

Performance

Issues and visitors

Visitors										Book Issues									
Qtr	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	Qtr	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21 / 22	22/23	23/24
Q1	10453	11046	11471	10623	13848	0	3015	8927	9147	Q1	9536	15519	16250	17487	17752	0	7178	14194	14830
Q2	15279	16345	16058	16893	17032	2070	4654	11451	11557	Q2	11299	19808	21935	22293	22475	5619	14533	18625	19774
Q3	10149	11366	11033	11658	11698	9421	8727	8731	8894	Q3	10338	14856	15640	16223	17235	6701	12641	14259	14407
Q4	11159	10482	10580	10403	8743	4388	8293	9283	9285	Q4	11545	15657	16050	18147	17354	2513	13180	14950	14987
Avg.	11760	12310	12286	12394	12830	5293	6172	9598	9721	Avg	10680	16460	17469	18538	18704	4944	11883	15507	16000
Tot.	47040	49239	49142	49577	51321	15879	24689	38392	38883	Tot.	42718	65840	69875	74150	74816	14833	47532	62028	63998

Event and activity attendees

Events and activities - attendees and sessions													
Total Attendees								Sessions					
Quarter	Qtr	17/18	18/19	19/20	21/22	22/23	23/24	17/18	18/19	19/20	21/22	22/23	23/24
Q1	Q1	2225	1690	1955	67	1043	1678	63	83	89	10	66	85
Q2	Q2	4542	4609	4747	413	2616	3647	94	107	104	33	102	112
Q3	Q3	2120	1736	1987	584	1375	1894	76	79	80	51	72	92
Q4	Q4	1929	1972	1589	1074	1634	2024	76	86	69	69	78	101
Average	Avg	2704	2502	2570	535	1667	2311	77	89	86	41	80	98
Totals	Tot.	10816	10007	10278	2138	6668	9243	309	355	342	163	318	390

2020 / 2021 is not included in the above table as there were no physical events and activities during that year.

Activity summary quarter 4 (summaries for Q1, Q2 and Q3 included as an appendix)

- **Outreach.** Staff have been busy during this quarter visiting Humpty Dumpty Nursery for a Tot's Rock session, Hunnitots (at Ipswich Hospital) as well as hosting return visits from both Year 1 classes at Heath Primary School.
- **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awards.** Three pupils from Kesgrave High School have completed their volunteering section of the award helping to facilitate Sunday craft sessions and working as a general library volunteer. One of the three has enjoyed volunteering so much, they have decided to continue.
- **M-Powered - Menopause Support Group.** During our March session, we put on a special longer session with guest speakers, discussing menstrual health and all aspects concerning this. This was very well attended, as have previous sessions of the group.
- **Suffolk Libraries Day: 23rd March.** Maggie Lusher - the manager - decided to walk from Kesgrave Library around all the libraries in Ipswich back to Kesgrave which was 19.5 miles. The library, with the support of the Friends, also ran an Ipswich Town themed raffle with a donated signed pendant from the first team. In total just under £1,200 was raised to help celebrate libraries and raise awareness that we are a charity.
- **Kesgrave Library Community Group** has successfully bid for two grants this quarter:
 - £1,000 from Stuart Lawson to enable staff to continue with their outreach work in conjunction with local schools and nurseries.
 - £450 from SPARK to enable the library to buy a new rug for the children's area and a selection of toys for our very popular Stay and Play sessions, which are held every Tuesday and help support parents and carers with feelings of isolation.

Conclusion

The contract with Suffolk County Council for delivering the library service in Suffolk is due to renew in June 2025, and Suffolk Libraries will soon be retendering for the contract, in what is likely to be a competitive process. This is therefore a period of uncertainty for Suffolk Libraries.

Despite this uncertainty, libraries have continued to deliver for their communities, with Kesgrave Library being no exception. It continues to be the busiest small library in Suffolk. The funding that Kesgrave Town Council provide to Suffolk Libraries helps the library to meet the demands of the local population better than it otherwise would. The range of activities that the library hosts – as highlighted in the activity summaries – demonstrate the excellent work that staff do in supporting the community in different ways, with the help of the friends' group.

Appendix 1

Activity summaries from quarters 1, 2 and 3

Please find below the activity summaries from quarters 1 and 2, which were included in previous reports to Kesgrave Town Council.

Quarter 1

- **Book Groups.** These are continuing to be popular with new members joining both the afternoon and evening groups. The library has also started a morning book group to enable customers to attend outside of childcare and caring commitments. The group already has seven members.
- **School Visits.** Local schools have really engaged with the library this quarter with visits from all classes at Cedarwood from Years 2 - 6. Library staff also visited all the year 3 classes at Heath Primary and ran craft sessions with them linking in with their new history topic of the Ancient Greeks.
- **Kesgrave Library Community Group.** The Friend's Group ran a successful Easter Raffle and 'Name the Sheep' competition raising nearly £120.
- **Word Play Sessions.** These continue to be really popular on a Thursday and Friday morning with lots of new customers coming along to join in with the singing and rhymes.
- **Literacy Games.** The friend's group received a grant from 'Sparks' to enable staff to replace the Orchard Literacy Games which are very popular. Staff were able to purchase 25 new games which are played in the library and loaned to customers.
- **Crafts.** Numbers for this activity, provided by staff and volunteers, are back to pre-covid levels with new customers coming along every week.
- **Duke of Edinburgh.** One of the volunteers has successfully completed their six months of volunteering in the library towards their Silver Award.
- **Summer Reading Challenge.** Staff have successfully recruited 14 new volunteers to help with this year's Challenge.
- **Lego Club.** This is still really popular with many customers coming along every week.
- **Printing.** Customers are making use of the printing and photocopying services with staff seeing a marked increase over the last few months.

Quarter 2 and 3

- **School visits.** During this period library staff ran sessions with the following schools. Some of these were class visits to the library and some saw library staff visit the schools:
 - 2 x classes from Cedarwood Primary
 - 4 x classes from Heath Primary
 - 3 x classes from Gorselands.

In addition, staff have visited Reception, year 1 and the SCC units at Gorselands. The additional staffing for these sessions has been paid for by a grant from Councillor Stuart Lawson.

- **The Summer Reading Challenge** was very popular again with over 430 children signing up and over 1200 children completing the daily craft sessions that were offered during the school holidays. Those who completed the challenge, were rewarded with a Mr Bean magic show which was paid for by the library friends' group.
- **Menopause group launch.** In August, the library launched a monthly menopause support group called 'M-Powered'. A volunteer helps staff lead the sessions which include menopause support and information, with time for questions and chat .
- **Stay and Play session launched.** In October, the library launched a weekly Stay and Play session which is part of the Mental Health and Wellbeing offer. These sessions have proved very popular with between 8 and 16 children and their parents / carers attending every week.
- **Warm Space.** This winter the library is again a designated 'Warm Space' and customers have been coming in to enjoy the warmth and a free hot drink. The library also has a 'Kindness Rail' with donations of coats available to those in need.
- **Sunday Craft.** The Sunday craft sessions continue to be very popular - 50 children attended a session in November to make firework pictures!
- **Christmas books purchased with grant funding.** In December, the library had a fantastic collection of brand-new Christmas books arrive which the Friends' Group paid for using a £500 grant from Rushmere Parish Council.
- **Friends' group raffles.** Kesgrave Library Friends' Group held two raffles during this period raising over £200 for their funds which help to support the library by paying for additional staffing during the summer reading challenge and for new equipment.
- **Home Library Service.** This has expanded within the Kesgrave area, with our volunteers now visiting around 20 customers once a month.