



# STB Newsletter

January 2021

## A New Year Message from our New Chair - Ben!

**Hello everyone and Happy New Year** – and this year better be different to 2020! And this is the first Havens Diary entry I get to write as chair of the boardwalk team (and it is a team effort, so big thanks to all), and I'm looking forward to what we can do in 2021. Or maybe I should say I'm looking forward to the ways we can help the boardwalk and slashpond area be a welcome place to go in our community and an inspiration for what a bit of getting involved in nature can do.

### Here are some of our ideas for the year ahead:

- Commission a survey of the pond, biodiversity and depth/layout
- Do the biannual clearing of plants in front of the dipping deck
- Improve the views from the birdwatching screen and viewing platform
- Explore what reed management could do for the pond and wildlife
- Develop the ground around the picnic area to show the different ways we can help spaces be good for animals, plants and soil
- Help other groups to know about the boardwalk and area and how they could use it
- And not to mention carrying on with keeping the boardwalk safe and getting involved in Havens events as and when they happen.

Our email address ([boardwalkgang@gmail.com](mailto:boardwalkgang@gmail.com)) might come in handy if ...

- You've read the above and thought "I know a bit about that", please let us know because we're always learning about what we're doing and you just might have some useful tips for us. No tip is too basic – I'm not a grandma, so you can teach me to suck as many eggs as you like!
- Or perhaps you have your own ideas but would love to have some help to see them become reality. Drop us an email, or catch one of us about the village, to let us know. You don't have to join the group; you could just work with us on a project you care about.

Personally, it's that idea of caring about something that has led me to take on being chair of STB (you didn't think I did it for the love of meetings did you!?). There are two things that I care about that really made this role feel worthwhile:

1. People doing things together in the community is so important, and it's been so hard this past year. If we can help new connections to be made between people that might not know each other, and even friendships to grow, that'll be success.
2. Living well with nature, learning to grow things, helping a variety of life thrive, from beetles to birds and worms to hedgehogs – it's all part of building a healthier future for this community, the generations coming behind us and the whole world.

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.

So while there's plenty of unknown in the year ahead, and we're not sure whether meetings will be on Zoom or face to face, and we don't know when we'll be able to start having group event on site, we do know we're going to crack on.

If you want to join a Zoom meeting, please email us. We're not meeting to a rigid pattern at the moment, so we'll just let you know when the next one is.

All the best, Ben Dare

## **An Exciting Sighting!**

Those of our friends and followers who are keen birders will be delighted to hear of the report posted recently (Nov End) from one of our regular visitors ...

*"Hello! Just to let you know a rare bird has been seen and heard at the Slash Pond, a Hume's Warbler. It would be the second record for Pembrokeshire. ... You have done a fabulous job with the boardwalk and interpretation, well done! Some nice birds around the area today included Firecrest, Water Rail and Black Redstart. Take care, Dave."*

Thank you for the share Dave - and your kind words regarding the recent enhancements!

Here's an example image of a Hume's Warbler:



The Hume's Warbler is a very rare migrant in the UK, Isle of Man, and Ireland with just two records per year, and is most likely to occur during migration.

By far the rarest of the regular tiny leaf warblers in Britain, but there is an upward trend. This is a bird of late autumn, occurring in late October and November.

It has two call types: a cheery, rising che-wee, and a down-slurred swee-oo with a harsh, almost House Sparrow-like, quality.

## **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 [davidlmeanwell@gmail.com](mailto:davidlmeanwell@gmail.com). Thank you to those of you who have already been in touch.

### **Join Us:**

**Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for news of meetings, TLC days and updates to any of the dates/times listed in this newsletter.**

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

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

If you're not on Facebook and have a query please email us [boardwalkgang@gmail.com](mailto: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**