

Kesgrave Library Annual report for Kesgrave Town Council: 2016 / 2017

Background

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the performance of Kesgrave Library during 2016 / 2017. Kesgrave Library continues to be one of the busiest small libraries in Suffolk and it is getting busier, as the figures and the summary of activities in this report highlight. As well as the high number of items issued and high visitor numbers, the attendance figures at events and activities are among the highest in the county. The library has been particularly successful at engaging with children. The grant from Kesgrave Town Council is a vital contribution to the running of Kesgrave.

Summary of activities, April 2016 to February 2017

- In April the library was refurbished by staff and volunteers with all public areas redecorated, new shelving for staff areas and increased space for customer reservations. This was made possible by fundraising by the community group and a grant from SPARKS. The library was officially reopened on 17th July 2016 by Alison Wheeler, Chief executive of Suffolk Libraries and Neal Beecroft-Smith, Kesgrave Town Council Chair. The event also marked the launch of the Summer Reading Challenge at Kesgrave Library and a 'Chocolicious Party' - inspired by the Roald Dahl theme of the challenge - was held. Approximately 260 people came along to this event which included Roald Dahl inspired craft and cakes provided by our baking club. The event gained positive coverage in the East Anglian Daily Times.
- On 11th June, the library had a stand at the Queens' 90th Birthday Fun-Day. This was manned voluntarily by staff, community group volunteers and our Sunday High School volunteers.
- The Summer Reading Challenge was more successful than ever. 333 children finished which was a 72% completion rate and 1495 children attended the free craft sessions supported by the Community Group during the 7 week challenge. The presentation was on Sunday 18th September and the Community Group secured a grant to pay for a puppet show and additional prizes for the challenge inspired by Roald Dahl's Matilda. Stuart Lawson, who supported the SRC with a £500 grant, attended along with Neal Beecroft-Smith and Alison Wheeler.
- In October, two new monthly activities for adults were introduced; Knit and Natter and Adult Colouring.
- The two book groups on offer at the library have increased in popularity with new members joining each month.
- A close link with Cedarwood Primary School has been developed, with all classes visiting during the educational year and the majority of children signing up for a library card.
- There has been a rise in use by pupils from Kesgrave High School, issuing books and using the facilities on offer.
- On 30th October, a Halloween Event run by the community group in partnership with the staff was attended by approximately 150 people.
- Since October 2016, the library has held two activities per month for older people - Knit and Natter and a Book Group. These have proved popular with new members joining every month.
- Cards for Good Causes and Suffolk Wildlife Fund - these charity cards were available in the library for the first time last year. Sales were strong and this service will be available again this year.
- A rise in use by pupils from Kesgrave High School, both issuing books and using the facilities on offer.
- In January 2017, staff began offering IT sessions one Saturday morning a month, to customers, to help them with any aspect of IT. These are proving very popular. January and February were fully booked, as is March.

- Staff are continuing with our Outreach work, visiting local schools, play-groups and pre-schools promoting literacy and the library as an educational and safe place for children to visit.
- Friday morning Story Time sessions are so popular that Kesgrave Library Friends- which supports the staffing costs for this - has agreed to fund raise to enable this session to continue for another year.
- Kesgrave Library Friends held a very successful Christmas Fayre with approximately 250 people attending on 27th November
- The library offered a work experience placement to a university student during January 2017. They enjoyed their time with the library and are coming back during their summer holiday.
- The library has recruited two high school volunteers to help with the Sunday crafts. Both students are working towards their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. The library has three other volunteers who are all hoping that the work will enhance their prospects of securing jobs in the future.
- The library has become a drop off point for used postage stamps and old coins for St Elizabeth's Hospice.

Performance figures: Usage of Kesgrave Library, April 2015 to February 2017

Note: library closed for 4 days for refurbishment in April 2016

The following tables compare the usage of the library during 2016 / 2017 compared to the previous year.

Month	Visitors		Issues	
	15/16	16/17	15/16	16/17
April	3279	3361	3141	4827
May	3547	4010	3139	5470
June	3627	3675	3256	5222
July	5231	5411	3718	7006
August	5473	5871	3861	7329
September	4575	5063	3720	5473
October	3797	4259	3948	5624
November	3517	3826	3401	4956
December	2835	3281	2989	4276
January	3672	3262	4705	4695
February	3689	3445	3354	5347
March	3798		3486	
Average	3920.00	4133.09	3559.83	5475.00

- Average monthly visitor figure has increased by 5.43%
- Average monthly issue figure has increased by 53.8%

Month	Attendees at regular events for children							
	Children		Adults		Total		Sessions	
	15/16	16/17	15/16	16/17	15/16	16/17	15/16	16/17
April	173	219	138	168	311	387	6	10
May	187	376	140	295	327	671	9	17
June	229	336	180	274	409	610	12	16
July	635	601	378	395	1013	996	20	20
August	773	904	453	530	1226	1434	26	26
September	512	510	407	364	919	874	17	19
October	404	335	333	259	737	594	12	13
November	333	376	268	341	601	717	14	15
December	250	282	197	244	447	526	13	12
January	404	302	328	256	732	558	16	16
February	303	259	229	207	532	466	13	13
March	340		269		609		14	
Average	378.58	409.09	276.67	303.00	655.25	712.09	14.33	16.09

- All figures are showing an increase
- The average number of people attending regular events for children each month has increase by 8.67% and the average number of regular children's events per month has increased by 12.28%

Month	Total number of attendees at events							
	Children		Adults		Total		Sessions	
	15/16	16/17	15/16	16/17	15/16	16/17	15/16	16/17
April	258	219	236	180	494	399	11	12
May	187	516	151	357	338	873	11	25
June	271	511	215	404	486	915	18	21
July	835	711	543	563	1378	1274	24	24
August	779	906	471	546	1250	1452	28	28
September	862	740	749	761	1611	1501	22	23
October	584	406	450	359	1034	765	18	18
November	459	488	410	500	869	988	19	21
December	250	339	207	269	457	608	15	17
January	438	362	413	286	851	648	20	22
February	422	259	280	233	702	492	18	21
March	435		389		824		18	
Average	481.67	496.09	376.17	405.27	857.83	901.36	18.50	21.09

- The average total number of people attending events and activities at Kesgrave Library each month has increased by 5.07% and the average number of events taking place each month has increased by 14%.

Number of people who have loaned items from Kesgrave Library

1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015: 2220

1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016: 2438

1st April 2016 to 5th March 2017: 2453

The number of individuals who loaned items from Kesgrave Library during 2015 / 2016 was 9.82% greater than the previous year. The current year is showing a negligible increase compared to 15 / 16 though this is likely to increase by a small amount before the end of March.

Conclusion

The figures throughout this report show that Kesgrave Library is getting busier. The outline of recent events and activities show how vibrant and lively the library is.