







Bussey & Armstrong
Homes in Darlington since 1902



Welcome to the latest issue of Westpark magazine.

Over the past 10 years, we have transformed a barren piece of land into a flourishing garden village; a place where town and country meet and where housing and the natural world live side by side.

To date, almost 700 new homes have been built, most in the distinctive Arts and Crafts style for which Bussey & Armstrong is known, combining traditional materials such as stone, wood and slate, with contemporary design and building innovations.

Westpark is also home to West Park Academy primary school, West Park Hospital, The White Heifer That Travelled pub and a range of shops and services.

And, at the heart of the village, sits our nature reserve; the first new public park in Darlington in more than 100 years,

where flora, fauna and artworks provide a beautiful oasis for residents and visitors alike.

But this first phase of development - which has won numerous awards including the RICS Gold Award for Regeneration, the National Award for Sustainable Communities, and the Green Flag Award for the Nature Reserve - is just the beginning.

We are pleased to announce we have now been granted planning permission for the second phase of Westpark Garden Village.

Along with an additional 1200 homes, we will build another school, a sports field and second park.

We are also working with retailers M&S and Aldi to open new stores in spring 2018 and we plan to create a new village green, so we can continue to grow and develop this











beautiful area of Darlington and make Westpark an even more exciting and desirable place in which to live.

In this magazine you will find lots of information about these new plans - which will keep us busy for at least fifteen more years - and about our achievements so far.

You can also find out what our residents like about living in Westpark – after all, we may have built it, but they have brought it to life and made it what it is today.

Tony Cooper

Director Bussey & Armstrong Projects Ltd.





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We have compiled a number of leaflets outlining our services and facilities in detail. To view them please follow the link below. www.busseyarmstrong.co.uk/links/

Westpark, where community is key



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Westpark Garden Village is a unique development in Darlington.

It is a community, in which houses and landscape have been designed in harmony - where modern houses are built to traditional methods using natural materials and where public art is as valued – and as visible – as its shops and facilities



But Westpark's story began in 2000, when Darlington based building company, Bussey & Armstrong, bought the site of Darchem, the former Darlington Chemical & Insulating Company.

Established in the 1920s and demolished in 1995, all that was left of the factory was a chalky residue of calcium carbonate, a by-product of the process of making pharmaceutical pills.

To start, the land had to be cleared before the work on the development could commence and, as some of it was unsuitable for housing, Bussey & Armstrong decided to use this as an opportunity to create a large public park. This park – the first new public park to be built in Darlington for more than a century - would be at the heart of the development, guiding all other decisions made on the layout of the streets.

Building work on the first phase of the development started in 2002, with almost 700 homes built so far – along with a primary school and nursery, a pub, shops and a hospital.

In spring 2017, Bussey & Armstrong received planning permission for the second phase of Westpark Garden Village, which means the community will continue to grow, as will the open space and amenities.

Over the next 15 to 20 years, the plan is to build 1200 more homes, create a second public park, another school and sports fields.

In short, to write the next exciting chapter in the story of Westpark. \cite{N}





From small acorns mighty oak trees grow

When William Bussey and Alfred Banting Armstrong set up their own building business in 1902, it was a humble beginning - a small acorn, if you like.

With imported timber and horse-drawn carts they built the first houses in Trafalgar Terrace – and brick by brick, the business grew until, in 1928, they were sufficiently established to be able to purchase a 25-acre site, at Cockerton, from the Darlington Corporation.

Here, they planned to build a new garden suburb of 300 houses, ensuring work for 120 employees for the next three years – and this development set the company upon a path it follows to this day.

For it drew its inspiration from the Arts and Crafts movement, in which artists and designers looked, for their inspiration, to the natural world – a movement whose most frequently used emblem, was the oak leaf.

Committed to using natural materials - slate, wood and stone – in the construction of their houses, they not only created buildings which reflected Darlington's surrounding countryside but they also supported the town's economy.

"There is no other trade that gets more of its materials from the local vicinity than ours," said Mr Armstrong, when planning a larger development near a large chemical works.

"I estimate that 800 houses will necessitate the use of more than 5,000,000 bricks, so that should mean steady work at the brickworks."

