

A quick summary of our Anniversary Year activities



North Wales & North West Region

Happy 50th Anniversary to the Society of Bookbinders

The *must attend* event of the year of course is our **Anniversary Day** at Kelsall on *Saturday 6 July*: a celebration of 50 years of the Society of Bookbinders and an opportunity to honour national Patron Paul Delrue's nearly 65 years in bookbinding.

With arrivals from 10am, we kick off at 10.30 with Barry Clark giving an illustrated talk on ***The Society of Bookbinders at 50***. Hot on his heels Glenn Malkin will be reflecting on ***Paul Delrue's life in bookbinding*** on what would have been Paul's 80th birthday. By then members will have surveyed the scene - trade stands from Hewit's, Harmatan and Marsh Marbling (maybe more) – and bought their raffle tickets for the later prize draw. Time to mingle and chat during the buffet lunch before David Lanning takes us on ***A Virtual tour of the Tannery and the Leather Manufacturing Process***. And finally: drawing the raffle, cutting birthday cake before winding up by 4.30pm. It will be a great day. Advance booking is essential: get yourself booked in with Sue (swoosal@btinternet.com or 07974 709664), £25 for the day including the buffet lunch.

And the rest of our members' 2024 programme includes:

16/03: Dominic Riley: ***Edge Decoration***

06/04: Michael Burke: ***An Italian Paper Case***

11/05: Louisa Boyd: ***An Artist's Book***

15/06: Glenn Malkin: ***The Bradel Binding***

10/08: Helen Golding Miller: ***The Stacker Box***

14&15/09: Mylyn McCall: ***Exposed butterfly stitch binding***

12/10: Ruth Brown: ***The Japanese pouch book***

09/11: ***Visit to Manchester Central Library***

07/12: ***Christmas lunch / social***

Anniversary merchandise now available

Throughout 2024 we will have available four items celebrating the founding of the Society of Bookbinders in Manchester in 1974. All will feature our celebratory logo: £4 for the key ring, £4 for the badge, £5 for the mug and £10 for the apron.

All four items will be available to purchase at our Kelsall workshops, at our Portico events too, and by mail order. Payment by cheque or bank transfer; second class post will be calculated, according to the order. For mail order please e-mail Barry (barry@chorlton21.co.uk).



Looking forwards . . . looking outwards . . .

2024 will also feature a programme of activities for non-members. At times it can be easy to forget that we are not a private members' club existing only to meet the needs of members. In fact our whole *raison d'être* is to promote the craft of hand bookbinding, both traditional and contemporary. Without that wider remit we as a Society would not be entitled to charitable status. So in our anniversary year we are returning to our Manchester roots with a programme of workshops, talks, demonstrations, and exhibitions. Organised and delivered by our own regional members, we of course welcome all members to these events as well as to the 2024 Kelsall programme.

Bookbinding talks at the Portico Library

The Portico Library have an impressive programme of events, and this year they have offered to host four evening talks as part of our anniversary year celebrations. Dates, titles and speakers below, all talks start at 6pm, cost £6; more info and booking details on the [Portico website](#).

- 15 February: *Two Manchester bookbinders: William Mellor and Will Mellor*
Speaker: Barry Clark
- 25 April: *Buried Alive! Books Unearthed in Our Time*
Speaker: Michael Burke
- 12 September: *Conservation of a Medieval Psalter*
Speaker: Richard Nichols
- 21 November: *Bookbinding and Beyond*
Speaker: Louisa Boyd

Bookbinding workshops at the Portico

The Society's collaboration with the Portico dates back to the 1980s. More recently we have offered a series of one-day bookbinding workshops, suitable for beginners. We continue this in 2024. Dates and titles below, cost £80 including tools, materials and refreshments/lunch; more info and booking details on the [Portico website](#).

- 7 February: *An Introduction to Bookbinding*
- 17 April: *Making a multi-section hardback notebook*
- 18 September: *Creating a hand-sewn leather journal*
- 13 November: *A Bookbinding Workshop with a difference!*

The Portico will also host a **bookbinding display** in June / July focusing on *Getting Started*, with a selection of bookbinding tools/materials/books and examples of previous Portico workshop projects on show, together with promotional materials from the Society and our region.

SoB returns to Manchester Central Library

Not only was the SoB founded in Manchester but its early meetings were in the staff room, known as the Book Trough, at Manchester Central Library. One of the founding members, Alan Taylor, was the Bindery Manager there. It is most appropriate that we will be returning in 2024 for a variety of activities.

The Library will host two bookbinding exhibitions, both running for three months October through December. Curated by Dominic Riley there will be an exhibition of **Fine Bindings** in the domed circular reading room on the first floor.

At the same time Catherine Garratt is curating an exhibition featuring some of our own **regional members' work created at our Kelsall workshops**. This will offer an opportunity for more members to be involved, sharing some of your Kelsall bookbinding projects. Catherine will talk more about this at the February AGM.

As part of the Fine Bindings exhibition the Library will also host a talk from Dominic: **Creating a Fine Binding: the Kelmscott Chaucer**. The date for the diary is: Thursday 28 November, 6pm, free entry.

And to accompany the members' workshop projects exhibition we will be running three **informal demonstrations / workshop sessions** in the library. The dates are Saturdays 5 October and 16 November, and Thursday 5 December. *We would appreciate volunteers to help out with these sessions*. Offer your services to Catherine (cgarrett2@googlemail.com).

