



Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2025

Mapperley Park RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



**WELCOME TO
THE AUTUMN/
WINTER ISSUE
OF THE MPRA
NEWSLETTER!**

Thank you to Lindsay Loo Scigliano for her seasonally atmospheric photo of last year's snowy Mapperley Park.

There hasn't been snow yet this year, but when it comes, keep safe and warm, and enjoy its beauty.

THIS ISSUE OF THE MPRA NEWSLETTER THROWS LIGHT ON PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY: meet our Councillor, Kirsty Jones, and read how some individuals are working to make Mapperley Park a better place to live in.

WE HAVE A NEW, BIGGER MPRA COMMITTEE! Meet the new Chair, along with a new Membership Secretary, Private Road Rep, and Council Liaison.

DON'T FORGET: MPRA subs for 2024 should be paid by the end of the year. Details how to send your £10 are inside.

SAVE THE DATE! The MPRA post-holidays party is on Friday 23 January, 2026 at the Ukrainian House on Mansfield Road. Further information is on your invitation inside...

The next issue of the MPRA Newsletter will be out in late Spring. Articles and letters on any topic or aspect to do with life in our area are very much welcomed, as in due course will photographs of Mapperley Park in all its Spring glory. Send material to the Editor at: koreschroder@gmail.com.

With thanks to
our sponsors





From the Chair and Editor

The MPRA once again has a Chair! Thanks to Neil Marriot, who has very generously agreed to take over my position as Membership Secretary, I have become Chair, while continuing as Editor of the Newsletter: it's a good fit. I look forward to serving

the Mapperley Park community in my new role, working with a team whose support and friendship make my job much easier. The recent changes to the Committee are reported on the next page, where you can learn who does what on your behalf in the MPRA. We are all happy to be contacted about any concerns related to life in Mapperley Park: email us at info@mapperleypark.org and we will endeavour to find the right solution for you.

This Autumn/Winter issue did not originate from a set theme, as previous Newsletters have done. Nevertheless, there's a coherence to its contents, to do with living responsibly and well as a community. We are particularly pleased that the Councillor for Mapperley Ward, Kirsty Jones, has become a member of the MPRA, and that she has agreed to offer the Committee her expertise, as long as cases do not conflict with her professional duties at the Council. Read her article to discover more about her past experience, and her political vision for the future. Welcome to Mapperley Park, Kirsty; we're glad to have you with us!

Fred Paterson in his article also takes a socially and environmentally responsible stand in terms of a future for sustainable energy use in Mapperley Park. His ideas for what could be possible in our area are still in early stages, and he invites us all to help take them forward. If there is interest, there will be 'town-hall' type meetings and special events to come, so take part in Fred's survey and consider getting actively involved.

This Newsletter inaugurates an occasional 'A Reader Writes' column, of which the first subject is Mapperley Park gardens. AI-assisted research conducted by the RHS has revealed that over 50% of front gardens in Britain are paved over, which compromises both their resistance to flooding, and their capacity to act as carbon sinks. It is of great concern to this letter writer that, increasingly, Mapperley Park is following this national trend. If there is an issue which similarly worries you, please write and tell us about it.

The built environment also figures largely in this issue: specifically, the Student House on the site of the Mercure Hotel car park. Mapperley Park residents have been unusually active in objecting to this project, and while they have been unsuccessful in stopping it, nevertheless many key aspects have been altered in response to the formal letters that Mike Reade has sent to the Planning Committee on your behalf: read about his efforts inside.

The tree-lined streets of Mapperley Park may be sheltered and quiet, but life in all its extremes surges through them, from unimaginable happiness to sadness beyond measure. The life of Zara Cheesman took in both, and everything in between. Thank you to Judith, Mark and Alec Cheesman, and to Zara's many friends, for telling us about their extraordinary daughter, sister and friend. The MPRA community grieves over her loss, and offers its sympathy.

I will end by stressing the importance of community, especially in a season when friends and families come together to celebrate their holidays. May your homes be full of warmth, light and love. And just when you think it's all over, it's not! Come to the MPRA January Party, for fun, food, laughter and (most importantly) dancing on Friday 23rd January, see details below.

I hope that many of you can come to the party, and that I will meet you there.

LEENA KORE SCHRÖDER



We had so much fun last year, that we had to do it again!

The Mapperley Park Residents' Association Post-Holidays Festive Party

Friday 23rd January 2026 7-10pm

Come and join with neighbours, friends, and families, and dance the night away at **Clawson Lodge, Nottingham Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 403 Mansfield Road NG5 2DP** (junction of Mapperley Hall Drive and Mansfield Road)

Party buffet will be provided by MPRA; drinks can be purchased from the open bar

All paid up members are warmly welcome! New members can join on the spot, and outstanding subs can be paid on the night



New members on the MPRA Committee

In recent months a number of generous members have volunteered their time and joined the MPRA Committee. This has allowed a reshuffle, with Leena handing over her Membership responsibilities to Neil Marriot, and taking the role of Chair that had been vacant for almost two years. With others stepping into roles that have also stood unfilled over a long period, the Committee is now in much better shape. However, we continue to need a Tree Rep (see below), and are always open to new suggestions for changes or improvements in the running of the MPRA. If you wish to join us, please get in touch to discuss how you could contribute: info@mapperleypark.org.

