



Autumn  
Newsletter  
Oct 2020

# Mapperley Park Residents' Association

Dear Mapperley Park Residents,

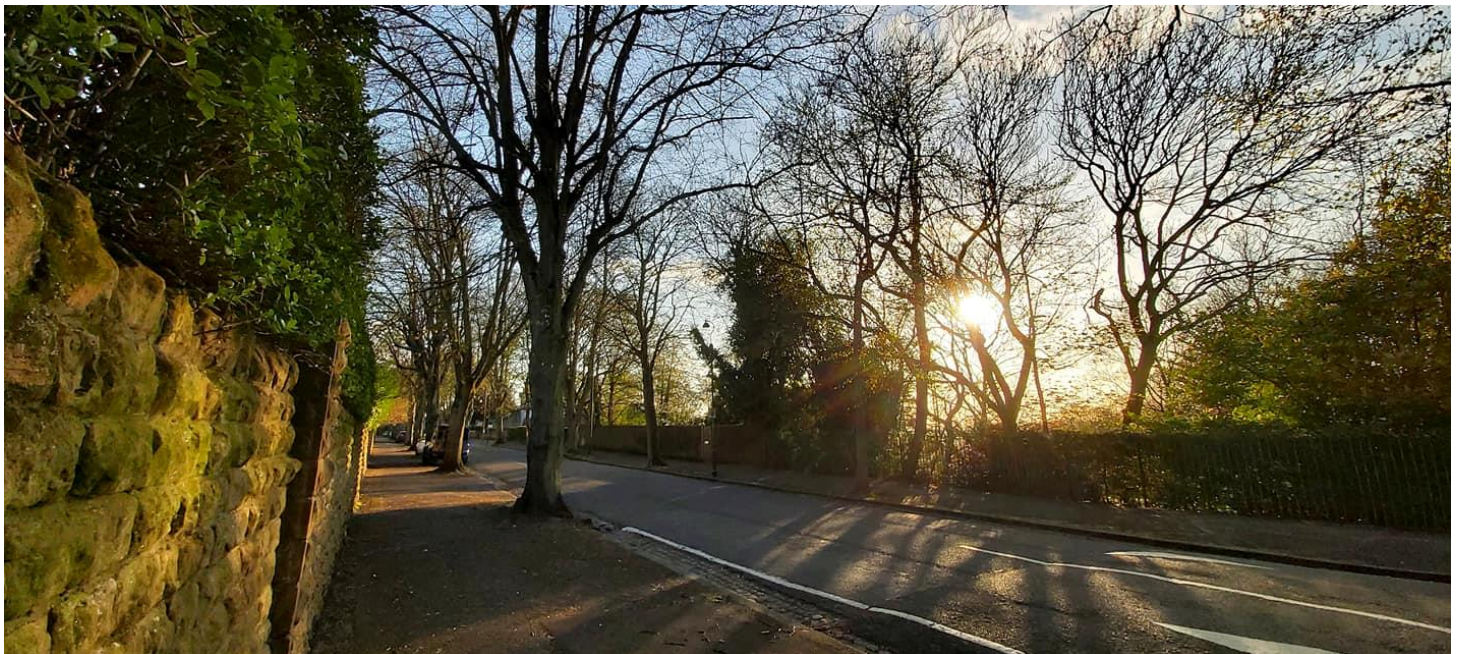
## From the Chairman

It's been a surreal time over the past few months and I hope that you and your families and friends are managing to stay safe and well.

The MPRA committee continues to meet remotely and I would like to thank them all for their valuable contributions to newsletters, planning issues, volunteering, membership admin, green spaces, financial custodianship and community communications.

We continue to lobby our council representatives to support us on tree planting and maintenance, bin collections and pot holes. We will carry on with this work but if anyone has individual concerns please do make direct contact with our three councillors, Leslie Ayoola, Rosemary Healey and Sajid Mohammed. All contact details are on the Nottingham City Council website.

