

Mudford Smugglers' Run Audio Trail Transcript

16. STREETER'S FAREWELL

[Harbour sounds. Water lapping against The Phoenix. Gulls.]

JOHN (as an old man) Lovey!

LOVEY John Streeter! There you are.

JOHN Come, climb aboard The Phoenix to bid me farewell. You find me now an old man of three score years and ten.

LOVEY And the rest!

JOHN I may look worn, but Mudford and Christchurch have turned from wild and barely inhabited to thriving hamlets of elegance with marine villas and bathing machines! How times have changed!

LOVEY Have they? Truly?

JOHN Perhaps I am changed. Or not. I still want to sail the Phoenix – out of this life and into the next adventure.

LOVEY Still you chase a challenge! Tell me, what do you regret, John Streeter?

JOHN I regret the death of William Allen. I regret trusting William Parrott who killed him. His musket blew a twenty-year absence into my life. I regret not seeing me family enough.

For all the riches I once had, I returned home with nothing, to live off the Parish Poor Relief and the kindness of me daughters Rose and Mary.

I regret the government's excessive customs duty! The greed of the rich and powerful. Yet my ambition shaped my life. Was it greed or need?

LOVEY What would you do differently, Streeter?

JOHN Ah, Lovey. I'd have to look back over me life thrice more. I am tired. I long to sail on.

LOVEY Then I shall join you. Onwards through time and space.

JOHN With a flask of the finest French Brandy in me pocket! Well, friends, this is where we leave you. Thank you for your fine company. Tell me, is this how you imagined the life of a smuggler?