
Impact Report

2025 / 2026

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A Year Shaped Together



Harbour House is an art and wellbeing charity rooted in Kingsbridge, South Devon. Our work begins with people - creating opportunities for communities to come together through art, creativity and shared experiences that support wellbeing, connection and belonging.

Throughout 2025-26, our programme has been shaped in collaboration with local people, artists and partners. From exhibitions and performances to workshops and wellbeing sessions, we have worked together to create spaces where individuals can take part in ways that feel enriching: whether that's making, moving, reflecting, or simply being alongside others.

Our building continues to offer a welcoming environment for mindfulness, movement and creative exploration, supporting a wide range of ways to engage with wellbeing.

This report reflects on the period from April 2025 to April 2026. It highlights the projects, partnerships and shared efforts that have defined the year, and the impact that can be achieved when communities, artists and organisations work together with care and intention.

Year in Summary

We worked with **32** artists based in Devon and Cornwall

We have provided **20** job roles to local community members

We delivered **85** FREE events and workshops

Welcomed **1,647** community members to our engagement activities

We have partnered with **10** community groups

We welcomed **3,608** exhibition visitors

We have supported **1,702** movement classes led by **21** local practitioners with **13,386** attendances

We have supported **138** art classes led by **3** local practitioners with **1,564** attendances

We supported **4** community-serving groups to meet for free in our spaces

42,205 total visits to Harbour House

Our Engagement Programme

2025–26 has been a year of deepening and developing our engagement programme. Building on strong foundations, we have continued to develop a responsive, community-informed offer: one that reflects both local priorities and our long-term strategic aims.

Our work is guided by five core ambitions:

1. Improved community cohesion
2. Improved physical and mental health and wellbeing
3. Increased cultural and socio-economic development
4. Reduced social isolation
5. Increased environmental literacy





These aims are not just frameworks. They are lived through the projects we shape alongside our communities. Working collaboratively with participants, partners and practitioners, we design activity that responds to real experiences, interests and needs of communities across the South Hams.

Our team of artists, movement practitioners and producers create thoughtful, high-quality opportunities for creative participation, with careful attention to access and inclusion. By removing financial barriers and offering all sessions free of charge, we aim to ensure that more people - particularly those who may not typically engage with arts and wellbeing activity and who may have multiple barriers to access can take part.

Socially engaged practice sits at the heart of our work. We value process as much as outcome, recognising that the act of coming together - to make, move, share and reflect - can be as impactful as any final output. Some projects reach large numbers of people; others work more intensively with smaller groups. Both approaches are vital, creating space for connection, confidence-building and meaningful change. (See page 32 for a detailed case study exploring this in practice.)

Across the year, we have worked with a wide range of artists and practitioners spanning disciplines from ceramics, painting and photography, to dance, drama and somatic practices. Together, they bring depth, care and imagination to a programme that continues to grow in ambition and relevance.

To find out more about upcoming workshops and events, visit our website: harbourhouse.org.uk/whatson

Working in Partnership



Collaboration sits at the heart of Harbour House. Over the past year, we have worked alongside a wide range of community partners to co-create projects that reach and support people across the South Hams:

- **Activities 115:** dance and photography workshops for adults with learning differences and disabilities.
- **Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas:** Christmas card workshops and family portrait photography with graduates from our community photography programme.
- **Kingsbridge Community College:** KS3/KS4 exhibitions, Sixth Form life drawing, and arts careers/curating workshops.
- **Kingsbridge Community Primary School:** Co-Create and Co-Motion Clubs for Years 4–5.
- **Kingsbridge Fair Week:** Kathak dance workshops and performances led by Sonia Sabri.
- **Kingsbridge Food Bank:** Move and Make holiday clubs with art, movement, and free meals for children aged 8–12.
- **Learn Devon:** co-creating Easy Read exhibition guides with learners with learning differences and disabilities.
- **New Key, Kingsbridge:** expanding opportunities for people with learning differences and disabilities.
- **Next Steps Together at Tumbly Hill:** ceramics and movement workshops for people aged 55+.
- **The NHS:** art and movement workshops for social prescribing clients.

