

A SMALL BEGINNING

Your memoir starts here.

A gentle workbook to help you gather your memories, photographs and ideas before your first conversation with Words In Print.

You can begin today. Spend a little time on the questions that speak to you. Short notes are enough. You do not need to finish this workbook before getting in touch.

What would you like us to call you?**What makes you want to tell your story now?**

A family milestone, a memory, a wish to share your life - or something else entirely.

Who would you love to read your book?

Family, grandchildren, friends, your community, a wider audience, or simply yourself.

What is one memory you would enjoy telling us about?

It can be an ordinary moment. Begin wherever the memory takes you.

How to use this workbook

Print it and write by hand, or type into the fields using a compatible PDF reader and save your completed copy. You can also keep your answers in a notebook. Nothing is submitted automatically.

01 / YOUR PEOPLE AND PLACES

The world you remember.

Think of the people, homes and communities that belong in your story. Approximate dates are fine; leave a question mark beside anything you would like to check.

Where did your story begin?

A home, town, country, school or place you can still picture. What made it feel like home?

Who are the people your readers should meet?

Write their names, how they are connected to you, and one thing you remember about them.

Which moments changed the direction of your life?

Work, a friendship, a journey, marriage, parenting, faith, a challenge or an unexpected opportunity.

Make a small map of your life.

List a few places or stages in order, with rough dates if you know them. We can help arrange the chronology later.

02 / ONE MEMORY AT A TIME

Let us step into a moment.

Choose just one memory. Imagine you are telling it to someone who was not there. Use your own words and keep to what you remember.

Where are we, and who is there?

A room, a street, a paddock, a workplace, a gathering - give us a starting point.

What happened?

Tell it as you would over the phone. What led up to it, and what happened next?

Which small details stay with you?

A sound, a smell, an expression, an object, a saying, or something that made you smile.

Why has this memory stayed with you?

What did it mean then? What do you understand about it now?

Unsure of a date, name or exact wording? Mark it for checking. You can describe the sense of a conversation without inventing the words. Leave any question you would rather discuss privately.

03 / LET THE PHOTOGRAPHS HELP

A photograph can open a story.

Choose a few photographs that make you want to talk. A family home, a person, a workplace or an ordinary day may be just as useful as a special occasion.

Photograph 1: what story does it bring back?

Note the filename or write a number on a copy. Who is pictured? Where and roughly when was it taken? What would you tell us about it?

Photograph 2: what story does it bring back?

Note the filename or write a number on a copy. Who is pictured? Where and roughly when was it taken? What would you tell us about it?

Photograph 3: what story does it bring back?

Note the filename or write a number on a copy. Who is pictured? Where and roughly when was it taken? What would you tell us about it?

What else could help tell the story?

Letters, diaries, certificates, recipes, newspaper clippings, existing writing or a family tree.

Bring or send copies of a small selection to begin with. Keep your originals safe. The first conversation can help decide what belongs in the book.

04 / THE BOOK YOU WOULD LIKE

Make it feel like yours.

There is no single way to tell a life story. These notes help us understand what matters to you and the kind of book you would like to hold.

Which three stories must be in your book?

They may be joyful, funny, difficult, quietly important, or a mixture.

How much of your life would you like to tell?

Your whole life, a particular chapter, family history, work, a journey, or a collection of short memories?

How would you like it to sound?

As you speak, warm and conversational, understated, humorous, reflective - tell us what feels natural.

Is there anything you want handled gently or kept private?

Share only what you feel comfortable writing here. We can talk about this separately.

How do you imagine sharing the finished book?

Family copies, gifts, direct sales, an online listing, or a decision for later.

05 / YOUR FIRST CONVERSATION

You have enough to begin.

A few notes and photographs can be the start of a book. Words In Print can help develop the story through interviews, phone conversations and material you already have.

What would you most like help with?

Remembering, organising, writing, editing, photographs, design, printing or understanding the next step.

Do you have a date or occasion in mind?

An ideal date helps us discuss a realistic plan. It is fine to leave this open.

What would you like to ask us?**Your starting materials**

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A few memories or notes | ☐ A small selection of photographs |
| ☐ Names or dates to check | ☐ Any writing you already have |

The checklist is an invitation, not a requirement. Bring whatever you have. You can start with a phone call even if you have not written a word.

Your next step

Email us to arrange a memoir conversation. Attach your saved workbook or bring your notes. We will discuss the scope, process, timing and costs before work begins.

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Your first chapter can start with a conversation.