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The Daffodil Barn, Unit 2 Woodborough Yard, Woodborough, Nr Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5PF. Tel: 01672 851979, Registered Charity Number 1149583

Bound by Veterans

NEWSLETTER Winter 2023/24

Hello Everyone,

Well, the nights really are drawing in, winter is upon us and I hope you are all managing to keep cosy. It's a beautiful crisp sunny day at The Daffodil Barn today, and the classroom is full of busy people making lovely notebooks under the guidance of Mylyn McColl, BBV's wonderful principal tutor.



Making lovely things is one of the aims of our classes, but the sessions offer an awful lot more to veterans than just that. The Daffodil Barn is set in a rural environment which is peaceful and safe, with the benefit of a couple of cafes to buy lunch at, a garden centre and plenty of free parking. A sense of camaraderie is established very quickly as everyone gets to grips with the unexpected perils of cutting and gluing, (oh you'd be surprised!) and with groups no larger than 6 people everyone has their own space to work in. You are with ex-military folk and their associates so there is a great sense of support and understanding.

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Some of you will already know this about BBV, and we have so many positive testimonials from you saying all of this, so have a think about whether there is someone you know who might enjoy the opportunity to learn a new craft in a safe and tranquil place. Christmas is definitely now just around the corner, and our classes are free to those who have been discharged, or are transitioning out of service due to sickness or illness, as well as those who care for them – booking them on a course in 2024 could be a lovely gift. Or maybe just give yourself something new to look forward to in the new year. I guarantee you will have an enjoyable time!

Wishing you all a very happy and contented Christmas, and looking forward to meeting more of you in 2024,

All good wishes

Alison
Chair BBV



The Daffodil Barn at Woodborough

COURSE NEWS

BBV Introduction to Bookbinding Sessions with Veterans Tribe Scotland.



Gerry McGregor, Founder and Events/Activities Coordinator, is the driving force behind delivering bookbinding courses in Scotland through Veterans Tribe Scotland (VTS) in partnership with Bound by Veterans. The courses range from a basic "taster" session through more advanced levels of bookbinding. Some courses are delivered on-line.

Courses have been arranged in different locations across Scotland but principally in Irvine and Sauchie.

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group at Irvine showing off their book cases at a "taster" session in October. These sessions last about 2 hours.



The four students, with Gerry, displaying their finished books at the end of the course.

Here are the completed books made by the group at Irvine - any veteran wishing to take part in bookbinding with VTS in Scotland should contact Gerry at gerry.mcgregor@veterantribescotland.co.uk for further details



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BBV City & Guilds Level 3 (Diploma) Quarter Vellum Binding

This is an optional assignment in the C&G Level 3 curriculum, which offers an alternative style of binding, where you make a limp vellum cover, attached to a text-block with leather thongs.

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Kevin Reilly working on his quarter vellum binding on a course in September.



The course with instructor Kathy Abbot (4th from left) and their completed books. (Students (l to r), Gilly Turner, Elessa Cropper, Kevin Reilly, Wendy Lagden, Clare Gray)

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EVENTS

London, Open House at Stationers' Hall

by Wendy Lagden, BBV Course Administrator

close to St Paul's Cathedral in the City of London. When I arrived on Sunday morning the sound of Church Bells ringing was powerful and impressive. I stopped briefly to listen and soak up the warmth of the morning sun.



The entrance to Stationers' Hall is tucked away in a courtyard and not a place you would necessarily know was there or walk past. It is one of the few ancient Livery Halls remaining in the City of London. Completed in 1673 after the Great Fire of London, the Hall's suite of rooms and history is truly magnificent.

BBV was invited to run a stand as part of the London Open House Festival where members of the public have the opportunity to visit inside various buildings that are not usually open to the public.

Ali and Gilly had arrived first and set up the BBV/Shepherds stand. If the day was going to be anything like last time it will be a busy day, packed with visitors from across the globe.

The range of Explorer notebooks, samples of marbled papers and information about BBV were displayed on the tables. Although this year the footfall was considerably less than in previous years, the interest was there and between Ali, Gilly, Jonathan and me, we successfully sold a variety of notebooks to raise funds for BBV and more importantly to spread the word about the charity work we do.

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Jonathan persuading some visitors to part with their money, and...