Bussey & Armstrong's dream was to create a garden suburb of thoroughly modern, semi-detached houses, each with three bedrooms, living room, kitchen and scullery, together with a garden plot – and to ensure they were affordable.

It is a dream they realised then – and continue to realise now in the development of their current garden village; Westpark.

Here, contemporary standards, tastes and designs are enhanced by the use of real Welsh slate and clay roof tiles, stock bricks and leaded glazing and, in a continuing commitment to quality craftsmanship, the company even employs an artist blacksmith to make finials and railings.

Proof that, more than 100 years after Bussey & Armstrong was formed, the company still holds true to its founders' principles; housing Darlington people in houses unequalled for convenience, quality and value for money.

The small acorn has certainly grown.



Down to a fine art

Since its origins at the turn of the millennium, Westpark has incorporated public art into every stage of its planning and development, making it one of the largest coordinated areas of public art in the UK. That will continue as Westpark Garden Village grows, developing new pieces which build on that existing work, and which take us literally to the edges of the motorway, and the new noise-cancelling bunds.



From the outset, the type of public art has been designed to fit in with people's lives, their daily habits and the cultural history of the area. Instead of monumental pieces of figurative work like the Angel of the North, or the Darlington Train, Westpark has focused on smaller, interlocking groups of pieces, which often contain a decorative or textual element. Instead of big names, we have sought to collaborate, to create small communities of artists, planners, and craftspeople.

Bleath Ghyll
One week stowed in upon this hill,
a whole train dug good cheer from chill deseption



Entrance bridges to the park itself, street names and verse on road signs, small scale pieces in the playpark or hospital: sculpture in Westpark is designed to be unobtrusive, almost peripheral – part of the furniture of our lives. Larger pieces like the Trinity Stones in the park draw on local materials – Catcastle stone – and natural imagery – the birds, insects and wildlife of the park itself. All this will be developed on in the next phase.

Listening to how the park has been used, by walkers, runners, picnickers, cyclists, and above all by residents, will continue to inform the arts strategy.

The texts appearing on stone and metal across Westpark have always been informational, reflecting on the industrial and municipal history of Victorian Darlington, and as Westpark Village extends, so too this imagery will extend to take in the history of the area and its hinterland in the dales, the medieval and Romano-British elements which underpinned the Industrial Revolution.

Darlington and its surrounding towns and villages have profited from mining — both lead and coal; and from trade in linen; the area has long drawn writers and artists to its complex history and natural beauty, figures like Dickens, Walter Scott and Turner. The reservoirs of Teesdale and Weardale, constructions as marvellous as the railways, feed the area to this day.

Drawing on all these elements, public art in the next phase of Westpark will commission sculptures and create land art, looking at the grottos of great landowners and the spar boxes of humble miners; reconsidering the mazes of the medieval mind, and local legends like that of the Sockburn and Lambton Worms.

Public art at its best is something that grows up amid the public it speaks to, drawing on our common roots, using the same materials we see around us in new and exciting ways, reconnecting us to our environment, our history and culture. It asks where and how we are at home, but it leaves the answers to us. As Westpark approaches its twentieth anniversary, the art it inspires will remain true to its original principles of fearing sharing and daring?





Landscape has been key to the creation of Westpark and, as the development enters its second phase, it continues to be.

The existing homes are set within an abundance of open space and the new ones will be no different, forming a residential area with a distinctive character in an inspirational setting that is as practical as it is beautiful.

Our aim is the creation of an accessible and well-connected site, both for internal circulation and for connections to the surrounding path networks and community facilities.

In creating our housing layout we have taken inspiration from existing landscape features, such as mature trees, hedgerows, ditches, streams and wetlands.

