

Film set back to green oasis

by Jenny Brookfield

A VALLEY landscaping company restored a garden to its former glory following the departure of a film crew.

The BBC called on Haslingden-based Country Landscapes to help after packing up its film set at Torside Hall in Helmshore.

The broadcaster used the historic house in its primetime drama *Survivors*, currently showing on BBC One on Tuesday nights.

But once filming had finished, the BBC needed someone to put the gardens back to how they were.

Owner Lee Thorne, who set up the company 18 years ago, said: "There were film crews, actors and all sorts of people running around on there and, with the amount of things going on, the grass areas needed reinstating."

Restore

"The BBC found our website and called us in to restore it to how it should look."

The gardening firm sent in four staff over three days to restore the grounds of Adrian and Gillian Bower's home, where large areas of lawn had been dug up to form vegetable patches.

Borders and shrubbery had also been left to grow in a bid not



TIDYING up: Lee Thorne, centre, with operations supervisor Anita Martin and landscape engineer Mick Doll at Torside Hall.

to affect continuity during the filming, so they were also looking overgrown by the time Lee and his team went in. Lee, whose mum Joyce is Rossendale's deputy mayor, said they hoped to do more work with the BBC.

He said: "We spent quite a few days there and it was all hands to the deck."

"We had to put right all the lawns and there were a lot of areas that were overgrown which we had to tidy up."

"It was quite a prestigious con-

tract for a small landscaping company and they were very happy with what we'd done. I wouldn't be surprised if they use us again in the future."

The firm recently received the Investor in People award and has several of its staff taking their level-three NVQ next year.

A garden they created in Bolton also recently featured in a review of the year in the prestigious Society of Garden Designers journal.

jenny.brookfield@menwn.co.uk