**Pauline:** Hello! I'm Pauline

**Richard** (BSL and captioned): and I’m Richard

[Richard signs all of below]

**Pauline:** and we’re part of The Green Ginger Fellowship.

The Green Ginger Fellowship is a group based in Hull dedicated to local myths, legends and curiosities. In 47 years, we’ve investigated and solved mysteries surrounding over 30 local legends.

We’re here today to bring you up to speed on our most recent investigations into the Land of Green Ginger crates found underneath the City of Hull earlier this year.

So, let’s start from the beginning…

During public realm works in Hull city centre in February 2017, workmen stumbled upon a previously undiscovered vault underneath the junction of Land of Green Ginger and Whitefriargate. The vault was packed full of hundreds of crates all stamped with the words ‘*To Hull from Land of Green Ginger*.’

**Cut to pick of side of crate/Sodium shot.**

**Cuts away to Land of Green Ginger location footage – street sign, second star on the right, people walking, general landscape. Pauline talking on top and captioned.**

We were called in to take a look, and so Antony and Alison, two of our founders, went down into the vault and decided to open one of the crates to see what was inside.

**Cut to Sodium Acts of Wanton Wonder video.**

The contents, whatever they were, immediately disappeared and the words ‘*Acts of Wanton Wonder are coming’* were left burnt onto the inside of the lid of the crate.

**Back to Richard and Pauline**

We weren’t entirely sure what this meant, but we were fascinated and knew then that something exciting was afoot, so we agreed to take the crates away to investigate further.

**Cut to CCTV footage of 'smoky crate'. Speech captioned.**

**Pics of crates being moved?**

**Image of riddle in bottle. Speech captioned.**

The first thing of significance we found was a riddle in a bottle in one of the crates in mid-April. We struggled to solve it, so we asked our followers on Facebook to help us out. Eventually we worked out that the riddle alluded to the legend of the 7 Alleys. For those who don’t know, there is an area in East Hull, where there are 6 real alleys. Local legend has it that a mysterious and magical 7th alley, populated by ghosts and strange phenomena, sometimes appears.

There were also references to East Park in Hull. This led us to believe that the 7 Alleys were going to come to life, and perhaps we’d find them in East Park.

We quickly sent invitations to people in East Hull to join us on our search for the 7 Alleys at East Park, not really knowing what we’d find or whether people would want to come.

**Freedom crates. Speech captioned.**

Land of Green Ginger marks appeared around East Park and a carriage drawn by two beautiful black horses was spotted making its way around the area in the weeks leading up to the search. We knew something amazing was going to happen.

**Images of LOGG marks,**

**7 Alleys footage, starting with horse and carriage and leading into footage from main event. Speech captioned.**

Over four nights at the beginning of May thousands turned up to East Park to join us on our search for the 7 Alleys. There was fire and wonder and surprise as we journeyed into another world, inhabited by people who we’d never see in real life. We took a trip down the 7 Alleys, heard the story of Bubblegum Boy and followed the White Lady as she showered us with confetti through the final alley.

The first crate we had opened had informed us that Acts of Wanton Wonder were coming, and 7 Alleys was truly an act of wanton wonder. We knew there was more to come.

**Back to Richard and Pauline (holding piece of confetti)**

Anyone who picked up a piece of confetti found another clue – another riddle with a picture of a boar. Our followers quickly deciphered that the next ‘Act of Wanton Wonder’ must be coming to Bransholme, as the name of the estate comes from an old Scandinavian word meaning ‘wild boar water meadow’.

Our investigations continued - **Gold Nose image. Speech captioned –** and shortly after 7 Alleys we found a strange gold object in a crate that smelled very strongly of ginger. We knew what it was straight away, but we wanted to have some fun and ask people to guess. We had all sorts of funny answers, but we eventually revealed that it was The Gold Nose of Green Ginger!

**Back to Richard and Pauline**

The Gold Nose of Green Ginger was considered a myth; last seen fifty years ago when foundations to lay the first houses on Bransholme were dug. Workmen discovered a small casket with the Nose lying inside. Soon after its initial discovery it disappeared completely, assumed lost or stolen. Legend says the Gold Nose is entirely lucky, so there’s no wonder someone would want to steal it.

Then, Land of Green Ginger marks began appearing at North Point Shopping Centre in Bransholme. General Manager, Louise had been following our investigations and swiftly offered up an empty shop unit to display The Gold Nose of Green Ginger.

We accepted Louise’s kind offer and finally we could announce that The Gold Nose would be making a momentous return to Bransholme, on display at North Point Shopping Centre for two months.

**Cut to Electric Egg footage. Speech captioned.**

While the Gold Nose was on display thosuands of people came to wish on it, share a secret and enjoy all sorts of different activities, from Nose Flute lessons to nose-themed birthday parties. Lots of people have reported that their wishes have come true.

On Saturday 19 August, The Gold Nose was taken to Hull History Centre and received by the Lord Mayor for safekeeping in the city. There was a celebratory procession with banner bearers and a nose flute orchestra, and lots of people came to say goodbye. The Nose is on display at Hull History Centre for the foreseeable future – who knows what adventures it'll get up to after that!