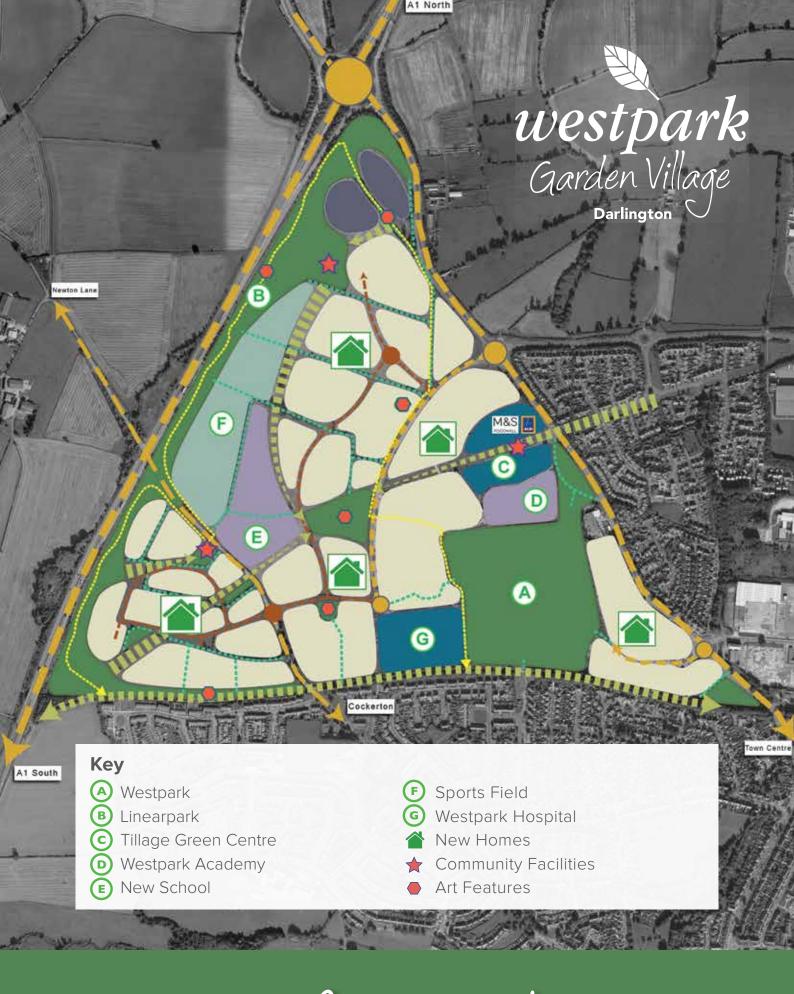
So, roads within the development will echo the curves of the landscape, while the sculptures and artworks which are so much a part of Westpark, will also reflect the natural world. Of course, grassland, hedgerows and streams – as lovely as they are – also have a practical purpose; they, too, are homes

The first phase of our development has provided a magnificent habitat for any number of flora and fauna and the landscape of phase two will be equally carefully curated.

We need to protect existing species and enhance the environment in such as way as to encourage diversity, so among other things, we will be looking to introduce wildlife corridors.

And our plan is ultimately to create a village that is embedded naturally in its environment – by working with the landscape rather than against it.





THEMasterplan



TOWN AND Country

WHEN it comes to choosing a home, location is key and Westpark - a village bordered by both town and country - offers the very best of both worlds.

From the outset, we were determined that it would be more, much more, than a housing estate – that we would work with the natural landscape to create a haven for people and wildlife alike.



And we are rather proud of what we have achieved so far. We have planted more than 30 acres of woodland, wildflower meadows and wetlands. In fact, there are approximately 46,000 trees in Westpark - almost one for every home in Darlington.

And, thanks to winding paths and stunning sculptures, our nature reserve looks as though it has been here forever and it grows in beauty with each year that passes.



Already, it has become home to a large (and growing) number of birds, butterflies, bats, frogs and other animals. More than 13 species of butterflies and 33 of birds have been spotted among the trees and flowers - making Westpark a truly rural idyll.

In the same way in which farmers curate the countryside, our residents play an active role in looking after the park, putting it very much at the heart of the community. Every quarter The Westpark Friends Group meets to discuss plans, issues and the care of this most valuable resource and everyone with an interest in the park is welcome to come along.

You can find out more about the Friends and their meeting dates at www.westparkdarlington.co.uk and, who knows, one day you might join them.

A Word from our residents..

It goes without saying that we are proud of the village we have created – but what do those who live here think of Westpark?

