

Acton Park Report

February – April 2025



8TH April

General maintenance of the park is regular picking litter up. Sometimes litter cannot be seen from the main path. So regular checks are made around perimeter and underneath vegetation.



8TH February 2024

Volunteers helped to clean out bindweed (*Convolvulus*) herbaceous perennial out of borders by play area.

Very invasive plant which appears in the spring and quickly spreads. It will strangle every plant in its path.

The bindweed is problematic area and very invasive. So solution is to leave it fallow and actively start pulling out by its roots in summer and leave that area until it clears up and become less invasive.

20th February 2025

Made a start in clearing twigs and digging bindweed out of a border with volunteer and Daryl.



11th February 2026

Volunteer help with the removal and cutting back of the Norfolk Reed (*Phragmites australis*) Native Marginal plants. This is vigorous perennial grass and can take over if not kept under control. So it needed clearing back away from paths.

With all the heavy rain and snow as well as wind the reed has needed some attention. The appearance of the reed is looking scruffy and I am aware people sit and view the lake from that side





11th February

Street scene from Wrexham Borough Council came to prune back falling broken trees away from the paths around the Park.



19TH 20th February

The brass plaques around the lake where dull in appearance and had no shine on them. The images where not visible to see the verses on the poems. I decided they needed a thorough clean. So brought a wire brush and a powder solution which I added water to create a paste. Initially they were shining and clean after a couple of days there is a powdery effect on the plaques

Because of the powdery finish I will have to wash the plaques again and then shinned up with Brasso.



21st February

Contractors from Enfys Ecology came and planted Oak rubra, Pines, Beeches to replace storm damaged trees.

Oak rubra is not native to England however is a North American fast growing Oak, features are it has an appearance of flaming autumn colour. Although it isn't as valuable to wildlife as our native oaks, it's still popular with nesting birds and pollinators.





26th February

Some pathways have been lost overtime between grass and paths where they merge. Therefore volunteers have been helping the clear pathways edge.

Volunteers are also restoring some pathways back to the original state by clearing mud and edging grass area in the park



5th March

Park ranger visited the park today and have cleared underneath the canopy of trees taking away suckers from some pines and Yew tree near the lodge. Also utilising the equipment called the spider which removes brambles from large areas of shrubby that have overgrown areas of the park.





5th March

All Park Ranger where given plants as part of a wildlife grant

So I decided that there was a large area of ground by the Cunliffe bowling green that would be suitable for plants. However needed some attention pruning back areas of the park that have become overgrown and required attention to improve the aesthetics of the park.

I felt this was an area of the park that has many visitors throughout the day and was one of the main parking areas. So I wanted to utilise this area for the public to gain some benefit of being able to see the shrubs as they visited the park.

With the assistance of a volunteers and Daryl who is part of Wrexham Council to help me prune back the border in preparation of the plants.



9th March

Since the storms we have had a lot of damage and mostly from contractors with wheel rut damage to grass.

So repairs have been made with digging, ranking and seeding large areas over. To bring back to original state.



10th March

Clearance of mud around stone circle due to storms pathways have needed clearing. A volunteer helped with the clearance of mud on pathway edging ranking making appearance neat and tidy.





11th March (Norfolk reeds beds)

Volunteering day clearing and digging out area by Norfolk reed beds. It has revealed some interesting rock features around the reeds beds. Tidying up area would love to add plants to make it a feature. However the soil around there is shallow not sure whether not it can be done. It would add interest into the park for passer-by to admire.





26th 27th March Rose garden clear up

Volunteers helped with planting up of the rose garden with grant funded money. Tidying up, pruning and cutting back grasses maintaining established plants in the border.

I used a selection of new every green plants Choisya, lavender Stachys, Skimmia, Primroses and Cowslip in the border.





School Sessions

17th March

Acton park school joined in for an afternoon of learning and education. Identification was made between the ducks and birds. The children interacted and participated in feeding wildlife on the lake as well as the do's and don'ts of what to feed the birds.

At the end of the sessions they were given badges to make with the different birds they had liked on the lake.

Borras School the classes were split into two sessions one in the morning and the other session in the afternoon. The subject matter was around birds' identification. We walked around the park and the children made bird feeders to take home.



26TH March

Alasdair and John Park Rangers came to fix the dog park fence putting in new posts firming the fencing securely back into its original position.



27th March

The general public spoke to me about a stranded cat in a tree in Acton Park. I phoned emergency service and a fire brigade officer came out to access the situation. He then got a team of fire brigade officers to come out to the cat. They use a ladder to try to catch the cat however the cat went further up the tree.



The next morning another fire officer came out who had expertise in climbing trees he managed to get hold of the cat and led it to safety.

The cat was then taken to the vets by Nicola my manager and was access by the vet.

I just want to say a big thank you to the Fire Service to coming to the rescue of the cat.



3rd April Park Rangers

Storm damage and pruned branches using the spider where utilise for sustainability practices to make into chipping for the dog park.

My work colleagues (Park Rangers) from other parks came to assist in the clear up branches from other side of the park in Acton.

They were chipped by Street Scene and place in the dog park ready to be spreading around the grounds of the dog park.



