



# STB Newsletter

October 2018

## An End to Path Flooding?

In August we asked our Facebook fans ... "Should we BOARDWALK & Deck the dirt/cinder path up to the tarmac path? Creating an all-weather, boardwalk from end to end that would put an end to the flooded muddy puddles in winter?" ... The result was a resounding 93% Yes vote!

So our application to the brand new Enhancing Pembrokeshire (EP) Fund has been submitted to Pembrokeshire County council and will be reviewed by the committee during October. The EP fund has been generated by the extra council tax paid by second home owners and requires that projects address the negative impact of second/holiday home ownership.

If our application is successful, the project will connect the picnic area and meet the 'cross village all-weather tarmac path' by resurfacing the existing dirt-dust path that is prone to months of flooding. This will achieve a year-round, all-weather, accessible, complete circular route.

Second homes are a leisure resource; 'holiday homes,' many are let to holiday-makers. Visitors generate a valuable income for numerous businesses in The Havens. The traditional tourism season is extending to winter months & off-season breaks and this prolongs the earning potential improving the local economy & employment. The improved path will enable the "Slashpond Boardwalk" facilities to be enjoyed year-round, wet or dry!

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 mobility scooters, wheelchairs and pushchairs.

## Terrapins spotted

A keen-eyed member of STB spotted 4 adult terrapins sunning themselves at the Slashpond in late August! Originally native to the UK about 800 years ago, these days they are commercially bred and kept in private terrariums – so someone must have released these poor creatures into the Slashpond!

Mark Barber of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation gave us his thoughts:

*"In a nutshell, it's not good to have Terrapins in natural ponds as they are non-native omnivores that can have a negative impact on the local flora and fauna e.g. may eat rare plant species, newts, tadpoles and occasionally even chicks. It is also possible they may carry and transmit diseases we're not yet aware of. Obviously the greater the numbers, the greater the impact. However there is not much that can be done other than to monitor them; they are very difficult to catch and even if they were caught it is very difficult to re-home them; there are also strict laws relating to their sale/transfer etc."*

Terrapins require a minimum temperature of 24 degrees to breed, so hopefully these 4 adults won't cause too much harm, in the meantime we're consulting other experts ....

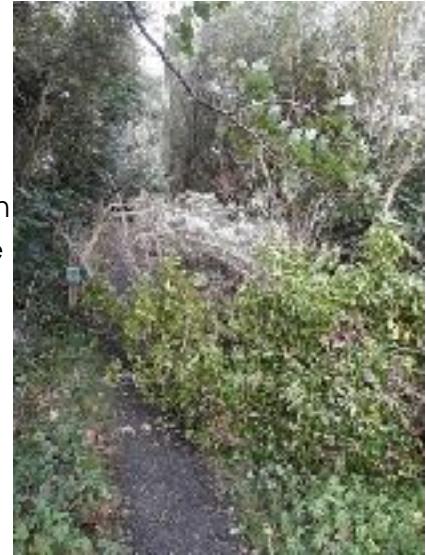
But please, don't release Terrapins into the pond, go to <https://www.terrapins.co.uk> and find a new parent who will adopt!

## **Big Thanks!**

Big shout out to David & Sylvia who strimmed and tidied the meadow in mid-September – and to Andrew who cleared away this fallen tree after the high winds of September 17th!

Volunteering for these types of jobs can be very rewarding and we would love to hear from you if you fancy ‘putting your name down’. We all keep in touch with our Messenger group ‘Boardwalk Chatter’ and by email and we get together for informal meetings & activities every month or so. If you’re dreading winter because you’re social life ‘takes a dive’ – then join us and get acquainted!

Message us on Facebook - Support the Boardwalk or send an email to [boardwalkgang@gmail.com](mailto:boardwalkgang@gmail.com)



## **Artwork installation**

You may have spotted some new artwork added to the boardwalk.

This temporary exhibit depicts some of the best entries we had to the recent Art Competition held in the village hall

Congratulations to all and thanks to STB volunteers for making this all possible!



## **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's date is to be arranged. We tend to meet once a month, on a Monday evening, though not in the summer as people are either busy, or away, or just enjoying living here. 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](mailto: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**

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