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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*

*Crafting a Positive Future*

## **NEWSLETTER Winter Edition January 2026**

Dear Veterans and Families

Happy 2026 to you all, I hope this will be a year of positive steps and new beginnings. We are about to embark on the Chinese year of the Fire Horse, so new horizons could be beckoning!

There is certainly much to celebrate at BBV this new year – please see Stefan and Gilly's stories below which showcase their incredible achievements in bookbinding. Both found a new interest through BBV which soon became a passion and has resulted in employment and success in doing something they love. Kevin Reilly has also just passed his Level 3 Diploma and his result is due to be announced in the next week or so – another fantastic achievement.

These opportunities are out there and for those of you who have really enjoyed learning the craft so far, please think seriously about taking the C&G Level 3

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leather binding and more. All courses are free of charge and the tutors are some of the best in the world. It will take 2-3 years to achieve this one, but it's a great journey as they say.

BBV is lucky to have the support of several sponsors whose funding ensures we can offer the best service to veterans and their families. We have just had confirmation that, in 2026, The Printing Charity will continue to support the workshop manager role that Mylyn fulfils so brilliantly and which is so much more than just managing the workshop. We are incredibly grateful for the money to support this key role.

Please see the end of this newsletter for other sponsors who help us do what we do.

In February Wendy will receive a giant cheque as representation of the funding she has managed to raise for BBV through Tesco's Stronger Starts scheme, raising an amazing £15,000 for us. Look out for BBV in your local supermarket charity token boxes!



All donations are welcome – if you have benefited from what we do at Bound by Veterans, please consider supporting us through Give As You Live, ([www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)) or any other fundraising activities. Many thanks – every penny goes towards our ability to run bookbinding sessions from tasters to Level 3.



Wishing you all a positive start to the year!

Alison

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*The Daffodil Barn at Woodborough*

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## AWARDS

### CITY & GUILDS AWARD OF LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA IN BOOKBINDING



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*presentation in November last year.*

## My Bookbinding Journey by Stefan Godfree

In 2016 I was at Tedworth House in Tidworth on one of the 'Recovery' courses run by Help for Heroes, where they gave veterans a variety of sporting and craft taster days.

One Wednesday afternoon we had a 'Bookbinding' taster event hosted by the charity "Bound By Veterans", showing us how to make and attach a book cover on a pre-made book block and at the end of the session they offered us the chance of attending a course at "The Barn". In March 2016 I went to the barn and was introduced to and registered with the City & Guilds scheme and completed the first Level 1 section on making a multi-section sewn journal.



This got me hooked into a subject I had never even thought about. It gave me the ability to switch my brain off and just concentrate on the different techniques at hand.

*< Stefan working at The Barn on a Production day last year*

It should have taken 6 years in total to complete all 3 Levels however mine was interrupted by Covid so BBV and Shepherds Bindery appealed to City & Guilds so I could finish all the courses I had missed.

My final submission date was 26th September 2025 which came around very quickly. I had completed all of the Level 3 mandatory and optional components and a week later had my external assessors meeting. I was awarded my Diploma (with Merit) on the 28th November.

I now volunteer at the National Army Museum and as a direct result of receiving my Diploma I have been given my own project to make Phase



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also working alongside a curator who is currently studying paper conservation and she will be passing on her knowledge and training to me.

*Stefan at work at the National Army Museum >*



I'm looking forward to gaining further knowledge and experience in Bookbinding.

**Stefan**

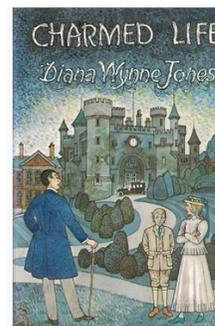
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## THE DESIGNER BOOKBINDERS COMPETITION 2025

by **Gilly Turner**

As I am in the final year of my apprenticeship with Shepherds Bookbinding, I was encouraged to enter the 2025 Designer Bookbinders biennial competition. This Competition has multiple categories, but the main category which every entrant must compete in is the 'Set Book' category. This competition is a book chosen by Designer Bookbinders in advance of the competition. Competitors buy a copy of the unbound text from the organisers and then are required to create a binding for the book. The idea being that competitors read the book and form a design based on the contents.

The book chosen for 2025 was *Charmed Life*, by Diana Wynne Jones a children's story about wizardry and witchcraft. I found a second-hand copy of the book to read and ordered the competition print for binding. Having read the book, I had to think about my design. I decided that a bold and simple design would be easier for me to achieve rather than something too complicated and this would allow me to finish the book to a high standard as well.



The main character in the book has 9 lives which have been magically kept in a book of matches. When this character loses a life, one of the matches burns to show that that life has been lost. I liked the idea of a match being struck as my design. I felt it alluded to the plot enough without being too obvious as a design. I also felt this was something I could probably create to look smart with some good leather work on the rest of the book. I also knew of a Crepaldi marbled paper that always made me think of fire and flames that I thought would complement the design well.

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leather on-lay before and my gold tooling is still in its infancy, I realised that it would be sensible to create a Hybrid case binding (a posh version of a case binding with headcaps) rather than a laced on boards binding as this would mean I could decorate the case before it was on the book allowing me to start again if it all went wrong without having to completely re-do the binding.



