

**Nash Mills Parish Council Residents'
Association Initiative**

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS ARE: -

Councillor Mrs L. Foster (Chairman)

7 Crabtree Lane H.H.

HP3 9EG.

Tel: 01442 257203

Councillor Mrs J Maddern

29 Swan Mead H.H.

HP3 9DQ

Tel. 07711066696

Councillor Ms L Bayley lisabayley@btinternet.com

40 Highbarns H.H.

HP3 8AF

Tel: 01442 211602

Councillor G. Doole

25 Silverthorn Drive H.H.

HP3 8BX

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Councillor T. Collins

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Councillor Mrs H. Gough (Vice Chairman)

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Councillor D. Jackson

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david.jackson@nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01442 230892

Mrs Linda Sutton, Parish Clerk

clerk@nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk

154 Hitchin Road Stotfold Herts SG5 4JE

Tel. 01462 735553

Contact David Drew, Parish Warden via Clerk.

Because Nash Mills doesn't have a natural 'centre' the members of the Parish Council have been keen to encourage all residents to form local Associations so that we can truly represent all members of our Parish community. Our aim is to ultimately have such associations which encompass the entire Parish.

In the last couple of years Nash Mills Parish Councillors have been the catalysts in creating two new residents associations. We now have nine associations within the Parish. The hard part in setting up an association is canvassing your neighbourhood and getting the initial community spirit going. If you want to start up an association the Parish Council will be delighted to help, and may be able to provide funds to help with set up and ongoing administration costs.

Do you have an issue or an idea to improve your local area? Being part of a residents' association gives you a platform to discuss the idea. Having a local association brings huge benefits to your locality in terms of identifying opportunities and resolving issues. The majority of the existing association also increase their local community spirit through social events which have proven exceptionally popular.

Please contact the Clerk for more information and one of our Councillors will be happy to contact you to discuss the next step.

By Helen Gough

Nash Mills House - The Young Joan Evans

I have written previously about this house, now still shrouded by scaffolding within the developing mill site, to tell about its former inhabitants. The present house probably dates to about 1790 when it we believe it had been built by Griffith Jones, the joint mill owner and business partner of Ann Blackwell. Her husband had been the previous owner. When John Dickinson bought the mill in 1810 he brought his young wife Ann, who he had married the same year to her third home in two years.

After John Dickinson had built Abbot's Hill he moved out, so that his partner Charles Longman could occupy the house from the spring of 1835. Longman lived here until he inherited the money which enabled him to build Shendish House, into which he moved in 1856. The vacant house was then inhabited by John Evans and his wife Harriet Ann, Dickinson's daughter. Evans was to manage the company for many years until his retirement in 1885.

Meanwhile his idyllic marriage to Harriet had produced five children, Arthur, Lewis, Phillip, Alice and Harriett Ann in six years. Sadly, following the last birth complications set in and his wife died. John then married a cousin, Fanny Phelps, the daughter of a wealthy planter in Madeira. Their 40 yearlong marriage brought no further children before her death in 1890, then a young lady caught John's eye and at the age of 69 he married for the third time, Maria Millington Lathbury who was 33 years his junior. In the same year as his marriage he was

knighted in Queen Victoria's birthday honour's list. This union brought one new child, Joan, to Nash Mills House in 1893.

Her birth was unexpected and, by her mother, at least, unwanted. A child brought complications to a life of dinners, parties and foreign travel. The first floor rooms, previously used for Joan's step-siblings, were now needed to accommodate guests. As a result Joan was provided with a nursery in the top storey, with the round topped windows, where the servants had previously been accommodated. With nurses and nannies she formed bonds normally filled by parents. The following extract from Joan Evans' autobiography, *Prelude and Fugue*, provides her reminiscences of that time.

"My parents held the Victorian view that it was wrong for a child to have many toys. I cannot remember their ever giving me one, though when we finished reading a book it was usually given me. Nannie and the wife of a French friend of my father's gave me dolls; Lord Kelvin gave me a large magnet that turned every old key and needle into a toy; I inherited a rather decrepit Noah's ark, and a delightful doll's four-poster bed. I never had a large property of toys as children do now. On Sundays I was not allowed to play with such as I had."

