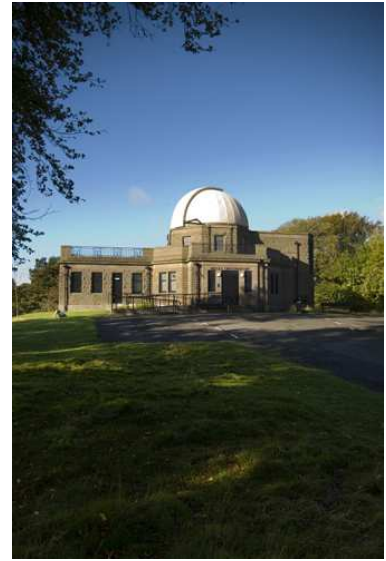


The Mills Observatory

About The Mills

Gifted to the people of Dundee in 1935, with a bequest from John Mills, a linen and twine manufacturer and a keen amateur scientist, Mills Observatory was designed by the City Architect, Mr McLellan Brown in collaboration with Professor Ralph Sampson the Astronomer Royal for Scotland. Built of sandstone, it has a distinctive 7-metre dome.

It is the only British observatory to have been built with the sole aim of encouraging public understanding of science, and is the UK's only full-time public observatory.



What to see

The Observatory has a variety of attractions, and a lively programme of events and activities.

The planetarium simulates the night sky on a domed roof in a darkened room. Around 1000 stars are displayed, along with the naked eye planets and the Milky Way. Auxiliary units simulate a rotating galaxy and provide pictures of astronomical objects.



The main telescope is a 0.25m (10 inch) refractor, with a focal length of 3.7m. The instrument was built by Thomas Cooke of York in 1871.

When the Mills Observatory opened on 28 October 1935, it housed a 450mm (18 inch) reflecting telescope constructed by the Newcastle-based company of Grubb Parsons. The remains of the original telescope can be seen in the upper display area of the Observatory.

When to visit

April to September

Tuesday to Friday, 11 am - 5 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 12.30 - 4 pm

October to March

Monday to Friday, 4 pm - 10 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 12.30 - 4 pm

Mills Observatory,
Glamis Road, Balgay Park,
Dundee DD2 2UB

Tel: 01382 435967

Email: mills.observatory@dundeecity.gov.uk
<http://www.dundeecity.gov.uk/mills/>

Admission is free to the Observatory and displays. A small charge applies to group visits and for public Planetarium Shows.

Why not visit other museums in the area? Find out more at www.taysidemuseums.org.uk

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