversary with a grand Gala Evening. For now, just put a note in your diary for **Friday 19th April 2024**; we'll give you full details real soon. *(Remember that time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana – Ed)*



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:

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

To donate via *JustGiving* visit:

<https://donate.justgiving.com/donation-amount?uri=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBpLmp1c3RnaXZpbmcuY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvN2FIMjkxYTM1NDlhNDUxMjk1NzdlODgzOFRiZihkMDQ=>

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**.

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*)

David Morales has been in touch and is trying to identify a champagne glass bought in London if anyone can help please. The seller said it was Stourbridge glass but he does not have any further information about it. The glass is 12.5 cms high and it has 8 cut panels and a hollow stem.



* This took us by surprise, and managed to put a big smile our reader Barbara Straughn's face as well. In the last issue we laid her query before you regarding the words Glap(p) and Glap(p)maker which Barbara has come across in researching some family origins. We thought it would test you but within minutes of GC going out the wires were alive with responses. Principal amongst these was our colleague in the USA and fellow BGF Trustee James Measell. It so happens that James came across such references a little while back whilst pursuing his studies on local glassworkers.

James tells us: 'I have had a good go at the UK census ... 1841 to 1911 ... seeking 'glap makers' and their kin. Yes, there are quite a few 'glap makers' and there are also 'glap cutters' and 'glap engravers' I even came upon a few 'glap bottle makers'! *Conclusion:* A 'glap maker' is a 'glass maker' who has fallen victim to the penmanship of a UK census enumerator and the subsequent transcription of his handwriting in ukcensusonline.com James concludes by very helpfully providing a copy of an entry showing a 'glap cutter' and a 'glap engraver' in the same household in Staffordshire 1851

Looks like we did it again, folks; our thanks to James for his erudite explanation and also to Dilwyn of Antique Stourbridge Glass and Clare at Dudley Archives who also directed us along parallel lines. In print, the long 's' was phased out in the early part of the 19th century but continued to be used in handwriting into the latter half of the century. We are also indebted to Clive, a private collector and friend of BGF, who provided us with supporting information and also raised a few lines of further research. All of our information has, of course, been passed to our enquirer. Thank you.

* *Just so's yer knows:* Not every query we take on board appears in these pages, so we like to give those we resolve 'behind the scenes' a mention just to show that whilst it may seem quiet up front there's lot's always going on out in the back, if you get my drift.

Hence our thanks to David Williams-Thomas, former Chair & CEO of Royal Brieley Crystal, and nowadays our very own BGF Patron, who has offered a rapid and singularly authoritative response to a query from someone wishing to know what happened to various elements of the RB collection after the factory closed. This was a query that was of specific interest, hence we replied to the enquirer direct, but of course if you wish to know more then we will gladly supply the information via the usual channels.

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.

- * Alan J. Poole newsletter latest edition. alanjpoole@aol.com
- * Contemporary Glass Society latest news. www.cgs.org.uk
- * 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.allistermalcolm.com **Facebook** @allistermalcolmglass **Twitter** @allistermalcolm **Instagram** @allistermalcolmglassLtd
Follow all that's going on via Allister's feeds.

As described in GCs *passim* there are exciting goings-on down at the studio. Al and the team are capturing it all and uploading it regularly to his feeds where you can keep up with the latest.



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 ...

'To prove a point, I've just ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know.'

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 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. 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

BGF Secretary & Business Manager Lynn Boleyn MBE

01384 900447 : bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk : Stourbridge Glass Museum, Stuart Works, High Street, Wordsley, West Midlands, DY8 4FB

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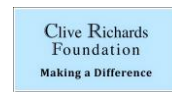
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... also Dudley MBC, Fieldings Auctioneers, Enover Community Trust, Ibstock Enover Trust, Clive Richards Foundation



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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Our full Privacy Statement is at www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk or can be supplied by us on request. Subscribers can withdraw at any time simply by sending an email to the bgf address below with 'stop' in the subject header. 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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