

## Booklet will help make Babergh even safer

Babergh is one of the safest districts with its crime rate at half the national average – and now a new booklet aims to help improve the district's good track record even further. Babergh's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has produced its very first community safety booklet called Babergh Be Safer. Inside there is information, advice and helpline numbers on a variety of topics – alcohol, drugs, domestic abuse, home security, personal safety, vehicle crime, road safety, home safety, anti-social behaviour and citizen involvement.

Articles include, who you can turn to if you are a victim of domestic abuse, how to avoid being tricked by a bogus caller, personal safety tips to keep you safe when walking alone, how to report anti-social behaviour and much more. Prison drama *Bad Girls* star Alicya Eyo and Suffolk MP Tim Yeo will be guests of honour at the launch of the new booklet at a special event in June.

Organisations that have contributed to the booklet include Babergh District Council, Connexions, Suffolk Police, Babergh Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum, the Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council. The booklet should have been included with



this edition of *Babergh Matters!* If you would like another copy or did not receive the one with this publication, please call Babergh's General Enquiries team on (01473) 826622. For more information, go to: [www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/safe](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/safe)

## New kit to help graffiti victims

New kits to help people clean their properties after being targeted with graffiti are the latest weapons for communities suffering from this anti-social problem.

As a local authority, Babergh has no responsibility or authority to remove graffiti from private property and has recognised it can be expensive for residents to hire in companies to clear up. One measure identified as a tool to try and combat this problem was easy-to-use graffiti-removal kits. Now Babergh's Community Safety Partnership – which is made up of representatives from Babergh, Suffolk police, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Primary Cre Trust, fire and rescue service, probation service and Suffolk Drug and Alcohol Action Team – has started distributing the kit to towns and parishes in a bid to help homeowners clear up.

Ann Scott, Babergh's Community Safety Officer, said: "The idea is simple. When a member of the public reports graffiti on their property the kit will be loaned to them to ensure its quick removal. "It's just one of the latest weapons Babergh is using to help try and stamp out this type of anti-social behaviour."

The Safety Partnership has also funded digital cameras for Police Community Support Officers and various council staff so they can take pictures of graffiti – or tags – while on duty. These pictures are then entered onto a database, shared with Suffolk Police, in a bid to try and identify the people responsible, who will commonly use the same tag on each piece of graffiti. The database will also help build evidence in order for the police to bring charges.

If you would like more information on which parishes are using the removal kits please call Ann Scott on (01473) 826616.

## Everyone can save £s with subsidised insulation

Babergh residents are not alone in experiencing ever-increasing fuel costs but there is a solution that could cut the cost of your bills. Loft and cavity wall insulation is a recognised way of reducing the amount of heat your home loses and now all residents are entitled to reduced fees to make sure their home is as efficient as it could be. Those on eligible benefits and the over 70s, irrespective of income, are entitled to free insulation.

In the Babergh district alone, at least 20 per cent of residents do not have access to mains gas and those with oil heating face even bigger increases. Since January alone, gas prices have risen 18 per cent and there is evidence to suggest the prices are not likely to drop any time soon.

John Kilgannon, Babergh's



Environmental Protection Manager, said: "If your house was built between 1930 and 1985, then the likelihood is you have

uninsulated cavity walls.

"If you had some loft insulation added before 1996, latest guidelines suggest that it is way under the recommended level needed these days to make any difference - so why don't you check out just what you could save?"

For more information on insulation and what it can offer you, please visit Babergh's website: [www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/Energy](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/Energy) or for local companies already offering subsidised rates please call Energy Care on 0800 019 9090 or Aran Services on 0800 587 7795.

The Energy Saving Trust will be launching a website this summer to help customers chose a supplier and highlight the average costs, as well as delivery times, for insulation companies across Suffolk. Please visit [www.insulationmadeeasy.co.uk](http://www.insulationmadeeasy.co.uk).