

Derelict estate proves fruitful for volunteers

PLANTS from a doomed 1970s South London estate have been rescued by volunteers who are also using the empty flowerbeds to grow fruit trees. Almost all the residents of the notorious Heygate Estate in Elephant & Castle have been moved out and its concrete blocks stand derelict.

Celia Cronin, chairwoman of the Friends group for Victory Community Park, next to the estate, said: "The Heygate is up for demolition. But people who live around the estate think it could be some time until it goes. "As the chairwoman of park group and a lifelong gardener, I noticed some plants on the estate would be very useful in local parks.

"So I asked the council [Southwark] if people who volunteer in their local parks could take them out and put them in their local green spaces.

"Once the beds were empty I thought children from Victory Primary School could use them for fruit tree planting."



DUG IN: Sumaya Tasnim and Praise Okube, both eight, get planting 38696ST02



TEAM EFFORT: Dillon Love, 10, and Sabrina Deerow, nine, pictured left, and the team of gardeners, above



CAN MAN: Henry Ha, 10, waters the patch 38696ST02