



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, Arts Council England North East

For more information about public art in the North East, see
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

Developers - Bussey & Armstrong Projects: projects@busseyarmstrong.co.uk,
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Poetry: W.N.Herbert, Text: Helen Johnson,

Photography: David Williams, Design: Identity

Bussey & Armstrong Projects



westpark
DARLINGTON
Caring Sharing Daring



Alderman Leach Primary School

the rainbow windows I read every day. Na'el Albarq (pupil)

Alderman Leach Primary School, opened in 2005, is enlivened with artwork linking it to the surrounding development of West Park and the unique art and poetry strategy *Caring Sharing Daring*. Sharing is related to the ethos of school and community.

West Park is a new community with art and poetry built in from the beginning. The art is based on the local environment and heritage, and interlinks all parts of the development. The arts strategy was led by the main developer, Bussey and Armstrong Projects, and lead poet Bill Herbert.

The school logo, the Dingy Skipper Butterfly, is based on a protected species that Bill researched from the park/nature reserve which lies at the heart of West Park. The motto, *be Active and Listen, you'll Pick up all Skills*, was created by Bill from the initials of Alderman Leach Primary School.

New Writing North, the region's agency for the development of new writing, devised an ambitious education programme called *Writing WestPark*. It involved five Darlington schools where

writers, poets, artists and filmmakers drew inspiration from WestPark's Art Strategy. Children at Alderman Leach school worked with creative writer Kitty Fitzgerald. They worked in the old school, situated off Bates Avenue.

The children studied 100 year old maps of where their old school was, and where the new school would be, and discovered the name 'Sugar Hill'.

Kitty says, 'they loved the name, so when they wrote a group story, they came up with the Sugar Hill Gang.'

This Gang became the personification of the heritage of the school and, together with the butterfly, was the inspiration for sculpture and glass work in the school.

*be Active and Listen,
you'll Pick up all Skills*