



STB Newsletter

March 2021

Update from Recent Zoom Meet-Up

Our first meeting of 2021 was a fun, lively Zoom one, with newcomers welcomed alongside some of the existing boardwalk gang. Ben did well to steer us. There were no shenanigans along the lines experienced in a now infamous online meeting, much shared on social media, so Ben wasn't forced to assert himself as Chair, nor kick anyone out of the meeting - ha ha! Arguably, the frivolity of the meeting might have escalated out of control if one of our participants had applied a cat filter in the way a Texan lawyer did! Seriously, it was lovely to have some newcomers on board with fresh ideas. One expressed that it was Ben's message in a copy of the Haven's Diary that had caught her eye and motivated her to get in touch ... maybe it was these thoughts that Ben shared and perhaps you too will be inspired to join in with our activities? ...

- *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.*
- *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.*

Our chat covered surveying the pond and boardwalk areas, how we might manage the reeds, which are quite overgrown in places, and review the trees which have now been in situ for some years in the meadow area. The meadow too ... we'd love a repeat of the glorious display of wild flora some of you may recall some years ago.

Perhaps Ben's musings, above, stir something within you too, or maybe you've an interest or experience in the topics discussed - join in the conversation and action, all are welcome (email us at boardwalkgang@gmail.com).

The meeting was also enlightening - a phrase came up which may be new to some (as was the case with some of the Zoom attendees). Let us introduce you too:



“Citizen Science”



Here's how the BBC's 'Do Something Great' pages (their volunteering resources) explains this phrase:

“The principal behind citizen science is to use the power of collaborative volunteer research to explore or collect huge data sets ... ones that researchers simply couldn't manage by themselves.

Who's it good for? If you love the great outdoors there are lots of wildlife surveys to get involved with.

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.



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.

Where can you do it? Wildlife surveys tend to be done outdoors, or at least looking out of your kitchen window. Many of the projects are online though and you can do them at home, in the office, on holiday... anywhere you have an internet connection.

What does it involve? It depends on the project, but there are two main sorts. Either observing the world, recording what you see and submitting the data. Or going through pre-existing data – such as star photos – and logging what you find ... Some surveys focus on the natural world in a brief burst – called a bioblitz – and others track it for longer periods. It's possible to choose a project that suits the level of commitment you are looking for."

?? What does this have to do with the Boardwalk and its neighbouring habitat ??

The Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum are sharing details of an environmental project: Coastal Communities Adapting Together (CCAT) which is inviting locals to observe and comment on * Changes in climate, weather and sea * Impacts caused by changes * Actions being taken or that could be taken.

To get involved - go to: <http://www.ccatproject.eu/climate-change>

Zoom in/out of the map that is displayed on the right of that web-page, click on the pins to read comments relating to that area on the map.

Maybe on your walk along the boardwalk, or visit to the meadow if you've observations re: climatic changes and impacts caused, use the 'Add New Observation' on the left to 'pin' it/share it. A recent sighting of a rare bird (A Hume's Warbler) - was that as a result of climate change? ... If we add our observations to this mapping tool, a pattern may emerge over time?

Stay safe and enjoy the boardwalk within the current guidelines.

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. 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)

If you're not on Facebook and have a query 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

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