**Radio Documentary Proposal**

**Group Roles:**
Daniel Fenner: Producer

Molly Hemsley: Director
Darleen Maguire: Broadcast Assistant

**Title:** Bringing Back Boultham

**Background:**

Boultham park, privately owned along with Boultham Hall, it has a lot of history and actually played a part in both World Wars; in World War I Boultham hall was used as a home for soldiers recovering from war wounds, and in World War II areas of the park were used to plant sugar beet as part of the Dig for Victory campaign. However the park has been sold off through the decades to make way for new projects such as housing. The park was purchased fully in 1929 by Lincoln county council, and has since been opened as a public park for anyone to visit. Spreading across 50 acres the park has some beautiful areas, it hosts mini concerts and summer fairs and has a few attractions such as a bandstand and a child’s play area which was built recently in 2011; it is however far from what it once was. The park used to have many more attractions, such as a miniature railway, boating lake, horticultural greenhouse and would often host music festivals, the hall was demolished in 1959, and now all that remains of the original buildings are St. Helen’s Church, the Home Farm, which is now privately owned, and the stable block and coach house. Linkage, a charity which specializes in helping people with learning disabilities reach their full potential, are currently working with Lincoln County Council to raise funds equating to £3.7 million through methods such as sponsorships, government funding, donations and grants.

**Aims and Objectives:**

* Explore the history of Boultham Park.
* Briefly mention what is available there now.
* Discuss its future with regards to restoration project.
* Seek interviews with local people who have memories of the park. – (We will specifically focus our attention to the older generations)- Attempting to inform younger generations more aware of the heritage tied to the park.
* Seek interviews with people regarding the upkeep of the park so far i.e. grounds men and gardeners.
* Consider the uses of the park, e.g. dog walking, exploring, local wildlife habitats, child play area, event holding and bowls as well as the park’s future usefulness and worth to the public.
* Increase awareness of the Linkage Community Trust.

**Key Contributors**

* Linkage Community Trust
Chelsey Barnes – Community Development Worker
* Request Interviews with history experts to discuss and broaden our knowledge regarding the history of the park.
* Request interviews with Boultham Park House residents as to gain primary information regarding the history of the park and individual memories.
* Request interviews with Boultham Park Advisory Group regarding events that are held at the park .
* Request interviews with grounds man, Rob Appleyard, to discuss maintenance of facilities available at the park over his 40 years experience working there.
* Interview with Ben Newton, a mobile gardener, who maintains shrubbery and flowerbeds in and around the south of Lincoln, including Boultham Park.
* Interview with Lincoln City Council Press Office regarding the driving force behind the collaboration with Linkage Community Trust to restore the park.
* Volunteers from Linkage regarding their role.
* Audio and film archives in Lincolnshire – i.e. MACE and Lincolnshire Archives – for possible access to content surrounding Boultham park.
* People in the park at different times of day regarding enjoyment of the park and reasons for returning (prior authorization from Lincoln City Council needed. - We will take consent forms and University ID).
* Contact *“Your Lincoln”* Magazine for any stories they have previously published on Boultham Park and their input on increasing awareness of the campaign.

**Content/Style/Structure**

The documentary will be based on a timeline of the park and shall be narrator led. We will include on location recordings, archived sounds and interviews with people who use or work at the park, and Boultham house residents for a historical piece. We will touch on the park’s glorious history, almost-forgotten present, and hopeful future.

The style of the piece will combine factual information, dates and statistics, with carefully selected memories and stories. The past and future section will be equally weighted (Approximately 6mins each) whereas the present will be light and brief. (Approximately 3 mins).

The script will be written in an informative, yet friendly manner to prevent isolating the listener’s involvement in the project, and to remind people that the theme is on the restoration of a relaxed and informal environment. We will include music wherever necessary to help set the scene or an appropriate atmosphere.

**Audience/Station/Web**

* The intended audience shall include the Lincolnshire community as a whole, yet aiming this particular project at anyone outside of Lincolnshire would be irrelevant, therefore our chosen radio station would BBC Radio Lincolnshire and if we were given a second choice, either Lincs FM or Siren FM. Although the park is intended for all ages, the older generations are more likely to be interested in the park’s restoration, and this is why we chose the local radio station with an older target audience.
* However Linkage have already connected with Lincs FM in order to gain awareness of the project, and so the piece shall be intended to play on their station, playing it out on a local station will reinforce the idea of community within the Boultham Park Restoration Project.
* The piece shall be available on the Linkage Community Trust website, Boultham Park website, and will most likely appear on each radio station’s individual website in the style of a ‘listen again’ online feature, should we manage to get BBC Radio Lincolnshire, Lincs FM and Siren FM all on board.

**Commissioning**

The BBC claim on their information pages on commissioning that they look to supply the best possible ideas to license fee payers, although as discussed earlier this would not be worth playing to people outside of Lincolnshire, however inside, particularly in Lincoln itself, this park has a lot of Heritage and was once a big attraction in Lincoln, and it is important for the public to hear about their local attractions restoration. BBC local radio stations do not tend to work with independent production companies; however it will be commissioned and produced already as it will be commissioned by the charity organization Linkage:

Linkages are commissioning this in order to create an archive full of information about the park for the world to listen to, on their website. The aim is to rediscover the park’s heritage and to bring all the history and the stories of the park together, as at the moment they’re all scattered across Lincolnshire. This is why we have decided to make our timeline idea primarily focused on the past, as well as what Linkage themselves are doing for the future of the park.

