

# INSIDE EDGE

## *A Message from Jo Rice, Chairman of The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust*



Inside this issue:

<i>Moment in Time</i>	2
<i>New Books</i>	3
<i>Gone and Forgotten</i>	4
<i>And then there were Ten</i>	5
<i>Gillette Cup Final Programme</i>	6
<i>Kent Players: a Bibliography</i>	7

This strange and memorable year is drawing to an end, and from the depths of Tier Three, I expect most of us in Kent (apart from Zak Crawley, probably) will be glad to see it go. Inevitably, there has been little we at KCHT have been able to do while we have been in lockdown, but once the various vaccines have been proven and stuck into our arms – perhaps by Easter, but don't bet on it – we can hope that 2021 will be a year in which we all can start to get back to normal.



One thing we have been able to do is to ask many of our capped players about the day they won their county cap. The answers have been varied and interesting, but one particular thing comes across strongly, from the men of the 1950s to the squad of today – they all agree that the Kent teams they played in made them feel wanted, and brought out the best in them. Winning their caps, whether it was presented with a grand flourish during Canterbury Week or almost as an afterthought, was for them all a very proud moment.

Harry Podmore, for one, firmly believes that our current group of players are going to do something special, and soon. Let's hope it's in 2021, to make up our lost 150th year, so that it will give even more for the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust to celebrate.

Have a safe Christmas, and don't hug your granny too hard.

*Jonathan Rice*

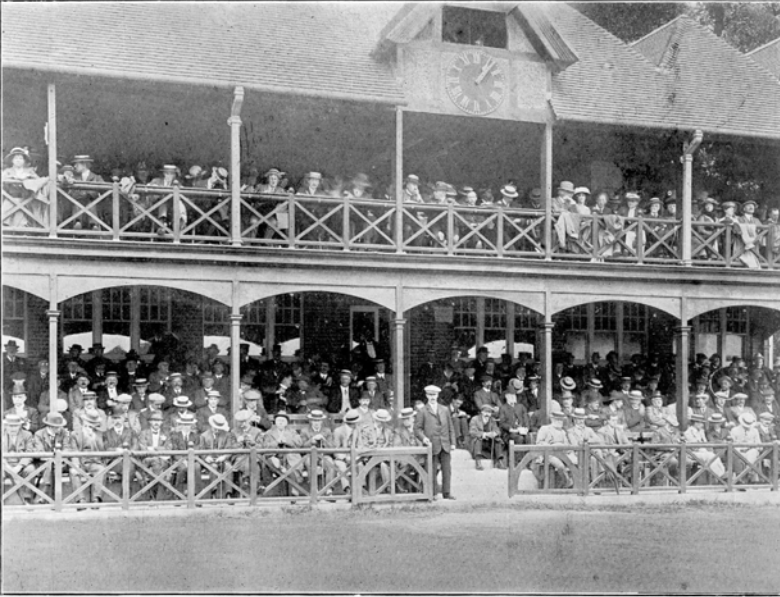
### *There was a Time when.....*



... a cricket bat was a much anticipated and prized Christmas gift. This is a Christmas card from the British Red Cross in 1959.

## *A Moment in Time, Monday 20—Friday 24 July 1914*

Recently to hand is the *Kent Messenger Cricket Souvenir* of the 1914 Maidstone Cricket Week, the last of a succession of such publications celebrating the Week just ended. Check the date and your history books and you will find this was the last cricket



week completed in peace time before the conflict which followed. The Archduke Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated on June 28 and Austria declared war on Serbia on July 28, the Tuesday following the Week. By the time cricket had reached the Canterbury Festival, the international situation had deteriorated to an extent that England was at war on the second day (August 4).

Looking at these pictures of the packed, recently-built pavilion and the packed mound, one wonders how much individuals were aware of what was going on in the world. Even if they knew, none would have had the remotest sense of the horrors that would overtake at least a proportion gathered that week at The Mote.

It was the last shout of Kent's golden era and a reflection of how great the support was for cricket in that time. Bear in mind every day of the festival was played on a weekday.

As to the match, Kent were characteristically triumphant in both matches. - Gloucestershire by 323 runs in the first game and in just two days Middlesex by an innings and 45 runs in the second. Not without significance in the latter game was that the destroyers of the Middlesex batting were the key Kent heroes of the age—Colin Blythe (7-26 & 3-64) and Frank Woolley (2-51 & 7-54). The missing wicket was a run out. Of the 82 completed overs bowled, they bowled 78.

