

Acton Park July 16th 2025 Report



By Lisa Quinton
Content

Maintenance, Volunteers, Events
Liaising with Police Biodiversity Survey

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Maintenance

Daily removal of rubbish and Fires under Laurel.

My daily duties include conducting site inspections throughout the park, removing litter and hazards such as broken glass and needles, and managing waste around the bins.

There have been ongoing concerns regarding the Lodge located at the far end of the park, where on several occasions overflowing bins have resulted in litter being blown into the surrounding park area.

Additionally, teenagers have been responsible for significant issues beneath the large Laurel shrubs, including burning and littering. The Fire Brigade was recently called out to extinguish a fire in the bushes.

It is recommended that the Laurel shrubs be cut back to prevent the continuation of anti-social behaviour in this area.

Attached are images of John and Alasdair, the Park Rangers, clearing away Laurel shrubs where fires had been set beneath the foliage.

I removed a sticker from a park bench. Water and sponges didn't work, but WD-40 did the trick and made it look like new again







Safety Concern: Soil Ramps and Holes in Park

During my recent patrols of the park, I observed that children have been digging holes and constructing soil ramps (“rams”) to ride their bikes on. These man-made ramps and holes present a significant safety hazard to both the children using them and other park visitors. As a precaution, I confiscated some of the soil ramps to prevent potential injuries. I recommend monitoring this activity closely and considering additional measures such as signage or public communication to discourage the creation of these hazards.





Tennis Court Maintenance

Regular maintenance activities include strimming vegetation around the tennis court, particularly in difficult-to-reach areas, as well as around the park, lake, and Dog Park. This work focuses on controlling Ground Elder, nettles, and general weeds to ensure pathways, especially around the Lake and within the Dog Park, remain clear and accessible for the public. Additionally, litter picking and leaf blowing are carried out to remove debris, helping to maintain a clean and welcoming environment for all visitors.

Alasdair, one of the Park Rangers, attended Acton Park to carry out maintenance on the tennis court netting, with my assistance. The net line had been incorrectly reeled, preventing proper tension. Together, we re-fed the line back through the net correctly, restoring it to full working order.



Dog Park Maintenance

Part of the regular upkeep involves filling holes throughout the Dog Park to level the ground and ensure safety for both dogs and their owners. This process helps prevent potential injuries caused by uneven terrain and maintains a comfortable, accessible environment for all users. Additionally, soil is used strategically to reinforce these areas, promoting healthier turf growth and improving overall park aesthetics.





Maintenance Tasks Completed

Mesh Flooring Repair: Temporarily secured old mesh flooring by hammering it down to prevent trip hazards. This is a short-term fix as the flooring is scheduled for full replacement.

Grounds Clearance: Cleared accumulated leaves and debris from around the lodge and along the park edge. This was done to maintain a tidy appearance and reduce slipping risks.





Events in Acton Park

Easter Event – 18th April (Good Friday)

Despite heavy rain on the day, the event attracted a turnout of approximately 100 attendees. Activities included an Easter trail where participants searched for letters along the route to spell “Thumper,” the beloved fictional character from Disney, End of trail children got to have a sweet treat.

A first-class colouring competition was also held, with categories divided by age groups: 0–4 years, 5–10 years, and 10–13 years. Runners-up in each category were awarded a chocolate Easter prize. Additionally, a face painter was present, bringing equipment to provide entertainment and add to the festive atmosphere of the event.

Digwyddiad y Pasg

18.04.25
13:00 – 15:00

Parc Acton
Ger y cae chwarae
LL12 7YG

Easter Event

Acton Park
Near playground
LL12 7YG

LLWYBR THE MA

DARTIAU HWYL

STONDIN GREFFT

GEMAU

LLUNIAETH

RAFFL

THEMED TRAIL

FUN DARTS

CRAFT STALLS

GAMES

REFRESHMENTS

RAFFLE

Cyflwynir gan Goidwald
Parciau Wrecsam a
Chyngor Cymuned Acton

01978 822 780 countryparks@wrexham.gov.uk

Hosted by Acton Community
Council and Wrexham Park
Rangers

www.wrecsam.gov.uk | www.wrexham.gov.uk





Education and Fun day out building Bug houses Event – 29th June at Acton Park

On the 29th of June, an educational and creative children's activity will be held in Acton Park. The session will involve children building their own bug houses using provided materials. Once constructed, they will be encouraged to decorate their bug houses with drawings.

