

PROTECT



Melksham Area Board Report

February 2017

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 around 180 'Dementia Friends' of Fire Service, front line, Operational Staff.

The Service has also signed up to the Dementia Action Alliances in Calne, Bradford on Avon, Devizes, Salisbury, Royal Wootton Bassett as well as Melksham. 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

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.

Chimney Safety

The Service would like to remind residents about chimney safety and getting your chimney swept. 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.

Incidents (01/12/2016 to 31/01/2017)

- Two fires in domestic premises following cooking. (Hot-strike carried out by crews)
- One fire in domestic premises involving candles and Christmas decorations
- Two chimney fires
- Two car fires
- Four Fires in Commercial premises (being dealt with by Business Fire Safety Department)
- One Fire involving garden waste and bench adjacent to domestic garage

Please make sure that, when cooking, items are not left unattended on the cooker.

Ensure you regularly test your smoke alarms.

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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 Monday, at 7pm, for a chat.

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