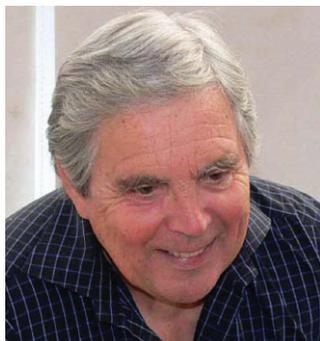


ONCE UPON A PINT

A READER'S GUIDE TO THE LITERARY PUBS & INNS OF DORSET & SOMERSET

Terry Townsend

Most people enjoy visiting old inns simply because they feel a vague sense of history. This pleasure can be greatly enhanced if a few facts are known about its past. Every county in England has its share of literary pubs and inns but the southern counties are particularly blessed. This book is a literary pub crawl around two of England's most beautiful and least spoilt shires, Dorset and Somerset, following in the steps of famous and lesser known writers.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Retired graphic designer Terry Townsend has combined his life-long interests in English Literature and English pubs to produce this reader's guide to those twin sources of delight and amusement. Terry lives in Dorset with his wife Carol and their cat Smudge.

Here are town pubs, country pubs, village pubs, riverside pubs and seaside pubs all with one thing in common; they have been immortalised by association with books or writers. Among the many characters you will meet along the way are *Lorna Doone*, *Sam Weller*, *Inspector Morse*, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, *Barry Lyndon*, *The Ancient Mariner*, *Anne Elliot and her Captain Wentworth*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and a Poet Laureate turned thriller writer.

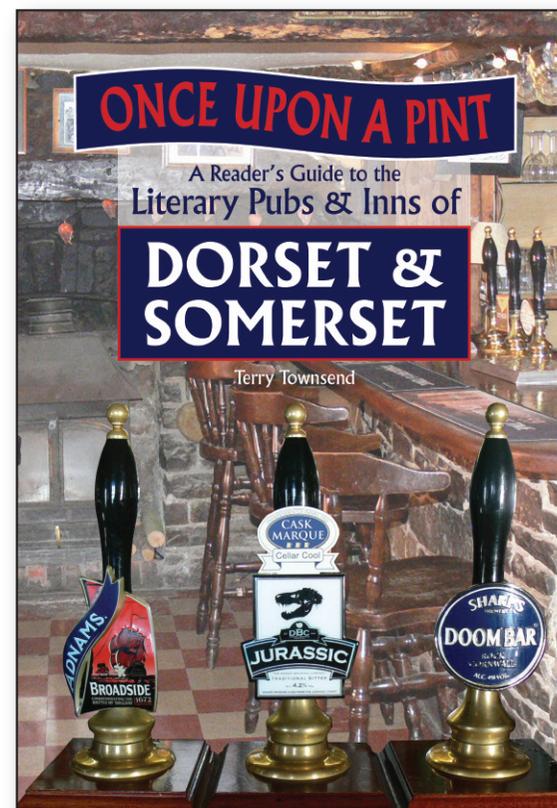
The literary pilgrimage has long been accepted as a good excuse to travel. Now, if you need it, you also have a good excuse to pop down the pub. Illustrated throughout in colour, this handy new hardback is the essential guide to more than fifty of the most characterful hostleries in the fair counties of Dorset and Somerset and their famous literary links. Cheers and good reading!

HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

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Above: As a result of the film, *Hot Fuzz* the Crown at Wells is now one of the top 100 Famous Grouse pubs

Left: The sixteenth-century Acorn Inn in Evershot appears as the Sow & Acorn at Evershead, in two of Thomas Hardy's powerful stories: *Interlopers* at the Knapp and *The First Countess* of Wessex.



The Ship Inn Swanage where Enid Blyton brought her daughters in May 1940 for the first of many holidays staying in the town.

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The flagged floor in front of the inglenook fireplace is marked out for the old form of bar skittles.

The partly uncovered priest hole in the main bar.

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MIDDLEMARSH
Hunter's Moon
Thomas Hardy (1840 - 1928)

This 'blink and you'll miss it' hamlet on the A352, features in two of Thomas Hardy's stories. The quartet of itinerant characters in *A Trampwoman's Tragedy* roam through the New Forest and the Blackmore Vale; climb the Mendips, ford the Yeo river near Yeovil and head on through the Marshwood Fens:

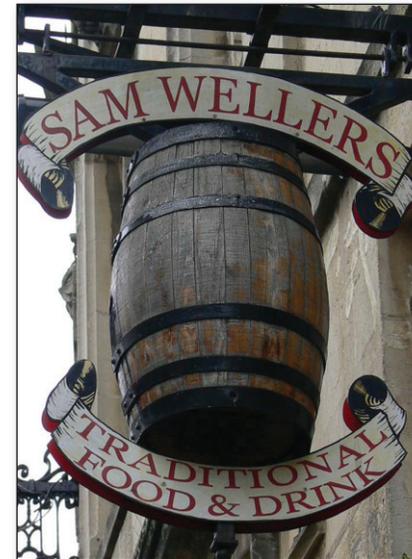
*From Wynyard's Gap the livelong day,
The livelong day,
We beat about the northward way
We had travelled times before.
The sun-blaze burning on our backs,
Our shoulders sticking to our packs,
By fosseway, fields, and turnpike tracks
We skirted sad Sedge-Moor.*

The Hunter's Moon at Middlemarsh appears as The Horse on Hittock Green in Thomas Hardy's poem *A Trampwoman's Tragedy*.

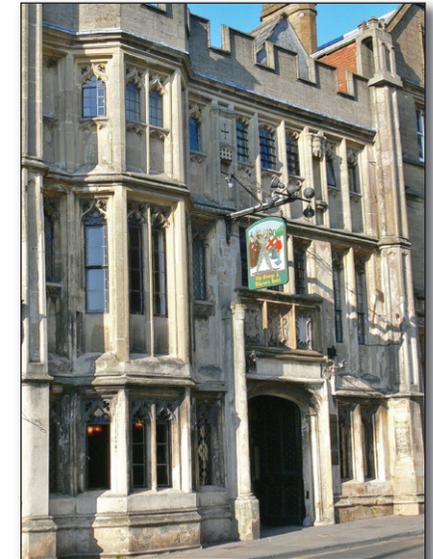
The inn sign with its depiction of a barn owl graphically illustrates the concept of a hamlet's moon.

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Example of a double-page spread.



Above left: The Sam Wellers' unusual and attractive pub sign.



Above right: The George & Pilgrims features in J. C. Powys' tour-de-force novel *A Glastonbury Romance*.