

The High Point Observatory - Phil Jayne

When the park was being developed I was one of the Officers that was working on the development of the park for Caerphilly County Borough Council. This is the High Point Observatory, which is right up on the top of the site, on the highest point of the old tip. When the millennium was approaching we knew that there was some funding available for looking at projects that would change spaces where people lived, so that's really taking somewhere that was a black coal tip and turning it into what it is today, which is a wonderful green park.

The artist Malcolm Robinson worked with the six surrounding communities, that is people from Nelson, from Ystrad Mynach, from Maesycwmmmer, from Hengoed, from Llanbradach, from...where haven't I mentioned? From Gelligaer, from Gelligaer! And each of the arms points to one of those communities and the ideas that that community, particularly the children, from within community had for expressing their history, or how they felt the park was now, they are all incorporated into the arm of the sculpture, and the silver parts of the sculpture going up into the heavens they, to me, always remind me of organ pipes. So there is something majestic about this wonderful thing that almost could be a wierd musical instrument.

But of course it is called the observatory and strangely enough, you know, most observatories make you look up into the heavens but this one, because the arms are pointing towards each community, this one makes you think about looking at the earth.