# The Newsletter of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

Christmas 2017

Volume 3

Issue 3 (no. 11)



Inside this issue:

.A Moment in Time	2
Then and Now	2
Kent's Tradition of Military Cricketers	3
The Blythe Memorial	4
The Lost County Cricket Grounds of Kent	5
Stars of the Future Past PS	7
The History of Mr. Wells	8
Colin Blythe	9
The Nostalgic Appeal of Cricket Scorecards	10

# Inside Edge

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust A Message from the President, Chris Cowdrey



2017 has been a busy year for the Heritage Trust and 2018 looks to be even busier. I am very pleased that membership is well into three figures, that the Blythe Memorial is now established in its new position by the Nackington Road gates, and that a portrait of Frank Woolley is now hanging in the pavilion. We also have the signs outside the Woolley, Ames, Cowdrey and Underwood and Knott buildings, with expectations of more to come. Our relationships with other county clubs' heritage teams, through the

County Cricket Heritage Forum, are also continuing to grow, as we all learn from each other.

Over the winter, the refurbishment of the storage space at the top of the Woolley Stand will be completed, so that the memorabilia which is not on show can be stored safely and in the right conditions. It will also give us a chance to assess in detail what we have that ought to be on show, which means we have to find places to display them.

We are also looking forward to 2020, which will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of the county club, and a great opportunity to celebrate the history of this wonderful club.

All volunteers welcome as we set about these tasks!



# NSIDE EDGE The Newsletter of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

# A Moment in Time Saturday August 27 1938



The crowd sitting on high above the roof level of the pavilion peer down across the field of play and the view beyond. To hand are the afternoon refreshments. It can only be the unique setting of the Crabble Athletic Ground, Dover.

It is the first day of the 1938 County Cricket Week and Kent are playing Yorkshire. The white rose county has won the toss and when the photograph was taken had reached 210 for 4. Batting are Arthur Mitchell (65\*) and the captain Brian Sellers (23\*). Already dismissed included Len Hutton (22) playing in the match immediately following his mammoth record-breaking 364 against Australia at the Oval the week before.

The Yorkshire side looks as if it was at full strength while Kent's bowling looked a bit flimsy. Doug Wright is particularly noticeable by his absence and although

Les Ames was in the side, "Hopper" Levett kept wicket.. Earlier that season back problems had meant that Ames had kept wicket for Kent as the nominated keeper for the last time.

By the close of play Yorkshire had reached 326 for 8, Sellers 93\*, Les Todd taking 5-64. Heavy rain over the weekend that followed led to Yorkshire declaring first thing Monday morning. Whereupon in conditions clearly more difficult, they dismissed Kent twice in day for 165 and 109. No Kent batsman reached 50 while for Yorkshire Verity took 5-42 and 4-53; Yorkshire victors by an innings and 49 runs..

Sadly all this is no more. Kent last played county cricket at the Crabble in 1976. Even local cricket has gone, Dover Cricket Club closed in 2004. Dover Sharks Rugby Club are the current tenants.

#### Then and Now

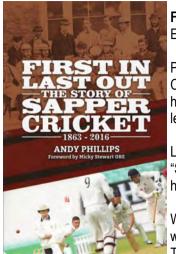




Staplehurst Cricket Club pavilion in 1991; (right) after refurbishment and extension in April 2016

John Websper

## Kent's Tradition of Military Cricketers: two recent books



**First In Last Out: The story of Sapper Cricket 1863-2016**. Andy Phillips. :Institution of the Royal Engineers, Chatham, Kent.

Prior to this publication the only other book on Sapper cricket was *A History of R.E.Cricket* by Capt. (later Col.) R.S.Rait Kerr which covered the years 1862 -1924. The author of this new history has brought the history up to date and has had much more in terms of sources available (not the least Derek Carlaw's wonderful database of Kent cricketers).

Lt.-Col. Andy Phillips was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1985 and has played for the "Sappers" for 32 seasons as an opening bat and occasional wicket-keeper. In addition he has also held most of the official positions in the club.

