

The Hunt for the Heart of the City

An explainer by [Clessa](#).

The place and the shape

The Hunt was made up of two puzzles:

1. The search for the *place* of the new heart of the City of London.
2. The search for the *shape* of the new heart of the City of London.

The place of a heart is a location that is uniquely important to it - it might be the place it is born, or some other location of importance.

The shape of the heart is the form it takes. Past hearts have been a mug of tea, a bridge, a phoenix.

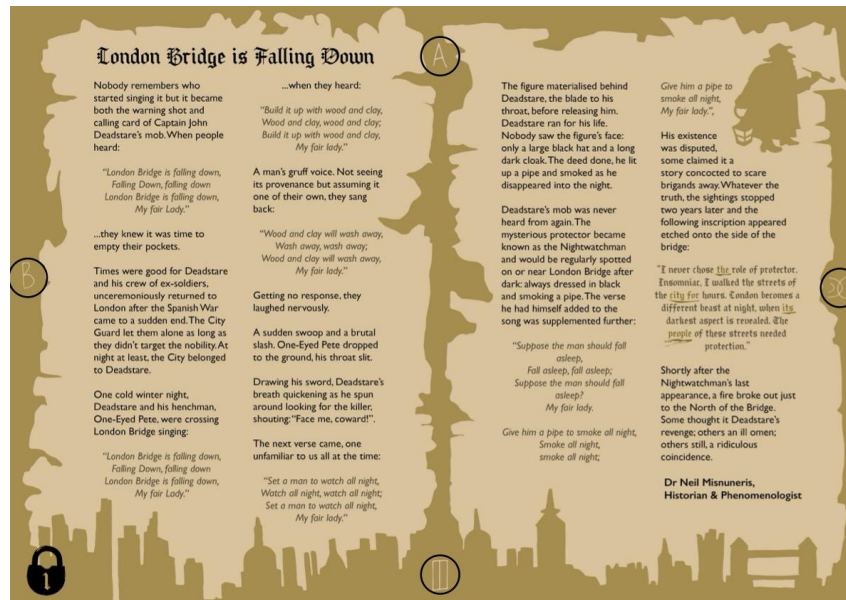
The place and shape of the heart were both hidden in the hunt's book: *London's Assorted Enigmas and Mythologies in Rhyme*.

Instructions for finding both the place and the shape were hidden in the coded message, written in our dragon's language.

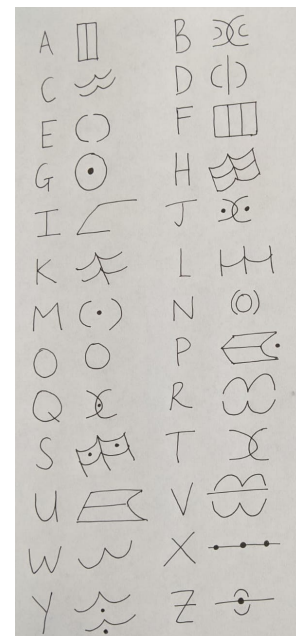
the dragon's language

The dragon's language is hidden across the book, with the letters in English and Dragon language placed opposite each other on various page frames.

For example, on rhyme one: London Bridge is Falling Down, you'll see the dragon language letters for A and B:



By gathering the letters on all the pages you'll get the language as:



Back to the message

When decoded from dragon language to English, the message read as follows:

Look close, take care, read deep
Discover the secrets these pages keep
Within are four, so find the fifth
Send your eyes beyond the myth
There I beat and breathe and grow
On the one who finds me I will bestow
A chance to unlock and hold the key
Of the heart of our London's city
The custodian's must watch the words
So listen close to what you've heard
Wake me gently with rhymes that are sweet
Who is it I want to meet?

The line 'within are four, so find the fifth' suggests that there are four of something and you need to find the fifth. Combined with 'there I beat and breathe and grow' indicates that the fifth thing is a location, and so the four hidden things are locations too. The line 'send your eyes beyond the myth' is an allusion to the fact that the locations are hidden in illustrations not in the myths themselves.

