

# 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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## A flying start

Thank you for all your feedback following the inaugural edition of our lifestyle bulletin *OffCuts* and especially to all who dived in headlong to contribute. Our feature on the two glass vases and our new resident *artiste* Tom Southall both drew much interest and we are indebted to our readers for filling over some glaring cracks in our knowledge. In summary ...

The Elton John Vase was engraved by David Smith's son Chris. David was the designer and engraver at Webb Corbett. He taught his son the type of sand engraving technique that Terri College (resident at SGM) now uses, involving masking off with sticky back plastic tape. Around this time David also produced a cased ruby vase entitled 'A walk on Kinver Edge'. We believe Chris then left the glass industry and joined the Police. Royal Doulton published a book which featured both items. Our informant prods my memory that the talk I gave was at Wordsley Community Centre and the man who piped up 'I made it' (the Elton John case) was Malcolm Andrews, a hugely respected name in the glass trade. If the name sounds familiar then Kevin Andrews (Tom Southall's mentor, who sadly died) and Malcolm were cousins.

Both the Elephant Vase and the Elton John Vase are in the collection. The former is annotated that it was engraved by Frank Webb, the Elton John Vase bears the mark SGC.BSH 7/11/83 R.S NOO1X.



Also in the collection is a piece by Chris Smith plus several pieces that David Smith donated to the collection together with an intaglio lathe. A small but very informative booklet *Cameo Glass* by David and Chris Smith was published in 1982 by Dudley MBC (Leisure & Recreation) in a limited run of 2000. (Out of print, but available online; at the time of writing, I note there are several on sale at under a tenner - Ed).

*With acknowledgements to: Ian Dury, Sarah Hall, Old Uncle T. Cobley and all.*

For those of you already craving your next fix, issue 2 of *OffCuts* will be out soon. We have already received contributions so can tell you it is going to be eclectic. Meanwhile, *GlassCuts* will continue, as usual, to bring you all the news that is news from the *Wonderful World of Glass*<sup>©GF</sup>

## The Big Bash draws near

The Stourbridge Glass Museum Gala Evening, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024. You know it makes sense. Get your tickets [here](#). Be quick; they're going fast. This time next year Rodney, we'll all be millionaires.

This prestigious event to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of Stourbridge Glass Museum will include a VIP reception followed by an evening of presentations and 'live' demonstrations showcasing the museum's work. Speakers will include Yours Truly, glassmaker Chris Day, and glass expert Dr Max Stewart. Allister Malcolm and his team will be showing their skills at glassmaking and their exhilarating *Fire Poi* performance.

A highlight of the evening will be a raffle/blind auction with the opportunity to win a truly unique work of glass specially made for the event by glassmaker and fellow BGF Trustee Chris Day. Plus, there will be a very distinctive surprise courtesy of our resident glassmaker Allister.

Tickets are £50 and are going fast so don't miss out. All proceeds will support SGM.



*Photography by Simon Bruntnell*

## 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/>

## A curator's job is never done

With thanks to the largesse of a supporter, we are imminently about to receive a little bit of Chance glass. Well, erm, 46 boxes at the last count. Phew! Just as soon as we've sorted what's what, you'll be the second to know. Watch this space. And spare a thought for the poor bloke who has to sort it.

## The QEST is on again

Laura McKee tells us that the QEST and Heritage Crafts Sustainability Award is back again in 2024. Applications are now open; the deadline is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Laura says: 'If you know a craftsperson who is committed to improving sustainability in their practice, is innovative and an inspiration for others, spread the word about the Award. We're looking for makers who've made a change to their materials or processes or innovated in another way to measurably reduce their impact on the environment within the last twelve months.'

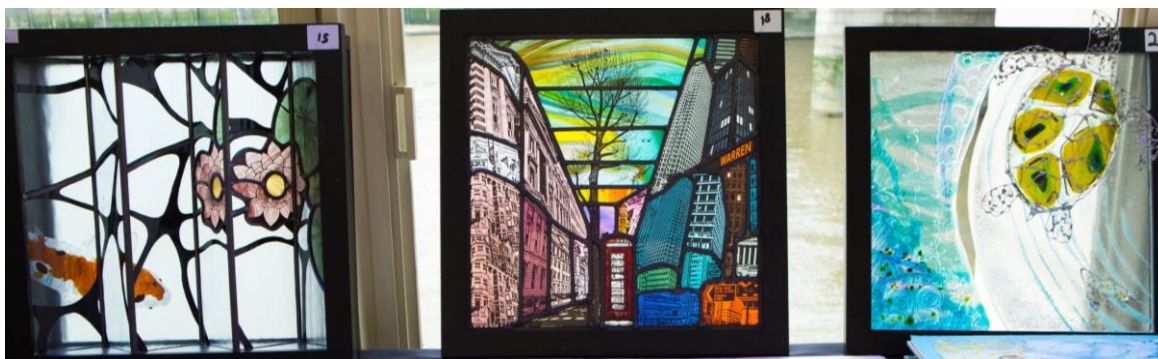
This year, the Award has been split into two prizes: '*Material Innovation*' and '*Improving Processes*'. Each winner will receive £1,000 and will be recognised at a Winners' Reception at the Vicar's Hall, Windsor Castle in November.'

To apply, click [here](#) and for more information, click [here](#)

## Opportunities in stained glass

*The Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass* has announced two awards that will provide successful applicants with work placements in stained glass studios of national or international repute.

