

# More homes for village people!

**C**entenarian villager Arthur Beaumont 'cut the ribbon' at the official opening ceremony of a new affordable housing development named in his honour. Mr Beaumont - along with other invited guests - had the chance to see inside the finished homes at Tawneys Ride, Bures St Mary, for the first time.

The newly-named Beaumont Close, in honour of Mr Beaumont's 100th birthday in July, is a result of Babergh District Council working closely with Bures St Mary Parish Council and Orwell Housing Association after a need for more affordable housing in the village was identified.

All of the properties, built on land donated to the project at a 100 per cent discount from Babergh, will now be available for affordable rent to people with a connection to the village.

Ian Tippett, Babergh's Housing Services Team Manager, said: "Babergh is putting a high priority on delivering affordable housing in the district and we are delighted with the new development at Beaumont Close.

"We know that local people and our local communities need, and want, these developments - and that is vitally important to us. "We would be delighted for parish councils with similar problems, who feel they have identified a need for low-cost housing in their area, to approach us and we can work



on proposals to help." As part of its commitment to affordable housing, Babergh carried out a survey of all council-owned properties to make sure they were still viable and using land as efficiently as possible. Two bungalows in Bures with

severe subsidence were demolished and, as a result, nine homes - one, two-bedroom bungalow, two, three-bedroom houses and six, two bedroom houses - were built in their place. Stephen Javes, Chief Executive of Orwell Housing Association,

said: "With the donation of land from Babergh District Council and its commitment to increasing the provision of affordable housing in the district, the result is an example of good quality homes for Orwell and the parish to be proud of."

## LANDLORDS - UNLOCK YOUR PROPERTY'S POTENTIAL

**A** new scheme that could see private landlords lease their properties to a specialist operation in return for guaranteed rental income and help with the costs of improvement is now up and running. Babergh District Council's Private Sector Leasing scheme (PSL) was officially launched in May at Lavenham Village Hall and is already signing up landlords to take part. The houses, flats or bungalows will be allocated to people on the Housing Register nominated by Babergh, as part of its commitment to solving housing problems in the district. In return, landlords would be in line for

a guaranteed rental income for a set period of years and also be eligible for help towards the upkeep and improvement of their properties. David Clarke, Babergh's Housing Services Manager, said: "This is an exciting new scheme, which Babergh believes will be a win-win situation for all involved. "Using the scheme, Babergh will be able to offer more homes for affordable rent and landlords can rest easy in the knowledge that rent is guaranteed and that properties will be thoroughly maintained and handed back in the same condition as when the lease started. "It also helps us to tackle the problem of

empty homes which can blight local communities and help us to target loans and grants knowing that this investment will help to ease the housing shortage." Babergh is using experienced scheme providers Havebury Housing Partnership to manage the scheme in the Babergh district. Havebury already have success, and run similar schemes, within the St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Breckland Council areas. If you have a property that you would like to be considered for the scheme, or would just like more information, please call Tom Ost, at Babergh, on (01473) 825871.