

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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Broadening horizons; staying in the game

Over the past few months we have been bringing you all the news that is news from our pioneering Hot Studio. In between fending off accolades from all directions, Allister and the team are working very much at the head of the curve in taking the high-energy world of glassmaking into a less carbon-intensive future based on electricity and with a keen eye to renewables.

BBC Radio WM has been quick to spot this and recently visited SGM to get the latest updates. Allister waxes full tilt at the benefits of change, citing improvements in costs, efficiency, carbon footprints and all the other boxes that need to be ticked *en route*. But, towards the end of an interview of just under five minutes, which will carry you nicely through a coffee break so no hassle, he comes out with a corker of a one-liner that succinctly encapsulates it all. Referring to comments from his own daughter as to her slant on the sustainability of glassmaking, Allister says: *'If changes aren't made then I think people will be held accountable in years to come.'* (Argue with that one at your peril – Ed).

Ok, Allister is *'one o' we'* so I must declare an interest, but if you hold even the remotest concern for the future of our 400-years old industry this is a compelling, and sometimes uncomfortable, listen. But filled with optimism; as is the accompanying reportage.

With acknowledgements to BBC Radio WM, read the text [here](#) and listen to the audio interview [here](#)



Stourbridge glass studio goes electric after rise in gas bills

bbc.com

SGM – a milestone

Friday 19th April marked the first anniversary of Stourbridge Glass Museum's 'official' opening by HRH Duke of Gloucester. Anyone who has ever established a business or similar operation knows that the first year is critical in gauging success, so getting through it in sound shape is a good start. We are pleased to report that all the indicators for our first full year (together with those from the previous year which saw our 'soft' opening to the public) are positive. This gives us the confidence to report to you, our supporters, that we are on the right path. The figures support our assertion and our annual accounts are openly published via our website. Perhaps a more pragmatic indicator is by coming to SGM and taking a look when it's regularly heaving with visitors! Onwards and upwards ...



New talent, local venue

The Contemporary Glass Society (CGS) is taking part in a new collaboration with the General Office Gallery. *'Glass Beginnings: Graduates of 2024'* will be open to new graduates working in glass. It will run from 17th August to 1st September 2024 as a partner venue of the International Festival of Glass and will feature 10 - 15 graduates selected from those graduating from a British or Irish accredited course or from a British or Irish accredited MA or PhD course in 2024. Application deadline is 6th May.

The Contemporary Glass Society is the premier supporter and promoter of contemporary glass art and glass artists within the UK. www.cgs.org.uk

Established in 2018, the General Office in Hagley Road is an independent gallery housing studios, gallery and print room. Its aim is to provide space for local and national creatives to exhibit, collaborate and engage the public with contemporary art practices within the Dudley Borough. It has so far showcased works by over 250 artists across a variety of disciplines. www.generaloffice.co.uk

Boot on other foot time



We will always be grateful for the support shown to us by our friends at the National Lottery Heritage Fund, so we are really pleased to be able to bring you news of how you - yes, you out there - can become part of the team who ultimately end up actually giving out the money. Amanda Chan, Marketing & Communications Manager (Midlands and East) has advised us of the opening of a recruitment round for her team. *'Committee members play a really important role, deciding which projects should receive funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund'* she says. The deadline for applications is 22nd May and details are on the HF Twitter link (or whatever that nice Mr Musk calls it this week) which you can find [here](#)

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=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBpLmp1c3RnaXZpbmcuY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvN2FIMjkkYTM1NDIhNDUxMjk1NzdlODgzOFRiZihkMDQ=>

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.

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*)

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

Monthly *Glass Network Digital* also available.

* *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** @allistermalcolmglassitd
Follow all that's going on via Allister's feeds.

Allister has kindly given us this latest update on his ongoing transition from gas to electricity...

Hi everyone. We've been busy down here in the studio. Our electric reheating chamber is now installed and up and running courtesy of *Interpower Induction*. You'll recall we took a previous model for a test drive for about four months and were greatly impressed. We are the first in the country to embrace this technology and look forward to sharing information about our journey.

Now the only items using gas in the studio are the iron warmer and a couple of hand-held torches. We are looking at solutions to the former right now. In May we anticipate commencing the installation of solar panels and in addition the studio will be switching to a provider supplying us with 100% renewable energy. To explain the difficulties here with an analogy, consider the following: imagine being used to cooking at home on a gas hob and oven and then suddenly switching to an air fryer and induction hob. You know that the new kit is perfectly capable of the job but where do you start with your timing? Hmmm ... tackling this learning curve has taken us the best part of the past twelve months but we've got there.

We have come a long way and learnt a lot, so I wanted to take a moment to celebrate what we have achieved with a new collection. For centuries glass has been used as a vessel; take a look at my new spin on this ... all form part of submissions for the forthcoming International Festival of Glass but specifically *The Thriving Canopy* and figures will be on show here at Stourbridge Glass Museum as part of the IFoG sustainability exhibition. *(Please note that use of imagery for promotional purposes is acceptable subject to acknowledgement of photographer Simon Bruntnell)*

To place these pieces into a contemporary context, I should explain that *The Thriving Canopy* was a pivotal moment for me when we were experiencing the worst effects of the energy crisis. My studio was hit so hard I thought that the previous year as a professional glass artist would be my last. By transitioning to 95% renewable energy sources in my art and consciously stepping away from fossil fuels, it has certainly felt like a fresh start. I use a range of air plants (*Tillandsia*) to depict a biodiverse and healthy scene. These plants rest within coloured vessels and stems to create a vibrant landscape encouraging the viewer to feel positive about adopting sustainable practices. I hope this tempts you to come along to the museum and view the other pieces alongside the new equipment in which they were all created.



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 ...

It's that time of year again when we turn to our tax forms, so we thought we would give you some simple advice on how HMRC would prefer you to fill in yours.

- 1) *What was your income for the past year?*
- 2) *What were your expenses?*
- 3) *How much do you have left over?*
- 4) *Send it in.*

Hope that helps ...

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 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 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

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Keeping in touch

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



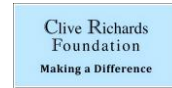
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BGF would also like to acknowledge the following, *inter alia*, for their support and generosity ...

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 : 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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