

The People's Friend

Features

Guidelines



WRITING FEATURES FOR THE "FRIEND"

STORIES are the heart of the "Friend", and while we're known for our great fiction, our readers love our non-fiction features, too.

From travel to history, nostalgia to nature, plus uplifting real life inspiring lives and helping others, we're interested in true stories about all the things our readers like to do when they're not reading their "Friend"

So, if you're interested in writing for us, where should you begin?

FILLER FEATURES

Our single-page features can be about almost anything under the sun! Hobbies, memories, inspiring people, places and experiences, they can all be found in our pages. What they have in common is that they're stories of about 600 words that come from the heart, told with warmth, caring and sometimes humour. Above all, there's a sense of the person behind the words and those words must draw the reader into the article and help them to get a real feel for the subject.

WHAT ABOUT PICTURES?

Good pictures will definitely help. For a single page feature we'd need two or three high-quality images. There's lots more helpful information about photos and how to send them in our separate photography guidelines. www.thepeoplesfriend.co.uk/footer/guidelines/

HINTS AND TIPS

- 1** Do read "The People's Friend" and study the market for several weeks before submitting your manuscript.
- 2** Get to know our readers. "Friend" readers range from about thirty to well over eighty. They love to read and be entertained, but they come to the "Friend" to be reminded about the uplifting, positive side of life. They also like to read about ordinary people, like themselves – they're not fond of celebrity culture and gossip.
- 3** Be accurate. Between them, our readers have a vast range of knowledge and life experience. Even if we were to miss an error in one of our features or stories, our readers wouldn't! So, please, double-check everything – names, dates, places, spellings, facts – before you send us your manuscript.

SENDING YOUR WORK TO US

If you feel "Friend" readers would love to read your feature, then we'd be happy to see it. Here's what we need:

- Send your work typed on one side of the paper only. Use double spacing, but no other formatting. Our house style uses double

quotation marks. Make sure the pages are numbered and that your name and the title of your feature appear at the top of every page. Any photographs should also be marked on the reverse with your name and address and a short description to say who or what appears in the picture.

- Include a covering sheet with your name, address, and e-mail address. Send your manuscript to: The Features Team, The People's Friend, D.C. Thomson & Co. Ltd., 2 Albert Square, Dundee DD1 9QJ. Always keep a copy of your manuscript and any photographs you send us. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of your manuscript and any photos. Sorry - we can't return materials not accompanied by an SAE.
- We don't accept submissions by email, but if you don't need your manuscript to be returned to you, please include your email address so that we can contact you about your feature if we need to. Your work must be original and must not have been published elsewhere or be awaiting a decision on publication from another publisher. Please see our separate guidelines on photographs for the "Friend" for more information on submitting images.

AND FINALLY . . .

Please be patient while you're waiting to hear from us – it may take a while. If your article hasn't been selected for publication, don't be downhearted. We read every manuscript that is sent to us, but we can only publish a small proportion of those that we receive. Among the main reasons for not selecting an article are that it has the wrong tone or subject matter for the magazine; that we've recently covered a subject, or that we already have similar features in stock waiting to be published. There's not much to be done about the last one, but familiarity with a number of recent issues of the magazine will significantly help your chances of overcoming the other obstacles.

If we think your feature is right for the "Friend" we'll tell you as soon as we can. ■

Features should be sent to: **The People's Friend,**
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