"Westpark- where the living is easy. Spacious well-designed houses in a semi-rural setting on the edge of town. Perfect village location with all amenities on the doorstop and easy access to the motorway. What's not to like?"

Mrs Hall

Westpark Resident

"We're very happy living here — my daughter and her family recently moved into a Westpark house as well. It's a well thought-out development, the size and layout of the house are perfect for our needs."

Bob Mowat

Westpark Resident 🌂

"Westpark has that sense of a village and community spirit without feeling claustrophobic. Another thing I like about living here is having a large park with public works of art on my doorstep, which affords vistas of the surrounding countryside. This park put this development above others, it brings the community together."

Tom Shepherd
Westpark Resident

"The houses have a much nicer finish than other new builds and the service we received from Bussey & Armstrong was very good indeed.

The location is great – we have local shops and easy access to the A1 for work."

Matthew Ranson

Westpark Resident



"Westpark isn't a generic housing estate that's been cookie-cut from another part of the country. It has an underlying philosophy that gradually reveals itself; something which is bespoke and true to Darlington and its evolution."

Andrew Buckingham

Westpark Resident

"Westpark is about community, it's very accessible for everyone. I like the calm environment, the feeling of living 'out of town'."

Jane Harrison

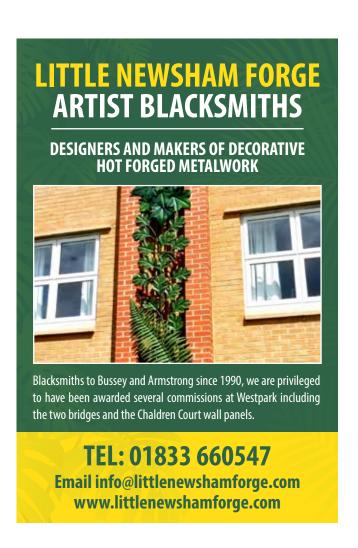
Westpark Resident



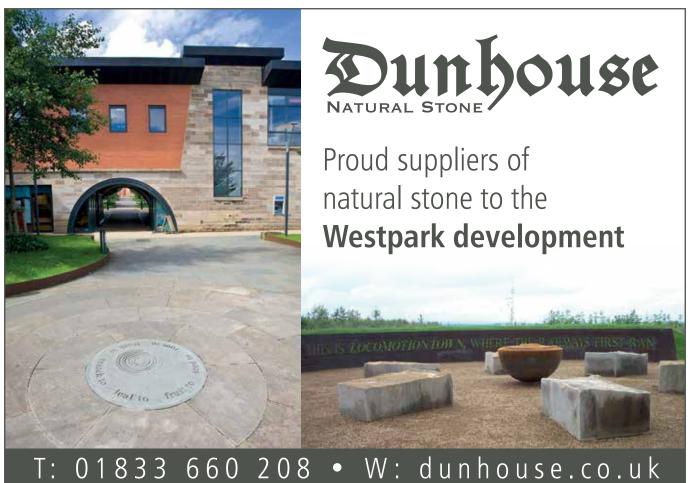
Westpark Friends Group West Park, Darlington, DL2 2GG

Email: info@westparkdarlington.org.uk

westpark Garden Village 11







INGENIOUS DARLINGTON

In creating Westpark, Bussey & Armstrong has stepped back, to the future.

From the outset, they wanted the village to represent the highest standards of 21st century workmanship, but also to echo the values and heritage of Darlington itself.

For, over the decades, the town has played a pivotal role in shaping the world in which we now live.

Two hundred years ago it was the birthplace of the railways - today, it is home to some of industry's biggest names, each in their own way, breaking down barriers and steaming ahead with skill and innovation.

Historically, Darlington was also a Quaker town, founded on principles of equality, of sharing and of humanity.

It was a faith that inspired the Arts and Craft movement – a late 19th ideal in which artists and sculptors sought to replace the heavy furnishings and architecture of the Victorian era with a style that better reflected the natural world.





Bussey & Armstrong drew on the Arts and Crafts movement when designing their houses and commissioning the works of art which are evident at every turn at Westpark - and they have taken their commitment to celebrating Darlington's past and future one step further.

