

POST CHRISTMAS SEASON / NACHWEIHNACHTZEIT

New Year's Eve: Silvesterabend (der 31. Dezember)

New Years Eve custom: Silvesterabendsitte

chimney sweep: der Schornsteinfeger, die Schornsteinfeger

pine cones and plastic parts out of the chimney – anything the birds use to build their nests. "Jackdaws often throw long sticks in the fireplaces that get wedged in the chimney, and then they can build a nest on it," said Hehn. These nests, however, can be dangerous. Hehn spoke of a young woman with two small children whose house had recently filled with dangerous smoke because of the unwelcome chimney inhabitants that had blocked the flue.

Kerstin Pawlik from the Regional Association for Bird Protection (LBV) is aware of the jackdaw problem. The bird normally nests in tree holes, she explained, but every now and then it chooses to nest in a chimney.

Both bird protector and chimney sweep recommend chimney owners have a jackdaw grate installed. Costs were said to run between about 20 to 70 euros plus the installation – much less than it costs to have a nest removed or to pay for an expensive clean-up after a home has been inundated with smoke.



A chimney sweep and his implement: likely not welcomed guests at jackdaw family gatherings.