Want to collaborate on a community project with us?
Get in touch! beth@harbourhouse.org.uk

Workshops & Events: By the Numbers

We held **85** workshops and events

1,647 participants engaged with our
community engagement programme





“This is the best time to spend in the week. I wish we could have more time or another day. Thank you.”

Workshop Participant

“I am grateful for the safe and non-judgemental space.”

“It made me feel peaceful and calm. I can't wait to come back next week.”

Workshop Participants



Gallery Programme



Our exhibitions programme is shaped by the rhythm of our town, scheduled seasonally to sit alongside Kingsbridge's vibrant calendar of events and welcome as many people as possible through our doors.

The programme is developed collaboratively by the Harbour House team, with the Kingsbridge community playing a central role in shaping decisions. We do this through evaluation, feedback, and community conversations. Artists are chosen ensuring that the work we present reflects local interests, experiences, and voices. We select artists whose practices align with our charitable aims; whether that's encouraging a deeper connection to local landscapes or creating opportunities for people to come together through shared creativity, at the intersection of movement and art.

Our aim is to support emerging local artists while also introducing diverse forms of art to Kingsbridge audiences.

Community engagement is embedded in every exhibition. Each show includes a free creative or movement-based activity, designed to remove barriers to participation and invite visitors to engage more deeply with the work on display. We work with artists who value collaboration: whether through co-creating elements of an exhibition with local participants or offering free workshops and events throughout the programme.

Some visitors come to observe; many choose to take part. In all cases, we aim to create a welcoming space where creativity is shared, confidence can grow, and people feel connected, to the artwork, to each other, and to their own creative potential.

Sign up to our monthly newsletter, to find out more about our programme of exhibitions and events: harbourhouse.org.uk/news

Exhibitions: By the Numbers

By the Numbers

We hosted

4 exhibitions

3,608 visited
our gallery

Visitor Feedback

95 percent of
visitors strongly
agreed:

- The exhibition made them feel creative
- The exhibition gave them the opportunity to consider other people's lived experiences/ different cultures
- The exhibition gave them a chance to see a type of art/ exhibition that is new to them



"I love the mix of experiencing the art and the artist. Inspiring and actively engaging and promoting everyday community"

Gallery visitor

Support in Kind: Space to Grow

“Devon Carers has been able to facilitate several peer support groups for unpaid carers in the Kingsbridge area using the community in kind room hire, allowing carers who are unable to travel to groups further away to access support. Due to the nature of peer support a calm, private space was required and Quay Lane Studio provided exactly that. It was also big enough for one to one conversations to take place while the main group was meeting, if that was required.”

Devon Carer

Some of the community-serving groups supported included:

- South Hams Community Action, Dartmouth Caring, and the NHS to support local social prescribing clients.
- Prickles In A Pickle, a local hedgehog rescue and wildlife sanctuary.
- Devon Carers Support Group, a peer support group for unpaid carers.
- South Hams Community Action, a network and organisation supporting voluntary and community groups to flourish.

We offered **12**
free room bookings

A total of **42**
hours of free
room hire

Are you hosting a free event or workshop to support the local community and need space? Get in touch! info@harbourhouse.org.uk



"I think it's amazing, and a privilege to have such diverse, inspirational and mainstream exhibitions here in HH in Kingsbridge! Thank you - a connection to art, performance and creativity that I really value"

Gallery Visitor

"Thank you for bringing this exhibition to Harbour House. Great to be challenged to think and learn about other cultures"

Gallery Visitor



The People Behind the Programme

We're proud to work with:

- 32 Devon & Cornwall-based artists and movement practitioners across diverse media
- 5 community producers, including artists, educators, and access specialists
- 9 fantastic front-of-house staff who offer a warm welcome and creative insight

Our engagement programme creates meaningful employment and development opportunities for visual arts and movement practitioners based in Devon and Cornwall. We are fortunate to collaborate with artists from a wide range of backgrounds, each bringing distinct lived experiences, creative approaches and perspectives. In 2025-26, together with our communities, we explored practices including dance, sculpture, storytelling, animation, ceramics, photography, painting, drawing, printmaking, yoga, somatic practices, drama, creative writing and more.

