

# Acton Park

## Seasonal Report Update

01/07/24 - 30/09/24

### Report by:

Hannah Farnell (previous  
seasonal ranger)

*No current seasonal ranger in post during  
time frame*



Park  
Maintenance

Events

Volunteers

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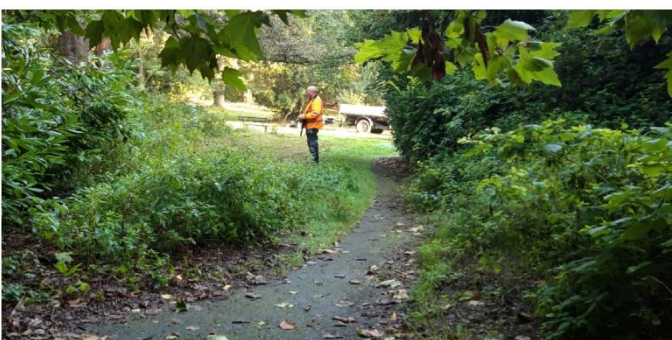
## **Completed Work**

### **Park maintenance**

In the absence of a seasonal ranger, the park has been tended to by other park rangers who have done significant clearing of over-grown areas, removed fallen tree limbs and continued to perform site safety checks. Below is a summary of the main works completed in the park between July and September 2024.

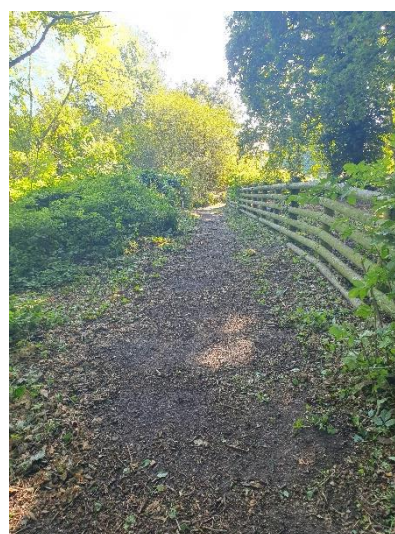
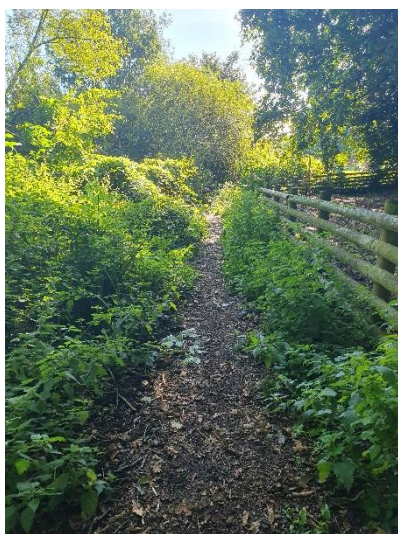
#### **Clearing**

Large areas of brambles and weeds have been cut near the stone circle and former rose garden, as well as pruning and tidying.



### Strimming

Strimming has been completed to widen paths running from behind the Japanese garden to the play area.



### Tarmacking

New tarmac has been laid in multiple locations along the paths in the park that were badly cracked or raised due to tree roots, weathering and age.

### Noticeboards

Three new notice boards have been ordered to replace the old Friends' notice boards which have been damaged by aging and vandalism.

The new notice boards are metal framed which will not rot like the previous wooden frames, improving their longevity. Installation will take place in the next couple of months.

### Biodiversity

Habitat piles are made around the park in out-of-site areas when any maintenance works are completed. This involves using the off-cuts from any trimming back to create a pile of vegetation and wood for wildlife. Habitat piles such as this are very valuable to nature, providing a rich habitat for invertebrates which many other animals such as birds and hedgehogs feed on, as well as offering shelter and hiding places for others.

### Future Maintenance Works

Works are planned for the wall running along Jeffreys Road, to remove any ivy and weeds, as well as repointing the stone work.

