



MUDEFORD

This part of the English south coast was popular with smugglers, who sometimes became local heroes. Hanna Sillar (sometimes known as the Angel of the Marsh) ran the 'Ship in Distress' Inn in Stanpit and was a prime ringleader.

Contraband was shipped into her premises. Her neighbour was Charles Streeter who became a local gang master and tobacco baron.

The most dramatic local event in 'smuggling days' occurred in 1784 when the so-called Battle of Mundeford took place.

This was a skirmish fought between smugglers and Customs and Excise officers along what is now Mundeford Quay at the entrance to Christchurch Harbour.

The battle resulted in the death of a Customs officer and the capture and execution of one of the smugglers.