WEST CORNWALL SMUGGLERS' PUBS
ST IVES TO FALMOUTH

Terry Townsend

The rugged coastline of Cornwall has long been associated with smuggling. The high cliffs and secret coves made it difficult and dangerous for the Revenue Service to patrol effectively. Armed smugglers' vessels of 250 tons could transport cargos of contraband worth up to £10,000 a time, when a labouring man's earnings were no more than £20 a year.

At one stage, half of all the brandy smuggled into England came in along the coast of Cornwall but high rewards came with high risks. Today's fishing villages and holiday beaches were once the background for conspiracy, bribery, intimidation and murder.

The Cornishmen who organised smuggling were well known and largely condoned by local communities who stood to gain from their activities. The nerve centre of smuggling operations was the local pub which served as a meeting place, storage facility, distribution depot and valued customer.

This superbly-illustrated guide features a significant number of authentic pubs from St Ives to Falmouth patronised over two centuries ago by Cornish 'free traders'. In these wonderful old buildings with their low-beamed ceilings, flagstone floors, inglenook fireplaces and secret hiding places one can sense the desperate days of smuggling's golden era.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Terry Townsend, who lives in the West Country with his wife Carol and their cat Smudge, has written four other 'Smugglers' Pubs' books featuring Kent, Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. He is currently working on a companion volume to this Cornish exploration completing the journey from Falmouth to the Devon border.

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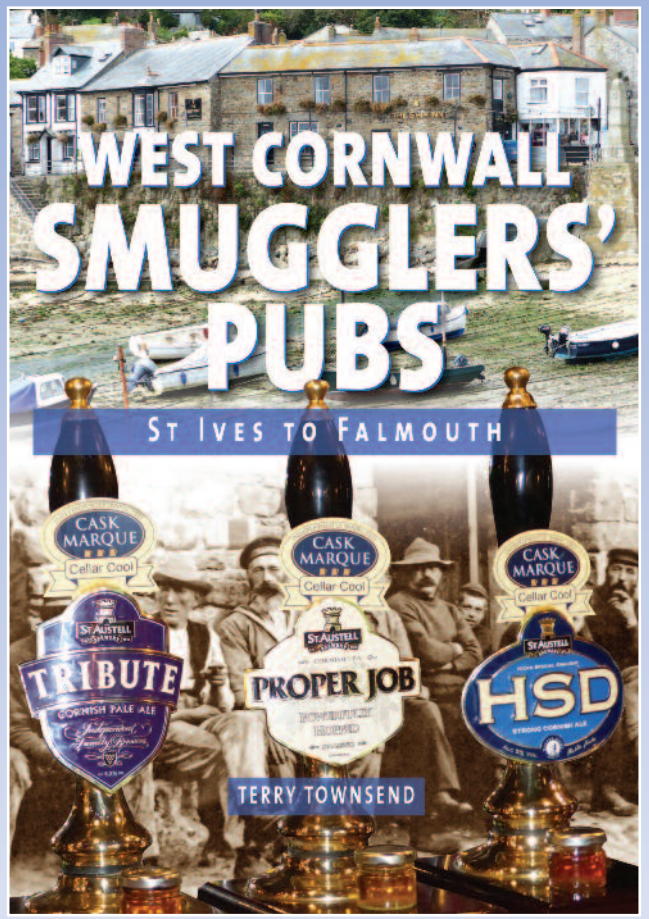

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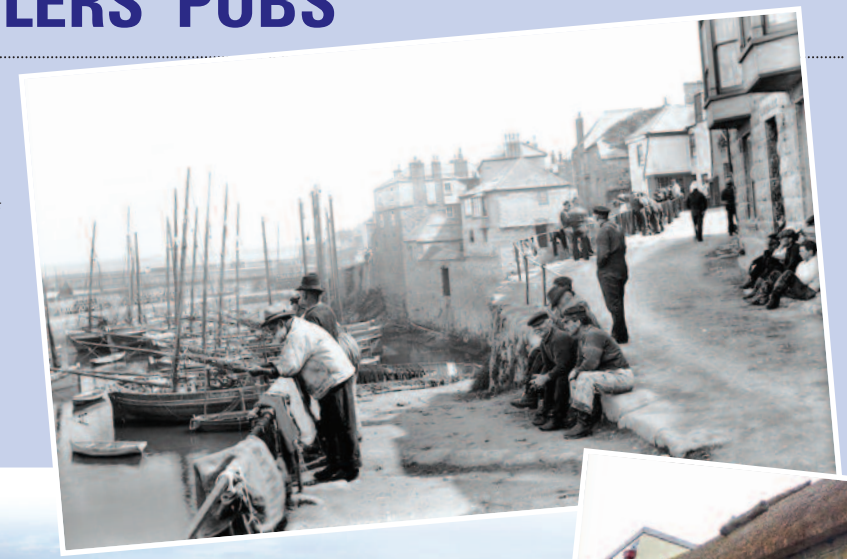
WEST CORNWALL

