

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2001.

Spring 2001.

Although the New Year is still young, we have been extremely busy during the last few months. In particular, we have been trying to recover from the devastating effects of the November floods, which I am sure you are aware were the worst for forty years. In December, we also experienced the coldest temperatures for fifty years and in Shropshire the temperature dropped to -15, which meant that we were experiencing the coldest temperatures in England! The big freeze blessed us with yet more wet problems in the form of burst water pipes! What is next we wondered? This meant that the clean up operation was delayed further and our production ceased for quite sometime and were unable to supply many of our orders. We were also committed to attending our first international trade show in early February and design and produce our new designs for 2001. We needed to complete all of the above tasks in record time, as we also had to prepare for a visit from HRH The Prince of Wales and produce a special cameo bowl to present to him! All of this had to be achieved in just eight weeks! Fortunately, we are used to living life in the fast lane and enjoy the fact that there never seems to be a dull moment, although we have to admit that it would be quite nice to have the occasional 'quiet day!'

As you can probably imagine some of these tasks were quite difficult to achieve in so little time. But we are very pleased to say that the furnace has now been rebuilt and repairs to the studio are almost complete. The showroom has been redecorated and the carpets and display cabinets replaced. All that we can do now is keep everything crossed and hope that the River Severn stays well within its banks!



We have recently returned from the International Spring Fair at Birmingham and as this was our first major trade show, we were a little apprehensive about the response that we would receive. But by the end of the first day we were delighted and by the end of the second day we were starting to wonder how we were going to produce the orders. By the end of the third day we had closed our order books for at least the first half of the year. So, all in all we were absolutely overwhelmed by the response to our designs. But do not worry; we have of course reserved production space for our collectors'.

Enclosed are details of our new collections. 'Lagoon' in the studio range, (which is my first design and I am relieved to say was very well received.) In addition to the new cameo limited editions, you will notice the re-heat cameo 'Foliage' and 'Iridised Fish' vases, which are our first two designs using the re-heat technique. Jonathan has also introduced a totally new technique, which he has developed and refined and named 'Shard Graal'. 'Pisces' is the first piece using this process and full details of these new designs are listed on the reverse of the colour collection sheet enclosed. You may also like to pick up a copy of the March issue of Collect It! Magazine (available now) that features these pieces.



Above: Our first stand at the NEC Spring fair 2001 – and a close-up of one of Alison's wonderful displays.
Above left: Our shop now fully restored and back to normal following the floods.



The cameo vase featured here is called, 'Spring Flowers'. Jonathan presented me with this piece for my birthday (and is the first piece of cameo that I can keep!) I was so delighted with it, that I took the vase along to the trade show just for interest. But the interest was so great and so many customers wanted to order it that within an hour of the show opening we were persuaded to offer it as another limited edition! We now have a complete set of the limited editions on show in our shop, but if you are unable to travel, please do not hesitate to request a larger photograph of any of the collections or limited editions. All of our designs can also be seen on our website. As with all of the limited editions, if any of you are interested in ordering any more of them please let us know ASAP as the cameo is extremely popular.

Although we have produced several new designs for 2001, we are very aware that some of you are still waiting for your orders that were placed last year. Once again, we offer our sincere apologies for the delay and can only thank you for your continued patience. The effects of the floods meant that our studio was out of action for nearly three months, which has inevitably delayed our deliveries. However, I can assure you that our glassmakers' and Jonathan are working round the clock carving your pieces and your orders are top priority and will be completed prior to the commencement of any new ones.



Spring Flowers limited edition.

We would both like to thank you once again for all your kind letters and thank you to all of you who take the time to write to us and please do not stop, we like to know what you think. Our new website and Virtual Studio (www.jhstudioglass.com) is now live and we hope you enjoy browsing the pages. You will also notice that we have a 'members' only' section, which is exclusive to you and includes all of our new designs, news, details of events, special offers etc. To view this area you need to register with Allegria who hosts our site and then enter the password, which is UNIQUE, and you will gain full access to this area. We still have a lot of work to do on the site but we hope that you find it interesting and informative and please let us know what you think. If you do not have access to our site do not worry as I will continue to send you the newsletters by snail mail.

I mentioned that earlier in this newsletter that we are to be honoured with a visit by HRH the Prince of Wales. Prince Charles will be visiting our studio and Jonathan will present him with this stunning silver cameo fish bowl. Full details and photographs of his visit will be sent in our next newsletter, in addition to our new collectors' piece and everything that we have been up to between now and then and as always, I am sure there will be plenty to tell you about!

In the meantime, both Jonathan and I hope that you continue to enjoy our glass designs and we wish you all health and happiness throughout the year and hope to meet or hear from you during the coming months.

Happy collecting!

Best Wishes,