



BELL
& BAIN
LIMITED

NEWSLETTER



UPDATE 49

March 2026

Welcome to the 49th edition of our company newsletter. In this issue we welcome 2 new exciting recruits, review the London Book Fair and highlight an exciting book we were involved with.

As always the book and employee section has been included at the end for you all to get to know our friendly staff who make everything possible here. The new brain teaser has also been added along with last months answer.



Printing and binding books since 1831

2026 - New Year New 5 Star Recruits

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026.

With the first quarter now complete, we're pleased to report a strong start to the year, building on the success of 2025. Last year saw us achieve 11.03% growth in turnover, alongside forming new partnerships and delivering continued organic growth from our existing customers.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and for the new business opportunities you have entrusted to us. We look forward to working together throughout 2026.

As we move into 2026, we are pleased to share that we have strengthened our team with the appointment of Debbie Figures as our new Quality Officer. Debbie will play a key role in bridging gaps across our quality and environmental policies, ensuring alignment with current legislation while supporting the continued development of our systems.

At Bell & Bain, we are committed to building on our robust ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 frameworks, maintaining the high standards our customers expect while taking our processes to the next level. Debbie's role will support enhanced quality analysis, risk management, and a strong focus on continual improvement.

In addition, Debbie will contribute to SMETA audits, EcoVadis (as we work towards achieving Silver status), tendering processes, and advancing our Science Based Targets initiative.

With over 25 years of experience across both the public and private sectors, Debbie brings a wealth of knowledge to the role. Having started her career as a factory-based worker, she has a deep understanding of operational structures and demands. We are delighted to welcome Debbie to the team and look forward to the positive impact she will bring. We also look forward to introducing her to our customers and suppliers throughout the year.

We would also like to announce another major appointment, For those of you receiving our quotes, you may have noticed a new, yet familiar surname appearing. We are delighted to announce that, after many years of trying, we have finally welcomed Lucy Docherty to Bell & Bain.



Lucy is the middle of Stephen's three children and now joins Ross and Louise, completing the Docherty family presence within the business. After successfully running her own café, where many of our customers will fondly remember her fantastic sandwich and cake platters during visits (something we will all certainly miss!, Lucy has now joined our estimating team.

She will be bringing that same care and attention to detail into her new role, now providing you with excellent pricing instead. Lucy is an incredibly positive and cheerful individual who brings great energy to the department, proving that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree... (and yes, we were told to say that!). We're delighted to have Lucy on board and look forward for you all to get to know her.

London Book Fair 2026

Now that the dust has settled after the hustle and bustle of the London Book Fair, it's safe to say we are just about fully recovered from what was a long but thoroughly enjoyable week.

It's always inspiring to witness the power and importance of books, bringing people together from across the industry to connect, collaborate, and share ideas. This year was particularly special as it marked the first time our Business Services Manager, Greg Fitzgerald, joined us at the fair. His enthusiasm and fresh perspective brought a new energy to the team, and seeing the event through his eyes was a great reminder of how fortunate we are to be part of this industry.

With plenty of new leads for our sales team to follow up on, alongside nurturing our existing partnerships, the fair once again proved to be a valuable and rewarding experience.

It was fantastic to see so many of you there, and for those who were able to join us for a drink or two at our unofficial stand across the road at the Hand and Flower, we'd like to extend a sincere thank you. We truly appreciate your time and the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful world of books together.



Over the past year, we've developed a fantastic partnership with The Buddyhood, an exciting new publisher launched at LBF 2025. With a clear mission to use storytelling to support young people's emotional wellbeing, empathy and sense of belonging, their books, spanning graphic novels, picture books and storybooks, bring important social issues to life in an engaging and meaningful way.

As their print partner from the outset, it's been incredibly rewarding to see their ideas evolve from concept to finished books, and we're proud to have played a role in that journey.

We were also honoured to be invited to speak at their event at this year's fair, where we championed UK printing and shared how Bell & Bain is helping to develop the next generation through our award-winning apprenticeship schemes.



Our sincere thanks to Harleen and Andrew for the opportunity to be involved, we look forward to continuing this journey together. There is so much more to tell about what they do so to learn more about The Buddyhood and their inspiring work across publishing and charity, please visit their website www.thebuddyhood.com.

Poochie Pete and His Very Big Feet

We were very fortunate to be invited to the launch of a special book we printed back in February, something that, sadly, is quite a rare occurrence for us, so it made the experience all the more meaningful. Held on World Book Day, the event was a wonderful celebration for both the publisher and the author/illustrator.