All together: the book holds four hidden locations, with each location hidden in an image (an illustration). To find the heart's place, you need to find the four hidden locations and then combine them in some way. There were hints on how to combine them... we'll come to that later.

To reveal the locations which were encoded in the book, we'll take them one at a time.

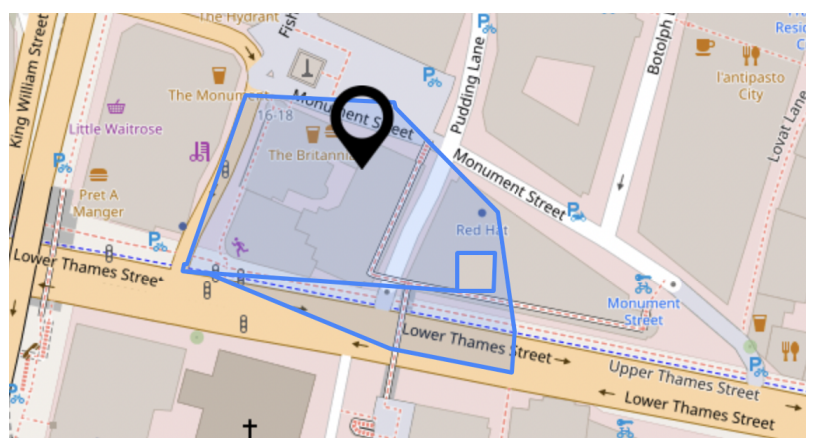
The first illustration of London Bridge.

This had a postcode encoded within.

The postcode needed to be read from top to bottom down the image. E's were encoded at the top, followed by C's, then 3's, R's, 8's, A's, and at the bottom of the image were J's. In the below you can see one of each letter highlighted.



The location encoded here was EC3R8AJ. This is a small area within the City of London:



The second illustration of three figures, standing in a line.

On the opposite page was a collection of 6 riddles. Each riddle was connected to an individual that featured somewhere in the book. The riddles were as follows:

*I'm made up of crystals
Of water and ice
I glint in the sunlight
Build a cool paradise
Outside, I might bite you
If you stand in the cold
But don't wait too long
I rarely last till I'm old
~ the musician*

The answer to this riddle is **frost**.

Most of this riddle is descriptive.

The line 'Outside, I might bite you' is key to distinguishing between other types of frozen water, i.e. snow, in referencing *frostbite*.

*My centre is wick
I burn with a flame
I'm made out of beeswax
Yet, what is my name?
~ the writer*

The answer to this riddle is **candle**.

The text is entirely descriptive - outlining key features of a candle, that it's often made out of beeswax with the wick in the middle, and burns with a flame.

*There are many in towels, letters, proteins & bedsheets
In geology we'd be waves, on a skirt we'd be pleats
With paper to form us, turn over a sharp edge
And over and over, for we are many, that we pledge
~ the banker*

The answer is **folds**.

The first line lists several things that have folds: towels and bedsheets are often folded. Written letters have folds in the middle.

[Protein folding](#) is a scientific process.

Line two offers some translations for the word folds - [waves](#) in geology, and pleats in a skirt.

Line three describes a process for making a fold, and line four reinforces that the answer is plural.

*I'll burn with a crackle
Releasing carbon & light
In forests felled you'll find me
If you cut the tree up right
You might fill me with your data
To capture action, movement, sound
Give me the base and the number
& the power you'll have found
~ the basket weaver*

The answer is **logs**.

The first four lines describe wooden logs: logs that you might find or make in a forest and then use to build structures with or burn to release energy. Lines five and six capture the process of making a 'log' of something, in the way you'd have a captain's log in a ship. The final two lines refer to 'logs' (or [logarithms](#)) as a mathematical form.

*Here you can begin
At the converse of end
From me you can rise
Or look down and descend
From a slumber, if you jolt
You'll wake with me too
I'm a point, a location
Not a place you travel through
~ the princess*

The answer is **start**.

The first four lines capture the idea of the 'start' as the beginning of something. Lines five and six describe the idea of waking with a start. The final two lines reinforce that you're considering a location.

