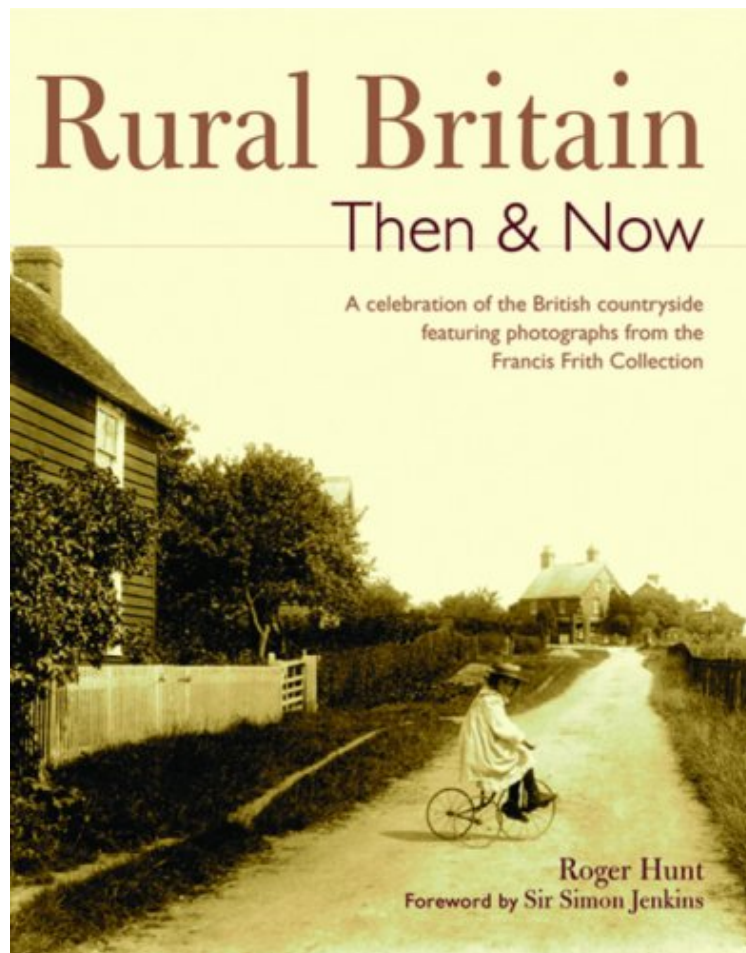


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## Rural Britain Then Now: A Celebration of the British Countryside Featuring Photographs from the Francis Frith Collection

*Roger Hunt, Simon Jenkins*

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**Roger Hunt, Simon Jenkins : Rural Britain Then Now: A Celebration of the British Countryside Featuring Photographs from the Francis Frith Collection** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rural Britain Then Now: A Celebration of the British Countryside Featuring Photographs from the Francis Frith Collection:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An excellent book for anyone interested in the British countryside and historical photography By Cathy G. Cole First Line: Britain was born out of the countryside; from hills and fields, streams and mountains, moors and downs, fens and forests: places where nature's architecture and man's industry have, over millennia, combined. 1859 marked the beginning of Francis Frith Co.-- the world's first specialist photographic publisher. In 1860 Frith embarked on a monumental project: to photograph every town and village in the United

Kingdom. Today anyone with an interest in British history and photography is in for a treat when they visit the Francis Frith website... where it's almost impossible not to make a purchase. When I saw that this book was available, I had to snap up a copy because, to me, the best part of Britain is its countryside-- its fields and villages-- and page by page, photograph by photograph, I was led on a marvelous journey throughout rural England. The before and after photos are wonderful, but there is a lot to be learned from the text as well. The origin of pubs, popular sports, how the farmers and villagers lived together, worked together, and played together. This book is such a rich source of material that I know I'll be referring to it again and again. If you have the slightest interest in British history or historical photography, you'll get a lot of enjoyment from *Rural Britain Then Now*, too.

Francis Frith began to take his striking photographs of rural Britain in 1860. Over the next 50 years, he and his team of photographers took thousands of pictures capturing the special charm of the British countryside--its churches and castles, its quaint villages and rolling hills, its peaceful vistas and haunted ruins, as well as its unpretentious, hard-working people. Now, side-by-side with contemporary photos taken a century or more later, these images offer an evocative record of a century of social change, as well as vivid testimony to Britain's enduring beauty

About the Author Roger Hunt is the author of *Villages of England*, (HarperCollins) and *Hidden Depths*, an archaeological exploration of Surrey's past. A regular contributor to a wide range of magazines, he has written extensively on British buildings, property and history and has a particular interest in vernacular buildings and the materials and techniques used in their construction.