



STB Newsletter

January 2020



... to all of our supporters. We hope you have all enjoyed a festive season that you'd hoped for.

As we start 2020, we thought you might be interested to have an insight into a typical year of the Boardwalk Gang ... here are the sorts of tasks we aspire to do as the year progresses. We use the word 'aspire' as we are a volunteer group and from time to time, the scale of the task or perhaps other commitments, mean that our group are not always able to perform tasks. Indeed, if reading down this timetable inspires you to join in and lend a hand (there might be one or more of the tasks that you think you'd be up for), please do let us know by emailing boardwalkgang@gmail.com

- January** Cut back willow tree in front of the viewing deck
- February** Clean out bird boxes to prepare for nesting birds & clear weeds at the dipping deck
- March** Spread wildflower seeds or plant new plugs to regenerate meadow plant variety
- April** First of monthly mows through the growing season, around the picnic area
- May or June** Dip & record life in the pond to assess water health ideally assisted by school pupils
- July** Cut back trees overhanging boardwalk to allow sunlight through to limit moss build up. Use offcuts to make habitat piles.
- August or or September** Cut meadow once flowers have bloomed and seeded. A week after cut (ideally) rake off cut hay/grass and pile into compost bays
- October** Plant native bulbs for winter, snowdrops etc.
- November** Prune (no more than 30%) off apple trees to encourage a more open branch structure
- December** Weed and mulch around fruit trees

Each month we also conduct and record a **risk assessment** and generate copy for the Havens **Community Diary**, which is also then used as the basis of the creation of this **monthly newsletter**.

Our **enhancement projects** run alongside the tasks above. Over the past year alone we completed the final extension of the boardwalk, to ensure a year-round accessible route around the slash pond, plus created new Nature Trail Quiz leaflets (now stocked in many of the retailers and pubs etc. in the area) and the production of new signs and information boards is currently work-in-progress.

You might think that we're a group of 50 or more, given that list above, but over the past few years there has been a core of around 20 volunteers, so our achievements are not insignificant ... but you'll understand now why we 'aspire' to fulfil that 'to-do' list.

The Slash Pond Boardwalk is an alternative attraction to our wonderful Seaside Award beach (the



national standard for the best beaches across the UK). At more than 350 metres, the boardwalk is a sheltered, 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 our Nature Trail Quiz. The area offers a circular route of approximately ½ mile which is accessible to motobility scooters, wheelchairs and pushchairs.

July, Saturday 11th : *keep the date* - **Mike's Bikes Pembrokeshire Coast Triathlon**, a very important date again this year for Support The Boardwalk. *A big thank you to the organisers for having chosen us as its charity once again.* Our team will be marshalling and directing cars in the car park adjacent to the Youth Hostel (and will have buckets for donations). Funds donated during the day will go to the ongoing maintenance of the boardwalk area and any projects at the time. We rely on volunteers, so look out for details as they emerge through the coming months and keep in touch if you can help

Finally, over recent months we have featured poems shared by some of Broad Haven's primary school pupils, inspired by a summer visit. Chloe's '**Reflections on the Slash Pond**' here, allow us to think ahead to this summer and will hopefully get us through what is often the greyest of the winter months

Sprinkles of shimmer in the blue eye catching water.

Long tall grass moves side by side in the wind.

Along with the grass moving side by side, the flowers are also moving side by side.

Singing gracefully, the birds sing with the breeze.

Hiding there are some hovering dragonflies.

Popping out of nowhere, a bird's head comes out the bird's box.

Orange leaves fall off trees.

Not a peep out of a bird's beak.

Doing work little bumble bees, make us honey right now please.

Chloe Coker

Heritage of Slashpond

Have you a story to tell or photos from the past? If you have a story from the past relating to the Slash Pond we would love you to share with us. Send to davidmeanwell@gmail.com. Thank you to those of you who have already been in touch.

Join Us - Next Meeting:

A meeting schedule and venue for 2020 is to be agreed. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

If you're not on Facebook and have a query re the meetings or indeed any other boardwalk related matters, please email us boardwalkgang@gmail.com

We are a lovely community group - have a think about coming along, you'll be most welcome.

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

WATCH THIS SPACE (for activity and meeting scheduling):

Facebook - [facebook.com/supporttheboardwalk](https://www.facebook.com/supporttheboardwalk)

Website - <http://www.supporttheboardwalk.co.uk>