

MARK TAYLOR & DAVID HILL

GEORGIAN GLASSMAKERS

UNIT 16 • PROJECT WORKSHOPS • LAINS FARM • QUARLEY • ANDOVER • HAMPSHIRE • SP11 8PX • UK

telephone: +44 (0)1264 889688 email: gaffers@georgianglassmakers.co.uk www.georgianglassmakers.co.uk

Group Visits to the Georgian Glassmakers Workshop - January 2012 Update

Dear All,

Over the last five years, we have been demonstrating traditional glassworking techniques to groups of adults from various walks of life, including those from the U3A, the WI, PROBUS, from local and larger history and archaeology societies, from university archaeology departments, and even from an international auction house! Many of these visits have come about through word of mouth.

With the experience we have gained during these visits, we have developed and fine-tuned the 'Glassblowing Experience' into a flexible and entertaining session lasting at least two hours, and which can be tailored to a group's interests.

Two years on from our move into our new unit at Project Workshops, we are now settled in to a spacious, well-lit unit. It has exceeded our expectations as a base for entertaining groups and teaching glassblowing, as well as allowing us to expand our repertoire into reproducing 18th century glass.

The workshop is capable of accommodating groups of up to 30 seated people. As one would expect, the furnace room is warm, so is well-suited for autumn, winter and spring visits.

One of the consequences of the new development is the provision of ample parking space, including space for more than one coach, and brand new toilet facilities, including a facility for the disabled.

A typical visit will include tea, coffee, cold drinks and biscuits (whilst everyone arrives). The glassblowing demonstration itself is preceded by a description of the furnaces and the tools of the trade, and a brief,



Mark demonstrating 'uncontrolled glassblowing'!



A U3A group enjoying Mark's glassblowing demonstration in the new workshop during a 2010 visit

entertaining discussion of the composition and properties of glass, a part of the proceedings often influenced by the questions we are asked at this time! For the demonstration, we blow five or six vessels, chosen to represent the history of glassblowing from earliest times, accompanied by a commentary on, and an explanation of the techniques used. These choices also illustrate a wide range of glassblowing techniques. Both during and after the demonstration, we try to answer the many questions from the group about glassmaking and our work in reproducing historical glass. We are, of course, happy to let members of the group photograph and film us during the visit.

We have also introduced a short, half-time break for refreshments, which allows people to stretch their legs, as well as to indulge in a short buying-spree (which often happens)!

Although these are primarily glassblowing demonstrations, some groups, such as archaeology and history groups and societies, may be interested in the work that we have done on wood-fired furnaces, and would like a short tour of the remains of these furnaces, as well as to see the 'archaeological finds' from them. This can be fitted into the normal programme (weather permitting).

We are offering the opportunity for groups to visit us, by appointment. All group leaders need to do is write, email or 'phone us to arrange a mutually convenient date and time, during the week, or at the weekend, and we will do the rest. Most groups opt for a morning (10.00 - 10.30am start) session, but an afternoon session (2.00pm start) is an alternative. A map with directions

explaining how to find us (and the local pubs) can be supplied to group leaders.

We provide tea, coffee, orange juice and biscuits at the start of the session. Stools are provided for the group (though not everybody uses them) - although people may want to bring a small cushion! Once the demonstration is over, the group can either adjourn to one of the local hostelrys for lunch, or enjoy a packed lunch in the garden here at Project Workshops (weather permitting!).

A visit to our workshop may appeal to many different study groups and societies, including Archaeology, History, History of Art, Crafts, Science and Technology and several others (not forgetting the photographers!), including U3A Questers, WI and PROBUS groups. Even if you think that this might not suit your immediate group, please feel free to pass on these details to any group leaders or events organisers who might be interested in a visit with a difference.

Visits are particularly appropriate for the Winter months, as there is no danger of group members feeling cold in our cosy glassmaking workshop!

There will be, of course, ample opportunity to purchase glass vessels made by us, so be sure to plan in plenty of time for browsing in our gallery area after the demonstration before rushing off to the next venue! (Please inform the group that we cannot accept credit cards - cash and cheques only!)

Our standard charge is currently **£150** per group to cover organisation and provision of refreshments, and the demonstration itself, and all bookings made before the end of December 2012 will remain at this rate. We will be revising our prices in 2013.



A group watching Mark spinning a plate during a visit in 2010

Other Glassblowing Experiences:

We offer **day-long sessions** for small groups of up to six persons. This is particularly suited for people who want to learn about glass both from watching demonstrations as well as by having a go at glassblowing - typically a 45 minute long 'hands-on' experience for each person in a group of six. This has been especially appealing to archaeologists! Our current price for this is **£300** (which equates to **£50** per person in a six-person group).

We also offer **glassblowing lessons** for one or two beginners at a time. These are proving popular, and we are able to offer sessions of one day or two days (or more), with lessons taking place during the week or at weekends. Our current price for a day's glassblowing lesson is **£200** per person, and **£380** per person for a two-day session.

Details of all of these sessions can be found on our websites: www.georgianglassmakers.co.uk and www.romanglassmakers.co.uk Alternatively, we can discuss them during group visits.

Group Leaders or Events Secretaries:

Please note that your initial contact will be treated as an enquiry only. We must have confirmation of bookings in writing (email is acceptable). We will acknowledge your booking and confirm any special arrangements. For this reason, and if we need to contact you at short notice, we will need a contact name, email address (or postal address if no email account) and a contact telephone number.

We will also ask you to confirm the size of the group nearer the date of the visit. This helps us in planning the refreshments and parking facilities.

We look forward to greeting you at Project Workshops,

Mark and David

Open Studios at Project Workshops

12th - 13th May, 2012

Free entry - Summer Exhibition of work - glassblowing demos - all studios open

Christmas Sale at Project Workshops

8th-9th December, 2012

Free entry - glassblowing demos - all studios open - a glass of wine and a mince pie