...Gilly, Ali and me waiting for the next customer

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Visit to the Royal Bindery, Windsor

by

Jonathan Powell, BBV Treasurer

In mid-October I arranged a BBV educational visit to the King's Bindery, based in Windsor Castle. The aim was to show three of our Veteran bookbinders around the workshop, to meet the Bindery staff and to discuss the different types of binding work that they have to undertake. We were also lucky enough to be able to have a private visit to the Royal Library that is housed in the castle.

Four visitors – Gilly Turner (apprentice bookbinder with Shepherds), Dean Williams (intern bookbinder with Shepherds), Wendy (our courses administrator) and myself – met up at the castle's Henry VIII gate in the pouring rain to book in. The Bindery is housed in a number of small interconnecting rooms along the Northern curtain wall close to the famous round keep and the

and they pointed out the tools, equipment and materials that they used. These all looked familiar and not unlike the equipment in the BBV workshop, although we have nothing to compare with the huge wooden standing press that was made specifically for (and used by) King George IV.



Glenn (centre) and Matt (right) illustrate some of their recent work to Wendy, Gilly and Dean. King George IV's giant wooden press is behind Glenn.

Some of the books and boxes that Glenn and Matt make and repair are similar in many ways to the items made by Gilly and Dean at the Daffodil Barn, but they also have a steady stream of requests for new laced-on bindings as presents for visiting dignitaries as well as repairs to books and boxes that date back several hundred years. An example Matt showed us was a bound set of hand-written receipts kept by

Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth 1) in the mid 16th Century. Every page was counter-signed with a neat signature by Princess Elizabeth herself.

Matt's speciality is gold tooling, and he has designed and decorated a number of top-quality books as presentations from King Charles. He and Glenn are keen to maintain close links with BBV in the coming years and we hope to see Matt next year at the Daffodil Barn teaching the Level 3 Introduction to Gold Tooling.

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by
Alan

We often get brief comments at the end of our courses about how students have found the course and whether they enjoyed it but occasionally we are able to hear more profound comment on, not just the course, but how the experience of bookbinding and the training has affected an individual. In the last, (Autumn), newsletter we published a testimonial from Susie James who had recently attended courses at the Barn. This time we hear from Alan who has kindly given us permission to publish his testimonial.

"I was medically discharged from the Army with a diagnosis of PTSD attributable to military service. This was a very bewildering and disorienting experience and one in which I felt disconnected from myself and from the everyday world of social interaction and work. I underwent various psychotherapies, but none seemed to help me.

One of the very few activities which have been of benefit to me is attending book-binding courses run by Bound by Veterans (BBV). I think that these courses are beneficial for three main reasons:

- Firstly, the BBV staff are empathetic and patient without being condescending, so that one feels that one is treated with courtesy but not as if one were in some way incapable, which is often how others treat those with PTSD. The BBV tutors set high standards in craftsmanship and inspire one to strive to achieve the expected standard. It is a real boost to one's sense of self-worth to realise that one is still capable of achieving work of a good quality under professional and exacting tuition.
- Secondly, bookbinding requires mental concentration, attention to detail, and precise manual skills, while the books produced at the end of the process are aesthetically pleasing and real works of craft. In some way that I cannot fully explain, this kind of detailed manual work is very therapeutic; just the tactile experience of handling the various tools and materials allows one to immerse oneself in the creative process and significantly helps in reconnecting one to oneself at a fundamental level.
- Thirdly, the relaxed, convivial atmosphere in the bindery at the Daffodil Barn allows one to feel secure enough to gradually drop the hypervigilance that those with PTSD often experience. Each individual is concentrating on their own project, and there is ample room at the work benches, so one does not feel crowded and one can have as much or as little social interaction with one's fellow students as one feels comfortable with. In addition, because many of the BBV courses last for from three to five days, one has the time to become familiar with the other students and