MPRA COMMITTEE ROLES

Chair: Leena Kore-Schröder

Treasurer: Howard Davies

Secretary: Ellen Turner

Membership: Neil Marriot

Social Events: Bee Sanghera

Facebook: Jen Guiver

Planning and Building: Mike Reade

Private Road Rep: Emma Baker

Council Liaison: Farnoosh Shahrokhshahi



The MPRA Committee held a convivial meeting at Brigitte Bordeaux in October (and we didn't pay for it with your subs!). At the front, from left to right: Neil Marriot, Bee Sanghera, Leena Kore-Schröder. Back, left to right: Farnoosh Shahrokhshahi, Mike Reade, Howard Davies, Ellen Turner. Emma Baker and Jen Guiver were absent.

KEEP YOUR MPRA MEMBERSHIP FULLY PAID UP!

A very warm THANKYOU to the members who are up to date with their subs. Without you we would not have a Residents' Association, so your support is important and valued. With the end of the year fast approaching, it is time to pay your sub if you are still owing £10 for 2025 membership, and £20 if you still owe for 2024 as well. If you have not paid for over two years, then your membership will be cancelled.

It is an onerous process to send out reminder letters and emails, but we try. Please consider setting up a Standing Order, which means that you won't be bothered by us, nor do you have to remember.

How to pay your membership or join MPRA

ONLINE BANKING

Sort Code **20-63-25**

Account Number **10609080**

Business name **'Mapperley Park Residents Association'**

The annual fee is £10.

Please quote you surname and postcode in the reference field. If you are a new member joining for the first time, please also drop an email to info@mapperleypark.org with your full name and address.

CASH OR CHEQUE is equally welcome, payable to 'MPRA'. Please post to: **Membership Secretary, 2 Alverstone Road, NG3 5DQ**. Including your name and address.

Mapperley Park Trees: Situation Vacant!

Please consider joining the MPRA Committee as the Tree Rep. You don't have to be a qualified tree surgeon, nor will you be expected to solve Mapperley Park's arboreal problems. We simply wish to have a person on the Committee who is interested in helping us address all matters to do with trees, from every angle. Many of us who live in Mapperley Park consider the trees as one of our community's most positive features, but it cannot be denied that they also create problems, as the photo of the fallen tree on Mapperley Hall Drive, taken by Charlotte Davis in September, amply demonstrates! The recent successful 'Stump Up!' campaign is but one example of what the position (supported by the Committee) could achieve in practical terms. That effort was necessarily dedicated to removing unsightly old stumps, and replacing them with new young trees, because the money raised was earmarked for that specific purpose, and could not be reassigned. Other issues remain, such as regular pruning, disease control, invasive roots and even felling, so come and help us do something about them! Get in touch at: info@mapperleypark.org, and you will be most warmly welcomed.



Planning Applications in Mapperley Park

It has been a very busy year for planning applications, and as always the MPRA takes active interest in what changes are being proposed for our conservation area. We are advised by Mike Reade, whose impartial expertise in planning and building regulations can be drawn upon by paid-up MPRA members. Thinking that not everyone is aware of what Mike does on their behalf, the Newsletter invited him to give an overview of his activity, plus an update on the Student House project on the corner of Mansfield and Magdala Roads, currently the Mercure carpark. A full account of the MPRA objections was in the SS25 Newsletter. Since then, Mike has lodged a further letter on behalf of the MPRA, supplemented by his own sketch of the possible Student House, based on the details of the proposal (the proposal itself lacks a visual representation). The result of Mike's efforts is that the building

Mike Reade: MPRA Planning Applications and Buildings Officer

I have been a resident of Mapperley Park for about 30 years and I sit on the committee of the MPRA. I have been a practising Architect for more than 35 years, I am registered with the Architects Registration Board. I am also a qualified Urban Designer, I teach architecture at both Nottingham universities, and I have an architectural practice working from my home in Mapperley Park.

For some years now I have been an advisor to the MPRA on matters to do with Planning, Building Regulations and the Party Wall Act. I give advice to paid up members of MPRA, my advice is given without charge and without any liability. My main role on the Committee is the review of planning applications, often leading to the MPRA Committee making comments to the planning department. Where we believe it is appropriate, we will support an application, but often, we will raise our concerns in the form of an objection.

Planning Applications are of course public documents and these can be found on the Nottingham City Council Planning Department website. I will scrutinise an application from various standpoints: its relationship to the Mapperley Park and Alexandria Park Conservation Area Management Plan, whether I think there is any issues that may affect the locality, the Conservation Area or immediate neighbours. Because of the nature of my job, I naturally make judgements on the overall composition, any design features that are either positive or negative parts of the scheme and on the detail design.