My final binding consisted of a rounded and backed text block with decorated edges, hand sewn endbands and Crepaldi endpapers. The case was covered in black Chieftan leather, and the match design was made using extremely thin leather offcuts. I used gold leaf for the gold tooling decoration.

Whilst I found the time pressure quite hard, I thoroughly enjoyed the binding process, often getting lost in the work and completely unaware of the time passing. I was forced to tackle binding skills I had only briefly touched on or in the case of the leather on-lays, never done before. There were numerous little errors in my work but I comfort myself knowing that I am able to identify how to rectify them all in the future. Overall, I am extremely proud of what I was able to produce in the limited time and I was so thrilled (and surprised! to win the Lisa von Clemm Prize for Best Newcomer and to have my work exhibited for two weeks after the prize giving.



This was a brilliant challenge and I would definitely recommend trying to create a competition piece as a way of forcing you to test yourself and push your skills to levels you may not have realised you could reach. These competitions are open to everyone and the organisers are always keen to see as many entrants as possible.

*< Gilly at Designer Bookbinders with her certificate for Best Newcomer and her*

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designer bookbinders  
contemporary book arts

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## COURSE NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### VETERANS OUTREACH SUPPORT (VOS) PORTSMOUTH - INTRODUCTION TO BOOKBINDING SESSION - 9 JANUARY 2026



A hive of activity and concentration at the BBV introduction-to-bookbinding session for VOS in Portsmouth and .....



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... the group of happy students in Portsmouth who have just completed making a book under the guidance of our Courses Administrator, Wendy Lagden.

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## **TEDWORTH HOUSE - INTRODUCTION TO BOOKBINDING SESSION - DECEMBER 2025**

*Once a month, BBV runs a two-hour introduction-to-bookbinding session for students on course at Tedworth House. The latest one, held on the 2nd December, was attended by 6 students.*



The students from December's bookbinding session proudly displaying their handmade books.



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*attractive design and a matching bookmarker.*



Students are invited to comment on the session and here are some of their observations from this course.

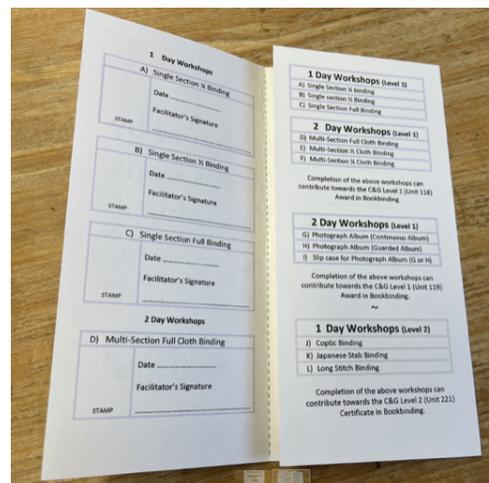
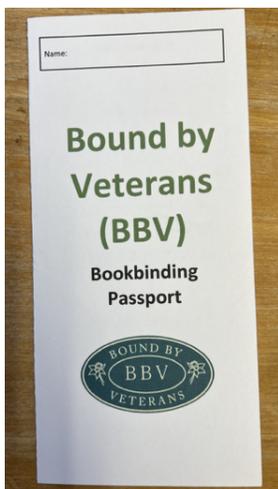
- *Really helpful and friendly staff. Inspired me to look into it further.*
- *Very enjoyable and learnt something new. Thank you.*
- *Excellent session, very enjoyable with clear and interesting instructions.*
- *It was very fulfilling and uplifting to create something.*
- *Therapeutic.*

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## BBV BOOKBINDING PASSPORT

This notice has been 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.



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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 scheme contact Wendy our Course Administrator on:  
[courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto:courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk)

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## BBV NEWS

### BBV at PEWSEY Christmas Fayre November 2025



Principal Tutor, Mylyn McColl; Treasurer, Jonathan Powell and BBV Veteran, Cheryl Roberts, manning the BBV stall at the Pewsey Christmas Market in Bouverie Hall last November

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Wendy Lagden has continued her sterling work in getting support through the Tesco Stronger Starts Scheme (formerly Community

Grants) and she informs me that we have recently had the results from Amesbury and Marlborough Branches of Tesco which took place between July and September last year. We are delighted to announce that we achieved a 1st place grant of £1500 in each store. As mentioned above the total we have received from TESCO over the years now amounts to £15,000!

Well done Wendy and a huge thankyou to Tesco.

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## NOTICES

### ARE YOU A SUBSCRIBER TO THIS BBV NEWSLETTER?

If you have received this Newsletter in your in-box, it means you are listed as a subscriber and it could be that you don't wish to be a subscriber any longer and that emails such as this clog up your in-box.

