



STB Newsletter

June 2021



We're gearing up to meeting at the boardwalk for some much needed general maintenance and cutting back – keeping Covid-compliant with the latest requirements from the Welsh Gov't. Hopefully this will happen within June. If you'd like to be emailed about this or other tidy-up days, let us know and we'll include you in the planning

(contact us at boardwalkgang@gmail.com).

Boardwalk Habitat: Focus on Lichen

At last the weather has perked up and trips around the boardwalk can be at a gentler pace rather than braced against winds and rains!

The boardwalk information boards are a great source of info' as you take in the views, you may be surprised what you learn. By way of a preview ... let's focus on lichen which is found in abundance around the boardwalk:



Lichens are made up of two organisms; a **fungus** and an **alga** that function together as one complete being.

The **alga** contains chlorophyll, which uses sunlight to produce nutrients. This process feeds both of the organisms and is called Photosynthesis.

The **fungus** provides a body for them both to live in, and also produces a sunscreen like substance which protects the alga.

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.

There are 1,600 species of lichen in Britain that vary in size, shape and colour. They grow on rocks, trees and bare ground, some look like crusty patches and others are bushy growths.

Lichens are a good indicator that air quality is good, they are particularly sensitive to sulphur dioxide pollution and are confined to areas of Britain with the purest oxygen. So the fact that they are thriving here is a positive sign.

Perhaps when you're out and about have a look out for the lichen. We'd love to see any photos you capture of good examples - you can share them on the Support The Boardwalk Facebook page, or email them to boardwalkgang@gmail.com and we will share them for you.

... *And now for something different* ... This newsletter is not usually one to feature radio listings, but a new Radio 4 drama has caught the attention of the gang and may be of interest to you:

Wetlands Based Drama

"Sir Mark Rylance has called on the arts to help solve the climate crisis by telling stories that persuade people to "fall in love with nature again" and prompt government to back green policies.

The Oscar-winning actor is starring with Sophie Okonedo in an innovative BBC Radio 4 drama set in a wetlands nature reserve that charts the challenges conservationists face in a time of rapid environmental change.

... Rylance hopes '**Song of the Reed**' will draw attention to the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust's 'Blue Recovery' plan to restore wetlands." *[The Guardian]*

To learn more about the drama: [click here](#) and, importantly, about the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust's "Blue Recovery" plan to restore wetlands: [click here](#).

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>