**Land of Green Ginger Notes and recommendations following the session of 30/11/16**

We made good inroads today in making the aesthetic connectivity and narrative arc of the project coherent and cohesive. Through a series of questions that were designed as guiding principles we were able to interrogate and determine what the content for each “Chapter” should be and how it relates to the heralding moments, the central conceit of a land of possibility becoming pervasive throughout Hull and finally the catalyst for a book.

The questions were as follows:

1. How can you explicitly link your experience to the starting point- how do the crates arrive/feature?
2. What is contained in your experience that explicitly links it to LOGG ?
3. What is contained in your experience that explicitly links to another of the experiences
4. What other opportunities/ideas are there to connect to the other experiences-travel book of anywhere, 3 words GPS, flashmob behaviour, calling in the Lost and found experts, horses ?
5. What are the connective aesthetics- crate, sound,street signs, horses ?
6. What do you want your chapter in the book to record/look like.
7. What is the audience “take away?”

An array of answers and ideas were shared but for expediency and to offer some direction here are the ideas I feel we should be focussing on.

The Heralding Moment/Moments

A newspaper article appears in the Hull Daily Mail……..

*Work began today on a hidden archive at Hull Museum. A cache of over 500 wooden cases were discovered when staff at the museum were preparing exhibits for the forthcoming year of culture. A vault that had all but been forgotten was open to reveal the treasure trove. Tracy Hopston (58), senior curator of the museum told of her delight and surprise on the discovery.*

*“ We thought the vault was used to store old empty barrels for shipping but on further investigation we found over 500 neatly packed cases stamped “From the Land of Green Ginger.” It appears that they could be some kind of ancient time capsule as there are instructions with dates that they are to be open.”*

*What lies inside the cases remains a mystery. The curators explained that they cannot open them without first acclimatising them to the humidity and air quality of the 21st century.
A process of acclimatisation is now underway and will be complete by April 2017.
In the meantime x ray photographs have revealed an array of artefacts that cannot be identified fully. It is thought that many of them contain a library of books, others have small to very large items within them. Speculation on who owned the cache has been an entertainment for the curators.*

*“We’re guessing that the residents of “Green Ginger” have gathered to place items in a time capsule and sealed it up.” One crate definitely contains bells, another seems to have artefacts from the second world war, so it is difficult to date them.”*

*There are plans to exhibit the archive in the New Year but curators are being cautious in determining when and how the public may have access to the magic that they conceal.”*

Curators (actors or representatives from Hull City of Culture) will be interviewed and appear on radio to talk about the discovery. Photographs of the curators with the crates will be featured in local newspapers.
The crates will begin to behave in strange ways

* Music (bells) being heard from some of them
* Green smoke beginning to seep from the cracks
* Voices from another
* A radio broadcast about the blitz or an air raid siren

A specialist team from the “ Ministry of Lost and Found” is called in to isolate and investigate the cases. They remove them and store them in a safe place under 24hr observation via web cam. There are occasional visits from the staff of the ministry to extract another case and open it. All this can be captured by web cam as each case is opened the contents are documented and investigated. An array of artefacts are found….

* A voice distiller
* A cloud inhaler
* A nose hair clipper.
* A device to restore ash to it’s original shape.
* A mini people stretcher
* A communication device to gather a meeting of the common guild members

Of course we don’t know what these things are until the projects begin to happen and their purpose becomes clear.
In the meantime throughout this process, more crates are found. First…..

The Seven Alleys

Around half a dozen crates are spotted in the Drain at Preston Road. They are fished out and transported to the holding space.
As they are transported a green mist billows from them as they are lifted from the drain in shopping trolleys and transferred to redifusion flat bed vans that whisk them off. A plume of green smoke envelopes the estate streets.
Some of the crates fall and burst open revealing shoes and other artefacts covered in ash.

Soon after, street signs and lighting are changed. The next night/week androgynous “Ash People” are spotted on the rooftops of several buildings and floating in mid-air. They ring bells.
The people come to see what is happening and the Ash people disappear in to the darkness of the night.
A horse and carriage arrives and at dead of night travels through the streets. A musician plays a haunting tune.
On the carriage are small crates with bottles in them. Liveried personnel deliver the bottles to designated doors. Each bottle contains a personal invitation to visit the 7 Alleys and invite 7 other people/groups to join.

