

George H. Stowell Free Library – 2025

The George H. Stowell Free Library had a productive year serving the Cornish community. In 2025, the library welcomed 4,265 visitors and circulated 4,997 books, along with 50 DVDs, 89 audiobooks, 36 museum passes, and 25 items from our Library of Things.

The library remained an active participant in New Hampshire's Interlibrary Loan (ILL) system, loaning 397 items to other libraries and borrowing 505 items for local patrons. Digital use continues to grow through OverDrive and the Libby app, with 3,725 ebooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines circulated in 2025.

The Stowell Library offered a variety of programs throughout the year, including weekly Story Time for Toddlers, monthly adult book clubs, and three book clubs for students in grades 4–8 in collaboration with the Cornish Elementary School Library. Special events included a reading by Cornish author Billy Sharff, a Comet Viewing Party led by Cornish resident Matt Lewis, and a Family Contra Dance in partnership with UVMC, which brought 106 people of all ages together for an afternoon of live music and dancing. Additional programs included arts and crafts, movie showings, a Summer Reading Program, a bookmark contest, and an ugly plant swap. Altogether, 588 people participated in library programs.

These programs were made possible with the help of many volunteers and community partnerships. Leigh Callahan led the monthly book club, and Martha Zoerheide served as Cornish liaison for the Cookbook Club, partnering with the Plainfield and Meriden Libraries. The Friends of the Cornish NH Library continue to provide important financial support and volunteer time, as well as annual memberships to VINS, Billings Farm, and the American Precision Museum, some of the library's most frequently circulated items.

Special thanks to library aides Ginny Gage, Judith Kaufman, Carline Storrs, Trish Olivier, and Martha Zoerheide for their dedication and help in keeping the library running smoothly. The Stowell Library currently has 706 cardholders. Community members interested in signing up for a patron card are welcome to stop by during open hours.

Lastly, I would like to thank the community for your support as I take on this new role. I look forward to serving Cornish as the Town Librarian.

Deanna Fitch
Librarian