

Bookmaking & Restoration

Tutor: George Davidson

Dates: Thursday 16/09/21 – 25/11/21 excluding 28/10/21

Times: 16:00-18:00

This is a workshop-type course, aimed at developing manual dexterity, accuracy of working and an understanding of the structure and repair of books and associated items. It is taught by one-to-one contact between the student and tutor within the group setting of the workshop. When several students are working on similar projects or techniques, it is possible to teach small groups, but individual speed of working usually means that individuals will be at different stages very soon after starting work.

The course is suitable for most people; however, participants will need to have a good degree of manual strength in both hands. An ability to read millimetre graduations on a ruler is essential. Beginners will make a plain paper notebook to familiarise themselves with the basic techniques (folding paper, sewing, trimming, etc.) and the materials used in bookmaking and restoration. A parallel exercise might involve rebinding an old case-bound book.

The more experienced will learn a variety of sewing techniques (including Japanese stitching), different structures of books, albums, boxes, and the use of a variety of materials including kinds of leather.

Everyone works at their own speed on projects of their own choice – making new books or restoring and repairing old ones – in an informal situation. The tutor is there to give advice on choice of projects and to teach appropriate techniques. The amount of work undertaken between sessions is entirely up to the student.

Learning methods will include instruction, explanation, demonstrations and group/individual discussions. If you are unsure of any details of this course or need more information, please call the office on 01234 266510 so that the tutor can contact you by e-mail or telephone.

The Arts & Crafts Centre is fully equipped, but students sometimes like to have their own hand tools (sharp pencil, metal ruler and craft knife) and small specialist tools (usually available from the tutor at cost).

Materials are available from the tutor at cost, usually about £5 per project, but specialist items (e.g. leathers or hand-patterned papers) will be more expensive.

There is no limit to the duration of this course – some students return term after term to gain more experience and to use the specialist equipment.

George Davidson has been teaching bookbinding to adults for a number of years. He has an HND in Bookbinding (design) from the London College of Communication (now the University of the Arts) and is a Hon. Fellow of the Society of Bookbinders.

Please adhere to the regulations concerning Personal Protective Equipment & Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) and how they apply to the course or accommodation and to any 'Safe System of Work' as advised by your tutor.

In addition to the Centre's legal responsibility, students also have the responsibility to take care of the Health and Safety of themselves and others.