



CHANCE  
GLASSWORKS  
HERITAGE  
TRUST

# *The Flash*

the email bulletin of CGWHT

[www.cgwht.org](http://www.cgwht.org)

Edition: 02

Dated: 12.07.16

Hallo and welcome to this second edition of *The Flash*, the official *ad hoc* email bulletin of Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust (CGWHT).

After months of preparation and behind-the-scenes discussions CGWHT was officially launched on Monday 23rd May 2016.

We are happy to note this date in perpetuity since we believe the historians of the future will look on this as the starting point for one of the greatest transformations of the iconic Chance site since 18th May 1824 when Robert Lucas Chance purchased the works of the British Crown Glass Company, thereby setting the wheels in motion for a company that was to become the largest glassmaker in the land.

Not surprisingly, these first few days following the launch have proved hectic and so we are delighted to bring our readers up to date with what has happened since. We would also like to thank everyone who has shown interest, offered support, asked us questions or submitted information. Talking of questions, we will do all we can to deal with your queries and comments as quickly and accurately as possible. And if we don't know the answer, we almost certainly will know someone who does. So please keep your comments coming in via [info@cgwht.org](mailto:info@cgwht.org) or the contact form on our website [www.cgwht.org](http://www.cgwht.org).

But we open this issue with news of our first major challenge in the shape of a planning application for renewal of a skip-hire licence on the Chance site in Smethwick that, if approved, would deal a serious blow to any prospect of regenerating the site.

## Objections to planning application

The skip hire company currently working on the Chance Glass Works site has applied for an extension to its operations. If granted this could seriously impinge on CGWHT's plans for redevelopment.

Progress to date: The Planning Committee visited the site on 8th June and will make a final decision at their next scheduled meeting at 1700hrs 13th July 2016. All are welcome to attend Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3DE.

At this stage we remain optimistic for a positive outcome. However, we would encourage anyone who still wishes to object to do so via our website [www.cgwht.org](http://www.cgwht.org) or by contacting us via [info@cgwht.org](mailto:info@cgwht.org) for details as to how to register their sentiments. All objections lodged before the meeting on 13th July will count in the final analysis.

We are indebted to all of you who have objected to this application and we have endeavoured to thank everyone personally; for those we may have inadvertently missed please consider this acknowledgement of your support as an indication of our gratitude. At the time of writing more than 550 objections have been lodged; these have included submissions from as far afield as Australia and South Africa.

Chance Glass Works is a scheduled monument and must be preserved. There are other more suitable locations for skip hire; there is only one Chance Glass Works. It is NOT the intention of CGWHT to put the skip hire company subject to this application out of business or to see jobs lost. CGWHT is working closely *inter alia* with a view to securing a mutually satisfactory solution for all concerned, including the applicant.

## Website news

[www.cgwht.org](http://www.cgwht.org) is now fully operational and contains details of our aims, who we are and where you can learn more about our plans. It is constantly being updated and now has Twitter (@chancetrust) and Facebook feeds. You can also comment via our CGWHT *blogspot*.

Our **History** section offers an overview of the company whilst our **Further Information** section offers an array of other sources of material. This is constantly updated and we welcome your submissions to what we intend will become a comprehensive free-to-access reference archive. The latest update includes an enchanting account of a Royal Visit to the Smethwick site in the war years: <http://player.bfi.org.uk/film/watch-visit-of-their-majesties-the-king-and-queen-to-the-works-of-chance-brothers-and-co-limited-1940/>

Our colleagues at MADE also feature on our site. **MADE** (Midland Architecture and the Designed Environment) is an organisation dedicated to improving the quality of towns, cities and villages. The fundamental ethos of MADE is that a high quality built environment is essential for economic prosperity and wellbeing.

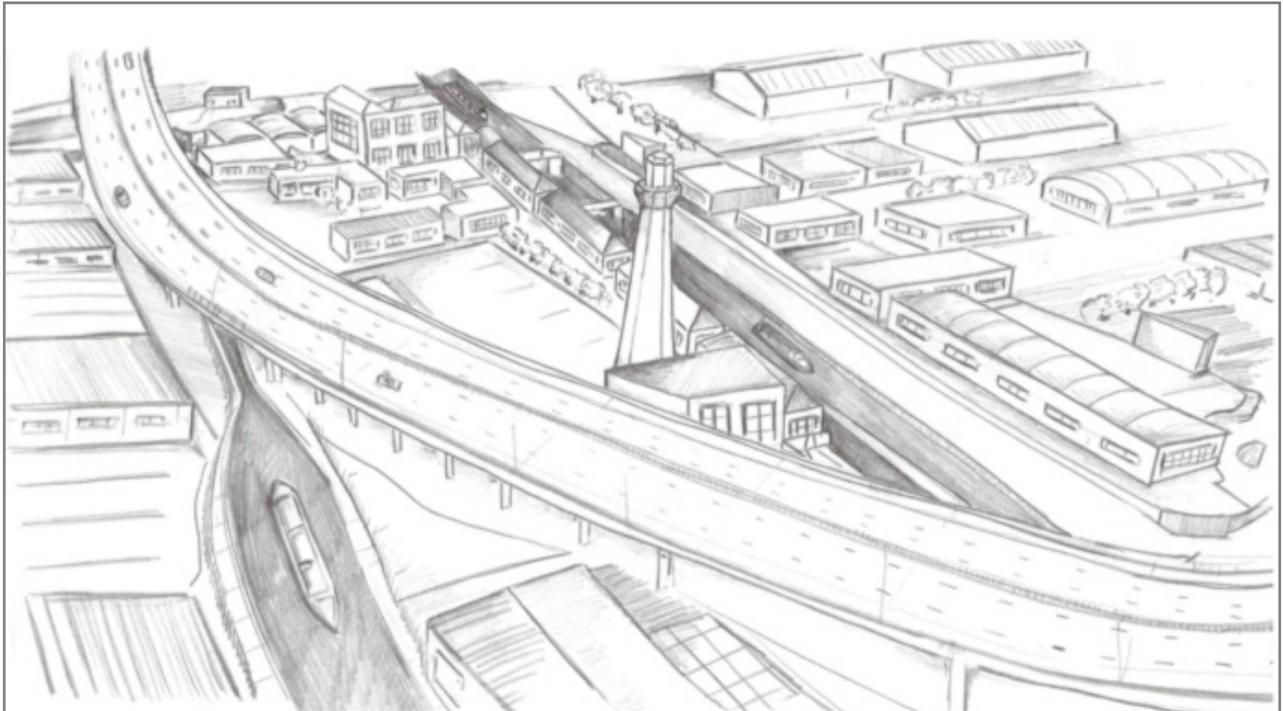
MADE's project remit is extensive and embraces diverse aspects including design quality and review, education, community engagement and the arts. Not surprisingly, Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust is delighted to work alongside MADE in mutual support of each other's aims and so we are pleased to welcome MADE's own input into this site in promoting their work – see the panel **MADE & Chance on our Home page**.