Sadly we will not be able to run our end of year social event for paid up members but we will keep in touch with you via our seasonal newsletters and social media.



Enjoy the inspirational colours of Autumn and our wonderful environment within Mapperley Park.

Finally thank you to all our residents who are supporting each other as we navigate the challenging months ahead.

Sue Clague, Chairman



## Membership

One of the most positive aspects to come out of the Covid crisis has been the rise in community spirit. Many of us were in awe of how our community responded to the situation. It has been wonderful to feel that we are all here, together. Perhaps it began with Clap for Carers, but the genuine concern and friendship that emerged has evolved and endured.

MPRA membership is another string that binds us together. As an association, we have been in existence since 1976, and over time we have helped our members with all sorts of different queries, and actioned specific initiatives. You, the members, are represented by the committee; the committee has contacts with the local authority, our MP, the Police and other agencies, who attend our AGMs and other meetings. This means that MPRA has a 'direct line' to people who make decisions affecting Mapperley Park. If you have a query over policing, or planning etc, then the committee will try to help.

We also allocate funding for projects. The wonderful roundabout on Mapperley Hall Drive is a good example. Also, the replanting of street trees has been a hugely worthwhile scheme: we all benefit from using funds in such ways, and your subs are really vital in allowing us to continue that.

Our paid membership remains strong, at around five hundred households, but a big change over recent months has been the rise in our Facebook numbers. We decided to open up our group to non-paying members, as our community responded to Covid. It has been a very successful move and we now have a FB membership of 462. We hope that over time, those FB members will consider becoming fully-fledged MPRA members.

Of course, the legendary Christmas party may yet be banned by Boris but we hope that next year will be the year that we can think again about Open Gardens and the Summer Party. If Covid has taught us anything, it is to be appreciative of our neighbours and our wider community. MPRA is here for you: thank you to our long-standing and our new members, and we hope that we can all meet up soon.

Cherry Burgess, Membership Secretary

## COVID 19 response

As we go to print I can't help but question whether once again we stand at a crossroads.

If I think back to early April, when lockdown first made it into our day to day vocabulary, Mapperley Park residents rose to the challenge. We were quick off the mark, generous, agile and ultimately, neighbourly. Within a matter of days we mustered; over 100 residents willing and organised to assist, covering all roads, all ages, all races. We collected prescriptions, delivered groceries, and posted mail. We filled a gap whilst the official bodies took time to set-up, staff and promote their services. This was good. We always wanted to stand ready but hoped that we would not be needed. At first the requests for help came daily, then weekly and then as people settled into the 'new normal', finding their own support networks, monthly. Since early July our helpline has been silent; I even thought of winding it all up.

But now, as we enter autumn and the Prime Minister and his advisors are talking of restrictions lasting months and into spring, I wonder whether that might be premature. There is no doubt that we are all better prepared this time around, better supported by official bodies, better able to book online delivery slots and pay by bank transfer. But the evenings are getting darker, the days are shortening and the prospect of standing, queuing outside a shop in the rain and cold is much less appealing than in those halcyon sunny days of April and May. So we will keep the MPRA Covid response in hibernation rather than mothballed and encourage each and everyone of you to keep an eye and ear out for your neighbours.

Hope Nottingham will continue to support households, for whom this ongoing turmoil is causing significant financial hardship and making putting food on the table difficult. If you are able to help, there is a collection at Sherwood Methodist Church each Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon when they would be delighted to receive any donations of dried and canned goods, long-life milk and sanitary products.

Howard Davies, Coordinator



## Facebook spotlight

It has been a real privilege to have been invited to be an admin of the MPRA Facebook group, even though it has also been quite daunting to take over from someone like Mark Cox who did an excellent job of being a group admin for so long. It is also great to work with such a positive and a forward-thinking committee.

