

EAST CORNWALL SMUGGLERS' PUBS KINGSAND TO MEVAGISSEY

Terry Townsend

During the eighteenth century a crime wave swept over Cornwall. The devastating consequences eventually threatened to bankrupt the whole country. The government called it smuggling: the Cornish people called it 'free trading'. At its heart was the village pub which became the nerve centre of clandestine operations.

The smugglers' pub served as a meeting place, secret storage facility, distribution depot and valued customer. It was here plots were hatched, arrangements for transportation agreed and 'smuggling runs' commissioned. Constructed in part using timbers from ships wrecked on the storm-lashed coast many of these notable buildings with their low-beamed ceilings, flagstone floors, inglenook fireplaces and secret hiding places still survive.

The fascinating story of smuggling in East Cornwall is revealed here in this fascinating and superbly illustrated guide, through visits to eighteen authentic inns and taverns frequented by the old time free traders.

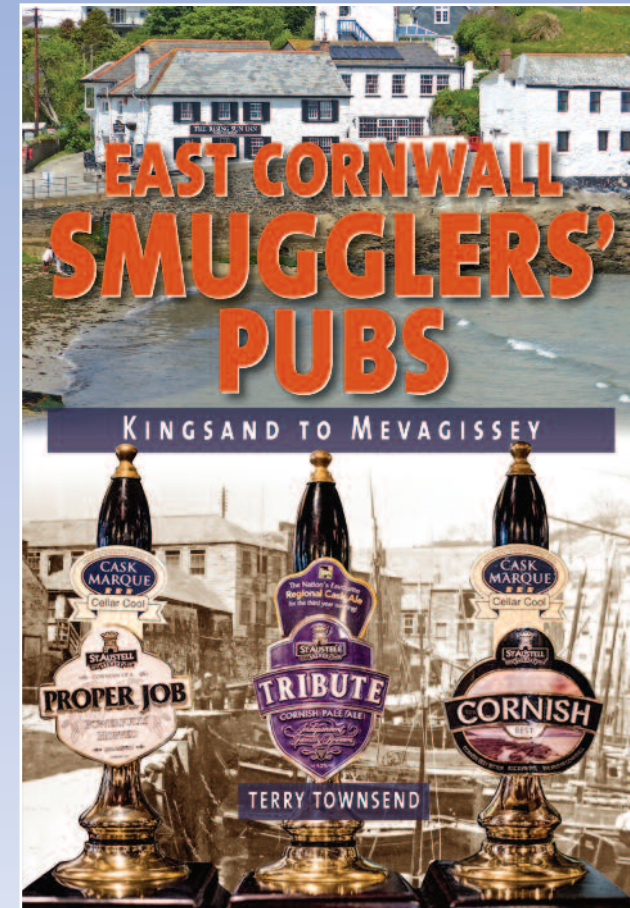
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Terry Townsend, who lives in the West Country with his wife Carol and their cat Smudge, has written a companion volume to this Cornish contraband collection where he presents hostelrys from St Ives to Falmouth. Terry's other 'Smugglers' Pubs' books encompass the Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Dorset and Kent. He is currently taking great pleasure in researching Suffolk.

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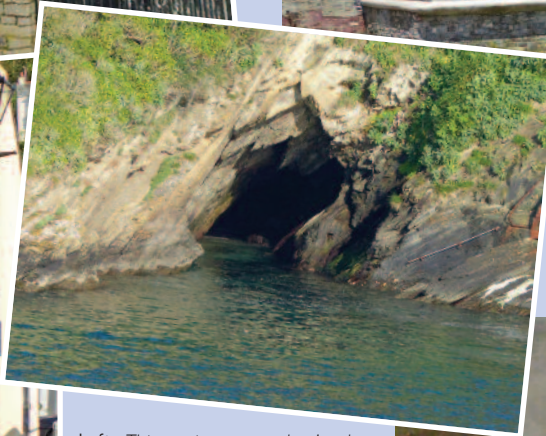
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Harry Bartlett's home in Portwrinkle, now named Smuggler's Cottage, where contraband was hidden.



Above: Smugglers defrauded the Revenue on a massive scale landing thousands of gallons of spirits annually on the beaches of Kingsand and Cawsand.



Left: Caves in the rocks along the Fowey River estuary made excellent temporary contraband hiding places.

Below: Larger sailing ships returning with contraband usually anchored offshore while smaller boats ferried the goods to the beach.

Left: This ancient smugglers' pub, affectionately known as the Jolly was established in 1516, seven years into the reign of Henry VIII.



In former times a rope slung over this hook may have been used to lower kegs into the cellar.



Example of a double-page spread.