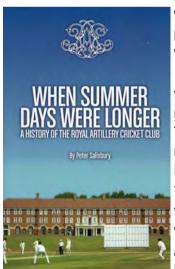
Who are the Sappers? The word derives from the French "saper" (to undermine ,to dig under a wall or building to cause it to collapse). The Sapper is the Royal Engineers equivalent of a private. The term was first introduced in 1856 when the Corps of the Royal Sappers and Mines was

amalgamated with the officer corps of the Royal Engineers to form the Corps of the Royal Engineers.

This book traces the history of Sapper Cricket from the year before *Wisden* to the present day. It is a beautifully illustrated book, printed on top quality paper with some excellent photographs. The cricket of the Royal Engineers is star studded with great cricketers and their notable achievements not only on the cricket field but also in other walks of life. Sapper cricketers have represented 10 different counties and between them have amassed over 1600 first-class games. Notable Kent names include Colin. Blythe and G.J.Bryan. As might be expected, as most home games for the Sappers were played in Gillingham until the early 1960's, there was a good link up with the Kent County Cricket Club and so many of them made appearances for Kent over the years.

The book is a valuable resource if one wishes to know how Kent County cricketers performed in minor cricket. There is a very solid index and a good statistical section. Andy Phillips is to be congratulated upon his efforts.

Derek Barnard



When Summer Days were Longer: A History of the Royal Artillery Cricket Club. Peter Salisbury. Thesauras, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey on behalf of the Royal Artillery Cricket Club, Larkhill, Wiltshire.

In his introduction the Royal Engineers Cricket Club (above), Lt.-Col. Phillips gave due credit to this work as the inspiration for his own history. Lt.-Col. Peter Salisbury was also a career serviceman, having started in the National Service and staying for 35 years.

The book was published in 2015 and does have the same production values as its Royal Engineers companion. Based in Woolwich, very much part of the cricketing definition of the county of Kent, it has a strong relevance in that county's sporting history,

The Club has a serious long history, so long in fact, that a starting date cannot be stated with certainty. At least it was 1765. Hence this history celebrates the 250th anniversary.

Well illustrated with black and white and coloured photographs and an excellent statistical section, all the famed Royal Artillery cricketers here, some with notable Kent connections—Bombardier Barton and the McCanlis brothers in particular. Bandsman Boys [sic] is mentioned but his tragic

tale is not. Unfortunately unlike his opposite number in the Royal Engineers, he was not aware of Derek Carlaw's efforts.

The two books, with their beautiful, glossy covers, sit nicely together on my bookshelf as they should on anyone's who has an interest in Kent cricket in the widest sense.

**Howard Milton** 

# Who's Who at KCHT

President: Hon. Christopher Cowdrey
Trustees: Jamie Clifford - Kent Cricket CEO
David Robertson - Kent Cricket - Honorary Curator
Howard Milton - Kent Cricket - Honorary Statistician
Jonathan Rice - Kent Cricket—Main Committee Member
Tony Kilbee - Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Treasurer

#### **KCHT Committee**

Chairman - Jonathan Rice - jnhrice@googlemail.com Jamie Clifford - jamie.clifford.kent@ecb.co.uk David Robertson - david.robertson81@btinternet.com Howard Milton - howardmilton@btinternet.com Tony Kilbee - skilbee@gmail.com Derek Barnard - cricketologist@btinternet.com John Websper - jhwebsper@freenetname.co.uk Derek Miles - derekwjmiles@gmailcom Don Austen - Don.Austen@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Registered Charity Number 1154556 The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3NZ

## Inside Edge Contact

Feedback on this newsletter is always welcome as are suggestions for future contributions. The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust's committed interest is to all aspects of Kent cricket history, not just to the county club.

If you have something to say and/or contribute please contact Howard Milton at the e-mail address on this page or at 46 Elmfield Close, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0LP

## The Blythe Memorial



The re-dedication of the Blythe Memorial duly took place precisely on the date of the centenary of Colin Blythe's (above) death and at its new permanent position behind the Ames Stand, close by the Nackington Road Gate. About 60 or so members of the county club and other supporters and club officials took part in the ceremony officiated by the Rt. Rev. Michael Turnbull, sometime Bishop of Durham and Suffragan Bishop of Dover. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the County Club, the Royal Engineers, and members of the current Blythe family, a number of whom attended.

