

# Codford

## 70 firefighters battle to save thatched cottages in Codford



Ten fire engines were at the scene of a fire in Codford where a row of three thatched cottages were on fire on Saturday evening.

Crews from across Wiltshire dealt with the High Street blaze, Wiltshire Fire Control saying about 70 firefighters were there at one point.

Trowbridge Fire Station tweeted: "We are working very hard to try to save the thatch in Codford."

Later a spokesman added that the situation was, "not good, but I assure you everyone in attendance is working hard to save what we can."

Wiltshire Chief Fire Officer Simon Routh-Jones, who was at the scene, tweeted: "Really proud of the hard work and professionalism shown by all. Well done on doing such a good job."



(*Wiltshire Times*, 26 October, 2014 – Story by Bruno Clements. Photos by Trevor Porter)  
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## Three families homeless after Codford thatched cottages burn



Three families were made homeless when a fire spread through three thatched cottages in High Street, Codford, yesterday evening.

Firefighters remained in the village all night and by this morning the blaze had been put out.

No-one was injured in the blaze which started just before 5pm.

Ten crews from stations across the county battled the fire and were praised by villagers who set up a table to serve refreshments to the crews.

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Command support manager Ade Hurren reported on Twitter at 3am: "Out at Codford as relief officer but will be here some time yet."

Earlier a fire service spokesman said: "We are working very hard to try to save the thatch in Codford. There are now around 10 pumps, a control wagon, and damage control vehicle."

(*This is Wiltshire* – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. Story by Joanne Moore. Photos by Trevor Porter)

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# Fire at thatched cottages costs Codford couple their home



A Codford couple are trying to rebuild their lives after flames destroyed their Grade II listed cottage.

Alasdair and Stephanie Rennie and their two-year-old son live in the middle of a row of three thatched cottages but it could be a year before they are able to move back into their home.

The fire service salvaged paintings and framed photos from downstairs as well as a computer full of family holiday snaps, while the Red Cross gave the family clothing.

Mrs Rennie said: "Thankfully they got those things out before they put the water on.

"The fire service and the Red Cross were amazing, just amazing, I had no idea that sort of thing happened.

"Every so often it hits you just what's happened; we are trying to get our lives back to as normal as we can for our son's sake."

The couple have lived in the village for nearly seven years and are staying with Mrs Rennie's mother while insurers and restorers assess the damage.

Mr Rennie, who is a parish councillor, said: "I had just finished mowing the lawn and noticed wisps of smoke around the base of the chimney.

"I called the fire service, went next door to get my neighbours out and then jumped up on a ladder with a hose to try and put it out.

"With a roof that is designed to repel water it was impossible to make an impact – that's why the firefighters had to rake the thatch off."

Fire crews from 10 stations across Wiltshire attended the fire on Saturday evening, just before 5pm. The blaze was too far advanced for firefighters to save the Rennies' cottage but crews did manage to save the end cottage nearest the main road.

All three families have had to find alternative accommodation.

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Area fire manager Jim Mahoney, who was in charge of the incident, said: “Fires such as this one are devastating for the families affected, and we did all we could to save as many of their possessions as possible.

“The crews also did a fantastic job in preventing the fire from spreading.”

(*This is Wiltshire* – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014. Story by Andrew Lawton)

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Photo below shows the cottages before the fire.