**Back to Richard and Pauline**

But that wasn’t all that happened through June, July and August. Our Land of Green Ginger investigations really haven’t stopped! Just two days after The Gold Nose of Green Ginger was returned to Bransholme began our busiest month yet!

Whilst we were in the middle of interpreting the meaning behind the rediscovery of The Gold Nose of Green Ginger, one morning - **Image of Margaret holding the megaphone. Speech captioned -** we read in the local paper that a lady called Margaret Cranwell had seen the news of the Land of Green Ginger crates, and decided to open a crate that had been in her allotment on Longhill estate for years. She’d been storing tools on top of it, and had never thought to look inside.

Inside the crate she found a megaphone, a jar of ashes, some ribbons and a document about making a guild of people to come together to work on something in particular. We were quite shocked that Margaret had gone straight to the paper, but it turned out she hadn’t heard about our investigations.

Margaret was very proactive! She formed a group called The Longhill hosts, but unsure of their purpose, she thought the contents of the crate might hold some answers. We went to take a closer look, and were determined that there was more meaning contained within the jar of ashes.

We contacted some old friends – The Fire Smiths - who are specialists in making fire rituals and rites, and they investigated the ashes.

**Cut to footage of the message being revealed. Speech captioned.**

They examined them under a microscope, poured water over them and set fire to them. The ashes eventually burnt away, leaving a message that said, ‘hope can grow through fire and water.’. The Fire Smiths interpreted this to mean that Longhill must host a fire rite – a ceremonial bonfire to bring the community together in collective endeavor.

Here we had a third Act of Wanton Wonder on our hands and set about planning for The Longhill Burn.

**Back to Richard and Pauline**

The Fire Smiths begun building a huge and beautiful bonfire, and travelled around the Longhill estate in the week leading up to The Longhill Burn collecting water from the streets named after rivers, small pieces of wood for the fire and answers to the question, ‘*What gives you hope?’*

On Saturday 15 July, we gathered with the Longhill community at Eastmount Playing Fields to see music, dancing, fireworks, and the lighting of a huge and beautiful bonfire. The crate found in Margaret’s allotment - now containing hopes from the community - was paraded through the crowd, pulled up the bonfire and set alight. What a night that was!

Most mysteriously, though, the next day when The Fire Smiths were raking up the ashes, they came across a tiny crate with the Land of Green Ginger markings, identical to those we were investigating just much much smaller. They also discovered that it had voices coming from inside, with no discernible source.

(holding up mini crate)

We’ve got the tiny crate back at HQ now, and Martin is convinced that it has grown in size, so we’re measuring it regularly, but we haven’t come to any conclusions about what it could mean, as with so many of the other crates…

(Richard signs to Pauline. Pauline looks flustered)

Yes, there was also some concern from certain members of the team about the burning of the Longhill crate. Some of us are more precious about the protection of artefacts than others. It certainly felt like the right thing to do at the time but Antony had to take some time to recover his composure.

But there’s more that happened over the summer!

KCOM had been doing some routine work and whilst digging on Beverley Road they too came across a crate. **Image of crate in hole. Speech captioned.** The crate had the Land of Green Ginger mark, but also a star shape which we didn’t recognise. They contacted us and we took the crate away and opened it, finding a strange machine which seemed to be in pieces.

**Picture of crate contents**

**Back to Richard and Pauline.**

We’ve built up a dedicated following on social media, so asked for help in identifying the mark and the apparatus. It turned out that the star shape was the Redifussion logo. Do you remember Rediffusion? It was like early cable TV and Hull was an important hub. One of our followers suggested that the machine inside the crate could have something to do with a secret research arm of Redifussion.

A small number of our followers appeared to have relatives who were part of this secret research arm, who had been working on something called Project VEAR – Voice Extraction and Redifussion – a project to Extract and distill people’s voices, for reasons unclear.

A man called James even had a notebook full of drawings that his granddad had left him, and so he, set about reforming the secret research arm as Re-Redifussion to make Project VEAR happen. We passed the machinery on to them, and ever since they’ve been travelling around Hull collecting people’s voices.

**Back to Richard and Pauline.**

Now they’ve collected hundreds of voices, the Re-rediffusion team have retreated to their lab, only occasionally coming out to capture more sounds. We know they are planning something special to come out of this activity, but they are being tight-lipped about what it is, even with us!

We’re beginning to see that these Acts of Wanton Wonder take on a life and an energy of their own. We know that we have a part to play in this. We follow the clues and follow our instincts and somewhow, the magic and wonder emerges. We’re slowly forming our theories about what it’s all about and why, but we’re not ready to reveal that just yet. For now we keep opening, cataloguing and intervening where it seems appropriate. All we ask of you is to open your minds to the possibilities and let your imagination fly.

**Pause**

**Back to Richard and Pauline.**

And – well, that’s our story so far. Three Acts of Wanton Wonder down, and we believe there are more set to infiltrate the city. We just don’t know when or where they’re going to happen.

So, watch this space. Follow our investigations at greenginger.org, and get in touch if you see anything strange. Keep your eyes peeled for the appearance of crates, or the Land of Green Ginger mark. You never know, you might be the first to spot the heralding of a new Act of Wanton Wonder.

**Cut out and fade on glossy Sodium image of crates?**