

SO PROUD: Members of the Friends of Blackley Forest with their trophy. They are, left to right, Rod Keller, Mike Hall, Dot Keller, Denise Bowen and Carolyn Chafer.



Proud moment as group lines up for top honours

THE Friends of Blackley Forest have a lot to be proud of after attending a glittering awards ceremony.

The environmental group, which helps preserve and organise events for Blackley Forest, was nominated in the group category in the annual Be Proud awards.

The event, at Manchester Town Hall, was hosted by Gordon Burns from BBC's North West Tonight.

Roy Tattersall from the

council's Leisure Services nominated the group for the Contribution to the Environment award.

It was not only for the work it does in the Forest itself but also because members attend other events and projects lending their support.

The judges were looking for a group that really gets stuck in with the local activities, makes improvements, campaigns, seeks additional funding, encourages others to get involved and really makes a difference to the environ-

ment.

Although The Friends of Blackley Forest did not win in their category, they were finalists and were awarded a trophy and a cheque for £50.

Chairman, Dot Keller, said that while disappointed they didn't win, the group was delighted to be recognised in this way.

She added: "To be a finalist was a tremendous achievement as the other nominations were very strong contenders."

The winners were the Manchester Tree Wardens.