In February, the committee decided to ever so slightly amend application for membership of the group; we wanted to include as many Mapperley Park residents as possible and even though we want to encourage the community to join the MPRA (subs are very low!) there is no longer a requirement to be a member of this group in order to join the Facebook group. Some new rules were also added to the existing ones, mostly as a result of local community feedback.

We have had a positive response to the changes, including an increase in members: 462 – and growing. 414 of this number are regularly active in one way or another, which is great to see. Our most popular days for community interaction are on Tuesdays and the weekends, and our popular times to engage with each other are between 9am – 1pm and 5pm – 10pm. What engages us most are matters of community interest, offers of goods, and requests for general advice. We also have a good mix of men and women who interact regularly with the Facebook group and all age ranges, but it is most popular with the 35 – 55 age group.

We have begun to categorise posts, mostly because there are many people who ask for recommendations. The intention is that it becomes easy to check if the community has recommended a service or a contractor and they can then follow up with a message directly to the person who made the recommendation. More post topics will be added over time.

We have held several virtual events: #SmallBusinessSunday, #SuperSaleSaturday, View from my Home and the Virtual Open Gardens Showcase. Each of these has generated a fantastic response and engagement from our community.

Please do not hesitate to make suggestions to the admins about anything that you would like to see happen through the group, we would be happy to see how we can accommodate the requests.

Kerry Turner, Social Media

## Life in Lockdown

Lockdown has affected us all over the last 6 months and, whilst much has been common, it has affected each of us in a myriad of different and personal ways. We asked 3 local residents to share their experiences:



*The letter arrived from the NHS telling me that I was to be shielded and I should stay at home for a number of weeks. I wasn't fazed by this as I am at ease with my own company and have plenty to do at home. As the weeks turned into months, I came to value two things in particular; communication and the kindness of others.*

*Previously phone calls, texts and emails had served me well enough. Now getting to grips with Zoom and WhatsApp has changed the way I live. Zoom has enabled me to continue meeting with two poetry groups, entering competitions and taking part in open mic performances. I have also been part of a weekly quiz, attended meetings, and even been teaching. WhatsApp has enabled me to have text and video links with friends and family and to travel vicariously. I set up a WhatsApp group for long standing but distantly placed friends. We normally exchange cards and news at Christmas and an email in the summer. Now we are back in closer contact, just a few lines and pictures regularly, sharing good news and supporting each other when things go wrong.*





*The second thing is kindness. I have been overwhelmed by all the kindness I have received from family and friends, neighbours and total strangers. They have been checking up on me to make sure I am all right and sorting out shopping. Mapperley Park helpline has come to my aid. Neighbours have made meals for me, baked bread and cookies and drawn cheerful pictures.*

*My sorties to the dustbin have brought me into closer contact with passers by who have had a quick chat or a cheery wave from across the road. Small things but they make such a difference and I have appreciated them all.*

*My low point came one day in the Spring. Everything outside was bursting with life and I was inside watching through the window as leaves unfurled and buds burst open. The doorbell rang and I received some beautiful flowers from my daughter so that I could experience Spring inside as well.*

*In a time of uncertainty, I have been so fortunate and to all those people, known and unknown, I say 'Thank You'.*

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*As a teenager, I have experienced some interesting changes to schooling and life at home, which other generations must think very strange.*

*Lockdown started during my Easter holidays, which meant I had a few weeks to get used to the extraordinary circumstances we found ourselves in. However, at the time, I believed that I would be going back to school in just a couple of weeks. And yet, my summer term started online, and continued like that, surprising us all. Our lessons were done on Microsoft Teams, which was challenging, and surprisingly tiring. Whoever said that sitting around all day was relaxing has obviously never experienced this extreme version of it.*

*I also wonder whether this experience will have altered the amount of time spent online by the younger generation, because I know that at the end of each day, I did not want to even look at a computer again. One occasion that stands out for me was our annual sports day, which this year took place online! If you think this is bizarre, you would be correct. But somehow it worked.*

