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PRESS RELEASE

TRIPLE HARVEST – THE ARCHIVES

The Arches

Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood

Near Corby, NN17 3BB

17 May – 12 September 2021

10am – 4pm daily

Also online at: fermynwoods.org/triple-harvest-films

Corby's steel making history is being celebrated and retold in an exhibition at The Arches, Fineshade Wood. *Triple Harvest – The Archives* is an exhibition of video work and objects from commissioned artists alongside items from Corby Borough Council's heritage collection.

The exhibition name is a twist on Peter Paul's 1960's documentary film *Double Harvest*, which told the story of the Steelworks' impact on Corby, where the land was harvested for iron ore, returning to farmland for future crop yields.

Seven artists were commissioned by Fermynwoods Contemporary Art to create new narratives through the extraction of material from *Double Harvest* along with three other Corby heritage films, including: *PLUTO: Corby's role in making the Pipeline Under The Ocean*, which supplied the Allied Armies during the D-day landings and subsequent invasion of occupied Europe; *The Great Jib: A story of the ingenuity and skill of the workforce at Corby Steelworks during the making of what was the biggest walking dragline excavator between 1947-1951*; and *Iron Ore in Britain: The mining and extraction of iron ore and its use in steel making*.

Where archives are traditionally considered pristine and unchangeable, in *Triple Harvest – The Archives*, the artists challenge how true our remembrances of the past really are as the mythic and historic share space, both bolstering and undermining one another.

Artist responses include Amanda Loomes film *Combine*, which combines extracts from the archival films with her own previously unseen footage filmed at nearby Ketton Cement Works in Rutland in 2017, shining a light on unseen labour.

Marie-Chantal Hamrock's *There is Something in the Ground, There is Something in the Sky*, mines Corby history to create an alternate future from symbolic double meanings such as the pitchfork as a symbol of both Pluto and of the harvest, connecting the netherworld from which the ore was harvested to the celestial body that floats above.

Other films and objects come from Ikran Abdille, Martha Cattell, Amy Cutler, Sapphire Goss, and Vaughan Pilikian.

The exhibition also features a new artwork made by artist Kaitlin Ferguson in collaboration with students from The CE Academy and Youthworks Northamptonshire, which features a scale model of the Sundew dragline excavator that was used in mining operations in the area between 1957 and 1980. After growing up in America, Norfolk based artist Kaitlin became emotionally invested in the project, revealing that her grandfather once worked at Corby Steelworks.

Editors Notes

Triple Harvest – The Archives is the latest iteration of *In Steps of Sundew*, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's two-year programme of artistic interventions in public spaces, which retraces the movement of people and resources from the landscape, posing questions about the relationship between the natural and the industrial and how these might coexist whilst avoiding climate breakdown. Other exhibitions in series take place this summer at Deene Park, Rockingham Castle and East Carlton Country Park.

Artists in this exhibition were selected by the Fermynwoods team and Gary Thomas, Director of Animate Projects and film programme manager at the British Council.

The exhibition is funded by Arts Council England, the Margaret Giffen Community Fund and supported by Corby Borough Council's Culture, Leisure and Heritage team.

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art is an educational charity that supports life through art by commissioning innovative and meaningful ways for artists to engage with audiences, in public spaces across Northamptonshire and online.

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art was named Best Contemporary Art Gallery in Northamptonshire in the 2020 Midlands Enterprise Awards and Art Charity of the Year for Central England in the Central England Prestige Awards.