



STB Newsletter

May 2021

What's catching your eye???

... The British climate has been described as having all four seasons in just one day and this is certainly true of the first few weeks of spring. Sun, rain, mist, sleet and snow, you name it we've had it. Fortunately snowdrops, daffodils and primroses have once again helped to brighten up the darkest days.



At the moment the apple trees and bushes are bursting with blossom ... and talking of bushes - here's a conundrum to explore around the boardwalk & nearby habitats: **Blackthorn or Hawthorn?** 😊 Both have creamy-coloured flowers with five petals. They're on display around the same time and are both valuable to wildlife, supporting hundreds of insect species. There are some key differences:

- ❖ Blackthorn blossoms before its leaves start to show, whereas hawthorn flowers after its leaves have emerged. This is one of the best tips for identifying the two species in spring.
- ❖ Blackthorn usually flowers first, from around March to June.
- ❖ Hawthorn flowers from around April to June.
- ❖ Hawthorn petals are rounded and fuller than those of blackthorn.
- ❖ Their leaves are distinctive. Blackthorn - oval with jagged edges, Hawthorn - lobed leaves

For images, more info and tips to identify them and other species, go to the Woodland Trust pages with this [link](#) if viewing online (or search in your browser for <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>).



While identifying flora and fauna on your outings around the Havens, you may also be interested to know of our recent communications with the **Bumblebee Conservation Trust**. They flagged an app which can be used to report lots of different plants and animals. It looks interesting, so you might want to check it out: look on your App Store for **LERC Wales** App, or click on this [link](#) if viewing online (or search in your browser for <https://www.lercwales.org.uk/app.php>). Again, they have pictures 😊

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.



"Meadows are amazing for wildlife and in the last 50 years, over 90% of wildflower meadows in Wales have disappeared, along with the insects, birds and mammals they support. There is however, a quiet revolution – new meadows are being created and old meadows restored. There are a growing number of people making meadows across Wales and a number of county Meadows Groups – networks of people who team up to share ideas, advice, sometimes seeds, machinery and even grazing animals."

[source: Plantlife Cymru's recent online event: an introduction to starting a new Pembrokeshire Meadows Group]

The Magnificent Meadows Cymru team have recently held a couple of meetings to initiate a group in Pembrokeshire. They are keen to offer support and if you own, manage, or have access to a bit of grassland (even a lawn!) that you would like to turn into a wildflower meadow, then the group could be for you!

We understand they have created a Pembs Facebook group - one that you have to apply to join. If keen - sending a message via Facebook to the Magnificent Meadows Cymru team could be a good start point.



Like everyone the boardwalk gang has been limited in how much support we have been able to give, we are fortunate to have people who are able to carry out essential repairs - well done gang (you know who you are 😊) for various spotting and fixing of problems on the boardwalk recently (including a broken handrail, kickboards and trees overhanging).

That said, we're all looking forward to being able to give the boardwalk some much needed TLC in the near future. Look out for information about future TLC days in coming newsletters, our Facebook posts or in the Havens Community Diary.

In the meantime just a small reminder of a couple of ways you can help:

- * Keep the boardwalk and surrounding areas free from dog poo. We all want to share the area without having to watch where we put out feet 😬 So Please: BAG IT and BIN IT.
- * Likewise, take your litter home or put it in the bins either in the car-park or where the path joins Sandyke Road.
- * Stay safe, keep to distancing rules - the various decks and wider points of the boardwalk enable us to respect each other's efforts to do so.

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>