



STBW Newsletter

February 2017

A Winter Perspective

Winter is a great time of year for looking around trees with a different perspective. With so many leaves missing, it's a chance to stop on the boardwalk and simply look deeper into the wooded areas. Try it... you may find something you have not noticed before – a feature of the land, a fallen tree you didn't know was there, the routes of the water-ways that you can't normally see, maybe even a nest or two – all without having to leave the path!

Also, in this cold, dark and damp time, please let us remind you that the Support the Boardwalk group regularly checks the boardwalk for safety issues. However, if you notice something please get in touch by email (boardwalkgang@gmail.com) or tell someone on the group – it doesn't matter if we hear the same thing from more than one person. (If you don't know any of us then come along to our next meeting and say hello. You'd be very welcome.)

'Birds of the Boardwalk' Art Installation & Art Competition

If you've walked along the boardwalk in the last few months then you won't have missed our colourful new winter residents. I know one toddler at least who benefits from birds that don't fly away startled when he excitedly points and shouts at them! Our fantastic artist, David Meanwell, was also greeted one day by a 5 year old with 'David, David! I found the birds that shouldn't be there – a chicken and a Puffin!' – Brilliant. Others have commented that it's made it more exciting for their little ones using the boardwalk, so it's definitely all been worthwhile.

Another big **'Thank You!'** to the supporters who made this project possible, including: **The Beach Shop, The Surf Shop, The Beach Cafe, The Ocean Bar and Restaurant, Jim the Chimney Sweep, The Bay, Dolan Court Residents Assoc. and The Women's Institute. We're grateful to have you working with us for this community.**

The monies raised (£380!) have done more than enable the installation: a small surplus means we can launch our 'Art Competition' very soon - so watch this space!

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.

New Bird Watching Platform – Update

To attract & satisfy the 'twitchers' that visit the Slash Pond habitat, Support the Boardwalk are planning their next project - to create a bird-watch platform. The discreet platform will extend out to the Slash Pond to a 'boundary.' Panels will allow visitors to get 'up close' to the birdlife. The volunteers are seeking experts' advice on this project and would 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. It's 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 and other fundraising & grants allow us to finalise plans and go ahead with the project. Again watch this space!

Up-and-coming Jobs

February is the time for cleaning out bird-boxes and recording any nests. Then soon it will be spring and the time to plant wild flowers. We'll also have maintenance days, when you can come along and enjoy tidying, hacking, chatting, eating cake... with us.

Watch this space, or our Facebook posts and website for info as it arises (supporttheboardwalk.co.uk and facebook.com/supporttheboardwalk).

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 Slash Pond 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

Join us !

Our next meeting is **7:30pm Monday, 26th February** at Anchor House, 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!

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