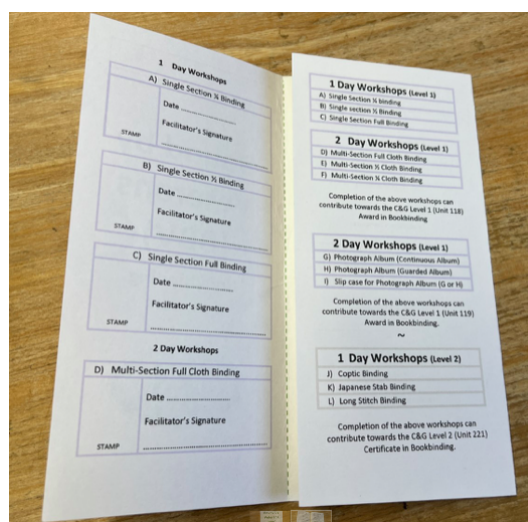
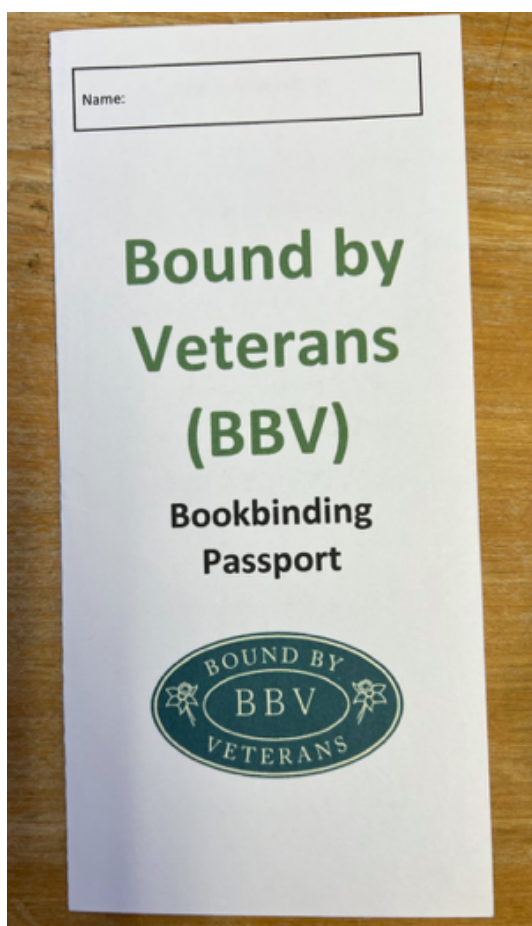
others once again in a safe and friendly environment. In short, the book-binding courses run by BBV have been of real benefit to me as I recover from PTSD."

Alan, MBE, MPhil

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BBV BOOKBINDING PASSPORT

This notice was published in previous BBV Newsletters but is repeated here as it is an important addition to the way progress can be made and recorded to achieving certificates in City and Guilds courses.



BBV has developed a number of one and 2-day workshops both on-line and in-person which, when completed, can contribute towards the C&G Level 1 (Units 118 and 119) Awards in Bookbinding and C&G Level 2 (Unit 221) Certificate in Bookbinding.

Attendance and satisfactory completion of the workshops will be recorded in a BBV Bookbinding Passport shown here.

For more details of the new scheme contact Wendy our Course Administrator.
courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk

STOP PRESS

Funding News

by

Jonathan Powell, BBV Treasurer

Thanks to the generosity of several key sponsors, BBV remains in a healthy financial state for the coming year. Not only have we secured the continuing support from long-standing benefactors such as the Stationers Foundation, the Book Trade Charity and the Printing Charity but also a grant from a relatively new charity – The Veterans Foundation. This has made a generous grant towards our charity overheads, paying for things such as heating, lighting, insurance and workshop maintenance. We have also had a further donation from the Tesco “Bags of Help” scheme which is dedicated to assisting Veterans with travel and accommodation costs when attending courses.



One notable source of recent funding has been through the sale of leather Explorer notebooks. Many of you will have read about the leather notebooks manufactured at the Daffodil Barn last spring/summer for a special order from The Leathersellers' Company, a London Livery Company. Thanks to the efforts of the seven Veterans involved in making them, the sale proceeds can also be put towards travel and accommodation costs for more Veterans attending courses at the Barn.



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Company, with its distinctive logo pictured on the right.



THE
LEATHERSELLERS

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BBV Stand at Bouverie Hall Christmas Fair, Pewsey Saturday, 25 Nov 23



Looking for Christmas presents? Look no further. Visit the Pewsey Christmas Fair in the Bouverie Hall (SN9 5EQ) and support the Bound by Veterans stall where you will find many ideas for gifts.