They have joined with Darlington Borough Council and with a host of other businesses – across a variety of sectors - to make sure as many people as possible, from within the borough and beyond, know how proud they are to be a Darlington company.

The aim is to raise the profile of the town with a place marketing campaign called Ingenious Darlington.

Darlington was, is, and we have no doubt, will continue to be an ingenious town - and we think that's a story that needs to be told and re-told which is why we are delighted Bussey & Armstrong is happy to bear the Ingenious Darlington logo.

We who are lucky enough to live and work here have a lot to be proud of – so join us and let's shout it from the rooftops.

For more information on Ingenious Darlington and to download the branding please visit www.ingeniousdarlington.com

Richard Baker - Business Growth & Investment Officer Darlington Borough Council



A MOST **INGENIOUS** TOWN



DARLINGTON

A MOST INGENIOUS TOWN Email: sales@busseyarmstrong.co.uk www.busseyarmstrong.co.uk







Bussey & Armstrong Homes in Darlington since 1902

WYVERN ACAD

Wyvern Academy has a distinctive ethos centred around community and family values. We are proud to be part of Consilium Academies, where educating the whole child is the core purpose.

While aiming to secure academic success for our students is of paramount importance, we believe it is equally important to equip our young people with life skills, so that they can confidently take a rewarding, active and fulfilling place in society.

Our school is more than a place where students learn – it is a place where students grow and a place where students are encouraged to follow their dreams and share their unique talents in a safe and supportive environment.

At Wyvern Academy we believe that high ambition for every young person is a right and endeavour to shape hearts and minds so that our young people can go out and shape the greatness of society.

The best way for you to appreciate what we can offer your child is to experience our school first hand. I do hope you will visit us to meet our students and staff and to experience life at our unique

Best wishes, Mo Wilkinson Headteacher



STATE AGENTS

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WHEN a newly formed cricket club was looking for a helping hand, Bussey & Armstrong was happy to step up to the crease, as club treasurer, Chris Easby explains....

The running of an established sports club is a difficult task. Arranging a number of volunteers to pull together for the benefit of all, organising training, fundraising, practise, matches and attending meetings of the league to run through rule changes etc. However, this all pales into insignificance when compared to setting up a sports club from scratch.

This was the daunting task facing the members of a newly formed Cricket Club aspiring to play in the Darlington & District Cricket League.

The founding of a new club is initially met with encouragement and vigour, which sometimes can wane when the magnitude of the tasks at hand becomes apparent. A cricket club is a difficult enough prospect to organise as the off-field duties can become daunting and expensive especially when it is an amateur operation.

Whilst the enthusiasm of the team never diminished, it soon became obvious costs would be the defining factor of our success. The club needed help with its finances covering of costs for safety equipment, pay for essential qualifications (to safeguard any youngsters who would be playing), league fees and insurance.

The club's committee decided to reach out to local businesses to see if they would be willing to provide support. One of those approached was Bussey &

Armstrong. The offer to Bussey's was based on offering a deal for club shirt sponsorship and a prominent advertising hoarding at the ground. The deal was agreed and the club was officially able to back their ambition with the sponsorship provided by such a well-respected local business

The new club decided on the name West Park RA CC, to acknowledge the support provided by two key parties, namely the sponsorship provided by Busseys and the ground share agreement with local NYSD Club, Darlington RA. West Park RA CC could begin their league application safe in the knowledge the club had a financial grounding from which to grow.

Now twelve months after the initial league match played by West Park RA CC in the Darlington & District Cricket League, one league title and two cup wins later, the club are pushing for back-to-back promotions and hopes to go from strength to strength both on and off the field.



pprentice



In creating Westpark, we have drawn on skills passed down through generations of craftsmen and women – and learned new ones, too.

Jack Clegg, aged 20 from Darlington is a Bussey & Armstrong apprentice bricklayer – one of 2 apprentices at the company - learning on the job and helping create the next phase of our development.

Name: Jack Clegg

Job: Apprentice bricklayer

How long have you worked for B&A?

I've worked for Bussey and Armstrong since October 2014, so I'm now in the third year of my apprenticeship.

What do you like most about your job?

The best thing about my role is the sense of accomplishment on completing a task. I enjoy what I do and that reflects in my high standard of workmanship.