The purpose of the event is to engage children in a fun, hands-on way while promoting awareness about the importance of invertebrates. By creating bug houses, the activity aims to highlight the role of insects in supporting biodiversity and pollination. It also encourages a sense of environmental stewardship from an early age.

This initiative contributes to wider efforts to increase habitat support for wildlife in the park and to provide informal environmental education for young visitors.

A big thank you to members of Acton Community Council for their incredible support in helping move equipment and erect the marquees on the day. Without their hands-on help, the event simply wouldn't have happened.

We are also grateful to the Council for their wider support in bringing the event to life. One of the most popular activities was the bug house building, which families thoroughly enjoyed. Children loved getting hands-on, learning about nature, and creating habitats that will continue to support wildlife in the park for years to come.

Special thanks as well to our dedicated volunteers, who gave their time, energy, and enthusiasm to help run activities and support throughout the day. Their teamwork and commitment created a welcoming, engaging atmosphere and left a lasting impression on everyone involved.





Co-ordinating Park Rangers Day Preparation for Green Flag

As part of preparations for the Green Flag Award, I coordinated a series of priority tasks around Acton Park to enhance its appearance and overall presentation.

Several Park Rangers were able to attend and assist on-site, focusing on key areas identified for improvement. Their involvement contributed significantly to the ongoing efforts to maintain the park's high standards and public appeal.

We were also supported by:

Hannah and Rebecca from the Open Spaces Team

Alison, Park Ranger with responsibilities across multiple parks, who provided valuable input and support during the visit

The collaborative effort helped address key maintenance needs and ensured the park is well-prepared for assessment, aligning with the criteria required for the Green Flag status.



Volunteers Day at Acton Park

A successful Volunteers Day was held at Acton Park, with local volunteers offering their time and effort to support key improvements across the park.

One of the main tasks completed was the spreading of wood chippings onto man-made footpaths regularly used by the public. These wood chippings were recycled from fallen trees and debris collected during storms in late 2024 and early 2025, demonstrating a sustainable approach to park maintenance.

Maintaining and improving the pathways throughout the park is a priority, as they are heavily used and play an essential role in accessibility and visitor experience.



Rose Garden Volunteer Day

A highlight of the day was the clearing of The Rose Garden, a historically significant and much-loved feature of the park. This area is especially cherished by local residents, many of whom enter the park through the rose garden entrance. The ongoing support from volunteers is invaluable in preserving the park's beauty and heritage for the wider community.

Regular maintenance of the garden borders is essential to keep the area welcoming and tidy. One of the entrances, frequently used by pedestrians, requires consistent weeding to ensure easy access and a neat appearance.

Recently, new plants have been introduced into the garden to enhance its biodiversity and visual appeal:

Lavender: Known for its fragrant purple flowers and calming scent, lavender adds beauty while attracting pollinators.

Stachys (Lamb's Ear): Recognised for its soft, furry foliage and attractive flower spikes, Stachys brings texture and charm.

Choisya (Mexican Orange Blossom): An evergreen shrub with glossy leaves and fragrant white flowers, providing year-round greenery and lovely spring blooms.

Primroses: Hardy perennials available in a variety of colours, often with a pleasant scent, flowering from mid-winter to mid-spring, adding early seasonal colour.

These plants not only enhance the garden's visual interest but also require ongoing care, making volunteer involvement crucial to the garden's upkeep.

Thank you to all volunteers for your continued dedication in maintaining this treasured community space!



The Scouts visited Acton Park yesterday, 9th June, from 19:30 to 21:30.

The Scouts and their Team Leaders helped collect litter and dug out bark to place along the natural pathway.

A big thank you to all the Scouts and Team Leaders who gave up their time and worked hard to improve Acton Park — your efforts are greatly appreciated!





