

-A 'spruce' for the forest-



● Spring clean ... Megan Keeley, centre, pictured with other young helpers at Blackley Forest.

BLACKLEY Forest is in line for a spring clean.

The spring clean was organised by the Friends of Blackley Forest, who were given a helping hand by local residents. It comes on top of work already undertaken by the City Council in the last three years, including woodland management, footpath work, fencing repairs and new signage.

Blackley Forest itself was planted in 1953 and was Manchester's first community forest. It is part of the Red Rose Forest and a site of biological importance. It is hoped that once the improvements have been completed the forest will be awarded Local Nature Reserve status.

Friends of Blackley Forest was formed last year with the aim of preserving the woodland for future generations.

"This is a beautiful place, but it needs some work. And with the newly-formed Friends of Blackley Forest there is a great opportunity for getting local people involved in its rejuvenation. There is some way to go, but this exercise marks a great step forward and I hope that the spring clean will be the first of many community action days to come," said Councillor Alan Spinks.