Having decided how I think the Committee should react to an application, I circulate a draft email asking whether they agree with my critique and we make amendments. The Planning Department needs to know that it contains the view of MPRA Committee and that it's not just my own view. We are currently nine members, so to gain consensus I need the support of five committee members to send the email to the Planning Department on behalf of the MPRA Committee.

On occasion, MPRA residents contact me with issues about building work or local planning applications. If you are a paid-up MPRA member and would like advice about works or a planning application that affects you, please contact the committee to pass it on to me.

MIKE READE

has been moved further back off the street, and its height lowered. But there are still serious issues: it is out of scale and character, and knock-on problems of traffic and parking remain unaddressed. The application was passed at the 22nd October meeting of the Council's Planning Committee, so there is no opportunity for further negotiation.

The MPRA thanks Mike for his time and work. Due to his efforts we have had some success in asking for changes, even if not all of our points have carried through.

LEENA KORE-SCHRÖDER

MIKE'S LETTER TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE, ALSO SENT TO THE THREE MAPPERLEY WARD COUNCILLORS KIRSTY JONES, LESLIE AYOOOLA AND SAJID MOHAMMED

Further to the June 27th 2025 new Student Block Scheme: I am the MPRA Committee member advising on matters to do with Planning, Building Regulations and The Party Wall Act. I have sought consensus from The Committee and this is our view:

Despite there being many documents with the word 'Townscape' in it, there are few three-dimensional representations of the project and little critique of the way it differs fundamentally from the massing and level of richness of most of the other buildings of the Conservation Area. As such we have felt the need to produce our own 3D sketch so that we can fully understand the project and discuss it at a community participatory level. Therefore, please find attached a 2-page document showing what we believe to be representative of the proposal in 3D form; on the 2nd page of the PDF you will find the following alphabetical references on the sketch:

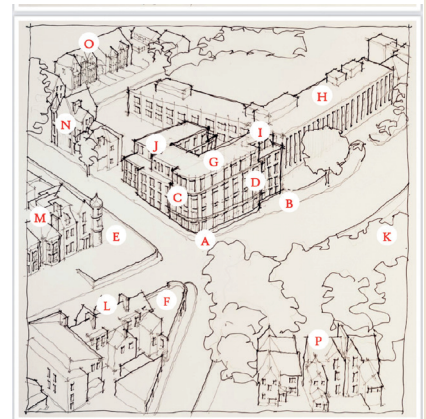
At location 'A', the façade is moved away from the street from the original 2m (from the back edge of the pavement) to 5m on floors Ground through to 3rd. At the top floor (now 4th where it was 5th), this set-back has increased from 2m to 5.6m. Positive moves.

At location 'B', the façade has moved away from the street from 7m to 10m, up to 3rd floor. At the top floor this set-back has increased from 9.5m to 12.5m. Positive.

The designers have begun to take on our townscape idea that the prominence of the site justifies a corner feature for legibility reasons. However, the curved façade that is set forward from the rest of the building from 'C' to 'D' will appear as one building mass and is hugely out of scale to the other townscape features of local corner buildings at 'E' and 'F'.

Since the original scheme, the designers have reduced the height of the building by 1 storey; 'G'. Positive.

Despite the stepping of the form vertically and horizontally, the building remains of a



mass which is more reminiscent of the monolithic hotel 'H' than any other building in the vicinity.

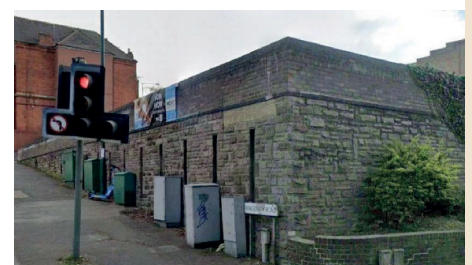
The view from the street of the roof edge is a horizontal line at 'G' with small steps at 'I' and 'J'. Note by contrast, the interest at the roof level as it constantly undulates up and down at the roof level of all the other local buildings 'K' (The Grosvenor pub hidden by trees), 'L', 'M', 'N', 'O' and 'P'. All but 'L' are in a Conservation Area.

The massing of adjacent buildings is broken up with bays, gables, oriels and the stepping in and out of the facades creating a strong characteristic of the buildings of our conservation area, for example see the buildings at L, M, N, O and P. The proportion of the stepping in the façade of the student accommodation at A, B, C and D is by contrast, of a completely different scale and proportion resulting in the design having an overpowering, oppressive and incompatible feel.

We remain of the opinion that noise and vehicle movements are going to have a significant negative impact on the local residents. All of the Mercure Hotel traffic and the new traffic generated by the student block is going to be concentrated on Zulla Road. Our view is that this road is not wide enough to cope with the increase in traffic.

We remain of the opinion that the development of this prominent Conservation Area corner site from a car park into a building could be a positive one for the residential and commercial community in Mapperley Park (Conservation Area), Sherwood Rise (Conservation Area) and the closer parts of Mansfield Road.