A lunch followed in the Chiesman Pavilion where a comprehensive photographic display of World War I Kent cricketers was set up together with a number of photographs of Blythe himself, some previously not seen. Attendees were asked to sign a Book of Remembrance.

The long standing error of the incorrect date of Blythe's death on the Memorial had been corrected. The remaining corrections, largely errors in cricketers' initials, and some ranks, will follow. An interesting final point, you will see from the photograph (left) the drinking fountain which was originally a key part of the Memorial, but it was subsequently dispensed with. In the dismantling of the Memorial the original mechanism was found intact.

# NSIDE DOE The Newsletter of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

# Lost County Cricket Grounds of Kent: Preston Hall, Aylesford (1846-1847)

The Preston Hall estate, two miles north-west of Maidstone, extended at its height from the River Medway south to the railway line, north of Barming. The manor house possibly dated from the time of the Domesday Book, more likely from the time of Magna Carta. For all these generations it was the home of the noted Culpepper family, passing through marriage to the Milner family in 1734

Kent cricket records show that Kent played two first-class games at Preston Hall in 1846 and 1847. The then owner, Charles Milner, had previously allowed the local Aylesford Club to use his deer park for its home matches. The two county games were part of a plan to establish a county club for the express purpose of playing matches home and away against Surrey. The ground was described in the local press in 1846 as "A more beautiful or appropriate spot could not well be



míchael.finney.co.uk

## The original Preston Hall pulled down in 1848

selected. It is of easy access from Maidstone ... and other places. The situation is remarkable for its picturesque features. The Medway flowing up to the edge of the park; just beyond the ancient village of Aylesford, with its venerable church steeple; on one side Mr. Milner's mansion, on the other the substantial yet ornamental homestead and farm buildings, lately erected in admirable taste by that gentleman; at no great distance from the Friars, the ancient seat of the Earls of Aylesford, and the crumbling ruins of Allington Castle; on all sides a rich country highly cultivated, the whole bounded by the chalk hills covered with foliage, constituting an ensemble rich in pictorial beauty and historic associations". *The Maidstone Journal* added "a well selected and spacious spot was fenced off for the accommodation of visitors" and "a number of marquees" were erected on the ground.

The match in 1846 was drawn in somewhat unusual circumstances. Batting first, Surrey scored 167 (N.Felix 37) with Kent all-out for 174 (A.Mynn 37) on day 3 after day 2 was stopped by "the pelting of the pitiless storm". Surrey in their second innings could only manage 64, with W.R.Hillyer taking 6 wickets, leaving Kent a fair chance of making the 57 runs to win. During an interruption for rain the two Banks brothers, who were at the wicket, left the ground and then declined to play any longer, pleading another engagement. This at once seriously altered the prospects of Kent and at six o'clock, when by agreement the stumps were drawn, Kent had 28 runs to get. The result occasioned great disappointment and no little dissatisfaction.

This "New Kent Club" foundered when unfortunately Charles Milner died two months later. The new owner, his brother Lt. Col. Henry Robert Milner, revived support for a Kent club and founded the "West Kent Cricket Club" to promote the two matches against Surrey the following year. Again the home game was popular and played "in the presence of a vast assemblage of spectators" with many availing themselves of a small steamer brought up the river for the occasion which made frequent trips from Maidstone Bridge to Allington Lock, with a welcome from the village amateur band.

Kent were easy victors by 101 runs, scoring 120 (W.Dorrinton 34\*) in the first innings with Surrey only managing 45 (W.Martingell 12) in reply. Kent scored 99 (F.Pilch 26) in the second innings, requiring Surrey to score 175 to win. This proved too much for Surrey, who were dismissed for 73 with W.R.Hillyer (right) taking 8 wickets. His tally of 14 wickets is still today the best match aggregate for Kent against Surrey.