What's the most important thing you've learned from being an apprentice working at Westpark?

The most important thing I have learnt in my role is being part of an efficient and productive team. When looking back at previous houses, I can look up and say: I helped to build that! 🥞

Knowledge **PARTNERSHIPS**

Bussey & Armstrong worked with Newcastle University's Professor Bill Herbert in the implementation of an arts strategy into the first phase of the Westpark development.

Incorporating aspects of Darlington and the surrounding region's industrial and agricultural heritage, the strategy included poetry on sculptures, bridges and street signs throughout Westpark. The first phase of the development won the Surveyors Gold Award for Regeneration and a National award for Constructing Sustainable Communities.

After the success of this initial stage of work, Bussey & Armstrong and Professor Herbert continued their collaboration via an Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP). KTP projects meet the strategic needs of businesses by pairing them with Universities to address knowledge gaps.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships







southerngreen

Southern Green are proud to be involved with this exciting development.

www.southerngreen.co.uk



WEST PARK Hospital

West Park Hospital provides adult and older people's inpatient mental health services for Darlington residents.

The hospital also accommodates a specialist eating disorders ward, children's learning disability short break service and inpatient mental health care for serving military

Mental ill health affects one in four of us, and one in ten young people will experience a mental health problem.

Most people are able, and want, to receive their care and treatment at home. However, those who need to spend time in hospital deserve to be cared for in the best possible environment. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust's inpatient facilities are some of the best in the country.



For people with mental health problems not being able to talk about it can be one of the worst parts of the illness. Feeling afraid to admit that they're struggling and fear of prejudice and judgement can stop people from getting help. TEWV supports national campaigns like Heads Together and Time to Change which work to challenge the stigma around mental ill health, help people feel more comfortable with their everyday mental wellbeing and promote the practical tools available to support friends and family. 🥞

www.tewv.nhs.uk/westparkhospital







Nursery places available for September 2017



West Park Academy, part of Shared Vision Learning Trust an exempt charity limited by guarantee in England and Wales (Registered no: 7659444) whose registered office is at Alderman Leach Drive, Darlington, Co Durham DL2 2GF



westpark where community is key

WESTPARK'S open spaces are without a doubt one of its main attractions - places to walk in, to play in and, quite simply, to enjoy.

We want to keep it that way, so you, your children, grandchildren and all those who join you in choosing to make their home at Westpark can get equal pleasure from the wide, open spaces that make this such an attractive place to live.

For that reason, all Westpark residents pay a nominal annual levy – a fixed sum which is managed on their behalf by County Durham Community Foundation.



The Community Foundation is part of a global movement of independent charities who manage charitable-giving on behalf of local individuals, families, businesses and trusts.

It has been managing the annual levy scheme collected from each household since the beginning of the Westpark development and throughout the year, distributes monies as requested by the Friends of Westpark group and agreed by the Steering Group. As an expert grant-maker and a local charity, the Community Foundation ensures the levy income is well spent to maintain the environment and make physical improvements to the open space as well as supporting relevant community initiatives.



This investment ensures that Westpark will not only continue to look as lovely as it did when you first saw it, but that it will improve with age.

That it will continue to be an environment which serves and enhances the Westpark community.



County Durham
Community Foundation

Tel: 0191 378 6340. Email: info@cdcf.org.uk; www.cdcf.org.uk





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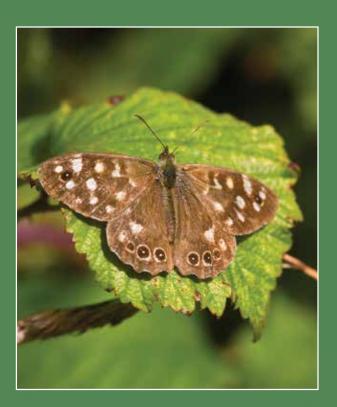
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Bussey & Armstrong Projects Limited Brinkburn, 147 Brinkburn Road, Darlington, Co. Durham DL3 8LA Tel 01325 365717 Email sales@busseyarmstrong.co.uk

Social (Facebook, Instagram) /busseyarmstrong

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