The papers and radio and twitter feeds are full of speculation and interview “the Experts.” The experts offer some kind of explanation by way of referencing what they have gleaned from the books they have found in the crates. They make mention of a myth about the 7 alleys opening at a predestined time when the community needs it most. It seems this time has come.

A date and time are set and the preparation for the alleys adventure is underway- more bottles are delivered and groups prepare for the content of the alleys.

The alleys open and reveal all the Periplum ideas- floating houses, fire circles, fire balls, flying ash people, bleached out trees etc etc.

The alley ways stay open until a chorus of bells and explosions bring the experience to an end. The horses appear again and take the Ash people away. As they leave they leave a cryptic clue that hints at another event on the horizon- this can be in the shape of an object or a piece of text/poetry.

The Ministry of Lost and Found

The ministry is inundated by press and media asking to explain what just happened, what does the cryptic clue mean, are these crates dangerous, what might we expect next ?
They have no concrete answers but can reference the book which tells of several other crates having been deposited throughout Hull….

“ we want people to be on the lookout, search your loft and basements and if you have any sightings or strange sounds, behaviours please report them immediately.

Two more discoveries

Nobody Nose

A pile of crates appears at Bransholm shopping centre in the central concourse. The same tune that was played by the fiddle player on the horse drawn carriage is heard emanating from the crates at intervals. If you put your ear close to the crates then you can hear breathing, sometimes sneezing.

The crates are reported and once again removed. As they are removed the green smoke billows out from the crates.

The experts open it and inside they find a beautiful gold relic – a ginger root shaped like a nose. Their research tells them that the root is a fabled relic that was uprooted by the Wild Boar of Bransholm. It’s incredulous, as the root/nose is, according to the folklore supposed to have healing powers and allow people an insight that will help them take time to contemplate on their lives and make changes.
There is some discussion as to whether the golden nose should live in the museum or be returned to Bransholm. A petition is signed to return the nose to its rightful place.

It is agreed by the experts that this will happen and preparation for the return gets underway.

The Nose is ceremoniously returned and placed in an “alter.” The content of the other cases are also returned. They are housed in the shops in Bransholm centre. Invitations for people to visit the Nose Shrine are scent out (see what I did there)

People visit and are entertained and guided by the Nose guardian- Joshuas programme begins.

* Redifusion people visit to re wire something,
* a film of ash with footprints in it appears overnight, its obvious the ash people have visited but no one saw them.
* No one noticed the tiny footprints either, but further examination of the photography should reveal this.
* The nose flute orchestra learn the Green Ginger tune etc etc.
* People make wishes
* People build things and play in the shop of curiosities.

The nose begins to glow and pulse when there are enough wishes deposited. The experts say that the nose should be carried ceremoniously to be joined with other roots in ( is it Bavaria that the Boar comes from ?)

The people of Bransholm build a shrine that is then paraded and taken to a lake where the wishes are burned?/Floated and disappear.
The Horse and carriage appear and take the shrine away.

MEANWHILE ! The second (simultaneous) discovery…

Re-Rediffusion

Vans are seen transporting crates that are billowing green smoke throughout the city.
The experts are getting concerned about the scale of these discoveries and have dispatched the re rediffusion gang to determine whether the claims of discoveries are real or fake. A special number to dial has been set up. Anyone who calls this number will be quizzed about the whereabouts and the distinguishing features of the crates ie. The logo and the serial numbers. This so we can fend off any pranksters.

There seems to be an unusually high incidence in Bev road area. The re rediffusion gang then begin installing voice capture contraptions. There is no explanation, only guidance and coaching from the gang as to how to deposit your voice/sound.

Aswarm deliver their programme-

* Individuals at bus stops and supermarkets
* Groups at schools and poetry slams
* Football stadium half time singing of songs
* Choirs ?
* Solo musicians and orchestras ?
* Breathing and nose flute orchestra

Its all collected as described in voice containers and they are told to keep an eye on it. The vessels get unstable and Re Rediffusion return with crates to take them away- smoke billows once more.

Cut to the extraction factory and invitations to come and hear the “Swarm.”

