

## **Pigs might fly**

Do you believe that pigs can fly? Visitors to Bill Quay Farm in Gateshead will now that a new sculpture of two flying pigs swooping around the farmyard has been unveiled at the end of April.

Based on the real pigs that are bred on the farm, the flying pigs artwork is life-size with wings, and has been shaped by hand from an old sycamore tree. Located in the main courtyard of Gateshead Council's Bill Quay Farm, the flying pigs are suspended 15 ft in the air from a tree. As the tree is on a slight hill, it appears the pigs are swooping and soaring into the sky.

Local artist David Gross, who created the sculpture with help from pupils at Galsworthy Centre School in South Tyneside, began by cutting out the main shape of the pigs using a chainsaw.

The wood was then carved and sanded by hand to form a realistic shape. David, originally from Manchester, said: "Everyone was really fascinated by the pigs at the farm, so we decided it'd be a great idea if they formed the focus of the sculpture. Throughout the project we studied the pigs so the piece could be as life-like as possible - they even let me get into the sty with some of them so I could closely inspect the shape of their trotters."

The project began in October last year and is funded by Tedco. David Bunce, head of cultural services at Gateshead Council, said: "Integrating art into the everyday environment has always been a top priority for us, to both engage and challenge local people. Bill Quay Farm is an important local resource that both entertains and educates the community and this sculpture is a valuable addition that everyone will be able to enjoy."

Managed by Gateshead Council and a community management association, Bill Quay Farm was set-up in the mid-1980's to educate and entertain the local community. A fully working farm, it is home to an impressive array of livestock including cows, goats, sheep, chickens, rabbits and pigs and has developed into a rare breeds centre. Located on Haining Wood Terrace in Bill Quay the farm is open seven days a week from 12pm to 5pm and admission is free. For more information contact Bill Quay Farm on 0191 433 5780.

David Gross's previous works include the Millennium Oak Leaf and a 20ft Kestrel in Chopwell Woods that are carved out of oak pulled from the River Tyne.