

HALSGROVE DISCOVER SERIES

NORFOLK

Exploring the Land of Wide Skies

Stephen Browning & Daniel Tink

In this superb book two locals set out to explore the county through words and photographs in order to bring to the reader, be they local or visitor, the best places in Norfolk to investigate for themselves. There's no other place like it, and no other book quite like this one, as may be seen from the author's introduction:

"Very Flat, Norfolk". So said Noel Coward. Yes, Noel, the land IS generally flat, but it is not possible to come up with a valid sentence that summarises the character of whole county. Easier to say what it is NOT. Not one inch of it is twee or chocolate-boxy. It is not a comfortable, sweet place.

Yes, statements can be made about individual places: The city of Norwich is the most complete medieval city in the Kingdom. The northern coast is beautiful beyond description with some internationally important bird sanctuaries. The Broads are indeed, to quote Ted Ellis, 'a breathing place for the cure of souls'. The greatest ever British Admiral, Lord Nelson, gained a first taste for the sea at Brancaster. Cromer crabs are supreme. The range of beautiful churches, laboured on by families as an act of love for generations, are wondrous and compelling. The county has stimulated an incredible amount of great literature – from The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to The Shrimp and The Anemone by LP Hartley. And so on.

Looking out to sea, at the never ending 'highway to heaven' in hues of pink, orange, silver, green and blue, as the sun sets of a very long evening, is a never-to-be-forgotten experience of peace and stillness. At times like this, nature seems to be saying 'take me as I am: you don't have to like me'. Us locals would not have it any other way. Being a 'bit out of the way', our county, customs, dialect and way of life have never been simple or easy to understand – no slick advertising agency can brand Norfolk as anything other than 'Norfolk'.

That is why we love it so."

And that is why readers will love this book.

Stephen Browning was educated in Norfolk before gaining an honours degree in History from the University of Kent at Canterbury. After training as a teacher at the University of Birmingham School of Education, he spent much of his working life promoting teacher exchanges between the United Kingdom and the overseas Commonwealth. He also worked for the Council for Education in the Commonwealth. He has written extensively about best practice in education both in the UK and the 50-plus countries of the Commonwealth. He has written, or contributed to, a number of books about the English Language, mainly for the Asian market. He spends several months each year in Taiwan.

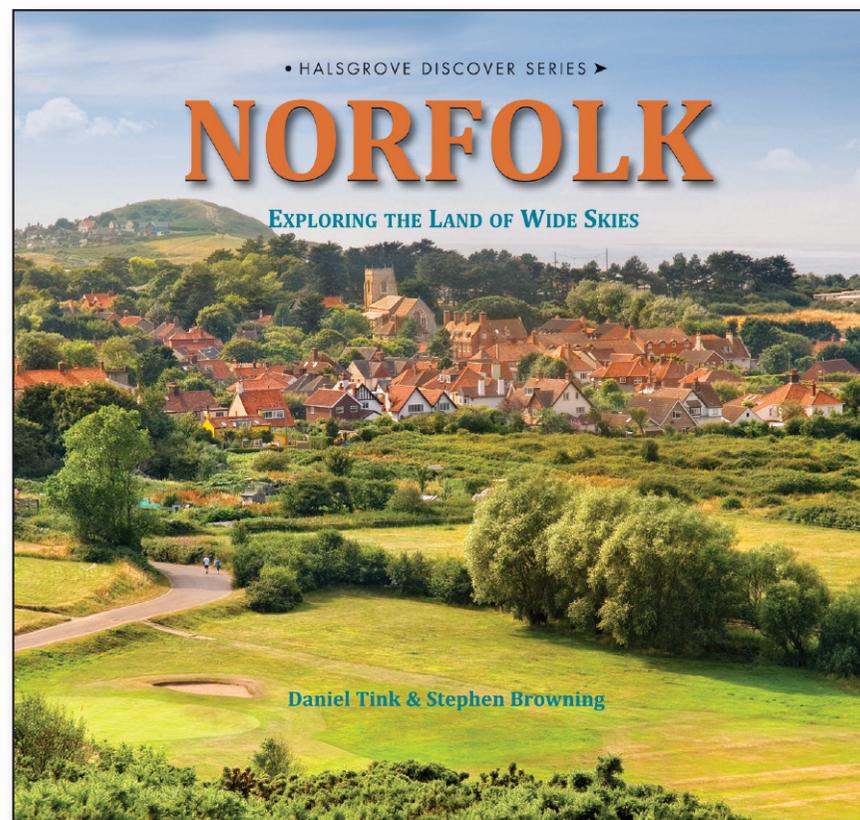
Daniel Tink was born and still lives in Norwich, a city he knows well and continues to enjoy exploring. A graphic designer by profession, photography has given him a unique and detailed view of life through a lens. Daniel has previously provided photographs for the book *Norwich* in the Halsgrove Discover Series and *Spirit of Norwich Cathedral*, both written by Stephen Browning. Daniel is the author of *Spirit of Norwich* in the Halsgrove PiXZ series.

HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

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NORFOLK
EXPLORING THE LAND OF WIDE SKIES



Above: Huge anchors in Purfleet Quay lie close to the magnificent Customs House (1684).

Top left: Elm Hill – probably the most famous street in Norwich and saved from ‘redevelopment’ by just one council vote in the early twentieth century when it was in a very bad way.

Ranworth Broad from the dizzy heights of St Helens Church tower – freely accessible for fantastic views.

Left: The Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, warmed by the rising sun on a winter’s morning.

Below: Example of a double-page spread.

NORFOLK
Blakeney Quay, where you may catch a crab or sail for a sail-spotting trip.



Blakeney
*The Blakeney people stand on the shingle
And catch haddock with a five-furlong beam.*
— Thomas Hardy

Blakeney village goes back to the Domesday Book when it was called Suttetche. By all accounts, it was a pretty looking place where piracy against passing ships was common. As with many villages along this coast, piracy was not an uncommon sight, drawn particularly by the tasty fresh fish that could be had here.

Boats at Blakeney with the quay in the distance.



NORFOLK
Sunset at Blakeney.



A sailing old vessel anchored in the far-reaching marsh at Blakeney.

In 1912, Charles Rothschild bought Blakeney Point and handed it over immediately to the National Trust, thus it became the first nature reserve in Norfolk. It is a three-and-a-half-mile-long road and shingle spit with incredible wildlife, including both grey and common seals and breeding terns.

It do: There are ferries from Morston Quay which will take you up close to Blakeney Point.

If you like to walk, there is almost no end of choices. Blakeney to Snettley – four miles – is popular or you can plan your own custom-made walk along the North Norfolk Path. Or try sailing – everything from gentle ‘mooching about in boats’ to serious sea-gang challenges are centred at either Blakeney or Morston Quays.

It isn’t: The main-made vantage point of Mariners Hill is just inland from the harbour.



The magnificent red and white striped Happisburgh Lighthouse.