Off-Road Bike Incident and Police Liaison

I have been liaising with PCSO Charlie Cooper regarding ongoing issues with off-road petrol bikes being ridden dangerously over the grass areas in Acton Park. These incidents pose a significant risk to public safety and could result in serious injury or even death.

PCSO Cooper has advised that the public should call **999** immediately when witnessing such behaviour, as it is considered a **crime in progress**. However, it has been noted that many members of the public are reluctant to use the emergency number, as they do not always associate this type of incident with an emergency service response.

To help raise awareness and encourage appropriate reporting, PCSO Cooper has provided posters, which I have begun displaying on noticeboards around Acton Park.



Marketing and Promotions Update

Volunteer opportunities at Acton Park have been actively promoted through several local channels to maximise community engagement and awareness:

Notice Board Advertising: Posters and information have been displayed on the Wrexham notice board located around Acton Park to attract the attention of park visitors and local residents.

Social Media Promotion:

Shared on the Wrexham Notice Board Facebook group.

Promoted through Action Maesydre Community News Wrexham Facebook page.

Featured on the Acton Community Council official Facebook page.

These efforts aim to encourage local participation, strengthen community ties, and support ongoing volunteer activities at Acton Park.



Recommendation: Bindweed Border Removal and Replanting by Playground

The existing border adjacent to the playground is heavily infested with bindweed, an aggressive invasive plant that spreads rapidly via underground rhizomes. Despite ongoing maintenance efforts, the bindweed continues to dominate the area, choking out other vegetation and making sustainable control very challenging.

To address this issue effectively, I recommend the following actions:

Complete removal of the existing border plants, including the bindweed. All plant material should be carefully removed and burned to prevent any rhizome fragments from surviving, as even small remnants can quickly regenerate and spread.

If the playground is scheduled for replacement or relocation, use this opportunity to:

Remove the current bindweed-infected border entirely.

Design and establish a new border.

Implement a planting scheme featuring robust, low-maintenance, preferably native species. This will enhance biodiversity, improve the area's aesthetic and ecological value, and reduce the risk of future invasive plant problems.

This strategy will help restore and maintain a healthy landscape around the playground while reducing long-term maintenance and invasive species control costs.



Biodiversity Report

Volunteers have been assisting me with the biodiversity report by strategically placing logs to encourage insect habitats. This project commenced on April 15th.

Insects constitute a vital component of our ecosystem, and gardens can serve as important refuges for these frequently overlooked and undervalued organisms. They provide sustenance for birds, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic species. Moreover, insects play critical roles as pollinators and natural pest regulators, while contributing to the decomposition of organic matter and the recycling of nutrients into the soil.

The absence of insects would result in severe disruptions to food supply chains and an accumulation of organic waste, with significant ecological and economic consequences.



Carol Large. Contributing to a Bird species and Water species Biodiversity Survey Acton Park

The lady from Borrass School—the lollipop lady—has tirelessly contributed her own time to observing and surveying the birds in the park. Here is a summary of her valuable contributions from November 2024 to June 2025

Habitat heavily wooded area with a large lake.

Bird Species Survey	Total
Robin	10
Wren	12
Blackbird	3
Swallow	2
Swift	
Great spotted Woodpecker	3
Chaffinch	2
Bullfinch	2
Magpie	8
Jay	
Mistle thrush	4
Song thrush	6
Wood - pigeon	9
Rock Dove (Feral pigeon)	2
Stock dove	
Jackdaw	2
Carrion Crow	3
Coal tit	3
Great Tit	4
Collard Dove	1
Water Bird Species Survey	Total
Mallard	13
Black headed Gull	11
Moorhen	11
Coot	12
Tufted Duck	19
Great Crested Grebe	2
Canada Goose	13
Mute Swan	1
Goosander	9
Grey Heron	1
Herring Gull	2
Ross's Goose	
Greylag goose	3
Hybrid Goose	
Mandarin Duck	1
Shoveler	1
Gadwall	
Wigeon	
Pochard	
Goldeneye	
Duddy Duck	
Cormorant	1
Common Gull	
Lesser Black backed Gull	