

**AWARDS FOR WEST PARK:**

2004: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors  
North East Award for Regeneration  
Regional Renaissance Gold Award

2006: ODPM Sustainable Communities  
National award for Constructing Sustainable Communities

2007 Shortlisted for RICS North East Renaissance Awards

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Bussey and Armstrong Projects Ltd, Darlington Borough  
Council, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust Durham, Arts  
Council England North East

For more information about public art in the North East, see  
[www.commissionsnorth.org](http://www.commissionsnorth.org)

The Friends of West Park is an organisation set up to manage the park  
and community facilities. For more information, contact Rob George  
on (01325) 388637

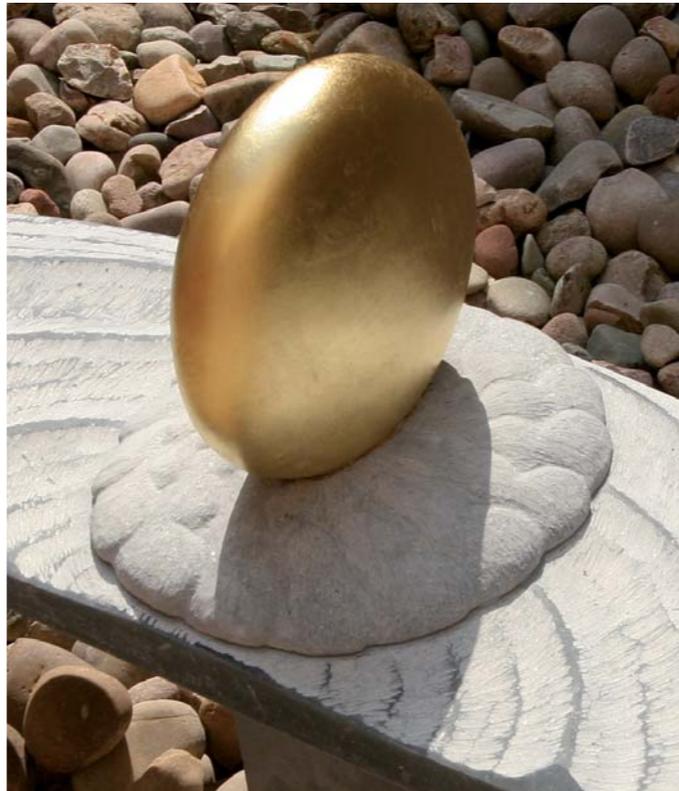
[www.westparkdarlington.com](http://www.westparkdarlington.com)

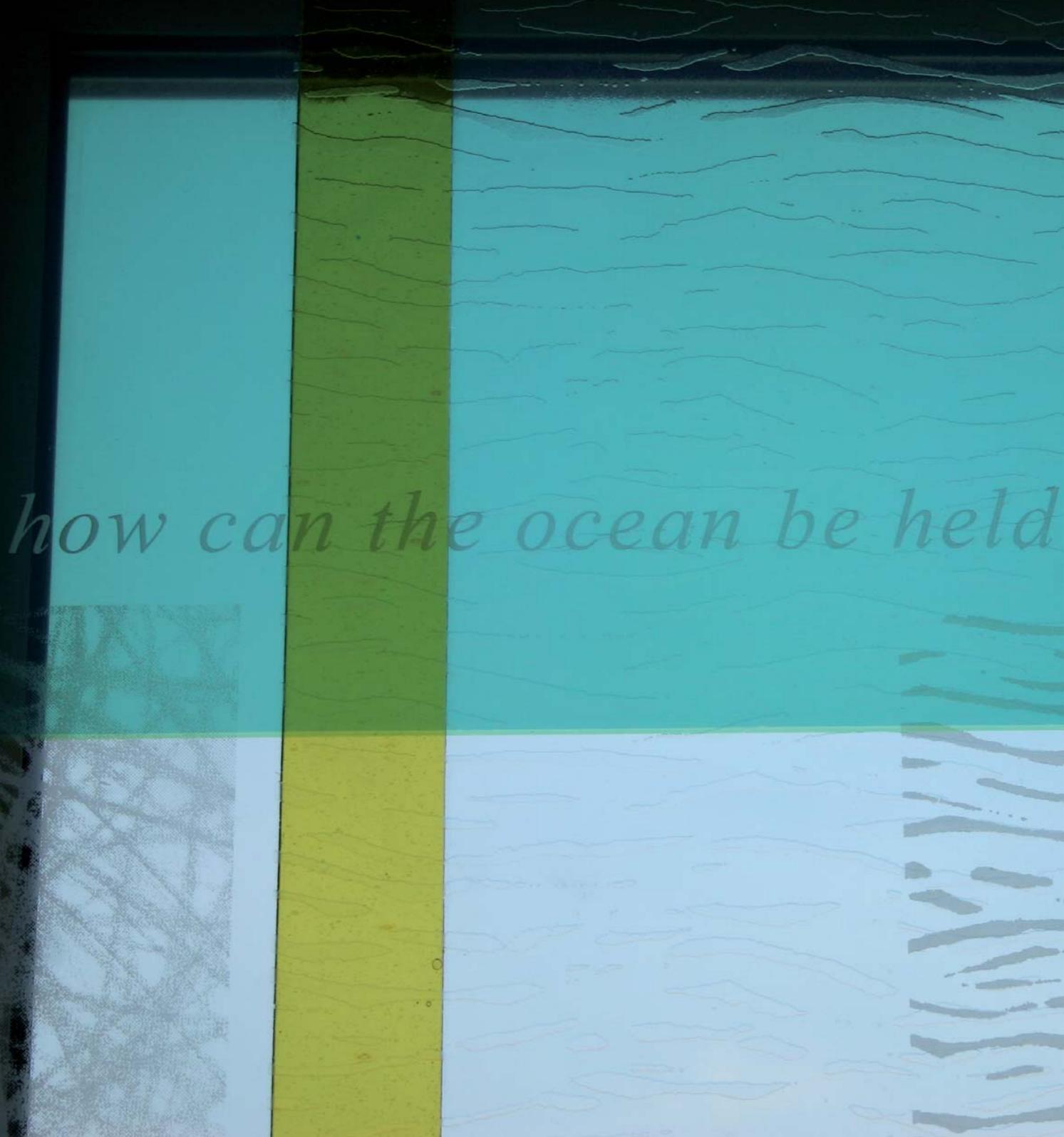
Developers - Bussey & Armstrong Projects: [projects@busseyarmstrong.co.uk](mailto:projects@busseyarmstrong.co.uk),  
[www.busseyarmstrong.co.uk](http://www.busseyarmstrong.co.uk)