*You can form me and lose me,
you hold me so dear
I live deep inside you,
Holding times far, places near
You treasure your earliest,
you'll never know your last
All alone in the moonlight,
I hold all of your past
~ the detective*

The answer is **memory**.

The first four lines are a description of what memories are. Lines five and six reinforce the idea that early memories are treasured, while it's impossible to know your last memory. Line seven is a sneaky

reference to the song 'memory' from the musical *Cats*. Line eight is again a description of memory in describing what it holds.

Once all of the riddles had been solved, the next step was connecting their answers to the three figures in the illustration. The clues to help you make these connections were hidden across the book.

The figure on the left is **the banker**. The key clue here was the battered pocket watch hanging from his waistcoat. This was referenced in rhyme ten: 'The Big Smoke':

he pulls out his old pocket watch scratched all over, from his waistcoat to check the time

The figure in the middle is **the detective**. The key clue here is that the figure is wearing a ring on every one of their fingers. This is referenced in rhyme nine: 'St Paul's':

I wear a ring on each finger every day.

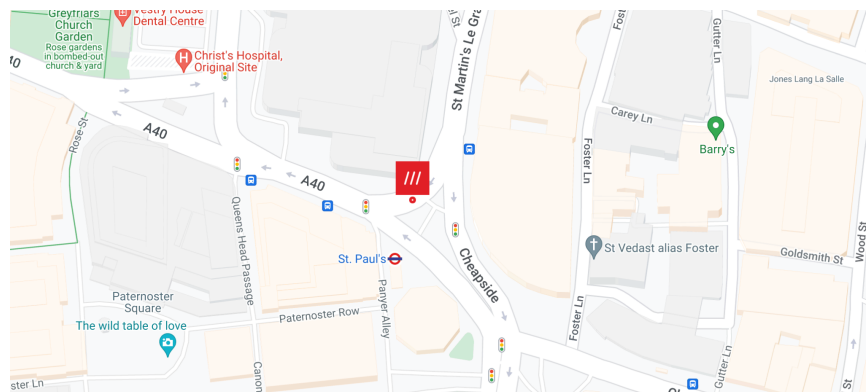
The figure on the right is **the basket weaver**. The key clue here is that the figure has small lines sewn into the bottom of her skirt. This is referenced in rhyme 12: 'Gog and Magog':

The 49 lines sewn at the base of my skirt for each one.

Once the three figures have been identified, this gives an answer of three words (the answers to the three riddles). The order of the figures in the illustration gives the order of the words:

Folds, memory, logs.

Or, using what3words: [folds.memory.logs](https://www.what3words.com/folds.memory.logs).



The third illustration is of a market scene.

The market scene is accompanied by an auctioneer's note. Encoded within the note is a location (which is written here as a latitude / longitude), and the market scene gives you a way to read it:

At the centre of the market scene is a wheel, and the spokes that run across this wheel connect letters to numbers, as follows:

The letter A to 4 apples: Giving A = 4
The letter E to an empty space: Giving E = 0
The letter N to 2 necklaces: Giving N = 2
The letter I to 3 ice creams: Giving I = 3
The letter S to 9 sausages: Giving S = 9
The letter W to 7 watches: Giving W = 7
The letter O to 1 orange: Giving O = 1
The letter P to 5 plants: Giving P = 5

This code then allows you to read a sequence of numbers into the auctioneer's note, which allows you to find a longitude and latitude. The fact that a longitude / latitude is encoded is gently indicated by the inclusion of the word 'longitudinally' in the opening passage of text.

To read the latitude / longitude you need to take the initial letters of a number of words. This is indicated by the word 'Initially', with the I capitalised, also in the opening passage of text.

Within the text, the longitude and latitude are encoded in dms - degrees, minutes, seconds.

The latitude is:

51° 30' 49.4" N

The degrees are encoded by the P and O in:

°Perennial Omnipresence

The degrees symbol (acting as a bullet point here), indicates that this is the degrees.