# NoIDE EDGE The Newsletter of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

That was the end of county cricket at Preston Hall and the county club plans there. The following year Col. Milner sold the estate to the railway constructor Edward Ladd Betts. He seems to have had a minimal interest in cricket, although one of his sons.

The present Preston Hall

Morton Peto Betts, played one match for Kent and has the distinction of being the first player to score a goal in a FA Cup Final.

Betts pulled down the original Preston Hall and constructed the present building on a site slightly higher than its predecessor, a little further from the Medway. Betts, in association with S.M.Peto, was responsible for many major railway lines in Britain and throughout the world. But it drove him to bankruptcy and in 1867 he left the Hall and it passed to Thomas Brassey, also involved in railway construction. He in turn, passed it to his son Henry three years later. Occasional cricket matches were played in this period, particularly during the annual fete. For example in 1878 a game was arranged between a local team and the Mote Club to raise funds for the establishment of a lending library. The last recorded match was between H. Brassey's XI and I Zingari in July 1879.

Sporting activity increased under the next generation, also Henry Brassey, ,inheriting the estate in 1891, He was keenly interested in a number of sports including cricket. There were cricket weeks in the deer park. In 1900 Brassey donated the Athletic Ground, north of the Medway in Aylesford village in trust as a cricket ground and this effectively ended cricket at Preston Hall. Today however there is no cricket in Aylesford. The Brassey family left the Hall in 1904 and various owners followed until dur-

> ing the First World War it was taken over by the Red Cross as a hospital.



Ferryfield

In 1919 the Hall and a reduced parkland was acquired by the Industrial Settlements Incorporation, set up to meet the needs of ex-servicemen suffering from tuberculosis. But the size of the task was too much and it was decided to pass the enterprise to an organisation better able to cater to this substantial group of disabled. Thus on 1 April 1925 the British Legion (now the Royal British Legion) took over the responsibility for the estate and what has become known world-wide as the Royal British Legion Village (as still is). Under government control from 1939, in 1948 the Hall passed to the National Health Service. As Preston Hall Hospital it was under various named health authorities until 2012. In 2014 the Department of Health sold the Hall to Weston Homes plc to convert into 36 flats.

The deer park, where cricket was played, was situated between the old Preston Hall, which stood near Home Farm, just off Hall Road, to the north of the current Hall, and the River Medway. It was reduced in extent by the construction by Edward Ladd Betts of the Strood-Maidstone West railway (now the Medway Valley Line) which reached Aylesford in 1856. That almost certainly cut across the 1846-1847 ground site. However a large well mown recreation area, Ferryfield, covers the area north of the M20, which has detached the Hall from the former deer park. In its time it seems highly likely cricket would have been played there. Today it includes the home of Aylesford Rugby Club..

#### Howard Milton with help from a contribution by lan Lambert

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

John Goulstone— County Cricket in Preston Park in Cricket in Kent. International Research Publications., 1972. pp. 47-52. Joy Ingle— Preston Hall: history and legend. The author, 1977.

Howard Milton— Preston Hall, Aylesford in Cricket Grounds of Kent. Association of Cricket Statisticians, 1992. pp. 36-37.

James H. Sephton — Preston Hall, Aylesford. The author, 1997

Kenneth A.E. Wells-Preston Hall and its Owners. 2nd edition. The author, 1985

## Stars of the Future Past Postscript

David Robertson's article on the feature in the Eagle Sports Annual on future Kent cricketers gave rise to a few responses.

#### David Kelly wrote:

Regarding the names mentioned in the Eagle Sports Annual of 1962, I can tell you that Michael Chambers is a well-known hairdresser in Cranbrook who had a long and distinguished cricket career with Sissinghurst Cricket Club. I know very little of his actual career in detail but I have heard he was a feared fast bowler in these parts for a long time. I think he must have retired from the game 15 or more years ago. I know his brother but I don't personally know Michael except by sight. But I'll drop by his shop tomorrow and give him a printed copy of Inside Edge ... and maybe ask him to give me a paragraph or two on his playing career

(In further correspondence he added) Michael's shop was closed yesterday but I have just stopped by to give him a printed copy of Inside Edge. As soon as he saw the Eagle reference, he said that it was a remarkable prediction by Claude Lewis. Michael has a copy of that book and he told me that he had recently seen, at a funeral, Don Fermor who is mentioned in the article. Michael stopped playing 16 years ago (I was pretty close with my earlier guess!) but, for the majority of his career, he was a fast bowling menace (!) for Benenden Cricket Club. (His brother and nephew played for Sissinghurst, hence my confusion.)