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SOCIAL MEDIA



BBV does not currently have any satisfactory connection with the most popular social networks. If anyone would be prepared to take on this on behalf of BBV please get in touch with the office at the barn on office@boundbyveterans.co.uk

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The next edition of the BBV Newsletter, following the Winter edition, is planned for February 2024 and will be the Spring 2024 edition.

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BOOKBINDING COURSES - Winter 2023/24 through Bound By Veterans

Courses at the Barn continue to flourish and the online Zoom courses being run by our Principal Tutor, Mylyn McColl, are proving very popular by those who have difficulty getting away or are unable to find accommodation near the Barn. Details of both in-person and online courses are shown below

The BBV Introduction to Bookbinding sessions are continuing to be held at Tedworth House and also at the Veterans' Outreach Support (VOS) in Portsmouth. In addition they are available through Veterans Tribe Scotland (VTS) and Help for Heroes (H4H) Scotland with online and in-person sessions.

Online tutorials (via Zoom) for the C&G Certificate Level 1 Foundation Bookbinding Course (Unit 118) are now well established in the BBV course programme. This course is normally a 5-day (Mon to Fri), in-person course but for the on-line course it has been split into two modules, spread over two weeks.

In addition, C&G's Level 2 Courses (Units 220 and 221) are now available as Zoom on-line courses.

The online courses run from 10.00 to 16.00hrs each day but the tutor will be available until 16.30 to assist with questions and practice. A thirty-minute lunch break will be taken at approx 13.00. Details of these courses are given below.

Anyone interested in booking a place on any of the courses listed should contact Wendy at courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk. If you are interested in the online tutorial courses please book early to ensure we can get the tool kits to you in time. Remember **FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED**.

November 2023

- **13-17 Nov (Mon-Fri) C&G Level 1 Unit 119. Photograph Albums & Slip Case.** For those with a little bookbinding experience, this course is the second unit necessary for the Level 1 C&G certificate in Bookbinding, where you will learn how to make two different types of photograph album, one with folded guards, and one with stiff boards, and a lined cloth slipcase.

how to make a slip case with a chamfered, rounded, leather entry. If taking the C&G Level 3 qualification, the slipcase would be made to hold your laced-on leather binding.

- **28 Nov (Tue) (1030-1230) BBV Introduction to Bookbinding Session at Tedworth House.** This short session is for RRP Students at Tedworth House only. Students will have the opportunity to learn some basic bookbinding techniques and make a small notebook.

December 2023

- **4-8 Dec (Mon-Fri) C&G Level I (Unit 118) Pamphlet and Multi-section bindings (Course held at the Barn, Woodborough)**
For complete beginners, this is the first unit in the Level 1 C&G certificate in Bookbinding, where you will gain a core knowledge of the basic skills and make single and multi-section bindings in quarter, half and full cloth.
- **12-14 Dec (Tue-Thu) C&G Level 3 Module - Leather Reback.** Following on from cloth rebacking, this course will teach you the fine skills involved in sympathetically rebacking a leather book. These two courses combine as a mandatory assignment for the C&G Level 3 Diploma in Bookbinding.

January 2024

- **22-26 Jan (Mon-Fri) C&G Level I (Unit 118) Pamphlet and Multi-section bindings (Course held at the Barn, Woodborough)**
For complete beginners, this is the first unit in the Level 1 C&G certificate in Bookbinding, where you will gain a core knowledge of the basic skills and make single and multi-section bindings in quarter, half and full cloth.
- **29 Jan - 2 Feb (Mon-Fri) CITY & GUILDS LEVEL 2 - Unit 221 – (Alternative and Historical Binding)** This is the second unit in the Level 2 certificate in Bookbinding. You will learn to make a range of non-adhesive bindings, including a Coptic-style of binding.

February 2024

- **12-16 Feb (Mon-Fri) C&G Level I (Unit 118) Pamphlet and Multi-section bindings (Course held at the Barn, Woodborough).** For complete beginners, this is the first unit in the Level 1 C&G certificate in Bookbinding, where you will gain a core knowledge of the basic skills and make single and multi-section bindings in quarter, half and full cloth.
- **27-28 Feb (Tue-Wed) C&G Level 3 Module - Library Style Binding.**
This course will show you how to take down and rebind an existing book in a strong library style binding with buckram over split boards, cloth

March 2024

- **12-14 Mar (Tue-Thu) & 19-20 Mar (Tue-Wed) C&G Level 2 (Unit 220) Leather Case Binding. (The is an Online ZOOM Course).** This course is the first unit in the Level 2 C&G Certificate in Bookbinding. You will learn how to make case-bound leather books in quarter and half leather, and how to pare leather and sharpen knives. Some bookbinding experience is necessary.

