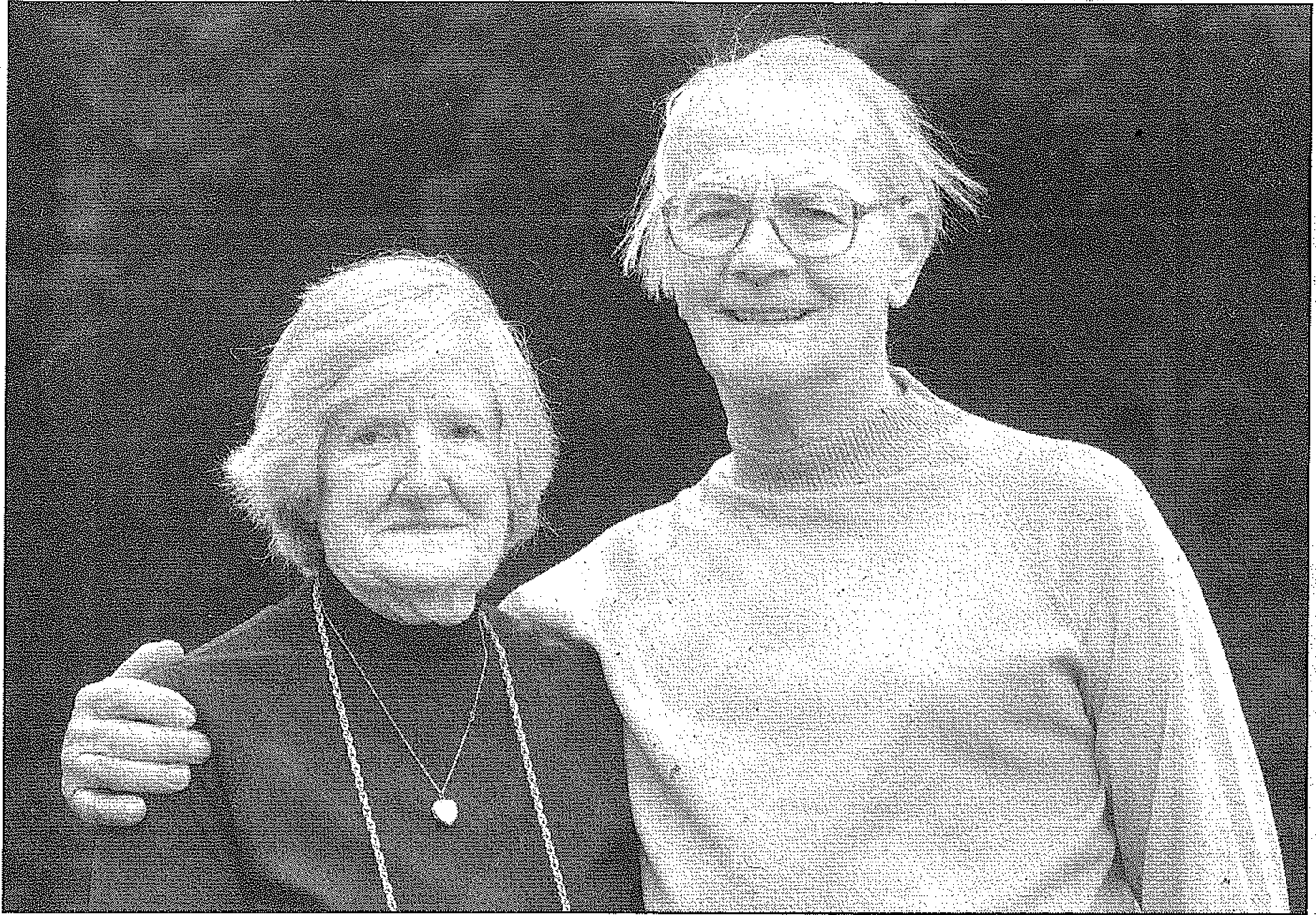


Properties: Retirement apartments for city areas



NEW SCHEME: Arthur and Pearl Thomas from Newport are hoping to move into one of the new properties in Treberth WL_6423

Trust set to fund 100 new homes

MORE than 100 new retirement apartments are planned for Newport by Newport Housing Trust.

The two bedroom self-contained properties are set to be built in Treberth and Gaer by late 2011, and will include on-site facilities such as a restaurant, community hall and hairdresser.

The whole project will be worth in excess of £8 million.

A Community Living Club has now been set up by the trust, where potential pur-

By Ruth Mansfield

chasers can meet and keep up to date with the process of the properties.

Members have also been continuously consulted within the design process, allowing them to have a say in what their future homes will look like.

A total of 52 properties plan to be built in the lower end of Treberth near Treberth Crescent, while more than 50 apartments plan to be available near Drinkwater Gardens, Gaer.

A contractor will now be

appointed in the next few weeks and it is hoped the designs will be submitted for planning in July.

The scheme is being funded by the trust.

This will allow owners to transfer the equity from their current home to the apartments, so they can purchase a 75 percent equity stake at a cost of around £150,000.

The remaining 25 percent will then be made available through a payment free loan from the trust.

Projects Officer at the trust, Debra Rosser, said: "These innovative schemes will provide a safe and secure environ-

ment that supports active ageing and encourages independence.

"We plan for the building work to start next year."

Arthur and Pearl Thomas are two Community Living Club members who hope to purchase one of the properties.

Mr Thomas, 76, said: "We are looking forward to moving to an apartment at the Gaer because we want to 'future proof'. We are really enjoying being given the opportunity to actively influence the design and amenities that will be offered in our new home."

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