Poochie Pete and His Big Feet, published by Little Door Books, is the debut picture book written by none other than Dougie Payne, best known as the bass player from the hugely successful and much-loved Scottish band Travis. The book is brought to life with beautifully illustrated drawings by Rachel Seago.

It's not often we get the opportunity to work with Scottish "royalty," so it was a real pleasure to welcome Dougie to the factory and watch his book come to life. Whenever an author visits, it's always a special experience, and often quite an emotional one. Moments like these remind us of the value of what we do across both print and publishing, and the genuine sense of pride and satisfaction it brings.

Watching Dougie see the finished books coming off the binder was a highlight, he was like a proud parent, and it was a privilege for us to share in that moment.

The book launch itself was just as memorable as the factory visit. Surrounded by close friends, family, and their children, we were treated to a live reading of the book, which the kids thoroughly enjoyed. They even got involved in brainstorming ideas for the next instalment, one young attendee suggesting the brilliant band name for Poochie Pete: "Pawvis." Outstanding!

Many thanks to Alan Windram of Little Door Books for allowing us to print this title for him and allowing us to play our part in this special project.





EMPLOYEE FOCUS

Name: Ewan Macpherson

Years of Service: 1 Year 3 Months

Position: Production Controller/ Customer Service Advisor

Describe your role To make up work tickets and to correspond with customers throughout the life cycle of the job. Ensuring customer requests are passed on to factory and also booking in deliveries.

What do you enjoy the most about your position? I like the office environment I work in, there's always good banter between colleagues. Before I worked here I hadn't worked in an office so it has been a welcomed change and an easy transition. I'm still learning about the industry and enjoy the challenges that come with it.

What do you hope 2026 will bring you? Achieve professional & personal goals

Fun Fact - Similar to Lucy, after many years of trying, I finally succumbed to Stephen's charm and signed up to join Bell & Bain. Great decision!

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

In this section we would like to showcase some of our client's titles that we have been fortunate enough to produce for them.



Poochie Pete and His Very Big Feet
Published by Little Door Books

Dougie Payne, the bassist from Travis, has written a charming rhyming book for children, starring the wonderfully scrappy Poochie Pete whose big feet gets him in a lot of trouble.

Specification- Sewn bound PB 240 x 240mm, 32ps printing full colour on 150gsm G-Silk .Cover printed 4/0 on 300gsm one sided with matt lamination and spot UV



Scotland the Strange: Weird Tales from Storied Lands
Published by The British Library

Sourced from Scotland's storied literary heritage and bustling with witches, ghosts, devils and merfolk, this selection celebrates the works of treasured Scottish writers such as John Buchan, Robert Louis Stevenson, Dorothy K. Haynes and Neil M. Gunn alongside rare pieces by lesser-known authors – including two tales translated from Scots Gaelic

Specification - Burst bound Wibalin hardback with holographic foil. 210 x 149mm, 320pps printing mono on 120gsm Amber Preprint. Amethyst Fine Linen with 1/1 ends, holographic foil front back and spine

BRAIN TEASER

What was the world's tallest mountain before Mount Everest was discovered?

Last Issue-

There are five candy canes and you take away two. How many do you have?

Answer -You have two!

Thank you for your continued support!

"We look to work together in partnerships with our clients, ensuring a solid basis where expectations are exceeded, and time frames are met consistently"

OUR DETAILS

Bell & Bain Ltd 303 Burnfield Road
Thornliebank
Glasgow
G46 7UQ
Office Number: 0141 649 5697
Website: www.bell-bain.com

Should you require a quote, please send your specification to

estimating@bell-bain.co.uk

Please ensure to include the following;

- Trim size (mm)
- Page Extent
- Text printing (mono 1/1, 2 colour 2/2 or 4 colour 4/4)
- Cover printing (4/0, 4/1, 4/4...)
- Text and cover board materials
- Cover / Jacket Lamination
- Quantity
- For hardback books please advise of endpapers (plain, printed, pre dyed) if printed please advise (1/0, 1/1, 4/0, 4/4...)
- Type of Hardback (printed paper case or imitation cloth wrapped with Jacket)
- Delivery instructions

To place an order please send to

orders@bell-bain.co.uk

If you would like to discuss a future project, please contact our sales team.

sales@bell-bain.co.uk

Or you can contact our estimating email address which is constantly monitored by the office to ensure a prompt response.

estimating@bell-bain.co.uk