The minutes are encoded by the I and E in:

'Inspect Everything'

The ' symbol (acting as single quotation marks here), indicates that these are the minutes.

The seconds are encoded by the A, S and . in:

"Always Seek. Adventure"

The " symbol (acting as double quotation marks here), indicates that these are the seconds. The full stop acts as a decimal point.

Just following the second double quotation marks is the word 'North', which gives us the N at the end of the latitude.

The longitude is:

0° 05' 23.5" W

Following the same logic as above, the degrees are encoded by:

°Examination

The minutes by:

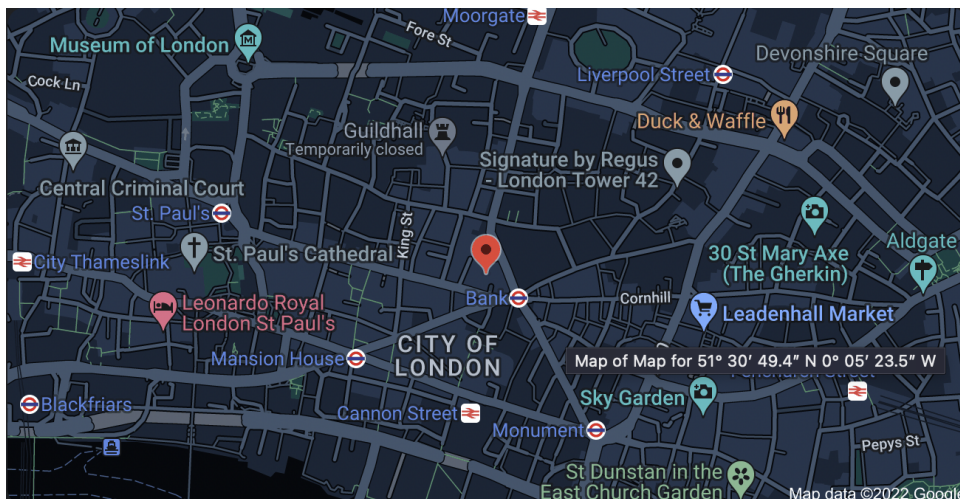
'Extending Parts'

And the seconds by:

"Now Inspect. Poles"

The West just after the second quotation marks gives us the W.

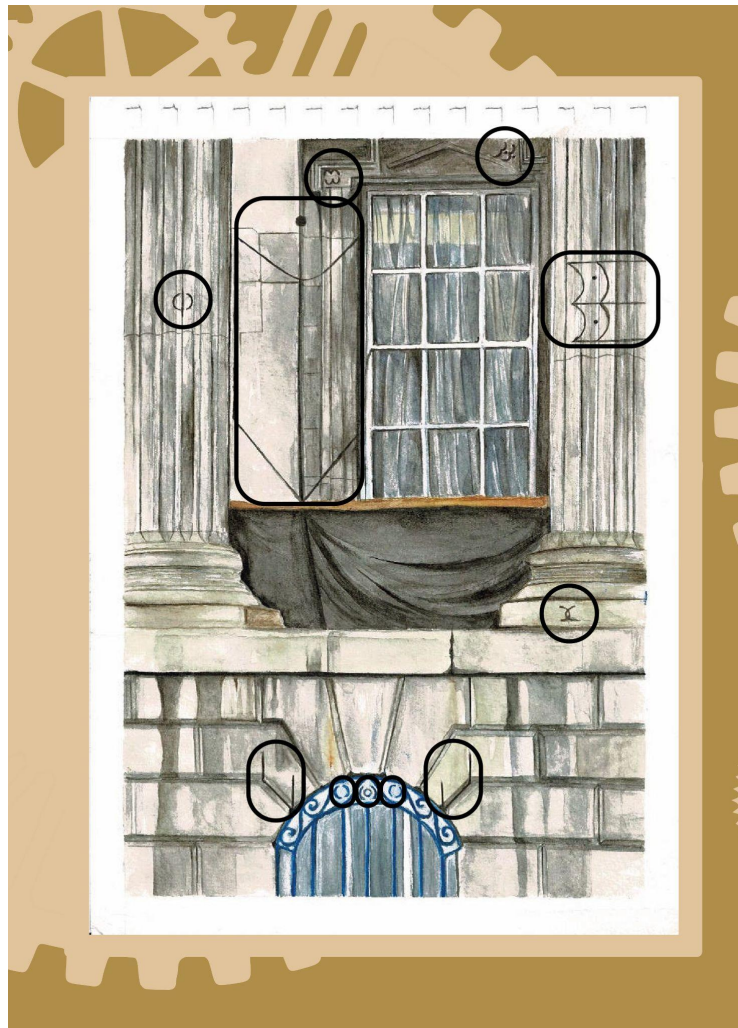
This latitude and longitude gives us another location in the City:



The fourth and final illustration shows pillars framing a window.

Hidden in this illustration are the letters of a single word, written in the dragon's language, please see above for a brief explainer on the dragon's language.

There are 11 letters encoded in the image, as follows:



From top to bottom, these are the letters:

Y, R, S, P, D, T, I, I, E, E, N

Which spells out the word:

S - E - R - E - N - D - I - P - I - T - Y

The scene behind these letters is the exterior of Mansion House.

On the Hunt, at the beginning of Act 3, you'd find yourself outside Mansion House and see this:



You were asked to text SERENDIPITY as a keyword, and received the following in response.

Remember that location you marked serendipitously? That was serendipitously an old place of the Heart, attributed to an unknown custodian. It's the 4th old place of the Heart you need, to cross paths with the others, and perhaps then the new place of the Heart.

This referred to a moment in Act 2, where you found yourself on Cannon Street, between the Walbrook and St Mary Aldermary, and were asked:

Count a few more steps, at least one step and at most five more steps and then -

Imagine you bumped into someone here, serendipitously. A friend you've not seen in a long while, as sometimes happens in this city. Come to a stop, while you say hello.

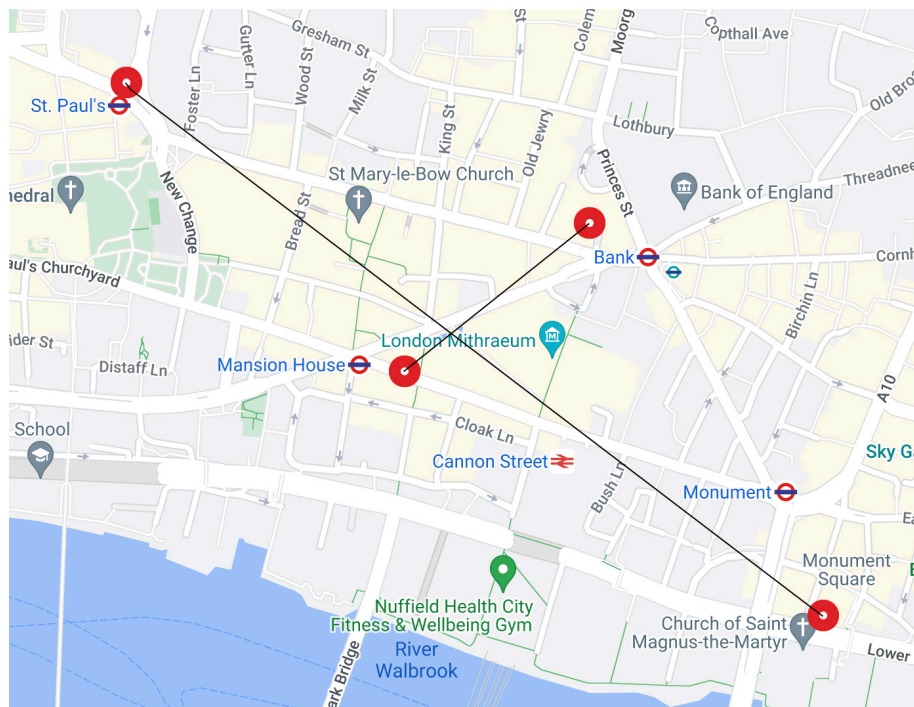
And mark this spot of serendipitous encounter, remember it.