**Yours Sincerely
Mike Reade for and on behalf of MPRA**



From Kirsty Jones, Councillor for Mapperley Ward

Hello MPRA members! My name is Councillor Kirsty L Jones and I was elected as your councillor in May 2023. I may have met some of you already on some of my ward walks, canvassing sessions or surgeries or we may have had conversations via email, messages or phone, but I am also aware that most of you may have only had a leaflet through the door if you were out when we knocked! So, hello!

I will explain a bit about my background, so you know more about me. I moved to Nottingham in 2010 to study an undergraduate Masters in Nursing Science (on the child branch) and worked as a paediatric nurse, mainly on the Paediatric Critical Care Unit at the Queen's Medical Centre, for nearly five years. The pressures on the NHS made me worried about the ability to provide safe care and this really affected my mental wellbeing (alongside the shift work) so I changed career to work at Nottingham City Council's Housing Aid (now Housing Solutions) doing assessments of people approaching the council for homelessness support. When I got selected as a candidate for the Labour Party for the 2023 local elections, I had to leave my role, as you cannot work in the same council you are seeking election for, and I now work part-time as an Administrator at the Dryden Enterprise Centre, Nottingham Trent University.

Despite none of my direct family being politically minded, I found that even at primary school, I began developing political views. This started when I learnt about the hole in the ozone layer and climate change, and realised that collective action is needed to combat environmental crises from resource exploitation. This developed further as I watched the war in Iraq unfold despite widespread protests and marches, and I furthered my education, studying A Level Sociology.

In 2010, for the first election I was old enough to vote in, I was reading manifestos, choosing who to vote for. I knew I was a socialist but found that the mainstream parties were all advocating austerity and cuts to welfare. I decided to vote for the Green Party but, as it was unlikely that they would win in my area, I wanted to do more to support, so I joined as a member (even though I did not know what being a member of a political party meant when I was 18!)

I became a lot more active in politics after university. I went to conferences, attended training and stood in elections (even though I knew I would not win!) When Jeremy Corbyn became leader of the Labour Party, it gave me hope that Labour was a place for socialists to organise, and my earlier association of the Labour Party with the Iraq war was allayed by seeing someone who opposed the war get a leadership position. At the same time as this happening, various battles in the Green Party were demoralising, as I was facing punishment for things that I believed in: women should be free from sexual harassment, trans people deserve rights and democracy is important. I made the move to the Labour Party in early 2019.

I became quickly active and enthused in the Labour Party and put a lot of effort into the 2019 local and general election campaign. I was less happy when the general election did not go as hoped, and when Jeremy Corbyn stood down and was replaced with Kier Starmer.

I attended the training day for future Labour councillor candidates in Nottingham, mostly out of nosiness – I wanted to see what councillors were told. But this quickly escalated and I was surprisingly successful in the application and interview, which was unexpected as the Party was already becoming quite hostile to members with my political views.

I was living in St Ann's at the time of being an approved candidate, and then successfully voted by Labour members as the Mapperley Labour candidate. I went on to get the second highest vote share in the local elections where I was elected as one of the Mapperley councillors. I have, earlier this year, moved into Mapperley and joined the MPRA and I hope to help out on the Committee.



As a Councillor, I have been involved in a lot, from responding to casework raised with me, to having active roles on various committees. I have really enjoyed getting to know residents with interesting and enlightening conversations. We do not always share the same views, but I think it's healthy to share where we agree and disagree, and be open to changing my mind on things. I think collective democratic knowledge is more useful for decision-making.

The frustration I have had is that I feel I cannot influence things in the Council as I would like. The Labour Party has changed beyond recognition to an extremely authoritarian and defensive party. It decided that Nottingham Labour Group could not choose its own leadership and also dictated what motions or amendments could be discussed. I found that there was no way to keep the leadership accountable anymore. Even though I raised issues that matter to the city and Mapperley, they were ignored and responded only with political spin, and everything within Labour Group had to be kept confidential so residents in Mapperley (and Nottingham as a whole) could not see that I was fighting for them.

I and other councillors had expressed concerns to each other about this approach by the Labour Party to curtail good democratic decision-making for some time. Eventually the political context of Labour and Conservatives falling as low as 13% in the polls, and the rise of Reform and left parties such as the Green Party, 'Your Party' and independent groups across the country, spurred a group of us to think we could follow the example of our neighbours, Broxtowe Alliance, and create our own party for Nottingham.

And Nottingham People's Alliance was founded! We have six councillors, so far, and I have been elected the Leader. We are now the largest opposition group, and Labour are facing the largest opposition for a decade! We hope to challenge the Labour Group publicly, with the freedom to say what we want and properly represent our residents. We will be asking questions and submitting motions and amendments.

We also seek to build a good membership so that we can use democratic decision-making to develop policies for a manifesto and select candidates. We aim to have our first members' meeting in January but there is a lot of work to do before then!

