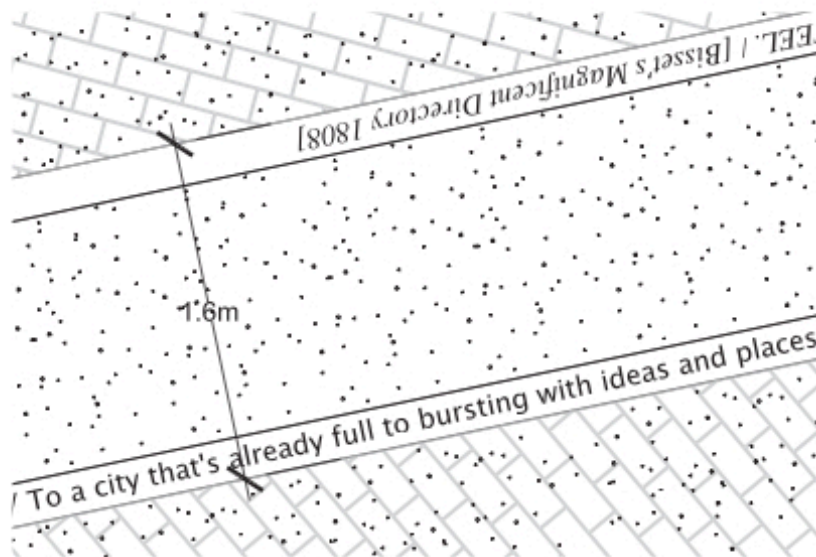




poem lettering to be cut out from corten panel



contemporary poem read when facing the Big Peg, traditional poem read when looking out of the square over the JQ

Ian McMillan 2008 (McMillan is the poet in residence at the Academy of Urbanism and the poem was written for the JQ's 2008 'best urban neighbourhood' award in 2008)

The place shines. It really shines. Put that in your poem: it shines.

I'm scribbling as fast as I can, but this place is many faceted, Like a jewel, you mean? Very clever. Don't forget: it flippin' shines.

It's a kind of multi-faceted and gleaming and, yes, shining, asset To a city that's already full to bursting with ideas and places Put this in your poem: it's been here for two hundred years And have you mentioned The Big Peg? Not yet but I will, I will, It was a place where jewellers with their gleaming faces?

Yes, if you like, gathered in the city..am I making myself clear?

It kind of moves, this places, it dances, it shimmies, it's never still.

Shimmers. I like that. That's very helpful, thankyou very much.

No, shimmies, mate; it dances, this place really moves and shines A bit like a jewel does; Thanks, thanks...It sparkles to your touch The Jewellery Quarter: craft and art and business meet. Sublime!

James Bisset between 1790 - 1820 (the poem is the 'Postscript' from Bisset's Magnificent Directory first published in 1800)

*What beauteous works from ORES refin'd arise,
To grace the HEAD and NECK, and charm the eyes;
To grace the HANDS, and FEET, the COAT,
and VEST, And ornament our Belles and Beaux,
full drest; The orient PEARLS, and blazing
DIAMONDS, feel Their lustre, oft, outvied by
polish'd STEEL.*