#### Brian Monk wrote:

With reference to the article Stars of the Future Past I can throw just a little light on John Copus. He ran a well used sports shop based in Hither Green SE 13 which was well known to many club cricketers. When I got married our first home was just around the corner from the shop and I got to know John a little. One of the services he offered was to resurface wicket-keeping gloves and I remember him telling me that he had provided this service to a touring Australian keeper. This would have been in the middle 70's. He played club cricket for many years, possibly at Bickley Park but I cannot be sure about this.

#### Carl Openshaw wrote:

I can provide a little information to add to your interesting feature on the young Kent cricketers mentioned in the Eagle Sports Annual article.

BLACKHEATH 183—5 DEC.

Blackheath J. Williams b Croucher
11. R. Cheesman b Seliens 18. N.
Lamming hit wkt b Seliens 3; A.
Knott c Avon b Croucher 53; C.
Openshaw c Croucher b Avon 73; R.
May not out 18: extras 8; total (5
wkts, dec.) 183;
Croucher 2 for 57 Sellens 2 for 25.
Linden Park: J. Copper c Pullen b
Meiville 26: R. Padley run out 73;
D. Brown c Lamming b Knott 24;
R. Avon c Piper b Meiville 1; J.
Sullivan c and t Meiville 29; R.
Davies c May b Cheesman 8; D.
Sellens c May b Cheesman 8; D.
Sellens c May b Meiville 0; H.
Smeeton run out 0; D. McIldowie c
Knott b Cheesman 12; P. Lawrence
run out 3; Croucher not out 0;
extras 7; total 183;
Meiville 4 for 58

John Copus did not go on to play cricket professionally, but he continued to be involved in club cricket at a high level, opening the batting for Forest Hill and Bickley Park. He also, for 40 years, owned John Copus Sports, a sports shop which was particularly well-known for repairing bats and wicket-keeping gloves.

The article brought back memories of an incident that year when Alan Knott and I where playing for Blackheath in a remarkable game against Linden Park. They needed three off the last over with six wickets down. But in the scramble they managed to lose four wickets and tie the match. The resultant celebrations in the clubhouse led to Alan Knott being so unwell that he had to drop out and miss a match for the AKCC Under 19s the next day. As a result he never drank heavily again. (See his autobiography It's Knott Cricket pp. 30-31.)

When he was over here a year or so ago, Alan asked if I could obtain a report of the match (August 12 1962). I was able to send him the cutting (above left). You will see that he took a wicket, which reminds me that we

rarely played him as a keeper and indeed in those days his spin bowling was rated by Les Ames (see pp. 11-12 of It's Knott Cricket) almost as highly as his wicket-keeping.

The Melville is James Melville whose obituary appears in 2017 Kent County Cricket Annual.

# NSIDE EDGE The Newsletter of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

## The History of Mr. Wells: Joseph Wells, Kent cricketer, (1828-1910)



Truly unique events are rare in cricket but one such occurred at the Royal Brunswick Ground, Hove on 26 June 1862. On that day, Joseph Wells a "very fast" bowler, according to *Scores & Biographies*, playing for Kent v Sussex, bowled Jemmy Dean with the last ball of one over and Spencer Austen Leigh, Charles Ellis and Richard Fillery with the first three balls of the next, the first four wickets in four balls in first-class cricket. More than that, improbable as it may seem, there are literary connections. In a little over two years Wells would become the father of Herbert George, youngest of four children and destined to become known to the world as H.G. Wells. Wells' second victim, Spencer Austen Leigh, was a great-nephew of Jane Austen.