Despite being even more busy than before, I still fully represent Mapperley residents with any issues you may have. You can attend my surgeries: **2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 6-7pm, St Ann's Valley Centre.** Email me: kirstyl.jones@nottinghamcity.gov.uk. Message or call me: **07974 857 795** (I am not always available to take calls, due to work, but you can leave a voicemail). I do also keep an eye on my social media accounts, but email works better for logging casework.

KIRSTY JONES

Zara Alice Cheesman – A Pen Portrait

Zara died of meningitis B on 23rd December 2024 after being let down by A&E and the East Midlands Ambulance Service. She was fully vaccinated as per the NHS vaccination schedule. The vaccination schedule does not include the meningitis B vaccine, which was introduced in 2013, for babies. Zara was too old to receive it as she was born in 2009. It is not part of the secondary school booster programme. The meningitis B vaccine is available privately through Boots and ASDA.

It is impossible to summarise our daughter Zara and Alec's sister. There was so much to her: she embraced life, always gave her best, and lived life to the fullest. There is a vast chasm that can't be filled. What is so painful is that she really should have survived. Meningitis is a lottery: anyone can get it. We took her into A&E early, as we were supposed to, as she was not well at all. It is essential with meningitis and sepsis that treatment is given as early as possible. A&E failed to recognise she was ill, missed signs that were evident, and the East Midlands Ambulance Service totally failed Zara.

We wanted to paint a picture, a pen portrait of Zara. Really, it can only scratch the surface. We could write multiple volumes: so many memories and so much loss of Zara's future, her hopes and dreams. Born on 13th July 2009, she should have been 16 this July and would have received her GCSE results this summer, which would have been all nines and eights. She was passionate about everything, driven by a desire for justice and a commitment to improving people's lives. She was incredibly kind, empathic, intelligent, funny, often stubborn, and heavily opinionated, and always cared deeply for those close to her.

As soon as Zara was born, she never stopped talking, literally. She adored her brother, Alec, and baked for him whenever he came home from university. His 20th birthday would be the first birthday since he was perhaps seven or eight that Zara had not baked for him. Their relationship became more nuanced as they grew older, evolving into a typical, competitive, and argumentative one between brother and sister. When they clicked, it was terrific, and they talked about everything. This is why we knew she wanted to be buried naturally and to have her organs transplanted, with her wishes fulfilled. When there was disagreement, the arguments were passionate.

Zara was very close to one of her male friends, a year younger: we always went on holiday with him, and he described Zara as the closest he would have to having a sister, and really, they were brother and sister.

Zara taught herself to read when she was two or three years old, sitting on the floor, listening to Jude help Alec with his reading. She just worked it out herself. Zara's first published story was in Reception, the only child in Reception to have a story included in Carrington's Primary school children's story book. She also wrote an article on the Brownies for the MP News. Her hero was Matilda, as *"I could also read at three."*



At seven, she asked what Matilda read, and being told it was classical literature, this triggered her passion for reading the classics. For many years, Jane Austen was her favourite, with her books read multiple times and Kira Knightley Pride & Prejudice on a loop. She read Jacqueline Wilson, Anne Frank, Roald Dahl, the Bronte Sisters, Tolstoy, Oscar Wilde, Daphne De Maurier's Rebecca, Ladies in White and Black, Normal People, among hundreds of others. Zara was very proud that she had read all of Jane Austen's books before she was 13. Her current favourite was F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, and she had just started War and Peace, mixing this tome with lighter reads.

Zara was a feminist to her core, reading Germaine Greer, Virginia Woolf and Mary Wollstonecraft. She loved browsing in Waterstones, talking about books and expressing her ideas. She was a talented writer and storyteller. One of her English teachers remembers that *"even her earliest work was marked by stylistic sophistication and impassioned thought."* She could sometimes be overheard in lessons arguing over which of Jane Austen's novels was the best. Her Religious Studies teacher spoke of her reflectiveness, her sensitivity and respect for others, even in debate. Her tutor reported that: *"Like all good writers, she had strong opinions and a point of view."*

Zara had insight and understanding. She was diagnosed with ADHD just before she died, and suddenly, a lot made sense to her. She realised, in the words of Jane Austen, that *"There is a stubbornness about me that never can bear to be frightened at the will of others. My courage always rises at every attempt to intimidate me"*.

Zara was an A* student, excelling particularly in essay-based subjects, as well as being strong in maths and science. She was a perfectionist and extremely talented in everything she pursued. Within just over two years of starting, she was about to start Grade 7 piano. She would have also sat her Grade 8 Lambda (Drama) exam in Year 11, in 2025. She had been involved in many drama performances both in school and at Stagecoach. She was sporty and won the 100 and 200 metre school races two years in a row, breaking the school record for the 200m. Just before she died, she told her dad that she wanted to return to athletics and football.

Zara loved music and the theatre, including Shakespeare. Zara was obsessed with Taylor Swift and Gracie Abrams. She saw Taylor Swift twice in London, the second time with a friend from school, and on her 15th birthday, Zara took her dad on an eight-hour round trip to Southampton for a 45-minute Gracie Abrams set. She loved attending concerts.

