



STB Newsletter

June 2019

Welcome! Croeso!

As a community, the Havens is renowned for its welcome to all its visitors - be they staying for the season, on route to other places, visiting from overseas or looking to make a more permanent place to settle. So far 2019 has been no different and we are thrilled to welcome a wide range of visitors to the Slashpond and Boardwalk that have launched Springtime in the Havens.

The key to making the most of the Boardwalk is to **Stop, Look and Listen** and you will be amazed at the variety of wildlife inhabiting the area. If not, the Boardwalk becomes a utilitarian short cut between Sandyke Way and Trafalgar Terrace. So why not give yourself a bit more time to enjoy the richness of both flora and fauna en-route? Please let us know of anything unusual that you encounter or anything you think needs our attention:

Message us via Facebook: [facebook.com/supporttheboardwalk](https://www.facebook.com/supporttheboardwalk) or by email: boardwalkgang@gmail.com

As a memento of your visit do look out for the new series of David's **"Birds of The Boardwalk" note cards** now on sale at The Beach Shop ... *Thank you Anne; for your invaluable ongoing support.* Worthy of note and to acknowledge ongoing efforts toward a 'plastic free Broad Haven' the cards are sold in biodegradable packaging and cost £4 for 8 cards.

The Slashpond Boardwalk is an alternative attraction to our wonderful Blue Flag beach. A sheltered 235 metre non-slip, paw friendly decked walkway surrounding a serene pond in a habitat that supports a wildflower meadow, a picnic area, willow dens, bug houses and bat & bird nesting boxes.

Parking at Trafalgar Terrace car park (along the seafront, turn left at the Galleon Inn, ¼ mile on the left. Parking is free with a donation box at the entrance to help local community groups). Walk out of the car park, turn left, the walk entrance is 30 metres on the left. Sat Nav directions use SA62 3JU. Bring along a small net and enjoy the 'Dipping Deck' or test yourself with Nature Trail Quiz. The area offers a circular route of approximately ½ mile which is accessible to motobility scooters, wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Boardwalk Improvements

Work on-site continues. Bendy and straight steel sections have been 'test-laid' by local contractor Bob, of Down To Earth Landscaping, and his team who are laying the final piece of the Boardwalk path to connect with the tarmac path at the top of the picnic area. The sections are being taken off site to be galvanised and to have the boards fitted before the final fit can be implemented. Particularly as we enter this final stage, please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. We will endeavour to notify all our visitors if the boardwalk has to close briefly and temporarily for these 'finishing touches.' Once complete an all weather pathway accessible to wheelchair users will be the prize!



This Saturday; June 8th, sees the return of Mike's Bikes Pembrokeshire Coast Triathlon starting at 11.30am – a big thank you to the organisers for having chosen Support the Boardwalk as its charity once again, to act as Marshals. Our team will be directing cars from as early as 8am, in the car park adjacent to the Youth Hostel (and will have buckets for donations: £5 to park, or if you're passing through as a spectator and you've any loose change that you want to throw in). Funds donated during the day will go to the

ongoing improvements of the site; specifically to improve the accessibility of the bird watching screen, making it easier for users of wheelchairs and mobility scooters to enjoy.

Heritage of Slashpond

Have you a story to tell or photos from the past? The Heritage of the Slashpond project has made slow progress so far so apologies if anyone has been trying to contact us without success – please note the corrected email address for sharing your memories - davidlmeanwell@gmail.com



You will be aware from these newsletters and from our Facebook posts, that we have regular TLC days when those of the boardwalk gang that are available, gather at the boardwalk and picnic area to trim, chat, cut back, chat, plant, chat, eat cake, weed, chat, fix, chat ... you get the Idea! Those days are fun and sociable. We enjoyed one recently at the start of May, we aim to schedule them between our planning meetings, to keep up our contact with each other and with the habitat. Also, we complete a monthly Risk Assessment to deal promptly with anything needing attention. However, you may not be aware that besides this more regular 'schedule,' our gang are always on it. Between us, we keep an eye out as we walk through enjoying the space for ourselves, for anything that crops up ... there are a number in our team who we very much appreciate (you know who you are), who are particularly good at spotting and as importantly; fixing, random snags. Take a big pat on the back! We're sometimes 'fighting the tide' for example; recently clearing an area and planting meadow seed, only for the weeds to rampage back; but hey, we try, we do what we can; we may be rewarded and see some flowers emerge. Fingers crossed. Being a handful of volunteers, its inevitable we have setbacks. Extra hands always welcome (use contact details above if you want to get involved!)

Diary:

July:

Sunday 7th : 3PM - TLC ... meet at picnic area

Join Us - Next Meeting:

8pm, Monday 5th Aug in The Rafters behind the Broad Haven village hall, or at the Picnic Area if it's a lovely eve -fingers crossed! (NB Through 2019 - meetings each even numbered month from Feb' ... Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) It's a lovely community group with something for everyone and it's a bit of a social too! Please keep an eye on our facebook page; you'd be most welcome. If you're not on facebook please email us (boardwalkgang@gmail.com) and we'll send you its time/date. Have a think about it! Thx so much.

'Support the Boardwalk' – Fundraising to Preserve and to Enhance

WATCH THIS SPACE (for activity and meeting re-scheduling when necessary):

Facebook - [facebook.com/supporttheboardwalk](https://www.facebook.com/supporttheboardwalk)

Website - <http://www.supporttheboardwalk.co.uk>