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## PRESS RELEASE

### THE CHIMERA PLANTARIUM

Corby, Northants

May – October 2022

*The Chimera Plantarium* is a project by artist, curator and facilitator Chiara Dellerba investigating urban spontaneous plants to map, rethink and redesign public places from the perspective of “weeds”.

Through a series of workshops, Chiara has been working with children at *Exeter: A Learning Community Academy*, in Corby. Outcomes include two large “plant propaganda” posters appearing on billboards in the town, and a beautifully produced publication made in collaboration with the pupils.

The publication takes the form of a pressed plant herbarium in an engraved wooden case, printed in environmentally friendly Risograph, featuring unique teal and fluorescent pink colours made with *Dizzy Ink* in Nottingham especially for this project. Inside are 11 cards of plants and their properties found in and around the school grounds, a booklet with an explanation of the project and plant communities, plus *Letters to humans (from plants)* – a collection of creative writing produced by the children imagining a world ruled by weeds. An invitation to create a space for sharing, listening and learning from the more than human worlds.

The limited edition herbarium publication is available to the public while stocks last for just £20 (inc P&P) at: [fermynwoods.org/store](https://fermynwoods.org/store), with any funds raised contributing towards future education activity.

After the first plant propaganda poster appearing on a billboard on Wescott Way throughout August, the next poster is due to appear off Oakley Road, Corby from 10th and 23rd October.

*The Chimera Plantarium Weekend* on 29th and 30th October sees Chiara Dellerba plus special guests Rebecca Beinart and Wild.NG lead a series of workshops for adults to discover the wonder and beauty of Corby's urban plants to create wilder streets where we live.

Participants can take part in a sensory mapping walk and discover the healing properties of common local plants including 'weeds' we might pass by every day – to make perfumes and soothing balms drawing from Corby's industrial and pre-industrial history.

Participants can book a place by visiting [bit.ly/3C4xyXz](https://bit.ly/3C4xyXz) and paying whatever they can afford (recommended donation £20 for each workshop).

### Editors Notes

Chiara Dellerba is an artist, curator and facilitator based in UK. Her work focuses on ecology, slowing down and collective care practices and their civic impact on society. She makes installations, interactive performances, collaborative-based works and books as toolkits to investigate the city, the environment and the future of our society. In 2019, she founded *Zona Planetaria*, a research-based residency programme which promotes slowing down and contemplation as practices in which caring, resting, and suspending can be reclaimed as political acts by and for everyone.

Commissioned as part of *Xylophobia*, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's new two-year programme funded by Arts Council England. Named from the fear of wooden objects or forests, *Xylophobia* addresses issues of place and belonging, which go to the heart of community feelings of exclusion from both the art world and woodland spaces.