



Society of Bookbinders (Scotland)

Members Update, Autumn 2025

RESULTS OF SUMMER MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

A big “thank you” to all members who took the time to complete our online membership survey this summer. We had a total of 26 responses which is about a third of all members in Scotland. Overall, members are appreciative of what is offered and delivered by the Scottish branch. We recognise that it can be difficult for people to attend in-person events and workshops due to costs and distance however, we try to keep costs as low as possible and attempt to make them as accessible as possible. You will see from the forthcoming events that we are planning on some free and online events in addition to in-person and paid for sessions. The committee are all volunteers and work on the society’s behalf in their free time; if you would like to join the committee or can offer some time to help with the operation of the society, please get in touch.

The complete survey results are available as a separate pdf document included in the membership email.

RECENT VISIT AND WORKSHOP

Innerpeffray Library Visit & Workshop on Accordion Hinge Album with Felicity Bristow 10th October

We had a brilliant day in October, with 10 members travelling to Innerpeffray Library near Crieff where we saw the UK's first lending library, and its unique collection of books. It closed its lending facility in 1969, but has many visitors viewing the changing displays of multi-ages of writings and doodles in the books, a section of (badly) rebound books in the early 19th century by an Edinburgh bookbinder (not a member) and their poisonous volumes with green arsenic covers. They also have an 18th century scientific volume showing wrinkles on the face illustrating your good or bad character. In the afternoon, we retreated to the former primary school buildings for lunch and afterwards Felicity showed us a delightful Accordion Hinge binding with multi coloured paper and card.

Innerpeffray Library information: <https://innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk>





Society of Bookbinders (Scotland)



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SCOTTISH MEMBERS- SAVE THE DATES!

SoB (Scotland) Online Christmas Quiz (via ZOOM), evening of Tuesday 9th December

Free event to members

Gillian Stewart (JuJu Books) has kindly agreed to be our quiz master for this informal member's get together on ZOOM. Full details to follow.

Elbum Book Structure with award winning Fenneke Wolters-Sinke

Saturday 31st January 2025 @St Mary's Church Hall, Dunblane

Cost £30 includes all materials.

The elbum is an album structure invented by French bookbinder Ben Elbel and inspired by Hedi Kyle's blizzard book. Fenneke has received special permission to teach this binding specifically for SoB Scotland, and it is limited to 12 places.

This structure works on the principle of narrow rectangular pockets laid out in the height of the book, parallel with the spine, in which cards can be inserted and held solely by friction. Once the documents are in place, it is possible to manipulate the whole binding like a book, while retaining the possibility to remove or swap the cards at all times.

This is open to book on 1st January by email to Peter who will confirm your place or not within a week.

SoB (Scotland) Online AGM (via ZOOM)

Tuesday 3rd February, 19:00

Notice is given of this meeting when SoB Officers annual reports are given and minutes are provided to national SoB Election of Officers. Agenda and joining instructions will be published closer to the date. In the meantime, if you have any questions or have any items for the AGM agenda, please contact Andrew.

“Annual In-person Get Together”

Saturday 28th February @St Mary's Church Hall, Dunblane

After the very successful meeting earlier this year, we are hoping to repeat it with Gillian Stewart kindly giving a talk on “Principles of Designing Bookbindings” (or similar). Members will have the opportunity to network and get involved in a show and tell of recent bindings. There will be the opportunity for members to sell excess tools, paper and equipment and



Society of Bookbinders (Scotland)

many committee members will be available. As per this year, leather, paper and bookbinding equipment suppliers J Hewit & Sons Ltd (<https://www.hewit.com>) may also be in attendance with a stall.

Scottish Bookbinding Seminar @ Hewits, Livingston

Saturday 21st March 2026

The committee have been hard at work planning a seminar on Saturday 21st March in association with Hewits. Whilst the finer details have yet to be finalised the plan is to host the event in Hewit's shop and tannery in Livingston; the programme will have various workshops and presentations from bookbinding experts, a tour of the tannery and access to the shop. This will be a ticketed event open to SoB (Scotland) members in the first instance and then to the wider SoB regions. Also at this event we shall be launching a competition for The John Colman Silver Salver Award which will include a joint cash prize from Hewitts and SoB Scotland. The committee are currently deciding the formal criteria for the award.

Further information (incl. cost) and booking details will be available soon.

Events To Be Confirmed

April - Tom McEwan workshop

May - Zoom workshop Double consecutive Saturday mornings

MEMBERS' MARKETPLACE

In this section we are happy to publicise workshops being run by SoB members, pieces of equipment or materials for sale by SoB Members etc- please get in touch with Andrew if you would like to publicise anything.

JUJU BOOKS UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Gillian Stewart of JuJu Books would like to share her upcoming series of workshops being delivered in her Glasgow studio. Workshop details are below and can be booked at jujubooks.co.uk:

- Butterfly stitch on leather tapes - 15th November- £105
- Slipcase - 16th November- £95
- Screenprinting & Bookbinding weekend - 8-9th November with Mobile Print Studio - £210
- Evening Workshop - Bind a 'Best Bits' book - 10th December - £60
- Magnetic keepsake box with foil blocking - 13th December - £105
- Hardcover quarter bound journal - 10th January - £95

OTHER NEWS

Artists Bookmarket 2026 @Fruitmarket Gallery Edinburgh

Applications are now open to be part of Edinburgh's biggest celebration of book art and art publishing on 14th and 15th February 2026. This is a well-established event celebrating book makers, art publishers, illustrators and designers, and artists working with book forms. In



Society of Bookbinders (Scotland)

addition to the book fair there will be a number of workshops. The deadline for stall and workshop applications is 9th November.

For further information, including how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.fruitmarket.co.uk/apply-for-artists-bookmarket-2026/>

CONTACT

SoB (Scotland) Membership Secretary

Andrew Shoolbread: sob.scotland@gmail.com

SoB (Scotland) Events Secretary

Peter Cunningham: peter@balmr.co.uk