

BRISTOL & CLIFTON SLAVE TRADE TRAILS

Terry Townsend

For much of the eighteenth century, Bristol was England's second city and, between 1730 and 1745, its premier slaving port. This book presents the drama of that period through six discovery trails. Maps, detailed directions and over 150 photographs help bring the story to life.

From the historic habourside to the heights of Clifton; from the interior of a slave owner's house to the secret caves, courts and corners of the old city, this is a face of Bristol largely undiscovered by the general tourist.

Following in the footsteps of major players and beneficiaries of the African trade, the trails reveal where they lived, conducted their business, socialised and worshipped, seemingly oblivious to the suffering of their slaves.

Here are tales of merchants, shipbuilders, sugar refiners, plantation owners, tavern keepers, trade goods manufacturers and bankers. Also included are accounts of brave abolitionists, brutal ships' officers and poverty-pressed slave ship crewmen whose miserable existence was often little better than those of the enslaved human cargo.

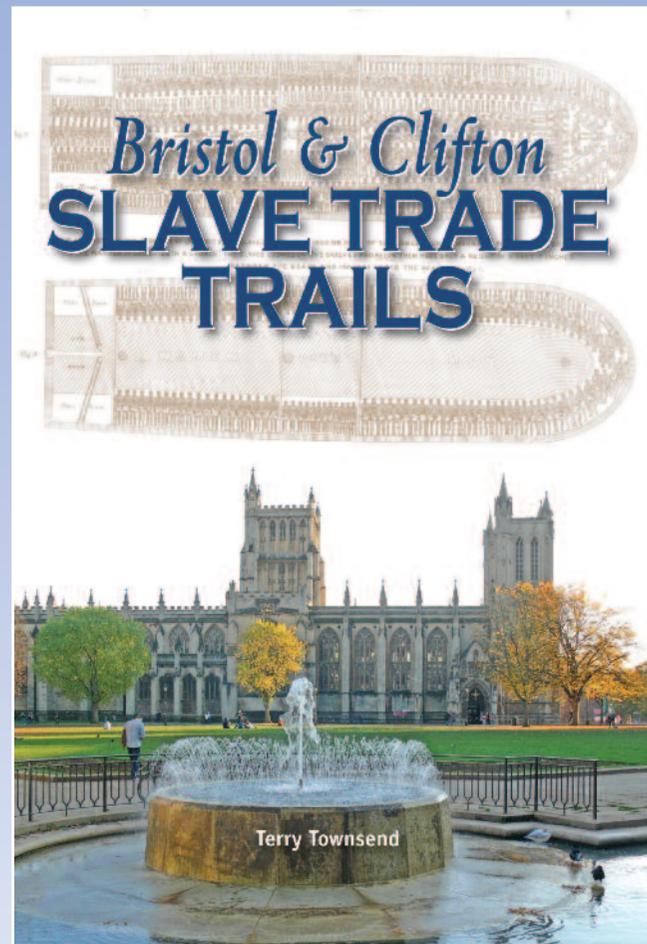
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Terry Townsend has written extensively about English life in the eighteenth century, including six books for Halsgrove amongst which are *Jane Austen's Hampshire*, *Jane Austen and Bath* and *Jane Austen's Kent*. He lives in Dorset with his wife Carol and their cat Smudge.

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Tradition has it that the Llandoger Trow was the meeting place of Daniel Defoe and marooned sailor Alexander Selkirk, the author's inspiration for Robinson Crusoe.

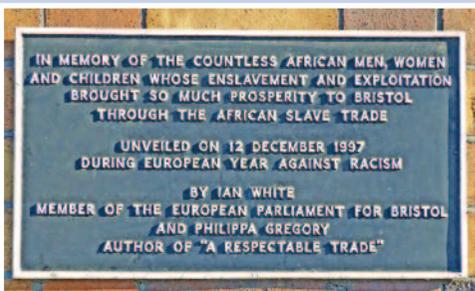


Above: Queen Square was completed in 1727 when Bristol's involvement with the slave trade was nearing its height.

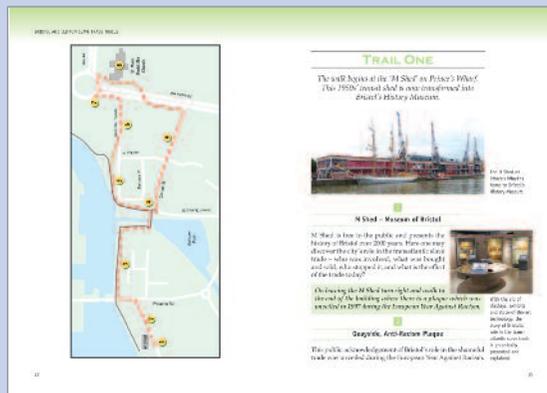
Left: Members of the Society of Merchant Venturers who owned and invested in slave trade voyages contributed financially to St Mary Redcliffe church. Many of the Venturers were baptised, confirmed, married and buried here.

Left: Six Bristol merchants, most of whom had African or West Indian links, financed the first phase of building of Royal York Crescent.

Below: In March 1999, this distinctive footbridge across the River Frome in Bristol harbour was named after Pero who was brought to Bristol from the Caribbean island of Nevis as personal servant to plantation owner John Pinney.



Bristol's public acknowledgement of the city's role in the shameful trade was unveiled in 1997 during the European Year Against Racism.



Example of a double-page spread.