

## It's easier to go down to the woods today

Following their Royal Horticultural Society Gold Award, Friends of Blackley Forest are now working to improve the forest's facilities. A new wildflower area and community orchard are planned between the beech forest and the top meadow, which will offer free pickings for local residents when the trees have matured.

New paths have been installed through the forest from Victoria Avenue to Blackley New Road, with another path branching off to the top meadow, so people can now enjoy a walk through the forest without risking muddy feet!

The work was funded by a £25,000 Lottery grant, which also allowed new gates to be installed at Ellbourne Road and Blackley New Road to prevent motorbikes from blighting this popular beauty spot.

Community noticeboards are planned for Victoria Avenue so local groups can advertise their events, and way markers and walking maps will let walkers choose the type of route they want to take. Steps from the top meadow to Victoria Avenue will also have a handrail.

The Friends group recognised the difficulty wheelchair-users experience in the forest, so the new

paths will allow access as far as the bridge at Kendall Road, enabling people to birdwatch on the viewing screen at Victoria Avenue.

Future plans include two picnic tables and benches for the forest.

If you would like to know more about your wonderful local forest, or even volunteer, contact **Dot** on **795 0900**.



New path at Blackley Forest

### Forest set to get facelift after £25,000 Lotto grant <sup>3/2/11</sup>

BLACKLEY Forest has been given a facelift thanks to a £25,000 Lottery grant.

The grant provided funding for new paths running through the forest, from Victoria Avenue to Blackley New Road.

New gates were also installed at Ellbourne Road and Blackley New Road to deter motorbikes.

There will also be a community notice board at Victoria Avenue which local groups can use to advertise

their events. Markers will be erected in the forest and walking maps produced so that walkers will be able to choose what type of route they take - easy for wheelchair and buggy users, intermediate and difficult.

Dot Keller, chairman of Friends of Blackley Forest, said: "It is hoped that more members of the public will use the forest now that it is such a pleasure to walk through."

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