

*SUNDEW*

*John Atkin MA RCA FRBS*



*Painted Steel  
Corby Railway Station*

**Corby**  
Borough Council

# Welcome

## *Foreward*

*by the Mayor of Corby,  
Councillor Julie Riley*

It is an honour and a pleasure to be able to officially announce the completion of this brand new feature to the Corby Railway Station. The Sundew Sculpture, designed by the extremely talented John Atkin is the perfect way to welcome people to Corby as they step off the train, and being largely constructed with Corby steel, it is of course a real reflection on the town's heritage which we are all very proud of here in Corby.

Thank you to everyone involved in the making of this new, exciting landmark.

## *Introduction*

*by the Lead Member for Culture & Leisure,  
Councillor John McGhee*

The money for this Arts Sculpture has been given by housing and infrastructure developers for public arts installation in Corby. Corby Borough Council required the proposed scheme to enhance the visitor experience at Corby Railway Station and provide a creative and visually stimulating welcome to Corby.

The commissioning of this work was not an easy task due to the number of incredible creative ideas presented by such talented inspiring artists. However the Steering Group were confident that by choosing Internationally renowned artist John Atkin MA RCA FRBS the community of Corby would be receiving a very special sculpture.

The preferred option for the final contemporary design was put to a public vote and the response from the Corby community was immense.

It was very important to the Council that the sculpture was made by local companies, and thankfully this was made possible by TATA providing local steel for the sculpture and Interkey Fabricating Limited for the production of the chosen design and installing the finished artwork.

# *Official Opening Programme*

*Wednesday 25th January 2017*

*2.30pm*

*Arrival of guests*

*2.40pm*

*Welcome and Introduction  
by Councillor John McGhee*

*2.45pm*

*John Atkin  
Concept for Design*

*2.55pm*

*Harry Kandola  
Interkey Fabrications Limited*

*3.00pm*

*Official Opening by the Mayor of Corby,  
Councillor Julie Riley*

*Followed by light refreshments*

# Concept

By John Atkin



The design of my sculpture for Corby is to connect all generations of residents to their heritage via a sculpture that explores the metamorphosis of “liquid metal” into solid form. The location for the sculpture is the Corby Railway Station, which links Corby to London, and will therefore be visible to commuters as well as passengers who are travelling to other destinations through Corby. The Railway Station has only recently reopened after extensive refurbishment and the idea is to have a landmark sculpture that successfully marks Corby as a place, linked to its history, but successfully re-imagined after the collapse of its once significant steel industry.

My approach to the realisation of this project utilised digital and traditional modes of practice. I generated ideas for the artwork via hand wrought timber constructed models as well as digital 3D modelling programs. Using CAD technology I was able to communicate my ideas to the Steering Group clearly and coherently—locating the virtual sculpture proposal with the actual designated space. This method of collaboration enabled the Steering Group to discuss the scale, position, orientation and materials used in the making of the artwork before it went into production.

In addition, we decided to put three concept ideas forward for public consultation within the Corby Cube as well as the Corby International Swimming Pool entrance, and then invited the people of Corby to vote on the preferred artwork for the Corby Railway Station site. The Council received an overwhelming response to this strategy; this and our use of local steel from TATA and a local fabrication team, Interkey Fabrications Limited, ensured a lasting legacy of a landmark artwork “Made in Corby.”

# Sundew

The ideas that underpin the making of the Corby sculpture Sundew are multi-faceted in the same way that Corby residents are a successful blend of people from throughout the UK and Europe.

The main focus of my research was the history of the steel industry, alongside the human innovation that contributed to its success; but further research into the heritage of Corby revealed other aspects of the Towns history that I thought appropriate to the making of the sculpture.

Music is synonymous with the various people who have made Corby into a dynamic cultural quarter, alongside innovative architecture, such as The Cube, to match the determination of a community that has reinvented itself after the closure of the Steelworks in the early 1980's when the band Big Country's protest song "Steeltown" rocketed to the top of the charts.

The confluence of musical rhythm and malleability of red-hot molten steel inspired me to make a sculpture that celebrates the reinvention of Corby by referencing the industry that made it famous alongside the rhythm of the people who define its character in the Twenty-First Century.

## SUNDEW: Dragline Excavator

*At 1675 tons and a reach of 86 meters, Sundew was the biggest walking dragline in the world. It was used for the recovery of iron ore and was in service until 1974. It was named after the 1957 Grand National winner*





# Community Consultation for the design of the sculpture

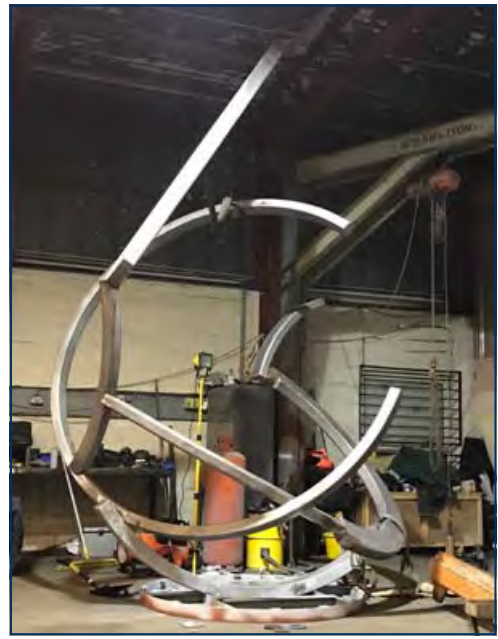
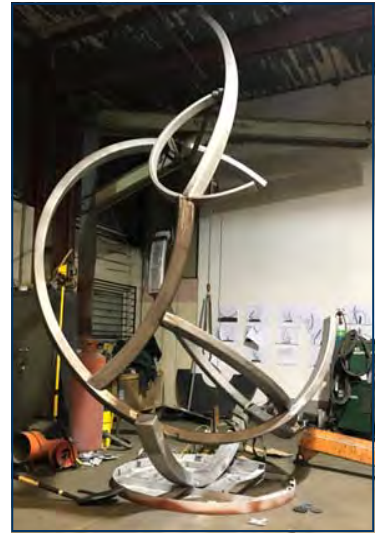


## Contributors

It would be difficult to complete a project of this ambition and scale without the help and support of many people and especially Harry Kandola and Bryan Downs at Interkey Fabrications Limited. By using this expertise and ensuring the metal was sourced by TATA Steel, Corby ensured the artworks brand “Made in Corby”.

I am also grateful to TATA Steel, Corby in helping realise this landmark project and especially the tireless efforts of Steve Whitfield. Lastly, special mention needs to be made of the Steering Group at Corby Borough Council, without whose support and dedication this project would have been unachievable.

# *The progression*





## *Thank you*

Corby Borough Council would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the design and production of the sculpture.

Special thanks goes to John Atkin ( ARTATK), TATA Steel, Interkey Fabrications Limited, East Midlands Trains and the Steering Group for all their help and support throughout the process and making Sundew a fantastic addition to Corby.

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