Joseph Wells was born on 14 July 1828 on the Penshurst Park estate where his father (also Joseph) was head gardener. He was related to the Duke's cricket bat and ball manufacturing dynasty but most of the family were tenant farmers. Joseph junior became a gardener like his father and.

sharing his parent's love of cricket, from 1842 to 1847 played regularly for the Penshurst Club. Times were hard however and he had to take work where he could find it, his travels between 1848 and 1855 taking him as far afield as Warwickshire, Staffordshire and into Cheshire. It was while working at Uppark, a seventeenth century country house at South Harting, Sussex, that he met, and in 1853 married, one of the housemaids, Sarah Louisa Neal, the daughter of an inn keeper.

An unexpected inheritance in 1855 enabled Wells to forsake gardening and lease, on "reasonable terms" through a cousin, a china and crockery business at No.46 Bromley High Street. The business struggled – but it was a living of sorts - and cricket came back into his life with Bromley Cricket Club. He did much to revive the Club, so much so that he became known as the "Father" of Bromley Cricket Club. To supplement his income, he turned professional, from 1857 to 1869 with the socially upmarket West Kent Club. While continuing to turn out for Bromley as an amateur, he later went to Bickley Park (1869-1871) and Chislehurst (1873-1874).

It was through West Kent that Wells came to the notice of Kent. In 1862, as a distinctly elderly colt, he had match figures of 9 for 24 for Kent Colts v. Surrey Colts at The Oval and 5 for 21 in the return at Mote Park. Less than a month later he took 3 for 20 and 1 for 9 on his first-class debut, against Surrey at Canterbury, his victims including William Caffyn and Julius Caesar and. as we have seen, on his next appearance, at Hove, he did even better with four in four balls and match figures of 9 for 42.

This was the limit of his achievements at first-class level. In four more matches for Kent that season and one in 1863, he took just one more wicket. In four innings he was not even given the ball. In eight first-class matches his final record was 14 wickets (avge.9.14).

Brief county career notwithstanding, thanks to his son's writings and particularly his semi-autobiographical novels, Joseph Wells stands apart from most cricketers of his period as a man of flesh and blood with a life outside cricket. Through his son's unerring ear for contemporary speech, we can even gain a fair idea of how he spoke, Although H.G. (right) wrote that his best-loved character, Alfred Polly in *The History Of Mr. Polly*, was based on an elder brother. Nevertheless, in Polly's discontent with life, his day dreaming and love of reading, not to mention a wife convinced, probably justifiably, that he neglects the business, there are unmistakeable echoes of Joseph Wells. Like Polly – and incidentally another famous Wells creation Arthur Kipps – Wells' life was changed, not necessarily for the better, by an inheritance and, again like Polly, he invests in a shop at a time when department stores were killing off the small shopkeeper.



An attempt to diversify into cricket equipment on credit from Duke's helped but not much and the business continued to flounder. Following a fall from a ladder in 1877 while pruning a grape vine, his professional cricket activities were confined to umpiring but he continued to turn out for Bromley until the early 1880s.

Somehow the couple survived and continued to do so after he disposed of the shop. In the 1891 Census he and Sarah are back in Harting where they met, "living on own means". Their son's first book was not published until 1893 so he is unlikely to have contributed. But ten years later they are still living on their own means in a house in Liss provided by their son. Both died there, Sarah on 12 June 1905, Joseph on 14 October 1910.

Derek Carlaw

# NSIDE DOE The Newsletter of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

## Colin Blythe (May 30 1879—8 November 1917)



#### FALLEN KENT CRICKETERS.

#### MEMORIAL UNVEILED AT CANTERBURY.

Lord George Hamilton, president of the Kent County Cricket Club, on Saturday unveiled a memorial fountain, which has been erected on the St. Lawrence ground at Canterbury, to the memory of Colin Blythe and 10 other members of the Kent team who fell in the war. Lord Harris, Lieutenant-