In that extract the reference to the brilliant scientist Lord Kelvin provides a clue as to the many famous and influential people who have stayed or visited Nash Mills House. If the editor allows I shall continue Joan's story in a future edition so that we can see more of this remarkable person. By Mike Stanyon, March 2014

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Mrs Anne Birch

Nash Mills Parish Council sadly reports the death of former Nash Mills Parish Councillor and ex -Chairman Mrs Anne Birch.

She passed away last month after suffering with ill health for some time. Parish Councillors and ex Parish Councillors attended the service in Watford to pay their respects.

NMPC donated to one of Anne's good causes - The Samaritans in her memory.

SPRING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ 2014

- 1) What is an orange swift? 2) What two colours make up the Spanish flag? 3) Which festival was held at Max Yasgur's dairy farm? 4) What nationality is the fictional detective Hercule Poirot? 5) Ginger wine is made from ginger and what other ingredient? 6) Who first presented 'Never Mind the Buzzcocks'? 7) A Rhode Island Red is a breed of what? 8) Who played James Bond in 'You Only Live Twice'? 9) Who composed 'The Marriage of Figaro'? 10) Which ship was the first to be attacked by a nuclear submarine? 11) During which two years did the miners' strike take place in the UK? 12) Name the perennial flowering plant native to Asia and north eastern Europe? 13) What is the name for the class of Royal Navy's new aircraft carriers? 14) The London Olympic Stadium was sited in which borough? 15) Which football club plays at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu? 16) What name was York known by the Romans? 17) Who wrote Doctor Zhivago? 18) What is the name of the rocket that powered the Apollo 11 moon landings? 19) Who wrote the music for the 2006 film 'The Illusionist'? 20) 'Mork and Mindy' was a spinoff from which American sitcom?

Answers to the Clerk (address inside cover) by the 31st May 2014.

ANSWERS TO WINTER 2013

- 1) Three. 2) Unfinished object. 3) Red, green and blue. 4) Vaslav Nijinsky. 5) Mona Lisa. 6) Geoff Hamilton. 7) Kew Gardens. 8) Brian Epstein. 9) Igor Stravinsky. 10) Ludwig van Bethoven. 11) Finnish. 12) George Orwell. 13) Sancho Panza. 14) Tennessee Williams. 15) James Dean. 16) Vancouver. 17) Barry Humphries. 18) Otto Messmer. 19) L.M. Montgomery. 20) 1871.

Thank you for all your entries. Unfortunately there were no correct entries so the money rolls over the lucky winner will now win £20. Good Luck!



3rd Apsley End Brownies

This year Brownies are celebrating their 100th Birthday and at 3rd Apsley, we've got lots of fun stuff planned! With a summer trip, craft day and lots more going on, we'd love you to join us.

We're completing lots of exciting badges, including making fake cuts and bruises with our First Aid qualification, learning new sports for our Agility badge and putting something back through recycling, saving water and getting our Environment tab!

The Brownie pack meets weekly at Tudor School on Redwood Drive and is a friendly place to learn more about girl guiding, making friends and learning - but most importantly having fun!

If your daughter, niece or granddaughter wants to get involved please call Helen Parsons on 07852 362 977 or :

Email: apsleyendbrownies3@gmail.com for more information.

Do you know someone who needs care? Our Nash Mills team offers specialist Live-in Care.

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New Parish Warden

You may have noticed that we have a new warden - **David Drew**. You will see him most mornings patrolling Nash Mills. He is quite visible with his hi vis vest on! Should you have any queries about litter, fly tipping and general tidiness in the area then David is your man! Either speak to him or to pass on any comments call the Parish Clerk - Linda on 01462 735553 or email clerk@nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Abbot's Hill



Abbot's Hill is an independent day school for girls aged 3-16 and boys aged 3-5.

Abbot's Hill is a dynamic school, with a spirit of adventure and participation, offering wonderful opportunities for life and learning in every direction; a united community with an outstanding record of achievement and sense of common purpose. Pupils are taught in small classes and teachers are able to get to know pupils as individuals. The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) report (January 2012) stated that "small classes, in which pupils feel well known and supported, enable them to fulfil their potential."

Great importance is also placed in developing the individual and giving every pupil the opportunity to discover and develop their own unique talents and to shine. The ISI report noted that "the quality of pupils' personal development is outstanding" and also commented on the varied extra-curricular programme which "offers opportunity and choice for all".

