



# STBW Newsletter

January 2018

**Happy New Year** 🎉

**... from Support The Boardwalk**

We hope you have all enjoyed a happy festive period and are now looking forward to 2018. The boardwalk is an ideal spot for "a bit of fresh air" if you're venturing out again post celebration parties and TV marathons.

## Fundraising

The recent Coffee Morning was successful, home-made cakes were served along with refreshments. Linda Harrison's lovely crafts & David Meanwell's 'birds of the boardwalk' were on sale. A big thank you to Linda Harrison for hosting this event and to all who helped, donated and attended.

## Making the most of the habitat

### Pond-Dipping

The Boardwalk gang, using a carefully placed pallet to balance on the water[!], have cleared silt from the area in front of the dipping deck, to allow a better depth of water, clear of weeds. The new sign on the dipping deck provides clear instructions on how to ensure a safe pond-dipping session and is complimented by a link on our website [www.supporttheboardwalk.co.uk](http://www.supporttheboardwalk.co.uk) to the PCNPA Pond-dipping leaflet, so that dippers can discover the names of all the creatures they find!

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.

## JUNIOR BOARDWALK RANGERS!

Boardwalk volunteers are keen to encourage the next generation of custodians for the boardwalk. Working with the 'Eco Group' from Broad Haven school, our partners; PCNPA Rangers Hayley & Dan and Keep Wales Tidy's Ranger Mari, have helped us engage the children in sessions at the Slashpond habitat. They have taken part in making bug boxes, meadow management and pond -dipping. During the sessions the children learned about how to look after the environment, not drop litter, etc.

They are now fully fledged JUNIOR BOARDWALK RANGERS!

## **New bird watching platform - Update**

To attract & satisfy the 'twitchers' that visit the Slashpond habitat, Support The Boardwalk are planning their next project - to create a Bird-watch platform. The discreet platform will extend out to the Slashpond to a 'boundary.' Panels will allow visitors to get 'up close' to the birdlife. The volunteers are seeking the expert's advice on this project and will love to hear from any. To allow a good visual expanse, the project will involve reaping some of the reed growth which is encroaching onto the water. Its hoped that this will also create a 'mud platform' that will encourage ducks, geese & swans to land. We are also researching the possibility of working with swan rescue to provide a safe environment for swans that are ready to be released back into the wild!

**We would like to say a massive 'thank you'**

**to the *Carnival Gang* for their very kind and generous donation of £1500**

**Great news as this allows us to finalise plans and go ahead with the installation!!**

## **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)

## **Diary Dates:**

**Watch this space - or rather our FaceBook Posts ...**

Our next task is to prune & mulch the apple trees. Date TBA

## **Join us !**

We hold regular meetings where everyone is welcome. We are all eager volunteers, a friendly and enthusiastic bunch, who bring a diverse range of knowledge and experience. But we are always looking for more - ... please come and join us! If you've any queries; please contact us via email: [boardwalkgang@gmail.com](mailto:boardwalkgang@gmail.com)

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