

Open Book Newsletter

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM PEN COED PUBLISHING



Special Book offer

Congratulations

This month we are giving away a **free** copy of **"Planning for Early Retirement"** by Gary Evans. Add "Retirement" to subject line on the **Contact Us** form by the end of June to be in with a chance!

What's New

Welcome to Newsletter 4

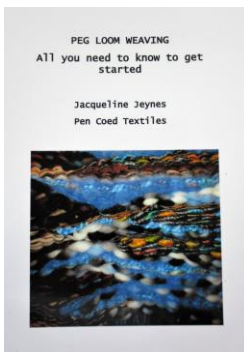
Thank you for signing up to our Newsletter. Hope you find it interesting and inspiring!

Feel free to share it with friends - get it direct to your Email inbox or read it online.

Hints & Tips

Tips about Writing, Editing and Publishing

This month we have included 10 Tips on submitting your Non-Fiction masterpiece to an Agent or Publisher - important things you must take into account when sending it off.



LAST TIME WE FEATURED OUR PEG LOOM WEAVING BOOK - HERE'S WHAT OUR CUSTOMER TRACY MADE WHEN SHE GOT THE BOOK. Congratulations Tracy - a great first piece of weaving! She is busy working her way through the projects in the book now.

Our Editing Services

Well, despite travel restrictions, we have been very busy since the start of the year.

During the first 3 months of 2021, we have Edited books for two new authors, helping them to get them ready to publish. Both are on military history:

- Iraqi Kurdistan - New Horizons by Ceredigion author David Barratt
- Not Enough Said by Duke Sell, a moving story about his father as a Far east Prisoner of War working mainly on the Burma Railway.

Here we explain how it worked for both authors.

The Editing Service is proving very popular, with both shorter pieces of writing and full-length books.

Whether you have a final version ready, or it is a first draft, we are happy to act as Development Editor for you.

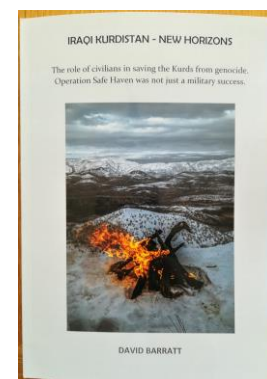
- First stage, we do a quick read-through to see how much work is involved.
- Then we agree whether it is full editing service or just enough to get it print ready.

Iraqi Kurdistan - New Horizons

2021 is the 30th anniversary of the Gulf War - Operation Safe Haven a combined effort between military and civilian volunteers to provide a safe area for the Kurdish people fleeing Saddam's troops. Always hailed a military success, David wanted to put the record straight about the role of volunteers in making it happen.

Already a completed draft, we focused on checking place names were spelt consistently, making small changes to sentence structure here and there so that it reads smoothly. The next step is choosing the best size - generally B5 or A5 for Nonfiction - and making sure it all fits easily across the page. Finally, the front cover design which we both loved. It is a fascinating read and important addition to military history. ISBN: 978-1-9998352-8-6 RRP £15.00

For more details about David's book, see the Home Page description, the Order Online page to order a copy direct from us, or follow the link to buy on Amazon UK.



The best quote is from the author himself who said "It reads so much better. Once I started to read the edited version, I couldn't put it down!"

Published in April 2021, David's book is now available, and he has set up a Facebook page featuring little snippets from different chapters. More details and updates on the Pen Coed Publishing website.

www.pencoedpublishing.co.uk

Not Enough Said by Duke Sell

The other book we edited is by Duke Sell. It is a moving tribute to his father, Johnnie Sell, who was a prisoner of war in the Far east (FEPOW) and worked on the Burma railway - otherwise known as the "Death Railway".

As you know, I am always interested in FEPOW stories so was keen to read about Johnnie's experiences. Every FEPOW has their own story, but Duke's book also includes a section on War Crimes trials, notorious Unit 731 experiments on humans, and recognition of his father's bravery by Lord Louis Mountbatten.

This was the first draft of the book so getting the structure and flow right was the immediate priority. Moving sections around, deciding chapter headings, and making sure the reader could follow events easily is the overall aim.

Once that is in place, it is down to proof-reading and sentence structure. Now it is ready to submit to publishers, usually A4 size 1.5 or double-line spacing, before thinking about adding images.

After having the original draft version declined by a publisher - it did really need a lot of work to get it into the format they prefer - Duke has successfully submitted it to a new publisher. It is due for publication in August 2021 to coincide with VJ Day Remembrance events. Very exciting news for Duke!

He is happy with the work we have done on his book, and commented:

"You have done a marvelous job on my book; I can't thank you enough".

Good luck with your book, Duke.

There have been two further pieces edited this year, including a shorter piece for an MA student before she submitted her work for assessment, and another new client has just joined us, so we are keen to keep the Editing work going.

It is fascinating to see how the writing, structure, and presentation, changes while the story they want to tell becomes clearer and more powerful.

We love editing! See more information on the website:

www.pencoedpublishing.co.uk/editing-services

10 TIPS FOR SUBMITTING NON-FICTION

Now you have written your Non-Fiction masterpiece, you need to think about how to get it out there for people to read. There are lots of ways to publish, but if you are submitting work to an Agent or direct to a Publisher, there are some things that you must do in order to get some form of positive response.

1. Whether you are submitting to an Agent or a Publisher, do your homework! Always follow the Guidance on their website.
2. For Non-Fiction, you can often submit directly to the publisher although you may not get an advance fee, especially if you are a new writer for them.
3. If you submit to an Agent, they will then approach relevant publishers on your behalf with the intention of getting you an Advance. Remember, they do not get any reward until you do which is likely to be a long way ahead.
4. However, Agents often like new writers as it gives them potential to work with you for a long time in the future.
5. Do not submit anything that has already been published elsewhere. So, no E-book or previously self-published title. If it has not sold well, why should they take it on? If it has sold well, why do you need them?
6. Text should be 12 point, A4 size, 1.5 or double-spaced lines, depending on what they say they want in their Guidelines. If they take it on, they will decide on the final page size later. Also include a sample section of 5-10,000 words, or 3 chapters, to show them how you write.
7. For Memoir, unlike other Non-Fiction, you need to have the complete draft ready before you contact them and send them a section. It may not be perfect, but that is fine.
8. For other Non-Fiction, you will need to send a Proposal that includes a Synopsis (brief description of what the book is about), a full Contents list with details of what each chapter will cover, and a sample section. You also need to identify the word count (approximately), the target audience, and an idea of where you think you will market it. It does not have to be the finished book when you submit this Proposal.
9. The Query Letter is often the pre-stage beforehand to get them interested enough to want to see your work. Their guidance will say whether you should just Query first.
10. Query letter is SHORT! 300 words email with crucial details of genre (where it sits on the bookstore shelf), what it is about, who will read it. And finally, why you are the perfect author for this book!

More tips and information on our website: www.pencoedpublishing.co.uk