A friend described her as

"a loyal, caring, generous and creative friend. I will always remember her as a lover of literature, a passionate feminist, a devoted Taylor Swift and Gracie Abrams fan and above all, an amazing friend."

“Above all, though, Zara was kind”

-Zara's tutor



She was always loyal to those she loved and cared for, and showed this by looking out for her friends, even when she wasn't feeling her best, constantly caring about how others were feeling and wanting to get on with everyone.

A Jane Austen quotation perfectly describes Zara's compassion: *“There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves; it is not my nature.”*

Since her death, we have heard many stories of her kindness and her care for others. All she wanted was to be friends with everyone. In the words of her friends:

“Zara was kind, funny and one of the smartest people I have ever known”.

“[Zara] brought a kind of light and energy that's hard to put into words. She just had this way of making everyone feel better - her positive energy was contagious, and her smile could brighten even the dullest mornings.”

“She was the person you could go to for anything - whether it was help with work or just someone to chat with.”

Zara cared deeply about the world's problems, driven by her staunch feminist beliefs. She wanted, after A-Levels, to study Law for four years at UCL and in Melbourne, to become a human rights lawyer. We have no doubt she would have achieved this. As her tutor said, *“I quickly realised that beneath her modest exterior lay a strong character with talents that went well beyond her obvious academic ability”*. She had a desire to always to be right, to win every argument, and had a very competitive nature.

You always knew when Zara was happy, angry or sad; every emotion was worn for all to see on her sleeve. When happy, a joy, a force of nature to behold – an undiluted energy source.

As Alan, the vicar who conducted her service, said, *“Zara, so full of hopes, and dreams, and plans. Zara, who had so much talent, so much potential, such a bright future ahead, was cruelly snatched away from us at the tender age of just 15. It is so very hard to accept”*.

To finish in Zara's words, an excerpt from an essay she wrote from her Mock GCSE English Language exam. Her last piece of writing, about a funeral:

The graveyard was a lonely place, clandestine in its meeting with the spirit and the bone. It was an area destined for hope and heavenly ritual but now it was a faith-forgotten land, where feet could not go past. It was a path where people did not travel on, the periphery of life and death. The emphatic bellows of mourners still graced the air as the church bells chimed to empty feeling.

Tarnished graves were lined up in regiment formation as if to prepare going into battle, but here were only the prisoners of death: the vessels of life sacrificed for the incurable maladies of which they all suffered. And so, their spirit was surrendered.

Throughout this fallen land, the spirits were chasing shadows of what they once remembered to be them. The combination of the two entities was their birthright; it was how they began and travelled through the spirit bruising world. Now this touch was foreign and the heartbreak from the sorrowful partition left an open wound on them. This injury was only to sting and open itself up more as it was battered by the natural elements and the harsh beatings of the afterlife.

Broken wind wafted through the graveyard with the sound screeching through the chains of death. The graveyard was enclosed in fencing which trapped the dead in their position. Rain battered hard onto the ground creating a muddy crevice in its place. A crow waited in the tree as it glanced gleefully at the happenings beneath for it was there as a callous reminder of death in its honesty. This was because there was only a void in place of a human- no blissful memories remain when they are trapped in a gilded cage waiting on Doomsday. No mistake can be given for the harsh realities of death. The dead are more caged up than humans, as they know the realities of life and the hardships of death. They must suffer through both realisations in their everlasting entrapment.

THE CHEESMAN FAMILY AND ZARA HERSELF



People Power for Mapperley Park: Is Community Energy the solution to endlessly rising bills?

Imagine a future where Mapperley Park is not just one of Nottingham's most beautiful neighbourhoods, but also one of its most forward-thinking: a community that generates its own clean energy, reduces bills, and even increases the value of its homes. That's the vision behind community owned energy – and it's one the UK government is increasingly committed to supporting.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENERGY?

Community-owned energy is about people coming together to produce, manage, and use renewable power. This might mean rooftop solar panels, local solar arrays, or shared investment in heat pumps and battery storage. As Howard Johns explains in his inspiring TED talk (watch this on YouTube *'Your invitation to the community energy revolution | Howard Johns | TEDxExeter'*) community energy is "about taking power back into our own hands." Instead of relying solely on big energy companies, we can create a resilient, locally controlled energy future.

GOVERNMENT BACKING

The UK government has recognised the role of community energy in tackling climate change and boosting energy security. According to the Power in Our Communities report, ministers are committed to unlocking funding, simplifying regulation, and ensuring that local groups can share directly in the benefits of renewable generation. This isn't a fringe idea – it's now part of national and local energy strategy and community energy projects are springing up all over the country.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR MAPPERLEY PARK RESIDENTS?

