

PROTECT



Melksham Area Board Report

November 2016

Chimney Safety

Local crews were in the town centre recently to remind residents about chimney safety. This is particularly important if you have a thatched roof.

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.

Safe and Well Advisors

The Melksham area has a Fire Service '**Safe and Well**' advisor to undertake the new Safe and Well visits, advising people in their homes. The Service would be 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.

My contact details are at the bottom of this report, I'd be happy to discuss the matter further.

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

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- 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.

Dementia Action Alliance

Since May 2016 the Service has engaged with Alzheimer's Support (Wiltshire) who have run sessions for teams all over the county, making 150 'Dementia Friends' of Fire Service, front line, Operational Staff.

The Service has also just signed up to the Dementia Action Alliances in Melksham, Calne, Bradford on Avon, Devizes, Salisbury and Royal Wootton Bassett. So if we can be of any help, particularly in assisting people to remain safe in their own homes, please contact us.

Check out our actions here:

http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/members_and_action_plans/6102-wiltshire_fire_and_rescue_service

Incidents

- Three small Fires in the open
- One fire in a domestic premises following cooking. (Hot-strike carried out by crews)
- Two car fires
- Three Fires in Commercial premises (being dealt with by Business Fire Safety Department)
- One Fire involving garden waste and bench adjacent to domestic garage

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.

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

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