

## Crime Stoppers

Much is said in the media about crime being on the increase due to the recession; although West Oxfordshire is still one of the safest places in the country.

We must however be aware that thefts and burglaries will still occur. Most crime is opportunist, so with reasonable precautions it can be prevented. Ensure windows and doors are kept shut and locked when not in use and mark your property. You can either use a UV pen to write your house number and postcode or you can choose the more modern method of a forensic property marking kit such as Selecta DNA. Bicycles can be etched and for tools and lawn mowers, why not simply paint or scratch the details on?

After you have marked your property place some notices about stating the fact. Remember a burglar will select his target because it offers him the best opportunity to carry out his crime undetected.

There are many other things that can be done to reduce crime but very often they are specific to the particular property and may require a survey.

Crime reduction surveys are available free of charge so if you would like the crime reduction advisor to visit please contact **Bill Butcher** on: **01993 861638**. Further crime reduction advice is available at: [www.saferwestoxon.co.uk](http://www.saferwestoxon.co.uk)

**Danielle Hilton**  
**WODC Communications Officer**

## Is Your Electric Blanket Safe?

As a resident of West Oxfordshire you can get your electric blankets tested for **free**. You can book in advance to attend testing sessions which will take place on: **Wednesday 5th October in Witney** and **Wednesday 19th October in Chipping Norton**. Last year, 184 electric blankets were tested at sessions in West Oxfordshire and over a third found to be unsafe. "Nationally, old or damaged

blankets cause more than 5,000 fires a year and blankets over 10 years old are responsible for 99% of these. Each year, around 20 people are killed and 100 injured as a result of such fires."

Bookings for electric blanket testing can be made online via the Council's website, [www.westoxon.gov.uk/blankettesting](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/blankettesting) or by calling: **01993 861060**.

## SWYCH Swap Shop Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October

From **10am till 12 noon** at the **Wychwood School hall**. Items can be brought along from 9.30am. Please only bring items that are good enough for a charity shop as we are very concerned

that if poor quality or unsuitable items are brought we will not be able to dispose of them. Furniture must be removed at the end of the morning if not taken.

**Heather Shute**

## Snow is on the Way...

Snow White that is, together with the Seven Dwarfs. The Wychwood Players are presenting this much-loved pantomime at the New Beaconsfield Hall from **November 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm - including a very popular matinee on **Saturday afternoon at 2pm** for the children. Don't forget to book your tickets through Beryl on: 0777 602 9871. Box office opens end of October.