The school has a strong record of success and the GCSE results for 2013 were no exception with 96.9 per cent of passes at A*-C and 54.5 per cent at A*-A. Headmistress Mrs Elizabeth Thomas said: "The results reflect the hard work put in by pupils and the excellent teaching and small classes at Abbot's Hill which ensure pupils meet and exceed their potential, rising to the school's high aspirations for them. As well as their tremendous

academic achievements the girls have played an important role in the life of the school as prefects, in music, drama and sport and many were awarded their silver Duke of Edinburgh award this year. We wish them every success in the future."

Last year the school opened a number of new facilities. The Stable Block now houses a new Humanities area, a further ICT Suite and enhanced Art and Design Studio and Food Technology room. Learning Support across the school has been brought together in the Rose Garden and a new Performing Arts Suite has been created. The facilities were opened by artist and illustrator Sarah Gibb who also led some workshops on book illustration with Prep and Senior pupils. The next whole school Open Day will take place on Saturday 4 October 2014 2.00pm - 4.00pm. For more information about our school please visit: www.abbotshill.herts.sch.uk or call 01442 240333.

Venue Hire at Abbot's Hill

Abbot's Hill is the perfect venue for your celebration, be it wedding reception, party or other special occasion. We have a dedicated catering team with many years' experience who take pride in offering a unique service tailored to meet individual customer's needs. The Victorian House, with library, drawing room, dining room and picturesque grounds, offers versatile space full of character, allowing us to cater for 50-250 guests.

We may also be able to consider requests from organisations to hire out both indoor and outdoor sporting facilities. For further information, or to arrange a visit, please contact the Domestic Bursar on 01442 839127 or visit: www.abbotshill.herts.sch.uk



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DBC'S WASTE COLLECTION CALENDAR

You should have by now had your waste collection calendar for April to November at home on your grey wheeled bin. It is also on Dacorum Borough Council's website if you don't have yours #dacorumcleanandtidy <http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/environment-street-care/recycling-refuse-waste/household-waste-recycling/your-waste-collection-calendar> or alternatively call **01442 228000** and ask for 'Waste services' to request a copy of your calendar to be sent to you.

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH, APSLEY by Peter Bladon.

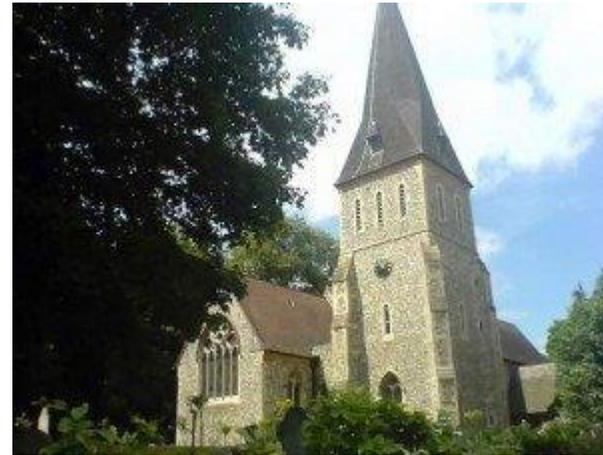
Well after all the rain we have had over the first few months of this year it is good to see the sun shining and it certainly seems to be getting warmer. If you take a walk through St Mary's churchyard you can certainly see that spring is coming as this year the primroses and daffodils seem to be very good (perhaps it is all that rain!!)

On Saturday 1st March you may have heard the bells ringing out for nearly 3 hours. This was the first peal that our ringers had rung since the bells came back last year. The reason for the delay was the fact that it was felt that it would be good if the local ringers who had been involved with helping putting them back up could actually ring the first peal. So it was not until the beginning of March that they were all available, and the peal was successfully completed.

On the same day we held a Quiz Evening at Nash Mills Church of England School which included a Fish & Chip supper. The evening was well supported and enjoyed by all who attended. The following Tuesday we had a pancake party at church which again was enjoyed by all those who attended.

On Ash Wednesday there was a combined evening service at St Mary's at which we welcomed the other three churches in our Benefice as we started the season of Lent.

There are some special events taking place at St Mary's over the coming months including Open Church Sunday on June 22nd which will give you a chance to not only come and look round your parish church, but also join with us in some fun activities. Talking about fun activities, why not come and join us for Messy Church.



