

Reference: XXX
Accession Ref: XXXX
Name: David Foster
Address: [Not given]
Date of Birth: [Not given]
Place of Birth: [Not given]
Date of Interview: [Not given]
Interviewed by: Roger Kitchen
Duration: 00:14:47

David was Chief Executive of the Parks Trust when it had a problem with a pond at the top end of Campbell Park. At the same time the Council and others were looking for a location where events could be celebrated and commemorated. At that stage, the Cenotaph Trust did not exist. The agreement between the Parks Trust and other parties was vague, but everyone got on well. The great thing was the appointment of the artist Gordon Young, whose idea for the space was absolutely brilliant.

There was a lot of consultation about what the first pillars should commemorate. The opening ceremony was wet and very muddy, but it was all about the people. A personal highlight was the visit of Prince William. He was also moved by the Holocaust pillar and commemoration. He liked the mix of events, including Joke Day.

He was pleased that it had stayed independent. He thought it was wonderful that there was space for growth and that time was taken for perspective on what should be celebrated and commemorated. With development taking place east of V8 Marlborough Street, he thought the city's centre of gravity was moving towards the Rose.