The County Championship season continued to a full conclusion. The Surrey match at the Oval was moved to Lord's as the Oval had been requisitioned by the military while the Dover Week matches, too close to the continent, were transferred to Canterbury. Kent, Champions the previous season, finished third behind Surrey and Middlesex



### *Corrections to Vol 5 No 3 (No 19)*

Thank you for the two members who pointed a couple of typos in last edition:-

Page 5—under The Moor end of line 12 should read 18th

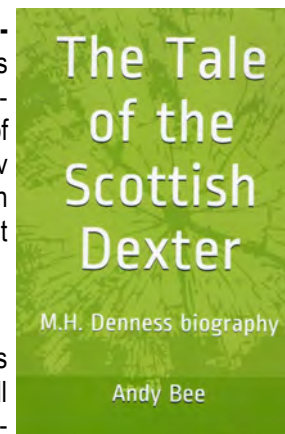
Page 8 – under Tunbridge Wells the first history should read 1982.



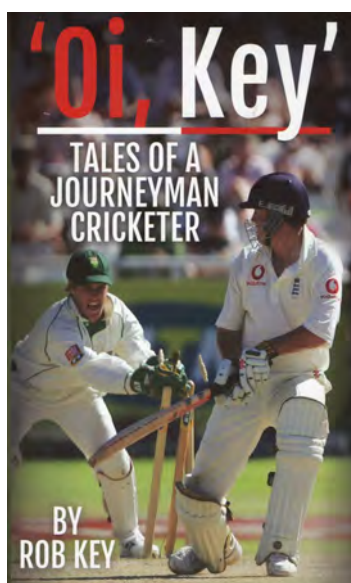
## *New Books of Kent Cricket Interest*

In the course of 2020 there have been three books published dealing with different aspects of Kent cricket. Pride of place must go to the magisterial **Kent County Cricket Grounds** by Howard Milton and Peter Francis. It is a comprehensive account of all the grounds used by Kent for all home first team matches and all second eleven fixtures since 1911. To say that it is richly illustrated would be something of an understatement. I can add little to Derek Carlaw's fulsome review which appeared in this year's Kent CCC Annual except to say that it is an extremely worthy celebration of a hundred and fifty years of the county club and that it should be an essential purchase for all followers of Kent cricket. (See the flier at the end of this newsletter.)

The life of Mike Denness, a great servant of Kent cricket, is covered in **The Tale of the Scottish Dexter** by Andy Bee. (available from Amazon £10.99) One of the most curious things about this book is its title, as any similarities in terms of character or style of play had previously eluded me. It is a long overdue biography in view of Mike's stature as a cricketer – twenty eight Tests with a batting average of 39.69 against a first-class average of 33.48, and captain of England on nineteen occasions (six wins v five defeats). He was half of one of the most successful openings partnerships in county cricket with Brian Luckhurst, instrumental in Kent's 'golden years' commencing in 1967 and numerically the most successful Kent captain of all time with six trophies won in his five years as skipper.



His astute captaincy and weakness against the highest class fast bowling are fully analysed. The ups and downs of his cricketing journey from Ayr to Canterbury and ultimately onto Chelmsford are well covered. His qualities of decency, sincerity, dignity and determination are related by wife Molly, daughter Lizanne and various contemporaries, especially Graham Gooch and Charles Rowe. During his life he had much to contend with. The marked antipathy of Illingworth and Boycott, neither of whom rated him as player or captain and the misfortune of encountering the fearsome attack of Lillee and Thomson which would have devastated any team in the entire history of Test cricket, would have broken lesser men. His sacking from the Kent captaincy in 1976 (a year in which the team won two trophies) was another sad episode in his life. His role in World Series Cricket in 1977, his career as an ICC Test Match referee, his return to Kent as chairman of cricket and then President and his death from renal cancer at the age of seventy two round off this portrait of an interesting character. In the final analysis, a revealing study of a good man.



**Oi, Key** by Rob Key (with John Woodhouse) (White Owl Books £20) is not a typical autobiography. Anyone expecting an account of greatest performances and matches will be disappointed. Rob self-effacingly describes himself as a 'Journeyman Cricketer'. This he is most certainly not, as a record of fifteen Tests, a Test Match double century and fifty four first-class centuries, testifies. What you do get with this book is a tale well spiced with humour especially in respect of how to circumvent fitness tests! There are revealing character studies of some of his contemporaries such as Carl Hooper and Andrew Symonds. His enduring friendships with Andrew Flintoff and Steve Harmison are major features of this book as is an analysis of captaincy skills with an emphasis on psychology.

