

## Vale gets a makeover

A MAJOR clean-up and woodland management operation took place in Blackley Vale to coincide with Clean up the World Week.

Local residents joined representatives of the Irk Valley Project and staff from Manchester City Council, the Environment Agency, Red Rose Forest and more than 40 Princes Trust Volunteers to clean debris from the River Irk at Blackley Vale and plant wildflowers as part of 'Clean up the World Week'.

Blackley Vale is a key site within the Irk Valley – North Manchester's

green corridor. The event contributed to a large scale improvement project to promote greater recreational and educational use and protect the abundance of wildlife habitats that exist there.

It was also the start of a large scale access project to improve the paths on site and create seating areas for people.

Councillor Paul Murphy, executive member for direct services, said: "The Irk Valley is a fantastic asset for North Manchester and I am delighted that residents have risen to the challenge set by Clean Up the World Week, resulting in



Members of 'green team' celebrate the clean up

significant improvements at Blackley Vale."

Clean Up the World Week ran from the 16 to the 22 September with 500 member organisations from 108 countries

taking part. To coincide with the week, Manchester staged a programme of activities and events promoting the theme Green Cities, Green Communities.