- **Increase the Value of Your Home** Improving your property's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating with solar panels or a heat pump could boost its market value by as much as 20% (Knight Frank). That's an investment that pays back in both comfort and equity.
- **Lower Bills, Greater Control** Community solar projects have proven that households can reduce their reliance on volatile energy markets, enjoying cheaper, more predictable bills.
- **Investment Opportunity** Community Shares/IF Bonds typically return 3-8% - better than many ISAs or Premium Bonds.
- **Local Resilience** Co-operative models of energy generation keep money circulating locally, rather than flowing to large corporations and build greater community engagement.
- **Climate Action** Each installation of solar panels, each new heat pump, is a tangible step towards reducing emissions and leaving a positive environmental legacy for future generations.

HOW MAPPERLEY PARK RESIDENTS CAN GET INVOLVED

- **Domestic Investment** Installing your own solar panels, home batteries, or air-source heat pumps individually.
- **Community Projects** Pooling resources to fund shared solar schemes or small-scale local generation, often via co-ops that give members a financial return.
- **Partnerships** Linking up with organisations already active in the field to explore collective purchasing or investment opportunities.

And it's not as difficult as you might imagine. There's support from council backed schemes like the Home Energy Hub, a host of reputable national organizations, well established finance platforms and a growing sector of renewable installers supported by Nottingham Energy Partnership and Nottingham Trent University Retrofit Academy.

NEXT STEPS: YOUR VOICE MATTERS

To gauge interest across Mapperley Park, we have launched a short resident survey. The aim is to understand who is considering solar, heat pumps, or other renewables – and who might be interested in co-investing in a community energy project. Your response will help us plan what comes next, from creating an information hub, bulk-buying renewable technology to setting up a community energy club.



Please use the QR code or follow this link to our survey. It will take just five minutes to share your views.

This is the short URL <https://forms.gle/58yPX7BxUyv1dcUY>



Together, we can make Mapperley Park a model of sustainable living – cleaner, greener, and more prosperous for all of us. If you would like to get involved, please look out for our special events on the MPRA Facebook page in the New Year or add your email to the contact request at the bottom of the survey.

AUTHOR PROFILE

Hello fellow residents. My name is Fred Paterson. I moved to Nottingham in 1980, attracted by the best football team in Europe, its reputation as a rebel city and seven beautiful women for every man! Oh, really? Yes, and one of the best Universities in the country. After securing a PhD, marrying my amazing wife, parenting two gorgeous sons and building a successful career that ranged through teaching, research, leadership development and sustainable business, we moved to Mapperley Park more than 20 years ago.

Although now retired from my academic career as an Associate Professor at University of Derby, I still offer services through my own consultancy business (www.accelerate-the-shift.com).





I'm a passionate advocate for the benefits and opportunities presented by sustainability, co-hosting People, Planet, Pint (& Pastry) networking sessions every month in the city (search www.eventbrite.co.uk to find the next event).

Like many of you, I don't understand why our energy bills constantly rise whilst the cost of renewable energy is going the other way. I'm a natural rebel, and would like to bring my knowledge, connections and energy to taking back more control from the giant energy suppliers. By acting together we have a much better chance of accelerating the inevitable shift to cheaper energy and a more sustainable world. Eventually, we may even be able to benefit from investing in local renewables and take ownership of community owned energy supplies. Now wouldn't that be rebellious!

Even if you don't think solar panels or air source heat pumps are for you, please follow the QR and fill in our questionnaire. The information you provide will help us galvanise climate action in the area and watch out for future events on MPRA facebook page.

FRED PATERSON

Editor's Note: We hope to publish updates about Fred's proposed scheme in future Newsletters. In the meantime, if you are even tentatively interested, do take part in his survey by clicking on the QR code above, which will greatly help Fred to determine how to take his ideas forward. After the Newsletter has been distributed in December 2025, keep an eye out for information posted on the MPRA Facebook page, and there are plans afoot to hold a community meeting next year at which residents can ask questions and learn yet more. Later in 2026 we are even considering an 'Open Gardens-type' event: a day when residents can visit local homes which use forms of renewable power, and ask questions of their owners. This will take some organising, but we think it's worth doing. So, if you would like to take part, please get in touch with an email to that effect sent to: info@mappelerlypark.org.

The Roundabout through the seasons

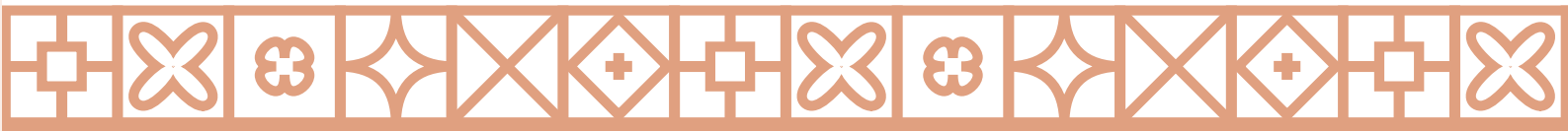
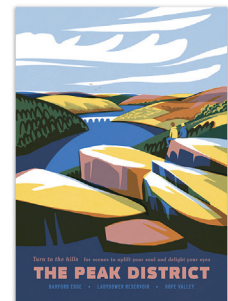
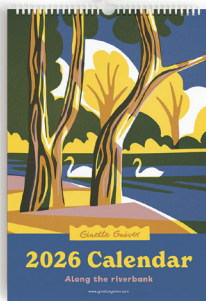
In spite of the long Summer drought, because of the Roundabout Gardeners' thoughtful planting and care there was always something to look at whenever passing the island (or is it an oasis?). Thank you, gardeners, for all your love and labour. It was a particularly good year for the bees!



