

## *Community Poetry*

### *Bournemouth Triangle BIG POEM*

“The triangle” he posted,  
“Lots of things to do and see.”  
“The triangle,” he commented,  
“It might just be the place for me!”  
Make it green, I say,  
just to while away the day.  
A lovely spot to which to be led,  
the Triangle, diverse and vibrant,  
I crave your courts.  
Fountains, water, spraying all  
would totally enthrall.  
There are many angles to try at the triangle;  
discover them all  
for meets and greets that last long into the night,  
times often acute, but never obtuse,  
a collage of faces echo sentiments,  
people rushing, busy,  
do they notice the beauty  
surrounding them, the gardens  
downhill, the beaches, sunsets?  
Art by so many so close  
in image and word,  
in the faces of people passing,  
the busker’s tune or lyric,  
laughter on the breeze,  
weird shops, Rainbow Flags,  
Saturday night, Hens & Stags,  
Tesco staff on smoking breaks, blue shirts.  
coffee drinkers – Starbucks or Flirt?  
The car park at night with colourful lights,  
the Exchange at night – you see some sights!  
The Triangle is mad – better than Lansdowne,  
come on over, it’s every man and woman’s  
and all those in-between’s town.

*BIG POEMs was a community poetry initiative launched as part of Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Fringe festival. Poems were written collectively by residents - children and adults - who posted their lines online or added them to physical BIG POEMs at venues in Bournemouth Triangle, Southbourne and Boscombe. Special thanks to The Mad Cucumber Lounge, the Shelley Theatre and NumberWorks 'nWords, and to everyone who participated - thanks for joining me on this adventure, and congratulations on penning these real community poems! –  
James Manlow, Poet Laureate for Bournemouth*