This is normally held once a month between 3pm -5.30pm and finishes with a meal. The next two are on April 13th and May 18th. As we look forward to Holy Week and Easter I list below some of the main services at St Mary's:

April 18th Good Friday
11.30am Children's Interactive Stations.
2.00pm Stations of the Cross.

April 19th Easter Eve
9.00pm Service of Light.

April 20th Easter Day
10 00am Sung Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Service for Easter.

April 21st Easter Monday - Pilgrimage to St Albans - meet at St Mary's 9am. More details concerning all services across our Benefice can be found on our web site which is www.beneficeoflangelei.org.uk

So, enjoy the spring and look forward to a beautiful summer!!



As I hope you are all aware Hertfordshire is one of the safest counties to live in and the parish of Nash Mills is one of the safest within Hertfordshire, This regrettably is not to say we don't have issues here. In no particular order the main problems we have are:

Burglaries, we are experiencing the occasional burglary in Nash Mills (and surrounding areas). Please ensure windows and doors are closed and locked when leaving your home, don't leave high value goods on display for passers-by to see. Lock side gates and sheds.

Don't advertise that you have just purchased the latest high tech gizmo by leaving the box outside. If you see anything that even looks slightly suspicious please ring 999.

Inconsiderate parking, think before you leave the car, is it blocking a footpath? Is it obscuring another motorist's view close to a junction? Or is it parked across someone's driveway - all these problems are normally caused by someone simply not thinking about where they are parked. Please think before you park.

Drugs, the use of cannabis is illegal. Whilst only a very small number of people smoke cannabis, the effects and smell can affect a far larger number.

If you see or smell cannabis being smoked please call the non-emergency number (101) to report it.

If you see me around please feel free to stop me for a chat!

In an emergency call 999, Non-emergency No. 101
Airwave set (direct call radio) 01707.354192
ian.martin2@herts.pnn.police.uk By PCSO Ian Martin.

NASH MILLS VILLAGE HALL



If you are looking for a venue for an event, look no further, situated on Lower Road and recently refurbished the Village Hall has all the facilities for training, parties and meetings.

A large hall with beautiful parquet flooring, small room, kitchen with 2 gas cookers, seating for 120 and parking for 35 vehicles.

To see the site visit:

<http://www.nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk/village-hall.html>.

Make a booking by contacting the Secretary,
 Mrs Barbara Palmer on **01442 395414**.

Bunkers Park Update



Well what a wet winter we have had!! Notwithstanding this, of the 3 dates we planned for 2014, only 1 was rained off.

We had sunny days in January and March and with our friends from the volunteers at the Chiltern Society we managed to complete our work.

Yet again the wood we have cut down has been put to good use in hedge laying at the Boxmoor Trust and there are several piles of logs that residents can carry home for their wood burners.

We have an added incentive for the Friends of Bunkers Park as we have tried to arrange for hot dogs and potatoes to be warmed on the fire so we can have a relaxing lunch after the hard work.

This has gone down well as in January we had 24 people helping.

Thanks to the Parish Council for helping to support the cost of some of the food.

Tasks for the next few months involve a litter pick on 3rd May and some ragwort pulling on 19th July and 23rd August. To help the ragwort pulling go with a swing we will hold a BBQ as before.

It may surprise those that missed the ragwort pulling last year just how much fun you can have identifying this weed and trying to eradicate it from the grassed areas that we want to use for animal fodder. I might be accused of over enthusiasm on this as it does also play havoc with your back but the BBQ is worth waiting for.

Around the Hazel we have a mass of primroses this year so if you get the chance have a walk in the woods as the ground has dried considerably in the last 2 weeks.

If you would like to join us for any of the events please let either Linda or myself know.

Information is also available on the Nash Mills Parish Council website www.nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Geoff Doole
March 2014

NHS ADVICE NUMBER

NHS Direct was decommissioned as of 31st March 2014.

You can still check your symptoms on NHS Choices

Calling for NHS advice - use the **111** service

If you are feeling unwell and need a telephone health assessment, please call the NHS **111** service free of charge from any phone.