This newsletter was designed by **Ginette Guiver**

Graphic design and illustration

2026 calendars, charity Christmas cards, and art prints available at www.ginetteguiver.com



Disgusted, of Mapperley Park

Why should Tunbridge Wells have all the glory, when one can be just as disgusted (or delighted) in Mapperley Park? The Newsletter is proposing a new regular column, featuring letters from Mapperley Park residents who would like to air their views on matters of



local concern. Be they to do with trees, leaves, bins, potholes, noise, fireworks, planning applications, fly-tipped food trucks or green rose-ringed parakeets (as in photo) ... whatever issue preoccupies you, why not exercise your opinions here? Letters will be published anonymously, unless you wish to be identified, and as long as they are considered and polite, will not be censored. Email your letter, confidentiality guaranteed, to the Editor at: info@mapperleypark.org. Here is our inaugural piece:

Spotted by Lynne Buckland

Front Gardens and the Soul of Mapperley Park

I've lived in Mapperley Park since 2000, and over that time I've grown to love its tree-lined streets, elegant period homes, and the Bulwell stone walls that frame our front gardens with quiet dignity. But as each year passes by, I've watched that charm slip away - garden by front garden - and it breaks my heart.



Thanks to Catherine Lowe (not the author of this letter!) for her beautiful photo.

Our Conservation Area Management Plan explains how Mapperley Park possesses 'an Arcadian quality with extensive mature gardens and woodland planting that contribute to the area's distinct sense of place'. It's exactly those soft, green, cultivated edges - those borders, hedges, and stone walls - that give our streets a sense of tranquillity, continuity, and habitat for birds, bees and butterflies.

Yet increasingly, front gardens are being sacrificed to convenience. Walls tumble, borders disappear, replaced by tarmac, gravel and - heaven forbid - the dreaded plastic turf. Driveways replace grass, and open space makes way for outsize garages. I understand the pressure - cars require parking, gardens need upkeep - but collectively, we are eroding the very soul of our streetscape.

The Management Plan doesn't mince words: 'The erosion of front garden boundaries and soft landscaping through the creation of hardstandings can have a significantly negative impact on the character of the conservation area'. Those words may sound officious, but the stakes are real. Front gardens are more than decorative; they are living infrastructure. When they disappear, we lose wildlife habitat, rainwater absorption, flood resilience, and a tangible sense of place.

Candida Lycett Green captured the essential value of front gardens perfectly when she noted that 'front gardens are totally disregarded... [yet] little gardens are ephemeral; the inventiveness of their creators is beyond measure'. It's a fitting tribute to what is fading before our eyes.

Thankfully, the RHS offers practical solutions. You can accommodate parking without destroying greenery. By using permeable surfacing such as gravel or porous block paving - and retaining planting wherever possible, even narrow borders, containers, or climbers - we can balance practicality with ecological care. Even supermarkets incorporate planting in their car parks!

Many neighbours have embraced this gentle compromise. One driveway is framed by lavender and rosemary, preserving a run of Bulwell stone wall - so beautiful, the car seems almost invited. Elsewhere, a climber softens a porch beside a parked vehicle, with a slim pollinator-friendly strip at the kerb.

There's also a crucial environmental benefit. Gardens absorb rainfall. When replaced with hardstanding, water floods into overloaded drains, often leading to local flooding. A simple garden softens that pressure, catching water and easing its release.

Mapperley Park has always thrived where architecture and nature entwine. Our front gardens, though modest, profoundly shape character, biodiversity, water resilience, and neighbourly spirit.

And there's hope. As I walk the streets, I spot small enclaves of green amidst paving - tiny, flowering rebellions that whisper of better days. We can choose to rebuild walls instead of demolishing them, to restore borders rather than gravel them. We can plant - a little, but with care.

I will continue tending my slightly scruffy borders, planting for the pollinators. Because once a front garden disappears, it's rarely fully recovered - and when it's gone, you lose more than just flowers.

BY A MAPPERLEY PARK RESIDENT OF 25 YEARS





The Mapperley Park Safari Sale 2025

Zoey Sheffield has done it again! The second annual Mapperley Park Safari Sale took place on a glorious Sunday, 29 June, attracting more stalls and customers than ever before. Zoey raised over £800 to help pay for the Cat Patrol vets' bills. The sadly frequent posts on Mapperley Park Facebook about lost cats always attract Zoey's sympathetic and helpful response, and we all know how tirelessly she works to rescue and save the cats who come into her care. Thank you for everything, Zoey, and thank you to all residents who helped make the day not only successful, but also a lot of fun!



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