

# STBW Newsletter

September 2017

## Fire Shock!

What was turning out to be a quiet and restful August for STB volunteers, as visitors and residents enjoyed the quiet and idyllic seclusion offered by the Boardwalk and nature reserve, was shattered when the fire service were called out to deal with a fire in the picnic area. We were shocked and disappointed to find that both bug hotels, built by local children, had been completely demolished, used for firewood and a huge black scar was left where the grass and earth had been scorched!



### The new bug hotel:



Shock turned into an incredible community spirit which led to a group of volunteers meeting the very next afternoon to clean up the mess and even re-build one of the bug hotels. Special thanks go to the kind person who called the fire service, to the fire service for coming out late on a Saturday night to put out the fire, to all those who offered help, donated pallets and materials to rebuild, to the volunteers who gave up their time to clean up and repair and all the kids that helped. You are all awesome and

*Update: This act of anti-social behaviour, which also drew the attention of our local MP Stephen Crabb, was reported to and investigated by the police. Steps are now in place to arrange a restorative gesture from the youths involved who have accepted responsibility. The second bug hotel will be rebuilt and hopefully the area will be back to beautiful very soon.*

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.

## Fundraising

Some good news:

**The Port of Milford Haven** has awarded Support the Boardwalk from its **Community Fund - £500.00**

... for which we are very thankful and appreciative 👍

With this award from the Port Authority added to those awarded in July by the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS) and South Hook LNG, *plus* funds raised to date by all our supporters and volunteers, we have now around £6,500.00 towards our proposed Bird-watching Hide project planned for the boardwalk. That's a fantastic effort to date. The quote for works is being finalised but we expect to need a few thousand more (details to follow). We continue to plan local, fun events to raise funds but wonder if ...

### **COULD YOU SEE YOUR WAY TO CONTRIBUTING 'A TENNER?' (in October)**

**An exciting campaign is being launched on October 17th (see full details in next month's newsletter) by our online fundraising platform; Localgiving, where a tenner donated by one of our supporter's could be doubled by them!**

**We could get £20 - from a donation by you of £10! Can't complain about that.**

**We'll keep you posted, but if you want to note the date in your diary, on your phone, or on a post it note on the fridge; that'll be step one ...**

## Heritage of Slashpond

Have you a story to tell or photos from the past? To improve the visitor experience we are keen to update the interpretive boards and website information. If you have a story from the past relating to the Slashpond we would love you to share with us. Thank you to those of you who have already been in touch. Please contact [davidmeanwell@gmail.com](mailto:davidmeanwell@gmail.com)

## Join us !

Our next meeting is 7:30 pm Monday, 4th September in the Family Room of The Galleon, Broad Haven. Everyone is welcome so please come and join us. We are a great group of eager volunteers who bring a diverse range of knowledge and experience but we are always looking for more!

Please contact us via email: [boardwalkgang@gmail.com](mailto:boardwalkgang@gmail.com)

or facebook: [www.facebook.com/supporttheboardwalk](http://www.facebook.com/supporttheboardwalk)

**Support the Boardwalk – Fundraising to Preserve and to Enhance.**