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## *GlassCuts Issue 5*

Hello all,

We couldn't let the first anniversary of BGF pass without a special edition of *GlassCuts*. And so, to the tune of 'Happy Birthday' - y'all join in, now - here goes with an update of what's happening in the wonderful world of Stourbridge Glass.

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

One Year On  
Escape from New York  
And now Ian's at it  
The Blue Basket  
Bottles 'R Us  
A Master Chef on Masterchef  
And another star of the silver screen  
Dates for your diary



### **One Year On**

Today (24th November) is officially the first anniversary of British Glass Foundation. Happy Birthday, BGF, and sincere thanks to all who got you this far. Much achieved already, still much more yet to do. 'Nuff said. [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

### **Escape From New York**

Yes folks, he's back .... Charles Hajdamach returns. As reported in *GlassCuts 2* when he was just about to depart for the USA, Charles has now has undertaken his lectures and, in addition to lots of other great promotional work, his visit included presenting a recently-produced book outlining the White House Cone proposals to Karol Wight, the new Executive Director at Corning, and Jane Shadel Spillman, Curator of American Glass. Full details will be found in the BGF Newsletter, out soon. Bravo, Charles, welcome back.

## And Now Ian's At It

Ian Dury, as all with an interest in glass must surely now know, is Project Leader for the 2012 Portland Vase attempt at Ruskin. Following in Charles' wake, he too is visiting the States between 13th and 27th of this month. A combination of business and pleasure, he informs me, the business bit being a visit to the Corning Museum and a meeting with David Whitehouse, Curator of Roman and Greek artefacts. Ian is hoping to set eyes - and possibly hands too - on the fabulous Northwood Replica and also the Richardson-Locke effort.

This latter one is a lesser-known but hugely significant example that was a prize-winner at the Paris Exposition of 1878 despite never actually being fully completed. Like so many other example of our local glass, both now reside at Corning. And Ian, lucky chap that he is, will be oggling both as part of his research into getting the 2012 version as spot-on as possible.

## The Blue Basket

As reported in *GlassCuts 4*, Jaqueline Cooley's stunning piece *The Blue Basket*, her donation to BGF, was handed over to Simon Atkins of Clement Keys (Accountants). The piece, which failed to attract a buyer at the Fielding's auction earlier this year, was purchased in a private sale and has found a very appreciative new home. Watched by Meriel Harris, Lynn Boleyn and yours truly from BGF, plus former local Councillor and glass enthusiast Dave Tyler, *The Blue Basket* was handed over on Monday 7th November by Jaqueline to Simon at a presentation at Broadfield House. Many thanks to all concerned for attending, and to Broadfield House for their facilities.

## Bottles 'R Us



Photo by Brian J Clarke

A reminder, as reported in *GlassCuts 4*, that the British Soft Drinks Association have had a bit of a clear-out recently and kindly gifted their historic collection to the BGF. However, if anyone would like to borrow the collection for a long or short term exhibition then please let us know. It is a splendid gathering of some 20 syphons and 50 glass and ceramic bottles.

Now, we all have our talents, but a specialism in photographing glass bottles is an unusual one to say the least. So it was with a warm welcome on a chilly Wednesday 16th November when we greeted Brian J. Clarke, Chairman of The Glass Association. Brian had ventured from London to the wild northern climes of the Black Country to digitally record these fascinating little gems. In addition to giving us much useful information, he also told us of a contact with a special interest in Seltzogenes (yep, that's right) and other such ephemera so, who knows, there may yet be a bright future in store for what was otherwise destined to be stored away and never seen again. Any developments, we will keep you posted. Great stuff. Thanks, Brian.

## A Master Chef On Masterchef

Heartiest congratulations to Chris Williams, who is not exactly a glass-man himself but, together with his team, does a great job in keeping their bellies topped up down at the Ruskin Glass centre in Amblecote ([www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk](http://www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk)). Chris is the Chef/Manager of the Ruskin Glass Centre Café, which is open seven days a week. So where he found time to also appear on the celebrated Masterchef programme recently is anyone's guess. But appear he did, making it through thousands of applicants. Chris spent time in London recording and going through various cook-offs and demonstrations for the show, which included time filming at Ruskin Glass Centre's Café, all under the guise of a local documentary about its use of fresh produce.

When asked about his experience Chris said; *'It was like a rollercoaster ride! One minute you're sat with ten strangers, the next you're cooking for one of the most respected chefs in the world! I had a great time filming for the show and met some amazing talented people'*. Topman. And not forgetting the Christmas Craft Fair that is part of the Stourbridge Glass quarter Christmas Festival details also on the Ruskin website.



## And Another Star of the Silver Screen

Hmmm ... perhaps not yet, but at least my latest video *The Crystal Mile: Along the Stourbridge Canal* has just hit the shelves. Copies are already destined for Corning, courtesy of Ian Dury (see above). And no, this isn't a shameless puff - work of genius as it may be - but just an invite to all recipients of *GlassCuts* to come along to the official launch at Ruskin Centre, 17.30 for 18.00 on **Thursday 8th December**. Light nibbles provided. **RSVP** to me please, just so we have an idea of numbers. Email as above, 01384 270020 or 07885 786826

## Dates for your diary

26/27th November

Ruskin. Christmas Craft Fair, part of Stourbridge Glass Quarter Christmas Festival. Plus, watch Terri Colledge working on the 2012 Portland Vase  
[www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk/2011/10/christmas-craft-weekend/](http://www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk/2011/10/christmas-craft-weekend/)

*also*

Red House Glass Cone Christmas Festival  
and  
Broadfield House Christmas Festival  
[www.theglassquarter.org.uk](http://www.theglassquarter.org.uk)

Until 31st December

Broadfield. Glass Detectives, how to identify glass  
[www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk) / [www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum)

Until 19th February  
Broadfield. Light fantastic, exhibition  
[www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk) / [www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum)

And that's about it for now.  
More soon ... in the meantime, Keep it Glass.

**Graham Fisher**  
**PR ,**  
***pp* British Glass Foundation**

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