News from Nash Mills C of E Primary School

We have had another busy term at school and I cannot believe that Easter is now just a month away! After a number of wet playtimes, it has been marvellous to see the children playing happily outside (with no coats on some days!) in recent weeks - long may the dry weather continue!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Leverstock Green RE Fund, we have been able to enhance the learning of our pupils in Key Stage 2 by taking them to some amazing places of worship this term. Years 3 and 6 visited the synagogue in St Albans before spending time at the Abbey, Year 4 went to the mosque in Watford and Year 5 visited the Hindu mandir in Neasden. I was able to accompany some of these, and the children were fascinated with what they saw - so were the adults! Being able to visit these special places and have opportunities to ask questions really aid understanding of different cultures and beliefs. I was very impressed with both the behaviour of pupils, the respect they showed and the quality of their questions - all of which were also noted by those we visited.

In recent weeks we have had the fun of celebrating a number of special occasions. On our Book Day, children came to school dressed as their favourite literary characters and they looked brilliant! We immersed ourselves in stories over the week and all enjoyed that. Last week, as if one special day wasn't enough, we had two! First of all, we had Sport Relief Day. A grand sum of £235 was raised with children bringing in a pound and coming to school dressed in sportswear. One of the staff came in her riding outfit and we had dancers, footballers, a swimmer and even a couple of divers, wearing goggles! We have some pro-active Sports Ambassadors in Year 6 and one of them, Maddy reports:

"Sport Relief Day was amazing. Everyone in Reception - Year 4 got the chance to try some new sports in the hall with the Sports Ambassadors. At lunchtime Miss Bishop (Y5 teacher and

Sports Leader) and Mrs McLellan (from the office) played a tennis match and afterwards children could pay 10p to try to beat them. Years 1 and 2 had a games session on the field and Years 5 and 6 had a tag rugby tournament or played tennis. We hope to encourage even more people to get more involved in sport next term."

At the end of last week we welcomed Dr Cynthia Andoniadou from Kings College, to assist us with Science Day. The children were fascinated by the collection of animal skulls she brought with her. Archie, one of our Y6 Science Ambassadors says:

"It was a great day, full of excitement. I visited the classes with the other Ambassadors and we saw Dr Cynthia helping children to guess the animal from handling the skulls and some children wrapped ice in different materials to see which was best at keeping the ice frozen. Year 5 made divers from straws and blu-tac and squeezed plastic bottles filled with water to make the divers go up and down. In Year 6 we looked at stem cell research and discussed why it is important. Some children made raisins bounce in a cup of fizzy water, too."

Another Science Ambassador, Freddie adds:

"Year 1 investigated magnets, seeing which materials they were attracted to. In Foundation Stage, children saw how adding vinegar or other liquids changed the colour of rice to purple or blue. Another bowl of rice went pink."

We are now looking forward to a lovely summer - we can but hope for warm weather!

Have a wonderful Easter.

Mrs Rosie Washford Mower
Headteacher



THE DENES CAR PARKING SCHEME

The plans for the Denes Car Park enhancements are on the move. The detailed design works phase has been completed and we are just awaiting the final costings. Although the project sounds simple, there is actually a surprising amount involved including earthworks, tree removal and planting of new trees, street lighting and electrical works, drainage works, kerbing installation, footway construction, car park pavement construction, carriageway resurfacing, road markings, relocation of plaque wall and bollard installation.

The intention is to keep the road open throughout but there will need to be limited closures during the road resurfacing. The project is estimated to take 3 weeks though I would assume it will take longer - projects always do! The result will be a much more aesthetically pleasing car park with the grassed area at the entrance protected by bollards to prevent the re-occurrence of damage from cars and vans that have rendered it a mud bath.

More importantly, there will be 40% more car parking spaces. This will be great for residents and great for the local businesses. The start timing is likely to be dictated by birds - we cannot remove trees during the nesting season and this starts in April.

Anthony McKay, County Councillor for Hemel Hempstead South East (Nash Mills, Corner Hall, Bennetts End and part of Leverstock Green).

END OF THE LIGHT UNDER OUR CHALK MINE TUNNEL

It all began in 2006 with a collapse in our neighbour's garden.

What followed was a considerable number of meetings at the council offices to find out how this collapse would impact on other properties in the area.

The council employed the services of specialist companies to investigate the problems and support the application for funding from central Government. During this difficult 6 year period, at times, we had a feeling that there was no light at the end of the tunnel. However, in the autumn of 2012 we got the good news that the funds were finally secured to commence the repair works.

In January 2013 work finally started and the contractors arrived with their trucks, cabins, equipment and considerable workforce. The area was transformed into a building site and the drilling and grouting began.

