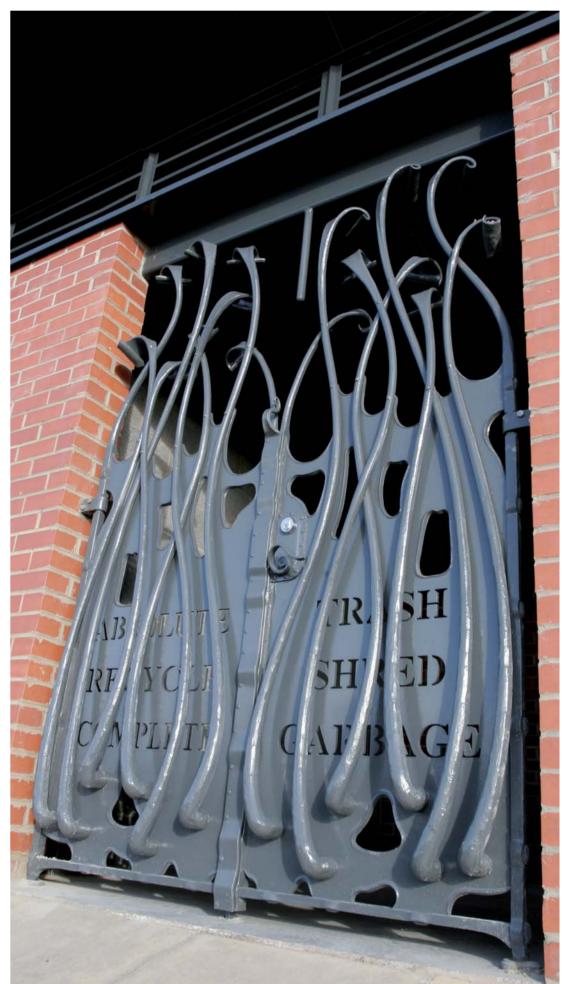




Three species of tree were selected to be planted throughout the village. Poems explore the trees, their growth, their mythology, and their uses. Sacred texts in India, thousands of years old, were inscribed on birch bark. Alder figures in Nordic and Celtic creation myths, and was used in the building of Venice. Maple is used to manufacture violins, making sweet music. lace, and a violin. Brian Russell, of Little Newsham Forge, and Andrew Jordan of Hydram Engineering inscribed verses on metal archways, lit green at night.



cut maple and my sweetness flows like song children pass through my branches and are strong music is strung on the flow of my grain

alder was first in the fleet of letters your parents sprang from me before they met my poles support the serenest of cities

the purest of texts was inscribed on birch bark proclaiming all nature to be one ark keep festival within these urban glades

Artists incorporated these poems into the fabric of the village. Bridget Jones designed enamelled nameplates, including the Latin species names, poetry panels, and patterns relating to the verses - Indian block printing, Venetian

take root in memory its shoots are industry your fruit is community

Bill's poems are linked to the local culture, environment, and heritage of Darlington. Trees and animals in the environment are enshrined in art, and street names, also chosen by Bill, relate to Darlington's heritage. The poems are clues to excite curiosity and encourage people to find out more about their surroundings and local history. Those wishing to know the whole story can join the Friends of West Park.

*just as the Peases planted parks sourced in distant groves* 

so the species gathered here spell the attributes of home

the ancient alphabet of trees grows our legend out of whispers