

End of an Era: Glass Fair Closure

Specialist Glass Fairs is sorry to announce that not only has our November 2021 fair been cancelled, but we have regrettably decided to call it a day on all future glass fairs.

There were a number of factors that influenced this decision but the set-backs and uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 proved to be the final undoing for all of our events. Progress of the Delta variant has pushed back the lifting of social distancing until the 19th of July, which is too close to the date of the November fair to put any necessary arrangements into place. It is also proving impossible to secure any Covid cancellation insurance, which is necessary to protect us against any unforeseen roll-back on the relaxing of social distancing rules.

Since our last fair in 2019 we have seen many of our regular exhibitors going into retirement or moving on from the glass trade. Replacing those valued dealers has proved extremely difficult and we do not feel that it's possible to find enough new exhibitors to put on a glass fair that would meet the high expectations our loyal attendees have come to expect.

The well-being of the exhibitors and visitors attending the fair is of paramount importance to us and it has become increasingly clear that our mostly older clientele would be uncomfortable attending a crowded indoor event. Although most visitors will be fully vaccinated by November, many people still are hesitant to attend any events when there is a prospect of new Covid variants arising.

Rather than just postpone the fair again we have taken the decision to permanently close the National Glass Fair. This is the end of an era for us and it has been an extremely difficult decision to make considering that we have been running glass fairs for nearly 20 years - beginning with the first Cambridge Guildhall fair in 2003.

Many of our regular exhibitors and visitors were there at the very start and we would like to thank them and everyone else who has supported us through the years.

Paul & Christina