

Is Harbour House (HH) in danger of closing down? Is it in deficit? What is its current financial position?

Harbour House is in no immediate danger of closing down. It is running at a deficit, as it always has done.

The Board of Trustees and the HH team are working to reduce the deficit and change the business model so that it is sustainable and meeting its charitable objectives going forward and serving the community for years to come.

How does HH run financially? What is its business model? How is HH Funded?

Harbour House is run by a charity, Harbour House Trust.

Previously HH had been run as a passive business model, where community members and others could rent spaces at discounted prices – this was the extent of its activities and was not covering the basic running costs of HH. This was also not fulfilling the charitable objectives of the Trust.

In order to move towards an active model which will allow us to meet our charitable objectives, and to fundraise for HH, enabling us to stay open, we have reduced the passive programme that was not covering its costs.

We are moving towards a business model where active programme will be publicly funded and core costs covered by the commercial operations e.g. café, residential lettings and room hire.

Is Jo Pelly still involved with Harbour House?

HH would not exist without Jo Pelly's original vision and gift to the Kingsbridge community. She set Harbour House up so that members of the community might benefit from art and yoga.

Jo Pelly's involvement with HH ended in 2020, before the current team and board were in post. Although Jo Pelly has no formal involvement with HH currently and it is now run by a charity, Harbour House Trust, she remains a critical friend.

Does Harbour House employ people from the local area?

Yes, the team at HH includes those based in Kingsbridge, Salcombe and Plymouth.

The majority of the voluntary board members are based in the South West including five trustees who are actively involved in the Kingsbridge community.

What is happening to the café? Why did it change hands?

Our welcoming vegetarian café has reopened under new management by Ady and Emily.

The café offers tea, coffee, freshly cold-pressed juices and a selection of healthy and delicious food made with local ingredients designed to fuel body and mind. The menu features salads, cakes, sweet treats and daily hot specials.

We are really pleased to say that the café is now open on Saturdays, and we are looking at other possibilities of extending opening hours.

The previous tenant's lease had come to an end and they chose not to renew it after seven years.

Will Harbour House be exhibiting local artists' work in the galleries?

Yes, since the new programme launched, we have shown work by local artists.

These have included Kingsbridge-based Catherine Seymour, Plymouth-based Rhys Morgan, Carly Seller, Tricia Stubberfield, Exeter-based Erika Cann and Cornwall-based Katharine Platts and Bronwen Buckeridge.

Work by members of the Kingsbridge community has featured in all our exhibitions since the new programme began.

How can we find out more about what's happening at Harbour House?

Please see our brilliant new website www.harbourhouse.org.uk, or visit our socials: Instagram - @harbour.house.art.wellbeing, Facebook – Harbour House Centre for Arts and Yoga.

You can sign up for our quarterly newsletter in digital format via our website or collect a printed copy from the gallery.

Our learning and engagement evaluation statistics are posted monthly on our socials and on the notice board in the entrance to HH or speak to one of our friendly Front of House team.

How can local residents get involved in Harbour House? How are you currently working and engaging with the community?

Please attend our exhibitions, workshops and community events.

You can also support HH by donating money at Harbour House Trust.

We are very proud that all our exhibitions and community programme are free to attend and your donations will ensure this can continue.

We currently have partnerships with Kingsbridge Community College, Kingsbridge Community Primary School, the Care Hub, Kingsbridge Climate actions, Kingsbridge Town Council, Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas, Kingsbridge Fair Week and F.A.S.T – all of our programme with these partners is free and targeted to support those in the community who need it most.

Will you be selling art in the gallery?

No, Harbour House is not a commercial gallery and it would not be appropriate for the a charity to be supporting private commercial activity.