**Chris Finch**

*An edited version of the reviews first published in the Kent County Cricket Supporters Magazine with thanks to the editor, Peter Francis and the reviewer..*

## Who's Who at KCHT

**President** : Hon. Christopher Cowdrey

**Trustees** :

Simon Storey - Kent Cricket— CEO

Caroline Ellis - Kent Cricket—Curator

Howard Milton - Kent Cricket - Honorary Statistician

Jonathan Rice - Kent Cricket— Past President

Tony Kilbee - Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Treasurer

**KCHT Committee**

Chairman - Jonathan Rice - [jnhrice@googlemail.com](mailto:jnhrice@googlemail.com)

Secretary - David Robertson -

[david.robertson81@btinternet.com](mailto:david.robertson81@btinternet.com)

Treasurer - Tony Kilbee - [skilbee@gmail.com](mailto:skilbee@gmail.com)

Simon Storey - [Simon.Storey@kentcricket.co.uk](mailto:Simon.Storey@kentcricket.co.uk)

Caroline Ellis - [Caroline.ellis@kentcricket.co.uk](mailto:Caroline.ellis@kentcricket.co.uk)

Howard Milton - [howardmilton@btinternet.com](mailto:howardmilton@btinternet.com)

Derek Barnard - [barnardderek6@gmail.com](mailto:barnardderek6@gmail.com)

Don Austen - [don.austen2769@gmail.com](mailto:don.austen2769@gmail.com)

George Cocks - [mikegeorgecocks@aol.com](mailto:mikegeorgecocks@aol.com)

Peter Francis - [p.mfrancis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:p.mfrancis@hotmail.co.uk)

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

## 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.

Read the KCHT blog at –

[kentcricketheritagetrust.wordpress.com](http://kentcricketheritagetrust.wordpress.com)

## Gone and Forgotten



Leaving Maidstone town centre, one comes across the site where Tilling Stevens and Rootes once played cricket, now occupied by The Church of the Latter Day Saints. The location is shown on the A to Z Street Atlas extract, together with a photograph of the present building.

Adjacent to the site is a retail park, which was originally the home of Maidstone United Football Club (1897-1992) who eventually folded after moving to groundshare with Dartford Football Club.

The cricket outfield was variously occupied by Tilling Stevens FC, Maidstone Rugby Club and a reformed Maidstone United FC.

A star performer for Tilling Stevens was fast bowler, Ron (Sailor) Bailey who played three matches for Kent in 1948.

Tilling Stevens was established in 1897 and was a British manufacturer of buses and other commercial vehicles. Rootes was a car manufacturer and also a major distributor and dealer. It was taken over by Chrysler UK in 1967 and by 1978 it had been sold to Peugeot and Renault. Cricket ceased in either 1976 or 1977. Both clubs were listed in the 1975 AKCC Year Book but in 1978 Rootes had moved to Hunton and Tillings were a wandering side and were reported in the 1982 Year Book as being disbanded.

Ian Lambert





## *And then there were Ten: Cricket Grounds In Hawkhurst Part 2*

*Continued from Inside Edge Vol 5 No 3*

### **Tickners**

There was for many years a ground at Philpott's Cross, adjacent to Slip Mill Lane, the original road from the west to the north, and still used by many drivers to bypass the village! This ground, known widely as Tickners, was purchased and developed by the Weald Electricity Co for their staff's recreation around 1934 and appears to have been first used for cricket in 1938, though just possibly 1937 as consent for its use as a sports ground was granted in May of that year. The ground was acquired at the behest of Major Charles Butler Grace, the third and youngest son of the legendary WG, who joined that company as its senior engineer in 1925. He had established the cricket section of the Weald Electric Sports Club by 1934 though it is not known where the club played its early matches. Charles Grace was playing for the club when he died at the wicket, in an away fixture at Sidley, Bexhill, in 1938.

A trophy (right) awarded to WG for athletics, was presented by Charles Butler Grace for use by the Weald Electric Sports.



