



GlassCuts 19
Post-show Special
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This edition is a single-item review of
BGF at The International Festival of Glass

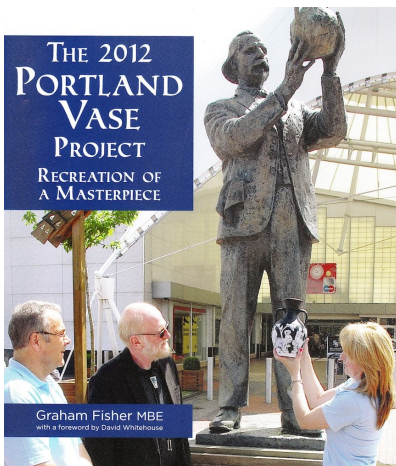
Well, the party is over and the world of glass can settle back to some semblance of normality for the next couple of years, but by any yardstick you care to mention the International Festival of Glass 2012 (IFG) was a gloriously memorable gathering of the talents over what proved to be a superb long weekend. Dare one suggest, possibly the best IFG yet. And, not forgetting that the Biennale runs until the end of this week, it ain't quite over until it's over.

The organizers of IFG (www.ifg.org.uk) and other participants will doubtless be issuing their reports in due course, but in the meantime we felt we would like to record BGF's involvement in proceedings by way of our own personal update. The reason for this is quite simple; although BGF was formed less than two years ago, it has already established its credentials as a serious player in not only seeking a permanent home for the world-famous glass collection but also implicitly supporting the Stourbridge Glass industry itself, and indeed the wider world of glass beyond. We are immensely proud of that achievement, and are equally proud to publicly demonstrate our backing for events such as IFG. Here's a review of our involvement this time around.

It all started on Wednesday 22nd August in the splendid surroundings of Hagley Hall when a packed audience listened with rapt attention to addresses by Dr Paul Roberts, British Museum, and our very own Charles Hajdamach, before then being given a sneak preview of the 2012 Portland Vase, prior to its official launch on the 24th at IFG. There are numerous people to thank for pulling this one together, but central to these must be Meriel Harris, who, basically, organized the lot. Meriel, you played a blinder.



*Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley with Terri Colledge; Ian Dury.
Richard Golding; Graham Fisher; Dr Paul Roberts and David Whitehouse*



On now to Friday 24th, when the good folk of IFG kindly invited me to officially launch my latest book *The 2012 Portland Vase Project*. Thanks to all of you who purchased a copy; sales at Hagley Hall and throughout the Festival have allowed me to make a donation of profits to both BGF and IFG.

A magical moment for all concerned, not least Yours Truly who was privileged to be asked to compere it, was Sunday's live link-up with William Gudenrath at the Corning Museum in the 'igloo' dome out back at Ruskin. I don't think anything quite like this had ever been done before, so sincere thanks and congratulations must go to all the organizers and techie-folk who helped make it happen.

Along the way we were delighted to make new friends or put faces to otherwise-familiar names, one such being David Whitehouse, Senior Scholar at Corning. He was over here from across the pond as guest of Ian Dury, Stourbridge Glass Engravers. David was, of course, involved with the Corning link-up and also delivered a delightful presentation of his own - *Stourbridge Glass at the Corning Museum* - on the Friday afternoon. Away from his more formal duties, he was unable to stay long enough for my Heritage Walk along the Stourbridge Canal on the Bank Holiday Monday, so Ian arranged for me to undertake a 'special' for him on the Friday evening. The look on David's face said it all as he examined glassworks along the Crystal Mile from this completely different perspective. We ended up at the Thai Dusit Restaurant in Kingswinford, former home of the legendary cameo engraver George Woodall. Following a sumptuous repast, various negotiations were entered into with the Proprietor with a view to recognizing the place and its history. 'Nuff said; Ian Dury will be releasing more information as he progresses this one.



But of course, the BGF Main Man of the Day just had to be Allister Malcolm, resident artiste at Broadfield House. Together with his colleague Elliot he slogged away for over 24 hours in his marathon glass-blowing endeavours and not only came up with a sizeable amount of sponsorship but also an impressive array of finished pieces, all of which are destined to be auctioned by our chums at Fieldings and with proceeds to BGF. 'Me and the missus' stayed watching until the early hours of Sunday morning before we gave up, exhausted. Allister cracked on until well after 11.00am, with Elliot not far behind.

Allister's own full report can be seen on the BGF blog right now (click on the link at top of this bulletin), but we enclose a few photos here to tickle the palate. Brilliant stuff.



Elliot Walker with David Green at Red House Cone

Mayor of Dudley with Tim Boswell at Red House Cone

The BGF was, of course, just one of numerous groups associated with IFG, many of whom come from distant lands far away. The job of consolidating an event like this is nothing short of herculean, and serious respect is due to those who wove the web. From where I was standing, it all went without a hitch. Roll on two year's time.

Finally, congratulations to the aforementioned I. Dury Esq., who can now add the title of Glass Heritage Officer at Ruskin to his CV. Nice one. The spangley-new visitor centre will be opening soon. And if the scowling visage on the 'Peppers Ghost' presentation looks eerily familiar, *Mea Culpa*.

Money matters

BGF is grateful to the Owen Family Trust who have made a donation to our running costs, and to Ms B, a colleague in the glass industry, who has also kindly sent us a cheque. Thank you all.

Please note: In recognizing donors and acknowledging their support, *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.

Dates for your diary

22nd September 2012

Jewels on the Cut

Last scheduled opportunity of this season to take a guided towpath walk along the Town Arm of the Stourbridge Canal examining the local glass facilities, and other works, from the perspective of the waterway that served them. David Whitehouse enjoyed it. (*see above*)

www.dudley.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-galleries/glass-museum/whats-on/jewels-on-the-cut-canal-walks

Until 6th October 2012

21st Century Engraved Glass: Exhibition by the Guild of Glass Engravers (*featured GC13*)

Red House Glass Cone

admission free

www.gge.org.uk

Until 27th January 2013

Back to the Future: Contemporary West Midlands Glass Artists Celebrate 400 Hundred Years of Stourbridge Glass

Broadfield House Glass Museum

www.friendsofbroadfieldhouse.co.uk / www.dudley.gov.uk/glassmuseum

22nd August - 15th September 2012

Ruskin Centre

Medallions Exhibition, organized by Contemporary Glass Society (*featured GC15*)

www.cgs.org.uk

24th August - 15th September 2012

British Glass Biennale

Part of the International Festival of Glass.

www.biennale.org.uk

Facebook: 'International Festival of Glass 2012'

Twitter: @GlassBiennale

23rd September 2012

Cambridge Glass Fair

<http://www.cambridgeglassfair.com/>

11th November 2012
National Glass Fair
<http://www.glassfairs.co.uk/>

More soon. In the meantime, Keep it Glass.

Graham Fisher
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pp British Glass Foundation
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Disclaimers 'n stuff (Yes I know, but we must)

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