

# New pensioner homes project gets underway

## Construction helping extend Thomas Brittain's legacy

**Gareth Jones**

**Work has started on a new development for the elderly in Dunblane.**

Forth Housing Association has started the construction of a small development of eight homes at Thomas Brittain Court at Bogside.

The homes, which include two fully wheelchair accessible properties, are being financed by a private loan and funds from a former charitable trust. They will be available at Forth's standard rents.

Thomas Brittain was a wealthy businessman who, on his death in 1964, left his home and funds to be used for the benefit of the elderly and disabled of Dunblane.

Some 50 years later, his former home having been sold, the trustees of his fund chose to close the trust and, with the agreement of OSCR, transfer the remaining monies to Forth. These will help finance the one and two bedroom homes which have been designed to meet the needs of elderly or disabled tenants. The site for the new homes was part

of the land donated for the people of Dunblane by another ex-resident, Mrs Donaldson.

Margaret Turner, chairwoman of Forth Housing Association, said: "We are delighted that a little bit of innovative thinking means that we are able to bring some badly needed affordable housing to Dunblane and extend Thomas Brittain's generous legacy."

Forth has worked closely with a small group of local residents to make sure that the homes not only meet local needs but are designed

sensitively, to fit into the local area. Terence O'Byrne, chairman of Dunblane Community Council, said: "As a community we've waited a long time to see a final legacy from Thomas Brittain's funds and we're delighted that the partnership with Forth is going to provide good accessible homes for local people in need."

The allocation of the new homes will prioritise existing and former Dunblane residents and their family members. To apply for rehousing, email [info@forth.org.uk](mailto:info@forth.org.uk) or call 01786 446066.