Further information will be included on our site as developments progress. In the meantime find more at [www.made.org.uk](http://www.made.org.uk) and <https://chanceglassheritage.wordpress.com>

## Progress update

We have registered as a charity. CGWHT has secured £10k of Heritage Lottery Start-up Funding and a further £3k from the Architectural Heritage Fund for project feasibility work. Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust is grateful to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership [ep.co.uk](http://ep.co.uk) who have been very supportive and who have kindly awarded a grant of £660k to assist with site assembly. Once this is in place, and subject to further public consultation, the Trust can then look to securing finances and putting spades in the ground.

Here are the latest artist's impressions of how it could all look:



## Ways to help

We are constantly seeking volunteers to support us in every aspect of our work including fundraising, administration, marketing and all facets of designing and developing the site regeneration.

We will be appealing for assistance in various areas that will be identified as plans proceed; details will appear here.

We will also be seeking to compile an information-bank based on the experiences of former employees and anyone with a Chance story to tell. For more information on all of our activities, or simply to get in touch, please view [www.cgwht.org](http://www.cgwht.org) for full contact details.

## Gifts and donations

Mr JD of London and Mrs D of Birmingham

These are always gratefully received. For details of the various ways you can support us financially visit our website and simply hit the **Donate** button whereupon all will be revealed. Alternatively, we are pleased to accept donations direct.

CGWHT is constantly reviewing its donation procedures. At present we accept donations direct by cash, cheque and BACS.

For donations by **BACS** either as a one-off payment or on-going standing order. Our bank details are:

Unity Trust Bank  
Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust  
sort code 60-83-01  
a/c no: 20350455:

**Cheques, postal orders, etc** payable to CGWHT (*please, do not post cash*)

c/o ER Grove & Co Accountants:

Grove House: Coombs Wood Court: Steel Park Road: Halesowen: West Midlands B62 8BF

**Cash** against receipt can be accepted direct by a CGWHT representative; contact us via **info@cgwht.org** to discuss.

**Just Giving** gifts can be made via the **Donate** button on our website or by clicking here: [www.justgiving.com/CGWHT/donate/?utm\\_source=website\\_cid794102&utm\\_medium=buttons&utm\\_content=CGWHT&utm\\_campaign=donate\\_purple](http://www.justgiving.com/CGWHT/donate/?utm_source=website_cid794102&utm_medium=buttons&utm_content=CGWHT&utm_campaign=donate_purple)

*Potential donors are advised that contributions via Just Giving may invoke commission fees that are beyond the control of CGWHT.*

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 **The Flash** 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 CGWHT material.*

*All donations are greatly appreciated. CGWHT is entirely philanthropic and its Trustees are unremunerated. CGWHT policy is that all monies received go directly to the cause.*

## Events

If you are organizing, or have knowledge of, any charitable or philanthropic events with a connection to Chance Glass, please submit them for consideration to be included in future issues of *The Flash*. Allow as much time as possible ahead of the event, preferably a minimum of 8 weeks.

Please note that whilst every effort will be made to mention your event, submission does not guarantee inclusion and the Editor's decision is final.

## Readers write

In this *ad hoc* series of features we welcome contributions for anyone with a story to tell about Chance Glass. In our first instalment we are indebted to John Harris, who says:



Hello Graham,

Whilst on holidays last week I came across an interesting lump of glass that might be of interest to you too!

The National Trust has recently built a new visitor centre in Aberdaron on the Lleyn Peninsula. One of the main exhibits is the old optic from Bardsey Island lighthouse - made at Chance Glass Works. There are some of the original drawings of the optic on show too.

The lighthouse now works with LEDs so they helicoptered the old bits across to the mainland to form an exhibit. Interesting stuff!

Indeed it is, and our thanks to John for setting the bar high. More please!

More soon; thank you for your support.

In the meantime, *Take a Chance.*

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