*The Lever Award 2024* provides a 30-week placement and pays a total of £11,550 (or £385 per week). There is also a training fund of £1,000. This award is open to a recent graduate, a promising trainee, or other individual interested in broadening his or her experience in stained glass, with a view to making a career in this field. It is open to those interested in becoming a stained-glass conservator or stained-glass artist. Students and practitioners from other conservation/arts disciplines are invited to apply. Applications are invited from individuals within five years of completion of their initial training in/introduction to the craft.



*The Ashton Hill Award 2024* is a 15-week placement and pays a total of £5,775 (£385 per week), plus there is a training fund of £750. This award is also open to a recent graduate, a promising trainee, or other individual interested in broadening his or her experience in stained glass, with a view to making a career in this field. It is open to those interested in becoming a stained-glass conservator or stained-glass artist. Students and practitioners from other conservation/arts disciplines are invited to apply. Applications are invited from individuals within five years of completion of their initial training in/introduction to the craft.

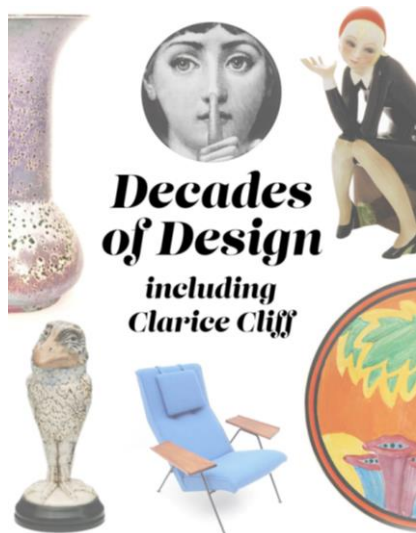
All candidates must be resident or employed in the UK. Applicants may apply for both awards. The application deadline for both is noon on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, with interviews on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024. For further details and information on how to apply, click [here](#)

**Editor's note:** this information couldn't have come in at a more propitious moment since, by sheer coincidence, we will be featuring the work of renowned stained glass artist Henry Thomas Bosdet (1856-1934) in issue 2 of our new lifestyle bulletin *OffCuts*. Fret ye not if you're wondering how to receive it; if you are already signed up to *GlassCuts* then *OffCuts* will drop into your inbox automatically.

Whilst excited by this news from The Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass we are saddened to remind our readers that, as reported in *GC* at the time, in early 2023 stained glass window making was placed on the 'Endangered' list of surviving UK crafts, as recorded by the Heritage Crafts Register. <http://heritagecrafts.org.uk/redlist/categories-of-risk/>

The British Glass Foundation is pleased to support initiatives aimed at securing the future of all traditional crafts and skills but, of course, especially those involving glass.

## Latest auction news



The next Fieldings (Stourbridge) *Decades of Design* auction will be held over Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March (lots 1-533) and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (lots 534-1147) with viewings from Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March onwards.

Featured this time around is the work of Clarice Cliff and, amongst other items, loads of glass. <http://fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk/>

*(Fieldings also offer a valuation service if you're looking to sell. In the interests of balance, we must point out that other auction houses are available. But none of them have their proprietor as a BGF Trustee 'like wot we does'. There, that should cover it - Ed.)*

## 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=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBPmp1c3RnaXZpbmcuY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvN2FIMjIxNDIhNDUxMik1NzdlODgzOTRIzhkMDQ=>

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



\* This lovely response to last issue's query from Suzanne Pages-Slassor regarding her bud vase came in courtesy of reader John Taylor who told us: *'I joined the company in July 1979. The vase was in production then. The company at that time traded as Stevens & Williams. The vase has a blue label titled Royal Brierley. So it was manufactured after the company's registered name change, officially recorded as 1985'*.

\* Reader Mrs M. Birks-Hay needs a bit of help: *'I was given four fine glass candleholders as a wedding present in 1972. I thought they were Dartington, but they say not. I still think they were probably bought from Dartington. I now want to pass them on, but would like to be able to name the maker. Can you assist please?'*

\* Emma Jones is trying to trace her glassmaker great-grandfather. Arthur Henry Jones was born around 1920-21 and passed away aged either 26 or 28 from tuberculosis. It is believed he that he made valves for televisions, which narrows down the possible factories. We are chasing through our records and contacts but are happy on Emma's behalf to broaden her appeal through our readers.



## 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](mailto:alanjpoole@aol.com)
- \* Contemporary Glass Society latest news. [www.cgss.org.uk](http://www.cgss.org.uk)  
Monthly Glass Network Digital also available.
- \* The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London. Updates: [info@glass-sellers.co.uk](mailto:info@glass-sellers.co.uk)
- \* The Glass Society Events Schedule. <http://glassassociation.org.uk>
- \* Scottish Glass Society Newsletter No. 1 (2024). Subscribe via: [SGSsecretary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:SGSsecretary@hotmail.co.uk)
- \* Cumbria Crystal March updates. <https://cumbriacrystal.com>  
Also, *glassblowing experiences* again available.

## From the Hot Studio:

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Keep up with the latest via AI's media feeds.

### 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 ...

*'My dog has taken to drinking red wine out of his water bowl. The vet tells me he's a Bordeaux Collie'.*

No, get your own coat.

Graham Fisher MBE FRGS  
Trustee, PR & Comms  
pp British Glass Foundation  
[www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://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 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 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. 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 : [bof@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bof@britishglassfoundation.org.uk) : Stourbridge Glass Museum, Stuart Works, High Street, Wordsley, West Midlands, DY8 4FB

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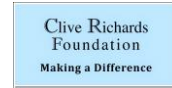
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BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

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 : 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/](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk/the-foundation/)

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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)



British Glass Foundation

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