It seemed fitting to mark an uncertain spot for an unknown custodian by a serendipitous moment.

Within are four, so find the fifth

Once all four locations had been identified, there was one final step to find the heart's place.

The four locations needed to be connected to one another. On drawing lines between the four locations you'd create a box with a cross in the middle. The centre of the cross is the spot right in the middle of all four locations and this was the place of the heart.



(an example, noting that there was a narrow margin of uncertainty for both the postcode and serendipity puzzles)

The technique you needed to use to find the heart in this way was described in the blog post ['The book, complete'](#).

The location at the middle of all four, the place of the heart is (the northern-most and less-regarded site of) **Forgotten Streams**. [Forgotten streams](#) is an artwork that remembers many of the forgotten streams and rivers of London. There was a small clue that Forgotten Streams was the heart's new place in Rhyme Six: A Lost River of London. In the poem, attributed to Phillis Wheatley, the lost Walbrook is referred to as a 'forgotten stream'.

The shape of the heart

The second part of the hunt was the search for the shape of the heart:

Again, key clues to identify the shape of the heart were hidden in the message written in dragon's language:

Look close, take care, read deep
Discover the secrets these pages keep
Within are four, so find the fifth
Send your eyes beyond the myth
There I beat and breathe and grow
On the one who finds me I will bestow
A chance to unlock and hold the key
Of the heart of our London's city
The custodian's must watch the words
So listen close to what you've heard
Wake me gently with rhymes that are sweet
Who is it I want to meet?

Specifically,

- The line 'wake me gently with rhymes that are sweet' is an instruction - the heart's form was itself a rhyme, hidden in the pages of the book.
- The underlined 'custodian's', 'watch', 'the', 'words' can be rearranged to read: 'Watch the custodian's words': the words of the custodians held important information, specifically the words of the rhyme.
- 'Listen close to what you've heard': excerpts of the tune of the rhyme could be heard in every phonecall. If you unlocked all five phoneboxes, then you'd be texted a link to the tune:
www.tinyurl.com/TheHeartSings.

The front and back cover of the book were also key to the identifying of the heart.

On the back cover there was a pattern of musical notes and symbols from the dragon's language. The notes and symbols appeared in pairs, with one symbol from the language shown with between one and six musical notes. These collected symbols encoded a message, where the number of musical notes indicated which word in the message the symbol / letter belonged to. When decoded the letters were as follows:

A, E, E, G, I, N, N, O, R, S, T were in the first word
E, E, G, H, O, R, T, T were in the second
E, H, M, R, S, Y in the third
O, T in the fourth
B, E in the fifth
G, N, S, U in the sixth.

Unscrambled, the message reads:

'Generations together, rhymes to be sung'

Indicating two things:

1. That the rhyme needed to be sung to the tune which you'd have found by 'listening close to what you've heard')\
2. That generations should sing the rhyme together. The more generations the better.

There was a small symbol at the bottom of the back cover showing three generations standing together around an orb, again reinforcing the idea of generations singing together.

On the front cover of the book were the images of eight custodians. The order of these images could be used to find the order of the lines of the rhyme. The order of the custodians was as follows, from left to right:

1. The Builder, from Rhyme Five: The London Stone
2. The Bus Driver from Rhyme Eleven: Double Decker
3. The Bell Ringer from Rhyme Four: Oranges and Lemons
4. The Musician from Rhyme Two: The Ceremony of the Keys
5. The Ornithologist from Rhyme Eight: The City's Phoenix
6. Dick Whittington from Rhyme Thirteen: Turn Again, Whittington
7. The Night Watchman from Rhyme One: London Bridge is Falling Down
8. The Writer from Rhyme Seven: The Night of the Custodian

The images of the custodians also appeared on each of the rhyme pages, to further reinforce which individual the figure was representing.

Then, within the pages of the book itself, the words of the rhyme (the shape of the heart) were hidden within the quotes of each custodian. The key words were all underlined and highlighted in a different colour. In London Bridge is Falling Down, below, the Night Watchman can be seen in the top right corner, and in the night watchman's quote you can find the words 'the', 'city', 'for', 'its' and 'people' underlined and highlighted.