April 2024

- **8-12 Apr (Mon-Fri) C&G Level 1 Unit 119. Photograph Albums & Slip Case.** For those with a little bookbinding experience, this course is the second unit necessary for the Level 1 C&G certificate in Bookbinding, where you will learn how to make two different types of photograph album, one with folded guards, and one with stiff boards, and a lined cloth slipcase. (Course is held in the Daffodil Barn workshop)
- **26-28 Apr (Fri-Sun) C&G Level 3 Limp Vellum Binding.** An optional assignment in the C&G Level 3 curriculum, this offers an alternative style of binding, where you will make a limp vellum cover, attached to a text-block with leather thongs.

Please watch out for further details and any changes to the course programme in later Newsletters or on the BBV website at: <https://wiltshirebarn.co.uk/events-info/training-courses/> or from the course administrator, Wendy Lagden, at courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk

INTERESTED?

If you are interested in taking part in any of our courses (either a webinar or at The Barn) please contact Wendy at courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk who will be happy to answer any questions and allocate you a place on a course.

Please note, places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and please get your bid in early if you are wanting to attend the live webinar courses because we need time to get the tool kits and materials out to you. Even if you have done the introductory session before, you might want to refresh your memory and hone your skills. You will have the chance to ask questions and get personal attention as it is all live.

We send out boxed tool kits and materials, via DHL, to those who register for the online classes, and the tool kits will be collected by DHL after the course is

We will be offering more live webinar classes during the year in addition to the onsite sessions at the barn. Watch this space! Also look above for details of courses coming up in the near future.

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ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

We are aware that the cost of accommodation can present a problem for potential students who want to attend courses at the Barn in Woodborough. Through the generosity of our donors who sponsor BBV we are now able to provide financial assistance to individuals wishing to come to the Barn for courses.

For further information about support for accommodation and travel, please get in touch with Wendy, our Course Administrator at: courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING taking part in any of the Introduction to Bookbinding Sessions, then please note:-

- **Veteran Outreach Support (VOS) Portsmouth:** Group in-person two-hour sessions are held at Portsmouth. For further details, see below or contact Wendy Pearson (wendy.pearson@vosuk.org) facilitator for VOSP.
- **Online Individual Introduction sessions:** For students in Scotland. These sessions are being arranged:
 - for Veterans Tribe Scotland (VTS) students (contact Gerry McGregor gerry.mcgregor@veterantriberscotland.co.uk) and
 - for H4H students (contact Emma Weir emma.weir@helpforheroes.org.uk)

For those undertaking the online sessions:

- You can participate in the comfort of your own home, in a group organised session or from anywhere.
- All the tools and materials you need for the course will be sent to you by DHL
- The session is conducted by our Principal Tutor, Mylyn McColl and will last about 2 to 2.5 hours.
- It is for complete beginners who have no bookbinding experience.
- The timetable for the coming sessions can be seen above.

HELP WANTED

BBV is a charity which relies on sponsorship and volunteers to carry out its good work. To keep operating smoothly we are in urgent need of voluntary and/or paid helpers for the following posts:

Fundraising and Events Manager

PR Manager (esp social media)

If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping us out in any of these areas, please get in touch with us at enquiries@boundbyveterans.co.uk

This Newsletter, from Bound by Veterans (BBV), is sent to all who have attended an Introduction to Bookbinding Session at Tedworth House, or VOS Portsmouth, or VTS Scotland AND who have consented to being contacted. It has also been sent to those on the Band of Sisters (BoS) list and others who have requested it.

If you do not wish to receive future Newsletters please unsubscribe using the link at the foot of this newsletter.

CONTACT

For further information on course details or to book a course:

- **Visit: the Bound by Veterans website:** www.wiltshirebarn.co.uk
- **Email:**
 - **The Course Administrator:** courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk
 - **The Bindery at Woodborough:** office@boundbyveterans.co.uk
- **Telephone:** 01672 851979



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