## **Community Engagement**

### **Events/ Schools / Volunteering/ Social Media**

#### **Events**

A help a ranger day event and nature trail event have been held at the park in the last three months.

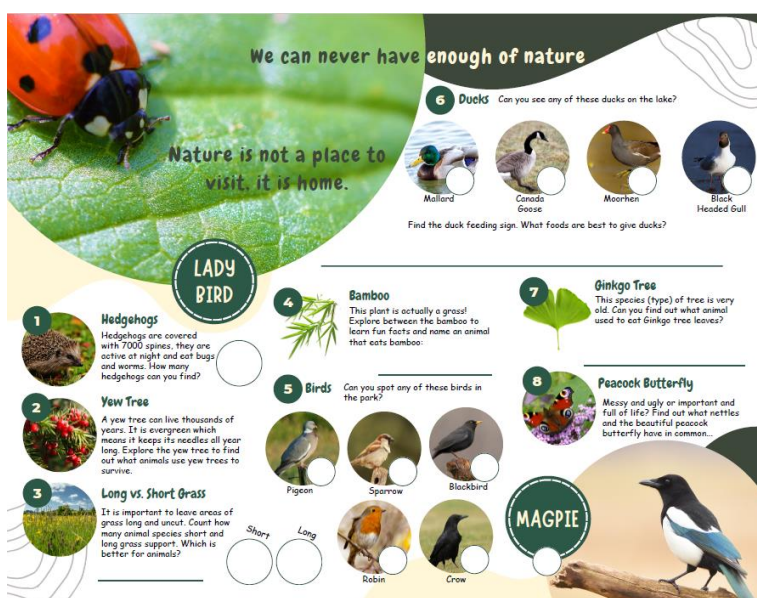
#### **Nature Trail**

**Date:** 26/07/24

**Details:** A nature trail was designed to guide visitors around the park, encouraging them to seek out the nature around them including the animals and plant life. Visitors collected a leaflet at the start of the trail and followed the route around the park, filling in details as they went. There was also a free seed bomb making exercise where people could mix together compost, flour, wildflower seeds and water to shape into a ball and take home to throw or plant in a desired area. Meet Me In The Morning coffee van was present again (as with previous events) to serve visitors refreshments and snacks.

The event was hosted by the green infrastructure project officers in the Open Spaces team of Wrexham Council, who work with Local Places For Nature Welsh Government Grant.

**People attended:** 100+



## **Help a Ranger Day – Scything**

**Date:** 15/08/24

**Details:** Staff and a volunteer from the Acton Park Volunteer group spent a day in the park scything the new orchard and meadow area. Scything is a traditional method of cutting meadow grass which is more environmentally friendly, with no fumes from petrol tools as well as allowing animals to move out of the way as it is a much slower process than machinery. The reason for scything the meadow is to remove the cut grass, therefore reducing the nutrition in the soil which reduces grass growth and encourages more wildflowers.



## **Upcoming Events**

### **Wrexham Sweet Chestnut Pumpkin Party**

**Date:** 12/10/24

**Details:** To celebrate the anniversary of the UK tree of the year 2023 winning sweet chestnut at Acton Park, a pumpkin party event will be held for people to bring their own pumpkins to decorate at the event. There will also be a history trail for people to enjoy. The event will be free.

At present, there are no further plans for more events at the park until the next seasonal ranger is in position. Once a new ranger is in position, it is expected that they will organise a Christmas event in December.

### **Acton Park Voluntary Group**

The volunteer group continues to provide essential help for the upkeep of several areas of the park. The group meets every other Tuesday for a two-hour practical session followed by a well-earned cup of tea and biscuits. There are multiple enthusiastic members who care greatly about the park and who work hard to help maintain it. Between July and September, the volunteers have worked on multiple areas including: weeding and laying mortar in the Japanese garden, painting benches, weeding and tidying, as well as weeding and mulching the orchard trees.

The volunteer sessions are continuing to run every two weeks, led by Hannah (the previous seasonal ranger) until another ranger is placed in the role when they can then over-see the group.

