

Bookbinding and Book Repairs for Beginners and Improvers



The location of many of John Constable's paintings, Flatford Mill runs over 120 Natural History and Arts courses in a unique and tranquil learning environment.

Course Overview

Covering both restoration of existing books and the creation of new bindings, this course is equally suitable for beginners and those with previous experience, since tuition is given according to individual needs. The course emphasises the traditional skills and techniques of hand binding and helps you develop a deeper insight into this rewarding craft.

Course Description

Of all man's enduring artefacts the bound book is surely one of the most enlightening, useful and pleasing. Its present accepted form and structure results from 2,000 years of evolution, which has imposed craft disciplines unknown to the reader but a source of fascination to the enquiring booklover. This workshop will introduce you to the foundations of good hand binding and repair, dwelling on the important 'why' as well as the 'how'. Although essentially a practical course, the exploration of underlying objectives in fine work will be covered in our discussions.

Whether you are completely new to bookbinding or already have some experience, we suggest that you bring along a selection of possible projects on which to work

during the course. Advice will then be given as to the most suitable items to attempt. Possible examples are:

- making plain paper books
- loose material suitable for binding
- bound books in need of repair (If in any doubt about an item bring it along for consideration!)

You can expect to receive instruction in various stages of producing a bound book:

- making up book sections
- preparation for and the technique of sewing
- making up endpapers and their attachment
- cutting the book with the use of plough and press
- rounding and backing the spine with the use of lying press
- cutting, making and attaching the cover
- lettering
- slip cases and boxes

The aim is for everyone to leave on Friday with several finished items. If you would like to discuss the course content or a particular project further you may email the tutor direct on studio5bookarts@aol.co.uk.

NB **Fees are exclusive of materials which will be available from the tutor at cost price, usually £10-£20.**

About the Tutor

Mark Cockram is a full time bookbinder with over 40 years experience working with the book. Mark was elected Fellow of Designer Bookbinders in 2001, Brother of the Art Workers Guild in 2008 and more recently, in 2017, was the Faculty Fellow for the New York Centre for Book Arts. Marks diverse work can be found in National and International collections, both public and private around the world.

What to Bring

All the materials to carry out this work will be available at the Centre, as will much of the equipment. You are, however, asked to try and provide the following items for your personal use:

- craft knife and blades
- sharp scissors
- steel rule and a pencil
- overalls or an apron
- a cutting mat if you have one

If you have any difficulty with these items, or any specialist materials, please let us know and we'll try to help.

Start and finish times

Residents: Please aim to arrive between **1600 and 1800** on Monday to allow us sufficient time to show you to your accommodation and around the communal areas.

Non-residents: You do not need to arrive quite so early but please can you be here by **1200** as we need to show you the communal areas as well.

The course ends at **1600** on Friday.

What the fee includes

Residential course fee includes:

- Full board accommodation including cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, homemade cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary option available.
- Up to 8 hours teaching time a day, plus relaxing breaks for meals and refreshments.
- Tea and coffee making facilities available throughout the day.
- Use of resources including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds.
- Transport during the courses.
- Insurance to cover cancellation, personal belongings, personal accident, legal liability and medical emergency.

If you choose to be a non-resident on a residential course, the fee will include all the above except accommodation and breakfast.

Special Offer

Bring a friend!

If you are attending a course at Flatford Mill at the sole occupancy price, we are offering a special rate for a friend or partner not enrolled on the course to also stay at £50 per night for dinner, bed and breakfast.

How to book

Bookings can be made by telephoning the Centre; we are open 0930 – 1700 weekdays and most weekends. Alternatively, bookings can be made via our website: www.field-studies-council.org.