Alongside this, a dedicated team of five producers plays a vital role in shaping and supporting our engagement work. Some are practising artists and facilitators themselves, while others bring specialist experience in education and access. Their combined skills help ensure that our workshops are welcoming, inclusive and responsive to participants' needs, creating spaces where people feel supported to take part.

Our front-of-house team are often the first point of connection for our visitors. This group of nine local staff members bring warmth, knowledge and care to the gallery, helping to create an environment that feels open and accessible to all. Through their roles, they also develop valuable practical and interpersonal skills, contributing to the wider impact of our work within the community. They support access and inclusion by encouraging community engagement with artwork that some visitors may find challenging, unfamiliar or outside their previous experience.



harbour house

Investing in Artists



“I would describe my experience as excellent. I had a good amount of time to make a show that both helped me grow and work through challenges in my practice. I had all the support I needed to make a show that both spoke to grief and supported new ideas around education and inclusion within a gallery context”

Artist

Our gallery programme supports artists to develop ambitious, high-quality exhibitions over an extended period of time. Rather than working on short lead-ins, artists are given the space, support and resources to experiment, take creative risks, and deepen their practice.

We work closely with each exhibiting artist throughout the year, offering curatorial guidance, practical support and fair pay that recognises the value of artistic labour. This sustained way of working enables artists to refine ideas, test new approaches and create work that might not otherwise be possible, with the support of our curatorial team.

A key part of this process is connection to place. Kingsbridge and the surrounding South Hams provide a rich context for artistic research and collaboration, and many artists choose to engage directly with local communities, histories and landscapes as part of their work. These exchanges often open up new directions in practice: encouraging collaborative approaches and creating meaningful opportunities for public participation.

Through our exhibition programme, we aim not only to present contemporary art, but to nurture artists' long-term development while creating exhibitions that feel relevant, engaging and connected to our communities.

Artist Feedback: By the Numbers

100% Artists who have exhibited this year Strongly Agreed:

- The exhibition or associated activities created opportunities for people to connect, share experiences, or engage with one another.
- The exhibition or activities helped people feel more included, connected, or less isolated.
- The exhibition contributed positively to the local cultural life and accessibility of the arts in Kingsbridge.
- Where relevant, the work encouraged environmental awareness or discussion among audiences.



“I had a wonderful experience of exhibiting at Harbour House, I felt like the whole process was supportive and collaborative.”

Artist

Spotlight Case Study

Move and Make Holiday Club: Creativity, Care and Connection



In partnership with Kingsbridge Food Bank, and later also partnering with Kingsbridge Community Primary School, we developed and delivered two weeks of Move and Make holiday clubs during the 2025/26 school holidays, supporting children aged 8-12 who experience barriers to accessing creative activity and childcare during school breaks. Alongside providing free creative workshops, the programme also ensured children had access to daily breakfasts, snacks and lunches; responding directly to local concerns around food poverty and holiday hunger.

Across both weeks, we worked with over 25 children, many of whom were referred through the Food Bank, local schools, or invited back following earlier participation. Several children attending had additional needs, including autism, ADHD, anxiety and English as an additional language. Through close partnership working and responsive planning, we created an environment where every child could take part fully, supported by strategies such as visual timetables, quiet regulation spaces and consistent staffing.

Each day combined creative and physical activity. Morning sessions invited children to explore artistic practices including drawing, sculpture, collage and painting - guided by artists Thaïs Lenkiewicz and Ben Sanderson. These sessions encouraged experimentation, imagination and self-expression, with one week culminating in children co-creating and installing work within the Harbour House gallery as part of Ben's exhibition 'Lilies and Illusions'.



Afternoons focused on movement, led by Carly Seller, where children took part in games, obstacle courses and collaborative physical activities. These sessions built confidence, teamwork and joy in movement, offering an important balance to the more focused creative work of the mornings.

