



Heather's red pom-pom hat matches her red scarf, and she gazes loving at her father.



Heather is wearing yellow socks under her T-bar sandals and Victor is wearing stout dark shoes.

The tiny figure of Heather gazes up at her tall father as they emerge from a dark alley into the brightness of the moon- and gas-lit street. Holding hands, they walk towards the lamp-post on the corner. The warmth of the light the lamp casts onto their faces echoes the warmth of the love they felt for one another. This feeling was with them all the time but it was especially strong during these walks when Victor relied on his daughter to help him re-establish his place in society.

As they enter the gas-lamp's glow, father and daughter are walking on the smooth paving stones of the alley and, if they turn left, they will continue to walk on that even surface. Should they need to cross this street they will walk on the cobbles that formed the surface of so many of Sunderland's streets at the time. For a person with a visual impairment a cobbled street must be a challenging surface to negotiate safely, although the texture would have given Victor a welcome clue to his location. Hooky using dip dyed strips is ideal to represent the uneven surface of the cobbled street, as each slightly differently-shaded loop resembles one of the granite blocks.



Victor is wearing a hat, as most men did in 1950s Britain.



Many urban streets in Britain were still paved with hard-wearing cobbles in the 1950s.

Moving ahead almost sixty years, Heather remembers something that happened when she was in The Gambia in 2007. "Sausie [one of the blind trainees at the GOVI center — see Chapter 18, *Origins and Identity*] was in class with his little girl and he said 'she's my sight.' The first thing she says to him every day is 'Daddy, what can I get for you, what do you want?' That could have been me speaking because that is what I would always say to my father. Sausie's daughter's experience and mine are exactly the same, even though they happened in different worlds and different lives."



Sausie and his daughter at the Rug Aid workshop in The Gambia. Sausie is blind and his daughter is his Guiding Light. Courtesy of Mat Connolley/Rug Aid cic