*My respect for those in the teaching profession has grown tremendously.*

*Although people may think that we kids haven't all taken advantage of this time off school, I have tried my hardest to learn new things, or just help out more at home. My cooking skills are so much better now than before, as is my bed making!*

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*The bar - The Wine Room - where I am a chef closed on the Friday. At that point the government had made no mention of furlough payments. I like many others went into a mini panic. How long will this last? Do I have enough savings to pay my outgoings? What can I do?*

*I was lucky because I also have my own business called the Tasting Table Event Company where I offer a service of a chef at your home cooking up a menu of your choosing for you and your guests.*

*At first I thought I could offer a takeout service, which I called The weekend Curry Club, offering a selection of freshly made Onion Bhajis/ Naan breads served with either a meat or vegetarian dish, delivered in and around Mapperley Park.*

*I was then asked in April if I could do Afternoon Tea, to which, of course, I replied yes. At its height I was delivering 20 a day; this became a full-time job. I got noticed and was fortunate to receive a*



*fabulous review from the Evening Post food & drinks writer - nominated by The Great Food Club - , as well as receiving lots of compliments and reviews.*

*But this had become more than just a job. Seeing the joy on people's faces as they received surprise afternoon teas which had been ordered from all over the world by their loved ones; it was such a pleasure.*

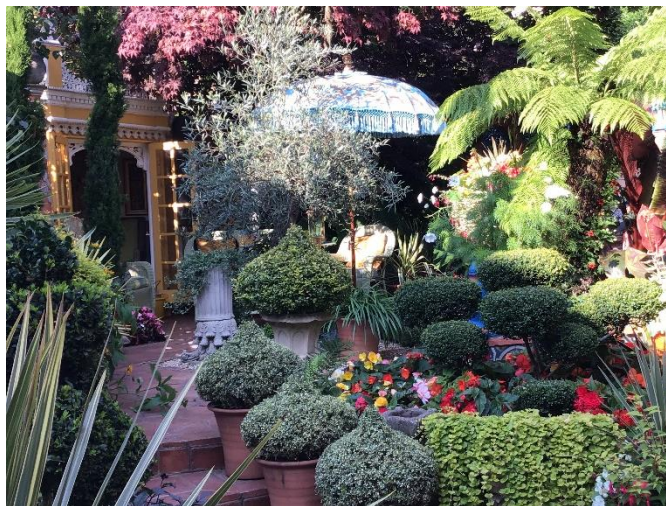
*My Lockdown!*

## Mapperley Park Open Gardens 2021

Sunday July 4th next year is the chosen date. The committee have ensured this date does not clash with Sherwood or the Park Open Gardens. If you are interested in opening your garden or volunteering on the day please contact me. In the meantime, our plant sale is always a success so if you are splitting up plants this Autumn or in Spring pot them up for our sale. Michael and I have also been busy creating a new garden this Summer, we hope you enjoy the preview.

Malcolm Bescoby (Chair Mapperley Park Open Gardens)

[malcolm.bescoby@icloud.com](mailto:malcolm.bescoby@icloud.com)







# House of Music: Raising the Kanneh-Masons

## A Memoir by Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason

After concerts, or when people saw one or more of our seven children play their instruments, I would be asked, 'How did this happen? Where did this all come from? How did you get them to practise? Why are all seven playing music?'



What is the secret? Did you force them? Are you pushy parents? Do they really get on with each other?' And the repeated question, 'Where is the book?' The family began to pester me to write it and that's how this all began.

The memoir, *House of Music*, sets out to answer all the questions above and I tell the story of how we brought up our children in Mapperley Park, introducing them to music and watching with amazement as they became more passionate about playing day by day. There are the practical details of music lessons, practice, competitions and performances; the organisation that goes into supporting young musicians - instrument maintenance, sheet music, travel. Also, though, I tell the story of parenting and household management; the loads of laundry, cooking, cleaning, finances and early mornings!