In February 2013 we personally had to vacate our property for around 3 weeks so that concrete and grout could be poured into the tunnels underneath and around our house.

We were shown video footage of results from cameras that had been dropped into the tunnels under our house. It was shocking to see what our house had been sitting on top of, or should I say not sitting on.

We count ourselves lucky that our house had not collapsed and that no one had been hurt over the past 20 years, it could have been disastrous. In the summer of 2013 we had the additional worry when the contractors announced that the project would be stopping unless further funds could be sourced. A number of negotiations were held behind the scenes and successfully the money was secured.

That was great news and if we could have celebrated with a BBQ we would have but this was not possible as the garden was still a building site!

To date we have been advised that the total amount of concrete used in this project is equivalent to 83 double-decker buses.

Finally in January 2014 we received the good news that works would be completed in February. We are gradually seeing the area being transformed and the signs of the building site are disappearing. We shall be looking forward to enjoying our garden again and can sleep sound at night knowing our house is safe.

Finally we have light at the end of the tunnel. *By Michele Berkeley*



1st Apsley Scouts Raise the Roof and Grow in Numbers! *By Cllr. Jan Maddern*

Over the last few months, 1st Apsley Scouts have had a lot to celebrate. Following their Raise the Roof Appeal we finally managed to have a new roof fitted last summer, enabling us to forge ahead with further plans for the site which will be known as the Two Waters Activity Centre, and is available to other Scout Groups to hire.

Canoes have been purchased and a shooting and archery range has been built at the back of the hut. Now the spring has arrived, we intend to make the most of our new resources and have already started archery courses. Shooting and canoeing lessons will start very soon.

One of the most exciting purchases was our Katakana - this is a twin hulled canoe that is very stable in the water and enables us to take Beavers (6-8 year olds) on the water, which is a first for local Scout Groups.

Our Scout Group is still growing, and many of the 240 young people and 40 adults who make up 1st Apsley live in and around the parish. We would like to thank Nash Mills Parish Council for their tremendous support over the last couple of years.



Billy's Wish Wins Highest Accolade

On Thursday 27th March 2014 Billy's Wish was awarded the highest honour from the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Viscountess Trenchard. "The Crimebeat Award for Hertfordshire" reflects the judging panel's decision to enter the charity's 'Anti Knife Crime Education Programme' for a National Crime beat Award in January.

Billy's Wish, the charity set up by the family of Billy Dove, a young local man who was brutally murdered in November 2011, has spent the last 2 years working to produce an Anti-Knife Crime Education Programme which consists of DVDs and lesson plans. This has now been delivered to every school in Dacorum to be taught to pupils in years 6, 7 and 8 and has resulted in outstanding feedback.

Following a recent meeting with senior officers at Hertfordshire Constabulary, the charity is gearing up to launch the Education Programme across Hertfordshire and beyond as part of a community safety initiative with Chief Inspector Mike Pryce. After the meeting, Charity Director and Nash Mills Parish Councillor Jan Maddern said "We are planning meetings with Head Teachers and County Councillors across Hertfordshire, so that we can demonstrate the power of the programme. With full backing from Herts Police and HCC's Director of Education I am certain that Head Teachers will see the benefit of our tiered programme."

Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd has given the charity a grant for £8,000 to help with the cost of rolling out the programme across the county.

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Council Tax 01442 867860
Dacorum Borough Council 01442 228000
Dacorum Volunteer Bureau 01442 214734
Dacorum Youth Forum 01442 228741
Dog Warden 01442 228000
Environmental Services 01442 228000
Gas Emergencies 0800 111 999
Hemel Hempstead General Hospital 01442 213141
Herts County Council 0300 123 4047
Housing and Council Tax 01442 228000
Housing Repairs 01442 228000
Housing Services 01442 228000
Job Centre 0845 6043719
Minicom 01442 228656
Nash Mills Village Hall 01442 395414
Nash Mills Parish Council 01462 735553
NHS Advice free number 111
Neighbourhood Action 01442 228429
Pest Control 01442 228000
Pollution 01442 228000
Police Emergency 999
Police non-emergency 101
Potholes 0300 123 4047
Recruitment (DBC) 01442 228000
Shopmobility 01442 259259
Sportspace 01442 507100
The Centre in The Park 01442 262746
Waste Services 01442 228000
Work and Pensions 0845 6060 265

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