On the final night the vessels harmonise to play the green ginger tune then fall mysteriously silent. The dripping of the elixir of voice is heard and vials of perfume are given to the audience with instructions on how and when to use the elixir to have the power and quality of your voice heard. ( need to think up some ideas on when the perfume should be released- some ideas….

* At a referendum
* In a conflict with a spouse or a boss
* When reading a bedtime story
* When soothing someone
* When making someone laugh
* When rallying your team to win
* When talking to yourself.

The Commmon Guild

Margaret from the allotments reports that she has ten crates stacked in an abandoned shed. She’s already opened them and there are 10 tabards, bells, shoes and hats in each and constitution for the “The CommonGuild”

 She’s taken it upon herself to follow the instructions in the constitution and is recruiting volunteers through a network of longhill organisations and institutions. Within the constitution is a directive that demands that it’s members “create and display acts of wanton wonder that originate from life experience and manifest in all forms.”

So begins Lone Twins programme of recruiting groups and individuals to create

* video,
* choirs,
* tea parties
* cumulative lines of people who share experiences etc.

One of the stories is about a Longhill resident who was ( like Gulliver) kidnapped or coerced by the little people to stand guard while they constructed their secret metropolis. This story is dismissed as fantasy and the result of a drunken Fugue, but the tiny tinkling of bells and the presentation, by the resident, of some tiny clothes and a boat made of a take away dish is enough to get us questioning the veracity of his claims.

On the final night of the presentation the residents create a bonfire from the crates so that the guild may live in perpetuity, free of the constraints of the past.

Little Town

The experts are in an uproar about the burning of the crates. It has upset the harmony of the discoveries. The books cryptic instructions point to the idea that once discovered the archive should be brought together to unleash the full force of the Land of Green Ginger. This bonfire could jeopardize their research and the collation of an invaluable resource for the people of Hull and the world.
They reflect and muse on the meaning of the “happenings.” Resurection of a past, the space to contemplate celebrate and change your life, the collective power of voice, the collective power of action.
When questioned about the little people story they confirm that they have found the origins of this and that clues have been evident throughout the year- the tiny footprints, the tiny voices, the tiny clothes, the tiny spray tags the closure of the Bingo Hall.

They reveal tiny cases with tiny artefacts. They ask the population to be on the look out for tiny stuff-so begins Davey and kristens programme.

* Shoes and shopping left on top of cars with a note to return to the bingo hall
* Tiny footprints on bar tops and restaurant tables
* Tiny voices on buses
* Tiny radios/I phones blaring a hip hop version of the green ginger tune.
* Then- purely a speculative suggestion on my part in the absence of Davey and Kristen- invitations to a party to celebrate their move from their grubby metropolis to a new housing estate.

On the final night, the little people hold an auction to raise funds for their new estate. The little city is auctioned off. A giant buys the lot. The horse and carriage arrive with crates to pack it away.

 The Land of Green Ginger Parade

Giant crates appear in the city centre. They rumble and vibrate and play bells. Ash people appear on the rooftops again, the nose shrine groups march in to town, the rediffusion van full of voice vessels drives in, the common guild assemble, the little people drive in on a little bus. They assemble, knowingly and wait for the crates to burst open.

The crates burst open and giants emerge. They have all the answers and all the behaviours of a cast of people who are confident about their ability to encourage imagination, reflection, reinvention, contemplation, having your voice heard, taking action, being inventive, inquisitive and bigger than your size.

They dance and celebrate and pack the cases on to a boat and sail it away.

They leave behind one unopened giant crate.

It vibrates and smokes and we hear the tune. It bursts open. Inside is a beautifully rendered library, in the middle is a figure who slowly rises, takes out a book, blows off the cobwebs and reads…….

“There was once a land of green ginger, that no one believed existed and everyday they passed through it and round it and under it and never once touched it or tasted it or felt it or heard it. Until one day…….. The green Ginger tune plays and the horse and carriage arrives, a green mist appears and the figure climbs aboard. As he leaves, the audience are invited to take a book from the library. They are entitled “Land of Green Ginger” the pages are blank except the first page which says

“There was once a……”

The audience leave with a book of blank pages and some instructions on how to write their own story.