



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.

*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

lace, and a violin. Brian Russell, of Little Newsham Forge, and Andrew Jordan of Hydrum Engineering inscribed verses on metal archways, lit green at night.

*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*