

Reference: XXX
Accession Ref: XXXX
Name: Gavin Anderson
Address: [Not given]
Date of Birth: [Not given]
Place of Birth: [Not given]
Date of Interview: [Not given]
Interviewed by: Roger Kitchen
Duration: 00:39:54

Gavin became involved when he talked with John Moffat at the Council about Milton Keynes not having an appropriate cenotaph. Next he spoke to Ernesto a minister at Christ the Cornerstone about there being nowhere to lay flowers. They started with the idea of a cenotaph but didn't want just the Christian symbols because Milton Keynes was a mixed bunch. They realised that to incorporate everybody, they would have the capability to offend everybody. The sense of location was an important factor. Marie Kirbyshaw found the artist, Gordon Young, who explained the 'dance of engagement' and made sense of all the ideas coming in from consulting the citizens of MK.

The project had a ground-breaking ceremony on 11/11/2011 and transported a granite pillar from Aberdeen the night before. It was a belligerent act, because there had been some opposition. The formal opening was on 19/11/2013, which was frenetic and emotional. There was a sense of relief, but also of wondering what came next.

The rule for which organisation or event got a pillar was that it had to be an ingredient of Milton Keynes. The then Mayor, Debbie Brock, was a great organiser for the selection process.

A tipping point in its acceptance was the Manchester Arena bombing, when young people held a spontaneous vigil there. It was also the focus for marking the Queen's death.

He thought it trod in the giant footsteps of the black leather jacket gang who developed Milton Keynes. He felt it scored 9½ out of 10. It was a joy to sit on the lovely benches and watch people interact with it. A special memory was the involvement of David Moore, the guardian angel of the Rose. He was most proud of the way it perpetuated memories.