



Blackley Forest ... getting ready for spring



ABOVE: Locals build nest boxes in readiness for spring at Blackley Forest
LEFT: The completed nest boxes all set to go up as part of the Wildabout project

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'Wildabout' nature

Locals go back to nature at Blackley Forest

WILD enthusiasm has been the theme as North Manchester volunteers roll up their sleeves for a series of 'Wildabout' nature conservation projects.

Dozens of volunteers have taken part in hands-on sessions. These included an event at Blackley Forest which gave participants the chance to build their own bird boxes and plant bulbs, as well as learning more about the wildlife and history of the forest courtesy of the Friends of Blackley Forest and Irk Valley

Project Manager Catherine Hartley.

Dot Keller of Friends of Blackley Forest said: "It was really nice to see so many children here getting involved, making bird boxes and learning about the forest. This will help encourage more local people to use the forest. It was also nice to see the youngsters working so well with the older people in the group."

Nicola Royle, aged 11, who has recently moved to the area, enjoyed the day's activities. She said: "I only live nearby and will definitely come again. I've made a bird box which I'll be putting up in my garden and I'll make sure there's plenty of food in it."

A similar bird box making session was held at Boggart Hole Clough while Crumpsall Park played host to a wildlife gardening session yesterday (Thursday). Harpurhey Ponds will also host a clean-up event next Wednesday, 15 March.

Volunteers' efforts have been praised by Councillor Neil Swannick, Executive Member for Planning and Environment.

He said: "We need to respect and protect our green spaces and wildlife now so they can prosper in the future."

For more information contact www.wildaboutmanchester.info or e-mail look@wildaboutmanchester.info