

Comberbach Community Writing Project

Aim: To create an anthology of stories written by villagers about their experiences during the pandemic. The project aims to be fully inclusive, with pieces written by all age groups from young children to our most elderly residents, to reflect the diversity of our village. The final anthology will be printed in book form.

Progress so far: Leaflets have been shared in the Village News and the project advertised in the Facebook community group. So far there are 15 entries but several more promised/anticipated. There are still 3 weeks left until the closing date so it is anticipated that we will exceed the minimum viable number of 20 submissions.

Question for the parish council: Would any funds be available to fund or part-fund the printing of books? Full funding would allow each household to receive a free copy of the anthology – a document of this extraordinary time in our history. If the project is part-funded, further funds may be sought from alternative sources such as a grant application or the anthology could be sold to cover costs.

Projected costs: These figures are based on printing 450 copies of the anthology (one for each household), with 48 pages in each, of a medium paper quality, using Mixam printers:

- Paperback £533
- Hardback £1100

These are projected costs and are subject to change depending on the number of entries received once the submission period closes and therefore how many pages are required. I have chosen Mixam as I have an anthology printed by them so can guarantee the quality (the skinny book I showed you John). The prices also seem very competitive.

I appreciate this topic being tabled and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Nicola Ashbrook

If any members of the council would like to contribute a piece, the word limit is 300. Please e-mail it me ;-)