

KENT SMUGGLERS' PUBS

NEW EDITION OF THIS WELL-LOVED TITLE

Terry Townsend

The figure of the smuggler has provided material for innumerable fictional tales of intrigue and high adventure. In reality the law-makers, who first imposed duties on exported and imported goods, unwittingly created a climate in the country for the establishment of serious organised crime. From the moment taxes were imposed they were evaded and so began the delicious deception of smuggling.

As the centuries progressed smuggling grew to massive proportions. People from every walk of life became involved in financing, transporting, hiding and marketing contraband goods. It has been estimated that from 1700 to around 1850 a quarter of the country's import/export trade was illegal. Smuggling flourished because the majority of people did not consider it a crime. It provided a life-line for those living in poverty and an opportunity to get back at an unjust and unfair society.

Because of its proximity to France and its large number of suitable landing places, Kent became established as the main gateway for contraband. In many cases the local inn became the smugglers' centre of operations where plots were hatched, arrangements made and runs commissioned. The smugglers' pub served as a meeting place, recruitment centre, secret storage facility, distribution depot and valued customer.

This fully revised new edition of this popular guide will lead you to a significant number of authentic smugglers' pubs distributed throughout Kent. These wonderful old buildings with their low-beamed ceilings, flag stone floors, inglenook fire-places and secret hiding places are where you can get a real feel for the desperate days of the free traders. The events which actually occurred during the heyday of smuggling provide us with stories every bit as wild as those that can be imagined.

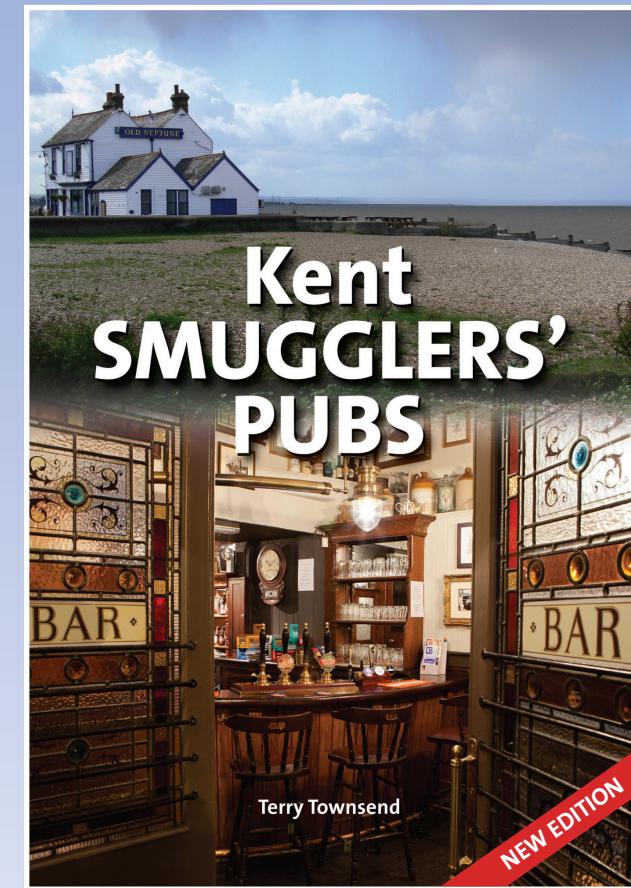
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Retired advertising executive **Terry Townsend** spent most of his working career in Kent where he became immersed in the history of the county. He now lives in the West Country with his wife Carol where they spend their spare time researching aspects of everyday life in the eighteenth century. Terry Townsend is the author of more than a dozen books published by Halsgrove.

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