



STBW Newsletter

June 2017

Support The Boardwalk Good News!

Quietly 'behind the scenes' volunteers wobble away, keeping the boardwalk tidy, making and selling handicrafts to raise funds & applying for grants. This week we have a notable success!

"Thank you for your recent application for a Little Green Grant which has now been assessed. ... it was agreed to award your group a grant of £1,500 towards the 'Bird-watching Platform' project" Pembs Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS)

A welcome boost, supporting our 'Fund-raising to Enhance' focus.

Flora & Fauna Highlights:

As a community the Havens is renowned for its welcome to all its visitors - be they staying for the season, en route to other places, visiting from overseas or looking to make a more permanent place to settle. So far 2017 has been no different and we are thrilled to welcome a wide range of visitors to the Splashpond and Boardwalk.

Already visiting Chiff Chaff, on their annual migration from the Mediterranean, have heralded the holiday season with their melodious song from tree tops. A rare sighting of a Cattle Egret on the Splashpond was a wonderful sight as it rested on its trip around the county from its home in Southern Iberia and the secretive Water rail has made an appearance - lets hope it decides to stay and allow us more opportunities to view such a beautifully plumaged bird in spite of its wonderful camouflage.

A pair of Moorhens have decided that this is not a bad place to bring up their brood of 11 chicks, but the lonely Mallard; once he found a mate, decided to travel elsewhere and we wish them well.

Other summer visitors are making the most of the resources on offer be it to wash in the pond as with Black-headed gulls or swallows and house martins feeding on gnats and flies above the water.

Like any holiday destination some visitors choose to keep themselves to themselves so if you see any interesting characters enjoying the reserve do please inform us, for we know that we have such a rich wildlife habitat that is not always as obvious as we would hope.

We are not adverse to people either; whether you are a visitor or resident we hope that you too will make the most of the Boardwalk. Note new growth on those old apple trees that we pruned in Autumn much to the disgust of some locals who thought we had killed them off. In a couple of years we will be enjoying not only their blossom but their fruitfulness once again. Newly planted oak saplings reaffirm the prolific growth that Spring brings, in time the many newly scattered wildflower seeds will add further colour to the meadow areas. Keep your eyes and ears open and enjoy the atmosphere!

David Meanwell

The Splashpond 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.

Diary Dates:

June:

6th - School Eco Group & STB meet - Water Survey. 1:15-3pm

24th - Pembrokeshire Coast Triathlon

'Support the Boardwalk' are delighted to have been selected to help Marshall the event again this year on Saturday 24th June. If you can spare a few hours to come and help Marshall this event please contact us @ boardwalkgang@gmail.com

July:

4th - School Eco Group & STB meet

16th - "Work and Barbeque" party - From 2pm

Session in which we hope to add cement to stone dust on the 'ramps,' put some parking bollards up, cut back bushes & trees, maybe install the old bench ... to be followed by a BBQ and social

29th - The Havens Carnival, Broad Haven Primary School - From 2pm

Fundraising:

- Watch this space! ... An outcome is awaited on an application for a grant via the South Hook LNG Community Fund and steps are being taken to setup online donating.
- At The Havens Carnival Support the Boardwalk will be sharing a stall with the Allotment group. Come and say hello!

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

Support The Boardwalk would like to extend hearty '**Congratulations!**' to Carew Castle & Tidal Mill; winners of the Dog Friendly Day Out/Attraction award at the recent Dog Friendly Pembrokeshire Tourism Awards 2017. We were delighted to be a finalist alongside them and Heatherton World of Activities.

Do you know 1-7th June is National Volunteers' week? ... Join us !

We'd welcome you at any of the activities listed above under 'Diary Dates.' Or our **next meeting is 7:30pm Monday 4th Sept** (venue TBC). Everyone is truly 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! Or contact us at boardwalkgang@gmail.com if you'd like more information about how you might help.