London Bridge is Falling Down

Nobody remembers who started singing it but it became both the warning shot and calling card of Captain John Deadstare's mob. When people heard:

*"London Bridge is falling down,
Falling Down, falling down
London Bridge is falling down,
My fair Lady."*

...they knew it was time to empty their pockets.

Times were good for Deadstare and his crew of ex-soldiers, unceremoniously returned to London after the Spanish War came to a sudden end. The City Guard let them alone as long as they didn't target the nobility. At night at least, the City belonged to Deadstare.

One cold winter night, Deadstare and his henchman, One-Eyed Pete, were crossing London Bridge singing:

*"London Bridge is falling down,
Falling Down, falling down
London Bridge is falling down,
My fair Lady."*

...when they heard:

*"Build it up with wood and clay,
Wood and clay, wood and clay;
Build it up with wood and clay,
My fair lady."*

A man's gruff voice. Not seeing its provenance but assuming it one of their own, they sang back:

*"Wood and clay will wash away,
Wash away, wash away;
Wood and clay will wash away,
My fair lady."*

Getting no response, they laughed nervously.

A sudden swoop and a brutal slash. One-Eyed Pete dropped to the ground, his throat slit.

Drawing his sword, Deadstare's breath quickening as he spun around looking for the killer, shouting: "Face me, coward!"

The next verse came, one unfamiliar to us all at the time:

*"Set a man to watch all night,
Watch all night, watch all night;
Set a man to watch all night,
My fair lady."*

The figure materialised behind Deadstare, the blade to his throat, before releasing him. Deadstare ran for his life. Nobody saw the figure's face: only a large black hat and a long dark cloak. The deed done, he lit up a pipe and smoked as he disappeared into the night.

Deadstare's mob was never heard from again. The mysterious protector became known as the Nightwatchman and would be regularly spotted on or near London Bridge after dark; always dressed in black and smoking a pipe. The verse he had himself added to the song was supplemented further:

*"Suppose the man should fall asleep,
Fall asleep, fall asleep;
Suppose the man should fall asleep?
My fair lady."*

Give him a pipe to smoke all night,
Smoke all night,
Smoke all night;


Give him a pipe to smoke all night,
My fair lady."

His existence was disputed, some claimed it a story concocted to scare brigands away. Whatever the truth, the sightings stopped two years later and the following inscription appeared etched onto the side of the bridge:

"I never chose the role of protector. Insomniac, I watched the streets of the city for hours. London becomes a different beast at night, when its darkest aspect is revealed. The people of these streets need protection."

Shortly after the Nightwatchman's last appearance, a fire broke out just to the North of the Bridge. Some thought it Deadstare's revenge; others an ill omen; others still, a ridiculous coincidence.

**Dr Neil Misuneris,
Historian & Phenomenologist**



Following the order above, the words gathered from each page were:

1. The Builder: 'this', 'moment', 'springs', 'a', 'river' and 'runs'
2. The Bus Driver: 'The', 'city', 'with', 'its' 'people'
3. The Bell Ringer: 'these', 'golden', 'chains', 'in', 'time', 'undone'.
4. The Musician: 'the' 'city' 'by' its' and 'people'
5. The Ornithologist: 'Together', 'we', 'act', 'to', 'take' 'care'
6. Dick Whittington 'towards', 'a', 'living', 'future' 'fair'
7. The Night Watchman: 'the', 'city', 'for', 'its' 'people'.
8. The Writer: 'our', 'city', 'is', 'the', 'people'

This gives the shape of the new Heart of the City of London as this rhyme:

*This moment springs a river runs
The city with its people
These golden chains in time undone
The city by its people
Together we act to take care
Towards a living future fair
The city for its people
Our city is the people*

Sung together by generations, to the [tune](#) given.

And perhaps more specifically, the feelings - of solidarity and communality? - that might be provoked in your hearts as you sing the rhyme as generations together.