

**Performance**

Year	Qtr	Book Issues	Borrowers	Event and activity - no. sessions	Event and activity attendees
18 / 19	1	17,487	1,411	83	1,690
	2	22,293	1,850	107	4,609
	3	16,223	1,421	79	1,736
	4	18,147	1,578	86	1,972
19 / 20	1	17,752	1,491	89	1,955
	2	22,475	1,922	104	4,747
	3	17,235	1,572	80	1,987
	4	17,354	1,466	69	1,589
20 / 21	1	0	0	N/A	N/A
	2	5,619	558	N/A	N/A
	3	6,701	590	N/A	N/A
	4	2,513	346	N/A	N/A
21 / 22	1	7,178	691	10	67
	2	14,533	1,266	33	413
	3	12,641	1,079	51	584
	4	13,180	1,173	69	1,074
22 / 23	1	14,194	1,207	66	1,043
	2	18,625	1,561	102	2,616
	3	14,259	1,290	72	1,375
	4	14,950	1,384	78	1,634
23 / 24	1	14,830	1,486	85	1,678
	2	19,774	1,844	112	3,647
	3	14,407	1,421	92	1,894
	4	14,987	1,476	101	2,024
24 / 25	1	15,024	1,471	104	1,691
	2	18,589	1,841	125	3,710
	3	13,681	1,416	105	2,043
	4	13,748	1,387	100	1,940

**Activity summary**

- **Class visits.** During the Year, Kesgrave Library staff:
  - o hosted two year 1 classes from Heath Primary each term
  - o hosted year 2 and 3 classes from Cedarwood
  - o visited the SCC: Ladybirds class at Gorseland, telling stories, rhymes and running craft activities
  - o hosted 10 x classes from Gorseland Primary
  - o Visited the Nursery at Gorseland and The Roundabout Nursery came into the library for a morning visit – both included crafts, singing and story-telling activities. The additional staffing for these sessions has been paid for by a grant from Councillor Stuart Lawson
- **Beavers, Cubs and Squirrels visits.** The local Beavers and Cub groups visited the library which enabled them to complete their 'Book Reading Badge', which included learning how to care for books and how/ why the library displays their books as they do. The local Squirrels group visited in December 2024, as part of their local community badge. The group had voted the manager of the library as the 'Community Superhero,' presenting her with a card and certificate during their visit.

- **Reading Quest.** In the summer of 2024, Suffolk Libraries Launched 'The Reading Quest' in place of the Summer Reading Challenge. Devised and created by Suffolk Libraries, the Reading Quest was themed around myths and legends associated with Suffolk. The manager of Kesgrave Library attended five local school's assemblies to promote the initiative to the pupils. 382 children signed up with 60% completing the challenge during the summer. Daily craft activities associated with the quest attracted around 1200 child attendees. These included making a 3D crab, designing a beach hut, creating a longship from Sutton Hoo and a tractor picture.
- **Reading Quest volunteers.** The library had 29 Reading Quest volunteers who contributed nearly 500 hours of their time to support the initiative. The majority of the volunteers were under 16 years of age and had completed the reading challenge themselves in previous years.
- **Mr Bean's Magic Show.** The Kesgrave Library Friends Group paid for this popular local magician to perform at the Reading Quest presentation on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September, at which the Reading Quest participants were presented with a medal and certificate by Councillor Beecroft-Smith and Councillor Lawson.
- **Rock, Paper, Scissors.** On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, a community arts project that travels around the local area by bike, popped into the library and held a session for 4 to 14 year olds, during which they created paper flowers and artwork using different folding, cutting and mark-making techniques.
- **Work Experience.** This year the library offered a weeklong placement to two pupils, one from Northgate High School and one from Kesgrave High School. They learnt all about what working in a library entails.
- **Duke of Edinburgh.** One of the young library volunteers has successfully completed their three-month volunteering element as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. They have enjoyed volunteering at the library and have asked to continue.
- **Volunteering.** This continues to be very popular with the library currently having twenty-two volunteers including three for the Home Library Service, a Menopause Support Group advisor, general library volunteers and DfE volunteers. Of the twenty-two, eleven are under 18 years of age and are volunteering to complete bronze and silver elements of their DofE, with others volunteering to help support the community they live in.
- **Angie's Curious Creatures and Mr Bean's Magic Show.** Fund by an 'Enabling Communities' grant from Councillor Lawson, the library put on the above two free events during October 2024 and February 2025 half term. There were two sessions for both events which were fully attended and enjoyed.
- **Stay & Play.** These sessions continue to be very popular. Using a grant received from SPARK and donations from customers, staff have been able to offer a variety of different toys for all ages from babies to pre-school. Staffing for this session is supported by an amazing volunteer.
- **Wordplay (Tot Rock & Baby Bounce).** These sessions continue to be very popular with, up to 21 babies and their parents attending Baby Bounce.
- **Warm Welcome Boxes.** These have been available at Kesgrave via a grant from ESDC, enabling Suffolk Libraries to support those in need. Each box contains a variety of items which will enable a person to keep warm including a hot water bottle, a flask, hot drinks and soup sachets.
- **Sunday Craft, Lego, Knit and Natter and Book Clubs.** These activities continue to be very popular every week. The three book clubs and Knit & Natter have all had new members join recently and staff are looking to begin a fourth book group.
- **Kesgrave Library Friend's Group.** The group continues to be active securing a £350 grant for new literacy games which continue to be very popular, and a £500 grant for new seating in the children's area, as well as running successful raffles throughout the year which supports additional staffing for the Reading Quest and school visits.

## Conclusion

From 1<sup>st</sup> June, Suffolk Libraries will no longer be running the library service in Suffolk as the county council has made the decision to take the library service back 'in house.' Kesgrave Library has become unusually busy in recent years, including during 2024 / 2025, particularly for a smaller library. The Town Council's financial support has enabled Suffolk Libraries to better meet this demand than it otherwise would have, and we are extremely grateful to them for their significant and long term support.