



## The Importance of Trees

Support The Boardwalk closed out last year with the excitement of knowing that post Christmas, plans would be made with the village school to organise a date for some of the pupils to visit the boardwalk area with a task in mind.

### Native tree planting is on the agenda

The Woodland Trust tells us that "... Trees are vital for a healthy, happy society. They lock up carbon to fight climate change, improve our health, wellbeing and education, reduce pollution and flooding, and support people, wildlife and livestock..."

We also plan to install a gate in the slash pond fence to give access for water-related maintenance, managing the reeds and other cutting back needed along the water's edge.

Positive progress to look forward to. Watch this space!

## Bumblebee Winter Alert

Bumblebees are friends of the Boardwalk - they must be, being regular visitors! Did you know that bumblebees do not make honey, so unlike honeybees (which live inside their hive all winter feeding on the honey that they produce throughout the summer), bumblebee nests have a short, annual lifecycle, completely relying on flowers for all their food. By the end of the summer queens emerge from their nests and begin to look for somewhere safe and cosy to hibernate. They will hibernate in a variety of places, from well-drained, soft soil, to leaf litter, hollow trees or inside tree bark. They often choose spaces that are north-facing, so they get less winter sun and the ground doesn't heat up and wake them up early.

You might come across a hibernating queen when carrying out winter or spring jobs in your garden, such as repotting plants, turning compost or planting bulbs. If you accidentally disturb a hibernating bumblebee, don't panic! Gently cover her back over with the same material that she had dug into and leave her be.

Also, in the UK, 'winter active' bumblebees are becoming more and more common possibly as a result of our changing climate. Instead of going into hibernation, these queens set up their nests in autumn and you could find their daughters visiting your flowers all through the winter!

The Slash Pond Boardwalk is an alternative

attraction to our wonderful Seaside Award beach. 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.

Seaside  
Award  
Gwobr  
Glan Môr



Growing flowers such as winter heathers and winter honeysuckle will help keep them well-fed throughout the colder months. For more information about planting winter-flowering plants to feed bumblebees over the colder months and other bumblebee related advice - visit the Bumblebee Conservation Trust website.

An alert of another sort ... please do take care while walking around the boardwalk on wet or damp winter days. Our board's grips do help minimise the slipperiness of the path, but fallen leaves and persistent rain can cause risks. Your safety matters to us, so please take care under such conditions as you enjoy meandering around the area.

**Finally - a polite request.** Dog mess is not something any of us want to encounter on our walks! If you spot an offence : You can take a photo of the offending evidence and email it with details to [dogcontrol@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:dogcontrol@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) . Surely though we all want to spare that person who has to receive those grim emails - we can all help by spreading the word amongst any dog owners that we know, that the boardwalk gang and all who visit the boardwalk, would really appreciate the mess being scooped and removed from any of the paths. Thanks for your help.

### **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](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**

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