At the heart of Move and Make was a responsive, child-led approach. Activities evolved in response to participants' energy, interests and feedback. For many children, initial anxieties centred on meeting new people, being judged or not feeling capable. By the end of the programmes, these concerns had shifted significantly, with increased confidence, connection and willingness to take part.



"It's amazing the difference it has made in her confidence... she has come out of her shell."

Parent Feedback

Spotlight Case Study

Impact



Evaluation across both weeks demonstrated strong outcomes aligned with Harbour House's wellbeing and community aims:

- 100% of participants in the Easter programme said they had made new friends
- 100% agreed they had learned new skills and taken part in creative activity
- 91% of participants in the summer programme reported increased confidence, a sense of belonging, and enjoyment of learning new skills

Children described feeling:

"Happy and joyful...
proud of myself... calm...
confident... excited."

They shared what they
enjoyed most:

"Making clay flowers
and bugs... everything...
the obstacle courses...
drawing and games."

And what they learned:

"To have fun... new
drawing and clay
techniques... new
games... how to
work together."

For some families, the impact
was particularly significant:

"My child comes home
every day full of smiles and
tells us about her day.
She says she wants to
come all day, every day,
throughout all the holidays!"

Practitioners also noted
the transformation over
time, from hesitant and
quiet beginnings to a group
dynamic characterised by
collaboration, creativity
and mutual support.

Spotlight Case Study

Why it matters

Move and Make demonstrates the impact of combining creative practice, movement and care within a community-led framework. By removing financial barriers and working in partnership with trusted local organisations, we are able to reach children and families who might otherwise have limited access to arts and wellbeing provision.

Whether through making, moving, eating together, or simply having space to play, these programmes create opportunities for connection, confidence and joy: laying important foundations for longer-term wellbeing.



If you are a local business or individual who would like to support this vital work, you can donate at: harbourhouse.org.uk/support

Funding & Support

We are grateful for every contribution that enables our work to continue. This year, we received support from:

Arts Council England:

£24,240

Henry Moore Foundation:

£5,000

Kingsbridge Town Council:

£750

Our programme is also sustained through the ongoing support of our charitable trust, Harbour House Trust.

Would you like to support creative wellbeing in our community?
Get in touch! info@harbourhouse.org.uk





“This was a really safe space to explore my feelings and creativity I felt held, heard, and nurtured. Thank you.”

Workshop participant

“Showing my paintings in the solo show was an absolute pleasure and a highlight of my art career.”

Artist



Hosted at Harbour House

“My heartfelt thanks again for your sublime session, which left an impact I had not expected, but my body very much needed!”

Participant from Francesca Stafford’s Rest Sessions, Hosted at Harbour House.

Each week, our art studio hosts:

- 3 teachers
- 3 weekly classes
- 34 weekly participants

Estimated **1,564** annual attendances

Classes include watercolour painting and life drawing

Each week, our movement studios host:

- 21 movement teachers
- 37 weekly classes
- 291 weekly participants

Estimated **13,386** annual attendances

Classes include yoga, pilates, tai chi, ballet, kung fu, and contemporary dance

We love supporting the talented local community of teachers and practitioners. The income generated from the studio hires goes to support our free engagement workshops for community members who face the greatest barriers to accessing art and movement activities.

Interested in hiring a space or joining our creative community? Get in touch! info@harbourhouse.org.uk



Total visits to Harbour House
from April 2025 to April 2026

42,205

Thank You for Making This Possible!

To all the artists, participants, partners, funders, volunteers and visitors who have supported Harbour House this year- thank you! Your involvement and generosity allow us to keep our doors open and to grow a programme of creative activity for wellbeing for wellbeing that is accessible to all.

Contact us

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Gallery Opening Hours:
Mon–Sat 10am–5pm

Cafe Opening Hours:
Tues–Sat 10am–4pm

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Instagram:
[@harbour.house.art.wellbeing](https://www.instagram.com/harbour.house.art.wellbeing)

Website:
harbourhouse.org.uk

Photography by
Dom Moore

Images on pages
6, 7, and 9
by Luke Frost



Supported using public funding by
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