Visual & Public Art Officer: [julie.revell@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:julie.revell@darlington.gov.uk)

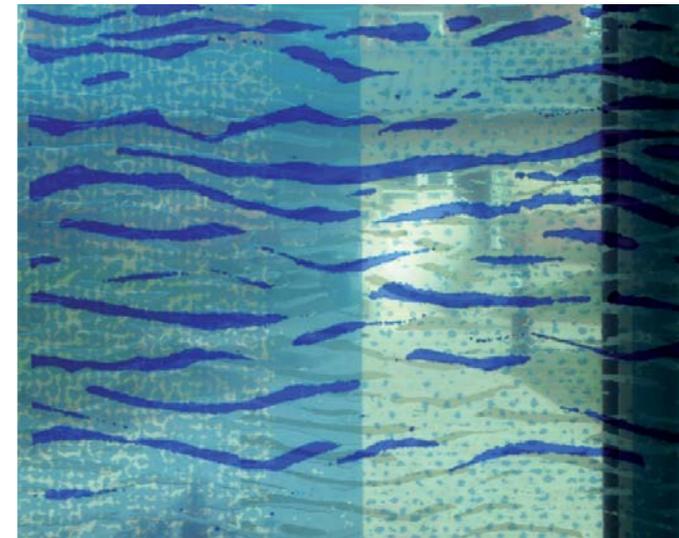
Poetry: W.N.Herbert, Text: Helen Johnson

Photography: David Williams, Design: Identity





*how can the ocean be held*



## Westpark Hospital

*the sun will cross  
the whole tide of day  
the apple will fill its belly  
and bring us light  
from the egg's internal glow  
all life will grow*

The design of West Park Hospital was inspired by the Art and Poetry Strategy *Caring Sharing Daring* written by lead poet Bill Herbert. West Park is a unique and award winning development incorporating sculpture and poetry throughout. A new community has been created in Darlington by innovative developers Bussey & Armstrong Projects.

The hospital opened in 2004, replacing the Pierremont Unit and Beaumont Ward in Darlington, and the Gables Unit at Sedgefield.

The artwork evolved from wildlife found living in the area before it was developed. A park/nature reserve was created, where the

Dingy Skipper Butterfly, the Water Vole, and the Little Ringed Plover are now protected. This park is at the centre of the development and is the heart and inspiration of WestPark.

Bill Herbert, who led the arts strategy, wrote poems about the protected animals. Influences from the strategy are evident in the design and architecture of the hospital by architects Nightingale Associates. There is a central courtyard (reminiscent of the central parkland) shaped like a plover's egg, with flowerbeds in the form of a butterfly.

Bill wrote further poems, especially for the hospital. He translated the animals into potent symbols:

The Dingy Skipper butterfly, a member of the Hesperidae family, linked, via the Greek legend of the Garden of the Hesperides, to the Golden Apples of eternal life.

The Water Vole, via the Wind in the Willows, led Bill to reed boats, and the Egyptian legend of the Boat of a Million Years, carrying the Eye of Ra: the sun.

From the Ringed Plover came the egg.