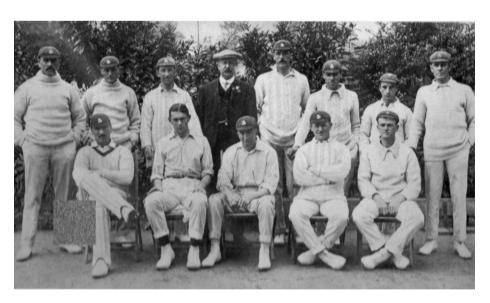
of Colin Blythe and 10 other members of the Kent team who fell in the war. Lord Harris, Lieutenant-Colonel Troughton, captain of the Kent eleven, Mrs. Colin Blythe, and many members of the Kent team and of the Band of Brothers were present. The memorial stands near the entrance to the ground, and takes the form of an obelisk with a marble basin and octagonal base. The inscription is as follows:—

"To the memory of Colin Blythe, of the Kent Eleven, who volunteered for active service upon the outbreak of hostilities in the Great War of 1914-18, and was killed at Ypres on the 18th of November, 1917, aged 38 years; he was unsurpassed among the famous howlers of the period, and beloved by his fellow cricketers; also to his comrades of the Kent Eleven who fell in the service of their country this obelisk is raised by the Kent County Cricket Club."

Long George Hamilton said that England was the home and nursery of sport, and no locality had continued more to that proud distinction than the county of Kent. During the most critical stages of the war, the qualities engendered by sport proved a great national asset. Kent had always been famous for its left-handed bowlers, and probably Blythe was the best slow bowler Kent had ever produced. Another great cricketer was Licutenant Hutchings. During the season of 1906, when Kent was at the head of the counties, his average was over 60. Yet another distinguished cricketer was Captain Hatteild, who on some occasions captained the Kent team. There were many others, among whom were Mr. A. H. du Bouley and Sergeant Lowe, the first of them to fall in the field. To the memory of their lost comrades he delicated that fountain as a small permanent memorial of their gallantry.



Either side of *The Times* account of the unveiling of the memorial on Saturday August 23 1919, two photographs of Blythe in uniform show him just weeks before his death. He has the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry insignia, so they were definitely taken in France/Belgium after he landed there. (Photographs kindly provided by Paul Lewis.)





The Kent team of Blythe's last season (1914).

Back row: A.Fielder, J.Seymour, J.C.Hubble, W.Hearne (scorer), F.E.Woolley, D.W.Jennings (died of gas poisoning 1918), A.P.Freeman, W.J.Fairservice. Front row: F.H.Huish, A.P.Day, L.H.W.Troughton (Captain), H.T.W.Hardinge, C.Blythe.

Right photograph: Colin Blythe's grave in the Oxford Road Cemetery outside Ypres.

# NSIDE DOE The Newsletter of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust





Two plaques commemorating the life of Colin Blythe:- (left) Tonbridge Parish Church; (right) The English Church in Ypres.

### The Nostalgic Appeal of Cricket Scorecards

Treasured memories are something we all have and for lovers of cricket it is probably the first time we saw our team play. Certainly that is so for me.

It was on a school visit from Rochester to Maidstone on the first day of Kent's game against Middlesex that was my introduction to county cricket. Middlesex scored 487 in 116.3 overs which included 142 from Denis Compton with Kent closing the day on 26 for 1.

One of the thrills of my time as Kent's honorary curator is from time to time receiving gifts to add to the club's collection. And a special thrill was to recently receive from Diana Cork, living in Australia, a package of six scorecards from the 1946 and 1947 seasons for games that her father had attended. The collection included a completed card for the Test Trial (England v The Rest) held at the St Lawrence ground) on July 10<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup> 1946.

But the real thrill was to discover a scorecard of my first ever County Championship game. Although I have looked up the scores for that game in *Wisden* many times (the first time when my wife challenged my memory of the day's play) finding the scorecard was a special thrill and brought back many memories of cricket times past.

**David Robertson** 

Copies of *Inside Edge* have been distributed to a number of cricket clubs in Kent. It is with the hope that they will be circulated therein so that the message of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust to promote our great cricket heritage across the county will be furthered.

Moreover, we are particularly anxious to read in these pages more about the history of Kent's many cricket clubs. If your Club has published a history recently or you would like its history to be produced in the limited pages of this newsletter, we would love to hear from you. Please see the contact address on page 4.