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WEATHER: WINTRY SHOWERS

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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PROPERTY SPECIAL | RETIREMENT

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Eye for bright future

AWARD-winning housebuilder Bennett Homes has launched its Maltsters' Yard development in the traditional Suffolk market town of Eye, the company's first scheme for the over-55s. Maltsters' Yard consists of 16 superior-specification homes set around a central Victorian courtyard to deliver a sense of community and perfect

setting for a 'lock up and leave' lifestyle. Property types include 14 cottage-style homes and two apartments, all with two or three bedrooms. In addition to the communal garden, each home has its own private garden and a garage or parking space. Prices start from £179,995 for a two-bed apartment, £224,995 for

a two-bed house and £244,995 for a three-bed house. "Maltsters' Yard combines all the features that are important for a happy, independent retirement," said Bennett Homes managing director Edward Parker. **INFORMATION:** 01284 766 057/www.bennett-homes.co.uk

Exclusive options offer real choice

By Andrea Watson

COGNATUM, formed in 2010 after the merger of the English Courtyard Association and the Beechcroft Trust, manages 60 exclusive private estates, mainly in southern English counties. The company prides itself in finding sites in prime locations, creating beautifully landscaped gardens.

Chairman Henry Thornton, talking about the future of retirement housing, said: "People have a far greater choice of where they want to live than ever before and 'retirement' hardly exists, as so many people work or are involved in charity work well over the age of 65. There is also a new culture of active retirees looking to spend more time travelling."

"At Cognatum we have seen more purchasers looking for 'lock up and leave' properties, who are keen to acquire a hassle-free residence that will be looked after in their absence."

"There is much more choice in retirement housing than 10 years ago but a common criticism is that few developments provide homes with adequate space for those moving out of larger family homes."

Cognatum has always addressed this top end of the market by providing spacious properties.

"These private developments are close to shops and have communal facilities such as swimming pools and guest suites."

"The main reasons for moving have largely remained unchanged. Cognatum's research shows that 75 per cent of our buyers cite downsizing, less gardening and house maintenance to do and better security."

"The majority of buyers, 55 per cent, are not local to an estate but moving more than

20 miles from their last home. "Cognatum properties are ideal for those who spend time away or trading down from a larger family house and looking for a secure, comfortable and cost-effective way of living."

"We estimate that in addition to the financial benefit of releasing capital, a Cognatum property can reduce annual household expenditure by up to a third."

INFORMATION: www.cognatum.co.uk

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