**Treatment**

The documentary will start with a short narration of the park’s history, part of which has been mentioned earlier in the background section. We will layer in sound effects underneath:
“War sounds – bombs dropping” – for the mentioning of the two world wars

“Sounds of agricultural work and turf being dug up” – sugar beat part during Dig for Victory campaign

“Train sounds” – miniature railway

Appropriate music – possibly wartime song

Interview with older generations about their memories and stories of the park:

“Sounds of the Boultham Park Home, kettle boiling, background chatter”

Narration leading to archives – play clips of recorded history (e.g. concerts)

“Sounds of concerts”

Your Lincoln magazine – phone interview

Whilst the modern era of the park is discussed, sounds of a random day within the park will play in the background, as we ask members of the public in the park why they like to come here, and are they excited about the idea of a restoration? These sounds will also come in to play during the interviews Rob Appleyard and Ben Newton:

“Sounds of wildlife”

“Golf, tennis and bowls”

“Fountains and water from the lake”

“Sounds of a dog panting/running/jangle of lead and collar”

“Sounds of child’s play area in use, swings etc.”

Interview with members of Lincoln county council:

“Sounds of the office, telephone ringing and typing on keyboards”

Linkage interview

“Background sounds of park during linkage interview, if we can get an interview in/around the stable block or coach house we will to get more of a range with sounds”

During explanation of future plans for the park a mellow acoustic guitar sound plays quietly. (Post production)

**Critique of other dramas:**

The first one that we looked at was a student documentary on Dyslexia, we decided that although it was in no way linked to our project, it would be good to analyze and critique a student piece of work to look at what people of similar abilities did right and did wrong, we looked at the piece ‘Dyslexia’:

This factual feature, not only informed the audience but, was upbeat and entertaining, not overloading the listener with facts. The use of music was used to good effect, with the acoustic sounds rather than a polished song, giving the documentary a more appropriate feel, however the use of music replaces sound effects, so we hear no sounds or even wild track sounds within the environments being recorded. The music is used to break the interviewees sections up so the movements/changes in location are not as obvious. The narration of the piece was well thought of, as it came from a young boy’s perspective, it allows the listener to emphasis with the boy’s situation during his educational years, but also his grown up approach to his situation acts as a contradiction to the stigma attached to dyslexia. The age range of interviewees helps make the piece much more relatable, and covers the issue on a much broader scale; The first statement is a high statistic of people diagnosed and so the wide range of people within the documentary helps reflect that. The range of interviews and experts they gathered offered more than one viewpoint to the situation and helps offer suggestions to overcome certain issues. However some of the sound qualities are not made to a high standard, as the range of different locations can sometimes be overwhelming. The target age is left open, as the age range of speakers is so broad however the loose/informal script suggests that it would be aimed towards a younger audience, which then links to the young boy being the main narrator.

We then focused on a professionally produced documentary which had more to do with our subject, called Open Country:

This is one of the very few factual radio features were available, the piece was aired on BBC Radio 4, which also set the target audience at a high target age and suggests that the script would be a lot more formal and informative than the previous students made. The piece starts by introducing the listeners to the location, the interviewer walks outside and gives their reactions to the view, the constant background noises and wild track allows the audience to feel as if they are outside with the audience. The speech is more detailed and there are few breaks filled with music or sound effects, and so may struggle to hold the listeners attention. It is packed full of speech and interviews with many different experts. This suggests what their older target age want, rather than a younger audience. The audio can become quite draining with the constant speech, but the topic is still upbeat with the regular change of speakers and interviewees, but the change does not happen as frequently as ‘Dyslexia’, allowing the audience to become more engrossed into what’s been mentioned and entertain. The breaks that we do hear usually consist of interviewer movement and background wind, the effect allows the audience to feel as if they are part of the of the live unedited conversation rather than listening in, these movements are vital in breaking up the piece a little more, and providing some differentiation in sound.

When producing our documentary the benefits of using both informal language and formal language, will be taken into consideration, as this simple aspect of the documentary can help to attract different types of audiences. We have heard both an informal and formal piece, and believe the informal approach is better for us, however a balance would need to be found to appeal to as wider audience as possible.

**Research Summary**

1. *Linkage Community Trust – Chelsey Barnes*

Community development worker
Working with her to gain relevant contacts we may not have considered or have access to.
Information on fundraising events in place to raise money for the restoration

1. *Boultham Park Workers*
First hand account of how the park is changing
Accounts of how the park is maintained
By whom it is maintained
Factual information regarding the restoration
2. *Lincoln City Council*Primary research into the collaboration with Linkage Community Trust
Information on Council approved events taking place at the park
3. *Your Lincoln Magazine*Secondary source of past and present activity at the park such as events or promotions
4. *MACE and Lincolnshire Archives*
Sounds from previous events that we could use to enhance visualization of the park.
Access to sounds of people playing in the park

**Sources**

* http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/2-7m-revamp-Boultham-Park-Lincoln/story-19444301-detail/story.html

Newspaper based around Lincoln, story on the restoration project

* http://boulthampark.co.uk

official website for Boultham Park

* http://withamvalleypark.co.uk/your-visit/witham-valley-country-park/boultham-park-mere
* http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/SearchResults.aspx?keywords=boultham

Lincoln City Council Online information and Reports on Boultham Park

* http://www.linkage.org.uk

Official website of Charity funded institution, Linkage who are responsible for the restoration of Boultham Park

* http://www.lincoln.gov.uk/your-council/news-and-media/your-lincoln/

Government magazine for residents in and around Lincoln