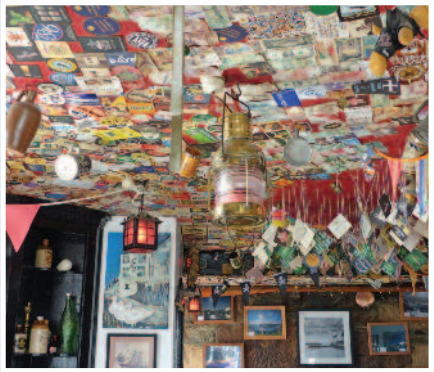
SMUGGLERS' PUBS

These Newlyn fishermen resting on a lazy summer Sunday grew up listening to their father's stories of smuggling days.



Above: *Today fishermen of Cadgwith catch crabs and lobster which feature prominently on the pub's menu.*

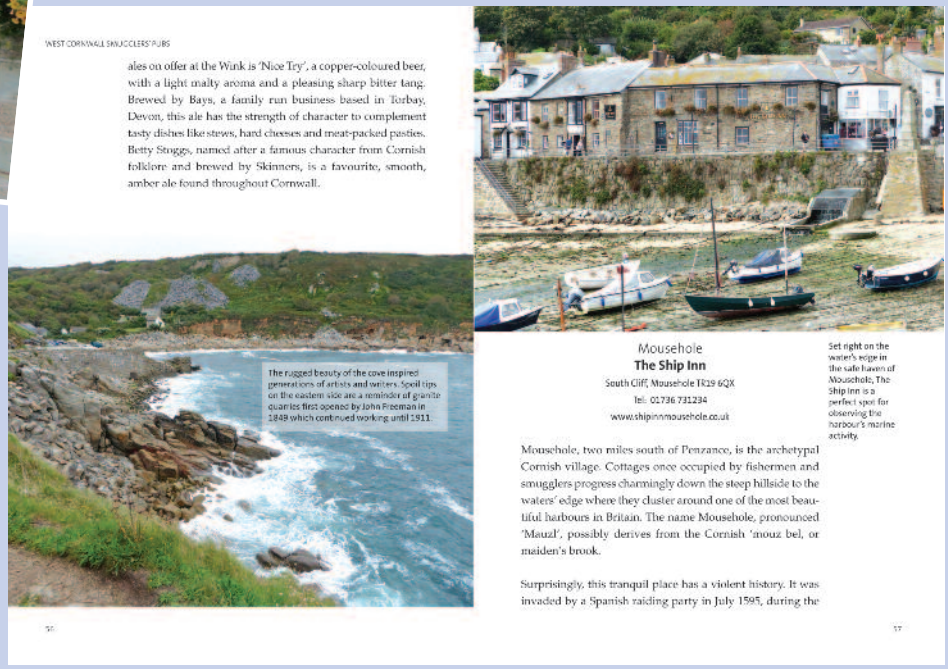
Left: *The Blue Anchor dating from the fifteenth century is one of the oldest original inns in Britain.*



The Ship at Porthleven's main bar is packed full of interest from floor to ceiling.

Tracks worn by carts carrying contraband can be clearly seen on the rocks at Prussia Cove. Below: *The Old Customs House in Falmouth is now a restaurant called The Stables.*

Example of a double-page spread.



WEST CORNWALL SMUGGLERS' PUBS

ales on offer at the Wink is 'Nice Try', a copper-coloured beer, with a light malty aroma and a pleasing sharp bitter tang. Brewed by Bays, a family run business based in Torbay, Devon, this ale has the strength of character to complement tasty dishes like stews, hard cheeses and meat-packed pasties. Betty Stogs, named after a famous character from Cornish folklore and brewed by Skinners, is a favourite, smooth, amber ale found throughout Cornwall.

The rugged beauty of the cove inspired generations of artists and writers. Spoil tips on the eastern side are a reminder of granite quarries first opened by John Freeman in 1848 which continued working until 1911.

Mousehole

The Ship Inn

South Cliff, Mousehole TR19 6QX

tel: 01736 731234

www.shipinnmousehole.co.uk

Set right on the water's edge in the safe haven of Mousehole, The Ship Inn is a perfect spot for observing the harbour's marine activity.

Mousehole, two miles south of Penzance, is the archetypal Cornish village. Cottages once occupied by fishermen and smugglers progress charmingly down the steep hillside to the waters' edge where they cluster around one of the most beautiful harbours in Britain. The name Mousehole, pronounced 'Mauzl', possibly derives from the Cornish 'mouz bel, or maiden's brook.

Surprisingly, this tranquil place has a violent history. It was invaded by a Spanish raiding party in July 1595, during the