

# PROTECT



## Devizes Area Board Report

January 2017

### Safe and Well Visits- Home safety

The Devizes area has a Fire Service '**Safe and Well**' advisor who can visit people, within their own homes, advising on home safety and wellbeing.

The Service is keen to explore the link between our **Safe and Well advisors** and **Health and Wellbeing** activities across the Devizes area. This seems a logical step towards joint working and information sharing in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

A Safe and Well visit is **FREE** and normally last about one hour covering topics such as:

- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night time routine and other points relevant to you
- Identifying and discussing any further support the occupier may need

If you have thatch property, are living alone, have a young family, are over 65 or a smoker please get in contact with us. We want to help make you safer in your own home. If you or someone you know has mobility or sight and hearing impairments please suggest a Safe and Well visit.

Visit <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/news/new-name-new-contact-details-same-service/> to book one.

### Community Safety Activity

Local crews were in the town centre again recently to remind residents about staying safe in their homes. You can usually see the crew in the town on Market Day. Please come and speak to them, it's an opportunity to meet them and discuss any concerns you might have.

Chimney Safety is still a current issue and is particularly important if you have a thatched roof property.

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These types of fire can be particularly devastating for thatched property owners if a fire occurs. Unless swift action is taken, to either stop the fire or save the house contents, significant loss can occur.

There is specific safety advice on our new website for thatch owners - <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/thatched-properties/>

In any case, our general advice is to ensure you get your chimney swept regularly, particularly if you burn wood as a fuel and always ensure the fire is out before going to bed.

### **Breakfast with Santa**

The local crew at Devizes have again run the annual 'Breakfast with Santa' event.

The popular Breakfast with Father Christmas was held at Devizes fire station on Saturday 17 December. As usual, there were two sittings with plenty of happy smiley faces. The children enjoyed themselves as well !

Amongst the guests were CFO Ben Ansell and the Mayor of Devizes, Cllr Jane Burton.

All proceeds go to the Fire Fighters Charity.

### **Incidents**

- 1 Canal Boat fire
- 3 Chimney Fires
- 2 Kitchen fires
- 2 Car fires
- 3 small fires in the open

### **Dementia Friends/ Action Alliance**

More than 180 firefighters are now Dementia Friends following information sessions by Alzheimer's Support and Alzheimer's Society – with more talks being arranged for the rest of the fire service.

Wiltshire Area Commander Gus Cuthbert said: "The nature of our business means we regularly go into people's homes, either to give home fire safety advice or during operational incidents. Having an awareness of how to communicate appropriately with our customers, who may have a range of differing needs, is essential." Dementia Aware project worker Sheila Ashley, who has delivered most of the

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sessions, said: “The fire crews I have met have been incredibly receptive and interested in the messages of Dementia Friends, and understood very quickly how small changes in approach can help in communicating and supporting people affected by dementia.

### **.Want to become a firefighter ?**

Or know someone who does?

On-call Firefighters provide a part-time service around other commitments. They let us know when they are available and respond to emergency call outs.

To find out more about the role please visit the ‘Working for us’ pages of our website or drop into the station on a Wednesday evening for a chat.

Jack Nicholson GFireE  
**District Commander. Devizes, Melksham and Calne**

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