I realised that I couldn't begin to write this story without going back to a beginning in my childhood and that of Stuart, my husband. Born as one of four brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone, West Africa, with a Welsh mother and Sierra Leonian father, we came to Britain for the first time as small children when my father died quite suddenly of an undiagnosed heart condition. Being immigrants to 1970s Britain was an immediate shock (the cold, the food, the lack of colour and taste) and a long trauma, with racism a daily reality. Stuart was a child of immigrants from Antigua, Caribbean and was brought up with the

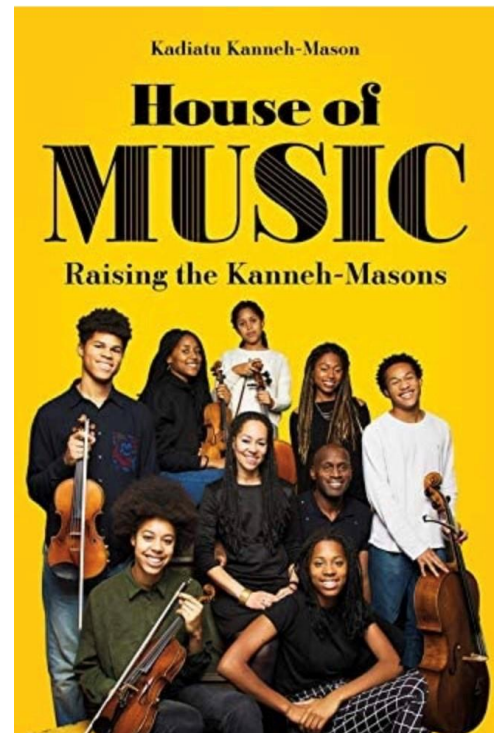
knowledge that to survive required working twice as hard as everyone else.

For us, music was the possibility to express oneself and to develop a creative intelligence with no bounds. We always told the children that they should see no barriers, that they could do anything they wanted to do and there was no world that was not for them. When they played, taking up the piano, violin, cello, we marveled at the magical potential of children. When they played together, it was a kind of love, an intense and dynamic communication that expressed more than words ever could.

We were lucky with the local schools the children attended- Walter Halls Primary and Trinity Catholic School- both schools that celebrated music and placed it at the centre of the curriculum. I also describe the punishing pre-dawn Saturday trips to The Junior Royal Academy of Music in London for lessons, and the emotional torture of music competitions and performances, when things didn't always go well!

*House of Music* is a book that explores the value of children, what it means to be a parent, the daily reality and practicalities of having seven children. It explores the meaning of music, the nature of loss and grief, and the pressures and possibilities of talent, failure, success and being in the spotlight.

Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason, Mapperley Park resident





## Planting and green spaces

Last year's roundabout planting has been a big hit with all residents over the summer and we will be adding over 100 new bulbs during this Autumn to further brighten our environment for 2021.



June Greenway and the Roundabout Ladies

## Contacts

**Chairman** – *Sue Clague*

**Treasurer** – *Howard Davies*

**Secretary** – *Elizabeth Sanders*

**Membership** – *Cherry Burgess*

**Social Events** – *Bee Sanghera*

**Web & Social Media** – *Kerry Turner*

**Private Road** – *Laura Archer*

**Planning** – *Mike Reade*

**Planting** – *June Greenway*

**Mapperley Park News** - *Alisdair Butler*





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**If you're thinking of buying or selling  
a property in Mapperley Park, talk to:**

**Jason Cook** - ANAEA. Director  
The Park & Mapperley Park  
**T:** 7876 396 010  
**E:** [jason@fhpliving.co.uk](mailto:jason@fhpliving.co.uk)

**Jane Dixon**  
Property Consultant  
**T:** 07725 536 484  
**E:** [jane@fhpliving.co.uk](mailto:jane@fhpliving.co.uk)



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