The Weald Electricity Co was eventually absorbed into the old Southern Electricity Board and the ground, together with a well-equipped club room on site, continued to be used by its staff. But that use ended in 1993 - it is now part of an alpaca farm and the old cricket pitch location is bordered on one side by the first fairway of Hawkhurst Golf Club (which sadly closed in March 2020).

### **King George V Memorial Playing Field**

It is not known when a, or the latest constituted version of, Hawkhurst Cricket Club came into existence but, for a long time, that club used the King George V Memorial Playing Field on The Moor, on the eastern or opposite side of the A229 from the historic ground mentioned at the beginning of the first part of this article. Its first use for cricket was in 1938; and there was a match taking place when that ground was formally opened by the Duke of Kent in June of that year.

A charity match had been planned for the previous summer as the grand opening of the ground, involving a Kent XI, organised by Frank Woolley, and 15 players from Hawkhurst's five then existing clubs, the match being set up following the efforts of Charles Grace, who was to skipper the combined team. But bad weather scuppered the work needed on the ground to get it to a playable condition; so the location was switched to Gills Green; but, in the event, continued inclement weather caused the match to be cancelled.



The Playing Field was used for some cricket action in the film, "Something Money Can't Buy". It was a village cricket scene, shot in April 1952, and members of the Hawkhurst and Gills Green teams made up the cast. Hawkhurst Cricket Club sadly folded in the mid-1990s because of lack of playing numbers though for many years it had been very popular, playing both days of most weekends during the season. There was a separate Wednesday club as well for a great many years.

### **Conghurst**

In 1949, a ground was established on high exposed land on the south-east side of Hawkhurst, off Conghurst Road, by the Piper farming family. This was used initially for farm workers but over the years it has remained in use and a club styling itself Conghurst CC plays mostly evening cricket nowadays and is run by members of the Piper family, still prominent in farming in the immediate area. It is also the home of the Hawkhurst Junior Football Club. The views from the ground are, as with Gills Green, simply stunning.

### **North Hill Road**

The final location, within Hawkhurst, to have seen cricket being played was in a former paddock attached to a private house in North Hill Road, to the west of the village. Duly converted for cricket, there were precisely 52 matches staged there, the first in 1989 and the final one in 2007. It was used many times by a social team called the International Wednesdays, for whom the ground-owner played; he also organized weekend matches against invitation teams; and there were a few mixed generation games also. Over the years I enjoyed the slightly, though not excessively, short boundaries at this ground as well as the grand hospitality!

So, there we have it, ten cricketing locations in Hawkhurst, the first of which was historically important. Connections drawn with the Oxo Cube and David Gower, as well as former Wales goalkeeper Neville Southall who once played cricket at the ground mentioned in the previous paragraph. Whilst the loss of a team carrying the Hawkhurst village name is regrettable, four of the grounds remain used for cricket, pandemics permitting, but the other locations are at least identifiable, with Gills Green successfully flying the weekend cricket flag for Hawkhurst at the present time.

**David Kelly**

## *The Gillette Cup Final Programme 1971 - what's it all about?*

We were recently asked, not for the first time, why keep 'the thing' when the information it contains is usually available online? My first answer is always about the special connection that objects give between the person who used, made or saw them and the people it's being shared with. Colin Blythe actually bowled that ball, Doug Wright wore that cap and that's my Dad's membership card.

But objects also tell us a lot more than the pages of Cricket Archive. A programme, like that for the 1971 Gillette Cup Final between Kent and Lancashire, is a wealth of information about both cricket – and 1971.

The cover is plain, the cost 15p, the typeface too small and the layout almost unreadable. But it's full of great black and white photos – of the teams, the umpires, every player, and Kent and Lancashire's highlights of that season's cup competition. The head is given two pages of tightly packed text on the progress of all the counties in every year of the cup, while the heart has photos to take it back to that year's famous 'twilight' semi-final between Lancashire and Gloucestershire..

And throughout the brochure there are shaving ads, reminding us of one of the earliest commercial ventures into cricket. Gillette was an American brand that had already sponsored boxing and radio sports shows in the States. It has been said that its executives were amazed at how little cricket took to seal its first big sponsorship deal in 1963.

In these days of cricket kit struggling to be seen through the sponsors' logos, the six full-page adverts are pretty mild stuff. Three are for shaving gear - 'Today's result could be a very close shave'; two for Tempo and Papermate pens, brands owned by Gillette; and my favourite is for Right Guard anti-perspirant, introduced in just 1960 - 'Stumped by perspiration wetness and odour?'

