

## Kesgrave Library – Annual Report, 2025 / 2026

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
25/26	1	13,634	1,499	111	2,192
	2	16,261	1,634	114	3,625
	3	12,621	1,311	98	1,655
	4	13,560	1,334	95	1,794

### Activity summary

- **Class visits.** During the Year, Kesgrave Library staff:
  - Hosted two year 1 classes from Heath Primary each term
  - Hosted years 1, 2, 3 and 4 classes from Cedarwood
  - Hosted years 1, 2, 5 and 6 classes from Gorselands
  - 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.
  - Visited Bucklesham Primary School to talk about the Reading Quest – all classes took part in crafts and attended an assembly about the quest and how they could take part.

- **Reading Quest.** In the summer of 2025, Suffolk Community Libraries continued with 'The Reading Quest' in place of the Summer Reading Challenge. This was devised and created by Suffolk Libraries in 2024. The manager of Kesgrave Library attended four local school's assemblies to promote the initiative to the pupils. 313 children signed up with 65% completing the challenge during the summer. Daily craft activities associated with the quest attracted around 1,083 child attendees. These included making an underwater scene, an octopus, designing your favourite lolly and a creating a book monster who was reading their favourite book.
- **Reading Quest volunteers.** The library had 19 Reading Quest volunteers who contributed nearly 365 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 7<sup>th</sup> September, at which the Reading Quest participants were presented with a medal and certificate by Councillor Neal Beecroft-Smith.
- **Work Experience.** This year the library offered a weeklong placement to a pupil from Northgate High School. They learnt all about what working in a library entails.
- **Duke of Edinburgh.** During 2025, the library had 7 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers. Two are working towards their silver award, volunteering for six months and 5 their bronze with two having recently completed their volunteering aspect of the award.
- **Volunteering.** This continues to be very popular with the library currently having twenty-one volunteers including three for the Home Library Service, general library volunteers and DfE volunteers. Of the twenty-one, eleven are under 18 years of age.
- **Mr Bean's Circus Workshop and Pennikity Pots.** Funded by an 'Enabling Communities' grant from Councillor Lawson, the library put on the above three free events during April, May and August 2025 and all the sessions were fully booked and enjoyed by all who attended.
- **Stay & Play.** These sessions continue to be very popular with a wide variety of toys out each week for those attending to enjoy. 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.
- **Sunday Craft, Lego, Knit and Natter and Book Clubs.** These activities continue to very popular every week. The four book clubs and Knit & Natter have all had new members join recently.
- **Get Connected Digital Support.** Each month our new digital champion holds a two-hour session in the library for anyone having problems or needing advice about how to use computers, tablets and mobile phones. This is a very popular session with those attending.
- **E-Library Afternoon.** One of our colleagues from the stock team held an e-library afternoon talking to customers and those attending our Knit & Natter sessions all about how to use and access the e-library services that are on offer.
- **Kesgrave Library Friend's Group.** The group continues to be active securing a £10,989 grant for new shelving with cupboards above which has made the library feel lighter and bigger, and provided much needed storage space. They continue to run raffles, stock the bookshelf in Tesco's with book donations and sell greetings cards and Somersham Ward Christmas cards throughout the year which supports additional staffing for the Reading Quest, school visits and new equipment for the staff.

## Conclusion

2025 / 2026 has been a year of change for the library service in Suffolk, with responsibility for running the service transferring back into Suffolk County Council having been run by the charity Suffolk Libraries since 2012. Despite the inevitable upheaval that comes with such a change, Kesgrave Library staff have continued to do an excellent job in ensuring that the library remains a vital part of the local community, as the above figures and activity summary highlight.