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Re-Thatching After Firework Accident

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Miss Phyllis Hill of Newbold Verdon is looking forward to getting back to normal – after four months of mess in her back garden.

For Miss Hill who has lived all her life at Ivy Cottage in the centre of the village, had a hair-raising experience on bonfire night last November, when a rocket landed in her thatched roof, setting it alight.

"I did not know about it until a neighbour banged on my door and told me my roof was on fire. It was about 8pm." said Miss Hill.

"He called the fire brigade but they were all out in Hinckley and Market Bosworth so they had to come from Coalville to put it out," she added.

The fire, caused by a firework, which was later found in a nearby gutter, caused thousands of pounds worth of damage. The fire could have been a lot worse had it not been a wet night.

This week however, David Raffle from Derbyshire came to finish re-thatching the roof, a job he has been working on for the past four weeks. David is one of only a handful of thatchers left in the immediate area.

Half the roof had to be replaced and hopefully Miss Hill, who was born in the cottage 76 years ago, will get part of the money back on insurance.

"I think unless it is a proper organised party, fireworks ought to be banned. I'm dreading the next 5th November," she said.

There is just one other thatched cottage in Newbold Verdon and it was the first time Miss Hill's thatched roof had ever caught fire – and hopefully the last!

