It’s brought fire, wonder, magic and mystery to all corners of Hull over the past eight months.

The innovative Hull 2017 Land of Green Ginger project culminated on Saturday 11th November in a huge outdoor parade by the undisputed masters of storytelling and street theatre, Macnas. But where did it all start? We look back at the project, from the huge cache of crates discovered under the city back in April, to the incredible Land of Green Ginger Unleashed.

Prologue. Hull Daily Mail exclusively report on the discovery of a mysterious underground vault filled with packing crates all marked with “To Hull from Land of Green Ginger.” The story is even picked up by national media. People across Hull tweet pictures of the crates being moved, while billowing green smoke and investigations begin into their contents.

**Act I: 7 Alleys.**

**East Park**

**May 2017**

Over four nights, 11,000 people joined artists Periplum for 7 Alleys, an awakening of the myths and legends of East Hull.

Involving over 30 participants, the project was heralded by a mysterious horse and cart travelling around Preston Road handing out personal invitations for people to join them on ‘The Search’, the concept sparked by local resident Christina Reading’s childhood memory of a mysterious alleyway which only appeared at certain times of the year*.*

Christina said:

*“From little tearaways to old boys who sit in the pub, they all loved it. People are still talking about it and I can’t stop smiling when I think about it.*

*“This year has managed to connect people in ways that all the regeneration schemes never managed to do.”*

Fire, mist and a haunting narrative led the audience through a series of alleys and dares, weaving social history and fictional characters together to culminate in the opening of the 7th final alley…

**Act II: The Gold Nose of Green Ginger**

**North Point Shopping Centre**

**June – August 2017**

Joshua Sofaer created a new myth for Bransholme with his treasured Gold Nose of Green Ginger, an object purported to have been lost for years until it was discovered by the Green Ginger Fellowship during their crate investigations.

Over the two-month residency of The Nose at North Point Shopping Centre, 35,000 people came to view it, make a wish, meet The Nose Guardian and her assistants and engage in a weekly schedule of nose-themed activities and sessions.

The Gold Nose now resides at Hull History Centre, where it will remain until the next – as yet unknown – leg of its remarkable journey.

Artist Joshua said:

'It’s been an incredible experience bringing The Gold Nose of Green Ginger to North Point.

The people of Bransholme have embraced it with their hearts and their imagination. The Gold Nose of Green Ginger has been a place to play, a place of creativity, a place to share sorrows, a space of hope, and most of all a place for community. Somehow there was magic created, and that magic was real.'

**Act III: The Longhill Burn**

**Eastmount Recreation Centre**

**July 2017**

A beautiful bonfire, a burning crate of hopes and a spectacular fireworks display that lit up the sky above Eastmount Recreation Centre. On July 15, the Longhill community gathered together for [Act III: The Longhill Burn](https://www.hull2017.co.uk/whatson/events/the-longhill-burn/), created by outdoor arts company, [And Now:](http://andnow.co.uk/).

Throughout the week, a huge and beautiful bonfire was built and hopes from the community were collected in a crate. Crowds gathered at Eastmount Playing Field amongst music and performance to see the crate carried to the bonfire and burnt, sending hopes out into the world. An unforgettably spectacular firework display followed, lighting up the sky above Longhill.

**Act IV: Re-Rediffusion’s Voice Park**

**Pickering Park**

**September 2017**

A familiar sight on the streets of Hull in their VEARO outifits, artists Aswarm ‘collected’ the voices of over 1000 Hull residents over a three-month period.

Inspired by the Hull-based company Rediffusion, they decided to experiment with the idea of networks – instead of sending signals out across the whole city, they wanted to see if they could bring the collective voice of Hull back to one place – Pickering Park.

The public were invited to play with the full-force power of the city’s voice, walk amongst it, and join the artists in a quest to find the very essence of Hull’s voice – the *Essence de Voix –* in this beautifully lit interactive installation.

**Act V: Micropolis**

**Springhead Pumping Station**

**October 2017**

Small footprints across the city, a sprawling city discovered in Springhead Pumping Station…Micropolis captured the imagination of the public with its story of a community of tiny people living under the city for years.

Artists Davy and Kristin McGuire painstakingly built a miniature city within the Grade II-listed building, inviting people to come and explore the Micropolis. From hotels to gyms, kebab shops to towering skyscrapers, more than a few familiar Hull residents made an appearance in various guises along the way.

Duncan Macintyre of Yorkshire Water, said:

‘We were delighted that the project showcased what we consider to be one of the jewels in Hull’s suburban crown.

‘It was a pleasure to welcome the public back through the doors after all these years.’

**Act VI: Land of Green Ginger Unleashed**

**City Centre and Old Town**

**11 November 2017**

A full-force unleashing of the Land of Green Ginger and the culmination of the project, Green Ginger Unleashed dazzled over 35,000 people as it romped its way through Hull’s Old Town on Saturday November 11.

Created by legendary Irish theatre company Macnas, in collaboration with And Now:, onlookers were bewitched by a procession of giants, wolf ballerinas, stilt walkers and a host of creatures from the very depths of imagination.

Involving over 200 participants in a number of different roles, the parade took a huge amount of background organisation. Incorporating 112 performers in a range of performance, movement, live music, stilt walking and puppeteering roles, some 827 hours of rehearsal were used in preparation.

Artistic Director of Macnas, Noeline Kavanagh said:

‘We were blown away by the reception from the people of Hull - such a warm and generous audience.

‘It was magic.’

To date, audience numbers for Land of Green Ginger are estimated at 100,000 across all six Acts, with over 1500 participants involved in everything from performance and music, to stewarding and pushing the huge Macnas sculptures along the parade route. Katy Fuller, Executive Producer at Hull 2017, said:

‘Throughout the year, communities across Hull have delighted in the magic and mysticism of the Land of Green Ginger.

‘We hope that that the story of the year when anything was possible and neighbourhoods became places of wild imagination will live on in the urban mythology of Hull forever.’

What are your memories of Land of Green Ginger? Tell us at xxxx.