

# DISCOVERING OLD NORFOLK THE ROAD TO THE PAST

Through the photographs  
of Tom Nokes (1869-1943)

Susan Wright

OVER 300 nostalgic photographs in this book take the reader back down the road to the past, providing a unique portrait of Norfolk when it truly was a rural gem. These little-known marvellous images of people and places evoke the essence of life in the countryside in the early years of the twentieth century.

Tom Nokes (1869–1943) was a well known Norwich photographer. He started work as a master photographer in 1891 and from around 1904 to 1925 he travelled around South Norfolk villages photographing events, harvest scenes, rural industries, sports teams, schools, weddings, funerals and First World War soldiers. These photographic images were produced as postcards and sold to the people concerned and to the local shops. Today Nokes' images are highly sought after by local historians and postcard collectors, selling at postcard fairs and auctions for high prices, although hitherto very little has been known about his private life.

In her introduction the author presents a carefully researched biography of Tom Nokes illustrated with some fascinating family photographs, a number of them taken by Tom, and never seen by the public. Also included is information from Tom's personal notebook which brings to life details about his work. For postcard collectors this volume will be of great interest, while the general reader can look forward to a journey down the dusty village roads into the past.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Susan Wright** has lived in Norfolk since 1966. She retired as a part-time physiotherapist several years ago and has had a long association with a local day care centre for the elderly. She also takes an active part in a charity run for people with dementia.

She has always enjoyed photography as a hobby and has an interest in photographs from the Victorian and Edwardian eras. A collector of postcards and Norfolk books, she is a member of several local history groups.

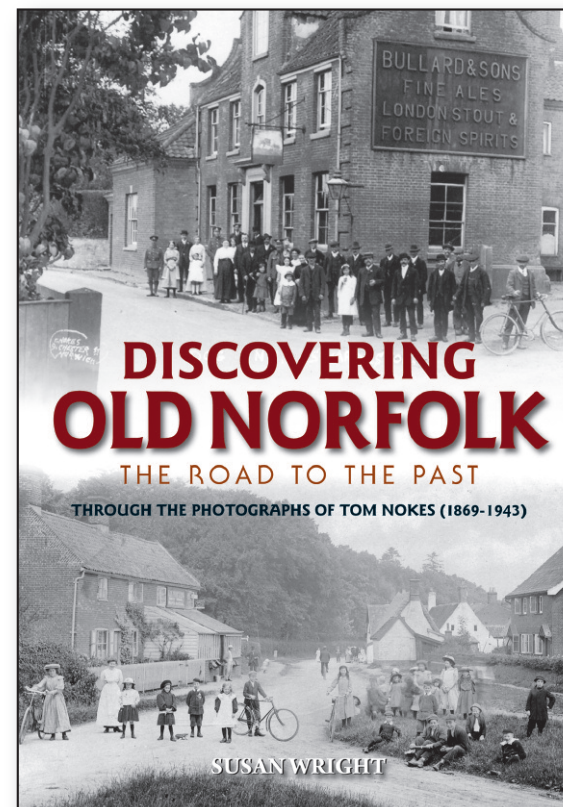
She lives in Ketteringham with her husband, a retired doctor. They have two daughters and two sons and now enjoy the company of their grandchildren whenever possible.

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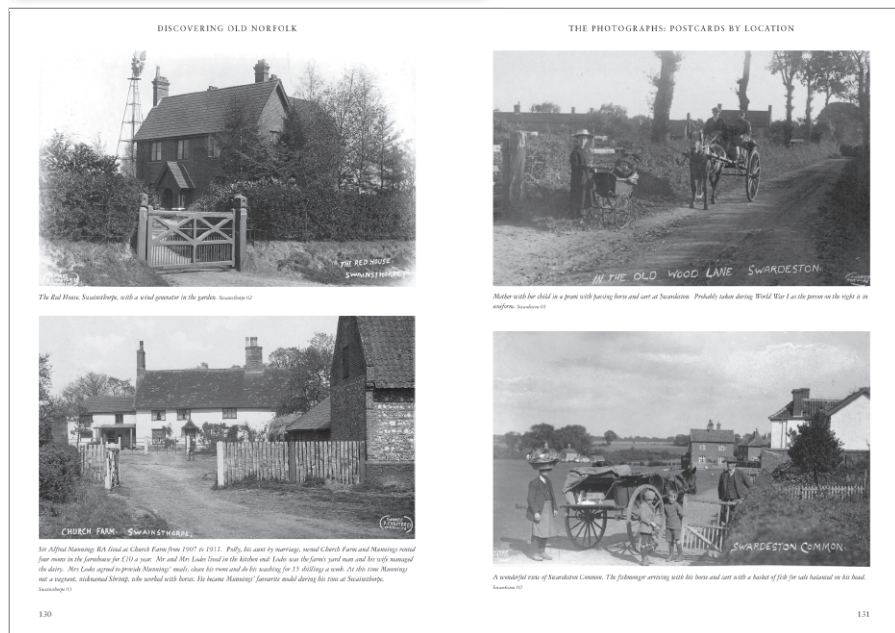
Above: Dutchmen raising sugar beet, 1907. These men travelled to Norfolk from the Continent as farm labourers early in the year and stayed until after the sugar beet had been lifted in the winter.

Left: Portrait of Tom Nokes with his wife Ellen, son Reginald, and his daughters May and Florence.

Below: Example of a double-page spread.



A group of gypsies in a village with a cart, two traditional caravans, horses, goats, a pig and chickens. A lovely decoration on top of the central van with VR and a crown denotes Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.



A break for the workers cutting timber on the Ketteringham Estate with Charlie Wright standing on the cutting bench.