If that is the case then you can UNSUBSCRIBE and free up more space in your in-box. You can simply do this by clicking on the **unsubscribe** link at the very end of the Newsletter. it would help the management of our contact list if you were to unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive it.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA



Mylyn has created a BBV page on Instagram where there are many images of BBV veterans on bookbinding courses and other aspects of bookbinding - well worth a visit. <http://@boundbyveterans>

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management of social media on behalf of BBV please get in touch with the office at the barn on [tutor@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto:tutor@boundbyveterans.co.uk)

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## BBV NEWSLETTER - NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the BBV newsletter, following this Winter edition, is planned for March 2026 and will be the Spring edition. If anyone has any articles or bookbinding photographs of interest please send them to the Editor at:

[east\\_robert@hotmail.com](mailto:east_robert@hotmail.com)

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## BOOKBINDING COURSES - Winter 2026 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 continue to be held at Tedworth House in Tidworth and also at the Veterans' Outreach Support (VOS) sessions 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, held at the Barn workshops in Woodborough, 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

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Anyone interested in booking a place on any of the courses listed below should contact Wendy at [courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto: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**.

### January 2026

- **19-23 Jan (Mon-Fri) C&G Level 1 - (Unit 118) Cost: £20 for materials (for further details contact Wendy at [courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto:courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk))** 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 Jan (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.

### February 2026

- **16-20 Feb (Mon-Fri) C&G Level 2 - Unit 221 (Alternative and Historic Binding) Cost: £20 for materials (for further details contact Wendy at [courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto:courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk))** This course is the second unit in the Level 2 C&G certificate in Bookbinding. You will learn how to make a range of non-adhesive bindings, including a Coptic binding. For those with a little bookbinding experience.
- **24 Feb (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.

### March 2026

- **10-12 Mar (Tue-Thu), & 18th -19th (Wed-Thurs) C&G Level 1 - (Unit 118) (ON LINE ZOOM - FOR ANY STUDENT) Cost: £20 for materials (for further details contact Wendy at [courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto:courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk))** For complete beginners, this is the first unit in the Level 1 C&G certificate in Bookbinding, where you will

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- **24 Mar (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.

### April 2026

- **20-24 Apr (Mon-Fri) C&G Level 1 - Unit 119 (Photograph Albums & Slipcase)** Cost: £20 for materials (for further details contact Wendy at [courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto:courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk)) 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.

**21 Apr (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.

### May 2026

- **13-14 May (Wed-Thu) Level 3 Diploma Module - Paper Repairs.**  
When rebinding old books it will often be necessary to repair sections, tears and gaps. During this two-day course Christian will teach you several methods of paper repair and infill using both western laid papers and Japanese tissues.
- **19 May (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.

### June 2026

- **9-10 Jun (Tue-Wed) Level 3 Module - Cloth Re-back.** One of the most useful skills to learn if you are trying to make a living from bookbinding, this two-day course covers methods of repair and how to reback cloth

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## July 2026

- **7-10 Jul (Tue-Fri) LEVEL 3 MODULE Storage and Enclosures III.** This box is the final instalment in the Storage & Enclosures section of the Level 3 curriculum, and builds on the knowledge of S&E II. The more luxurious quarter leather rounded spine dropback box is suitable for the storage of fine leather bindings and design bindings.

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](mailto:courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk)

## INTERESTED?

If you are interested in taking part in any of our courses (either a webinar or in-person at The Barn) please contact Wendy at [courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto: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.

**COSTS:** While the cost of the tuition is free for veterans, we do ask that for a five day course, (C&G Levels 1 & 2), students make a £20 non-refundable contribution towards the cost of materials. For shorter, one- or two-day courses for C&G Levels 1&2 a contribution is based on £5 per day. Payment is to be made before the start of the course via BACS transfer and the course administrator will send the bank details out when a place is booked on the course or with the Joining Instruction. Should the student cancel their place on the course then the money can be transferred over to another course.

**ON-LINE COURSES:** 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 finished. All you will need is a space a bit bigger than

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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](mailto:courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk)

### **IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING taking part in any of the Introduction to Bookbinding Sessions (other than at Tedworth House), 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](mailto: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](mailto:gerry.mcgregor@veterantriberscotland.co.uk)) and
  - for H4H students (contact Emma Weir [emma.weir@helpforheroes.org.uk](mailto:emma.weir@helpforheroes.org.uk))

#### **For those thinking of undertaking the online sessions:**

- You can participate in the comfort of your own home, in a group organised session or from anywhere.

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- 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.
- For further information about the introduction sessions please contact Wendy Lagden at: [courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto:courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk)

## 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:

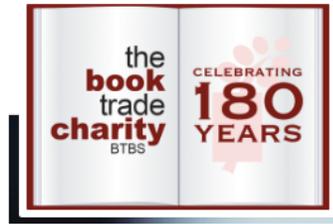
**Fundraising and Events Manager**

**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](mailto:enquiries@boundbyveterans.co.uk)

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Starts. *Every little helps*



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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.

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## CONTACT

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

- Visit: the Bound by Veterans website: [www.wiltshirebarn.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirebarn.co.uk)
- Email:
  - The Course Administrator: [courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto:courses@boundbyveterans.co.uk)
  - The Bindery at Woodborough: [office@boundbyveterans.co.uk](mailto:office@boundbyveterans.co.uk)
- Telephone: 07474 934524

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