So, one programme, but a wealth of social history, statistics, top quality photographs and good cricket writing. And the memories – I had forgotten about the Challenge matches that the winners played in the early years of the cup (Kent played Pakistan in 1967), but will never forget watching David Hughes score 24 in the last over of the pre-floodlight semi-final at almost nine. Kent went on to lose the 1971 final of course, but the programme even has all the hope before that happened.

**Caroline Ellis**



## *Kent County Cricket Players: A Bibliography*

### *Part 1— A to C*

Books by and on Kent county first-team players. Books 'by' may include titles with little or no Kent cricket. Nineteenth century 'given' players and overseas players are included.

**L E G Ames** (*Kent 1926-1951*)

**Ames, Leslie** – Close of play. Stanley Paul, 1953.

Collected articles. *Kentish Gazette*, 1960.

**Hill, Alan** – Les Ames. Christopher Helm, 1990.

**J Aylward** (*Kent 1779-1793*)

**Clarke, Roy** – James Aylward: the untold story. *Cricket Lore*, 2001.

**Lord F Beauclerk** (*Kent 1806*)

**Thompson, Mike** – The Lord of Lord's: the life and times of Lord Frederick Beauclerk. Christopher Saunders, 2017.

**Hon E V Bligh** (*Kent 1849-1864*)

**Wingfield-Stratford, Esme Cecil** – This was a man: the biography of the Honourable Edward Vesey Bligh. Robert Hale, 1949.

**Hon I F W Bligh** (*Kent 1877-1883*)

**Beeston, R D** – St. Ivo and the Ashes; a correct, true and particular history of Ivo Bligh's crusade in Australia. Australian Press Agency, 1883

— reprint. J W McKenzie, 1978.

— reprint. Kessinger, 2009.

**Berry, Scyld and Peplow, Rupert** – Cricket's burning passion: Ivo Bligh and the story of the Ashes. Methuen, 2006.

**Harcourt, Rex** – The origin of the Ashes: which came first the urn or the velvet bag. Melbourne Cricket Club Library, 1996.

**Hilton, Christopher** – The birth of the Ashes: the amazing story of the first Ashes test. Breedon Books, 2006.

**Milton, Howard and Barnard, Derek, editors** – The end of the beginning of the Ashes: commemorating the rededication of the grave of the Honourable Ivo Bligh (8th Earl of Darnley) and Florence Morphy (Countess of Darnley) at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Cobham, Kent on May 18th 2011. The Cricket Society, 2011.

**Munns, Joy** – Beyond reasonable doubt: the birthplace of the Ashes. The Author, 1994.

**Willis, Ronald** – Cricket's biggest mystery: the Ashes. Lutterworth Press, 1983.

**Wynne-Thomas, Peter and Griffiths, Peter** – Ivo Bligh. (Famous cricketers series.) Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, 2002.

**C Blythe** (*Kent 1899-1914*)

**[Carlaw, Derek]** - Colin Blythe 30th May 1879 to 8th November 1917. Kent County Cricket Club, 2017.

**Croudy, Brian** – Colin Blythe. (Famous cricketers series.) Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, 1995.

**Scoble, Christopher** - Colin Blythe: lament for a legend. SportsBooks, 2005.

**Smart, John Blythe** - The real Colin Blythe. Blythe Smart Publications, 2009.

**T Boxall** (*Kent 1789-1800*)

**Boxall, Thomas** – Rules and instructions for playing at the game of cricket. Harrild and Billing, 1801.

2nd edition. 1802. – 2nd issue 1802.

— reprint: 2nd edition 2nd issue. J W McKenzie, 1981.

3rd edition. 1804 - 2nd issue 1804.

**A Brown** (*Kent 1957-1970*)

**Brown, Alan and Musgrave, Ann** – Ramblings of a Clapped Out Quickie (COQ), or he'll never play for Kent again. Privately produced typescript, 2019.

**A P F Chapman** (*Kent 1924-1938*)

**Chapman, A P F and others** – The game of cricket. (The Lonsdale library.) Seeley Service, 1930.

**Lemmon, David** – Percy Chapman: a biography. Queen Anne Press, 1985.

**W Clarke** (*Kent 1854*)

**Wynne-Thomas, Peter**

William Clarke: the old general. (Lives in cricket series.) ACS publications, 2014.

**D J Constant** (*Kent 1961-1963*)

**Constant, David and Murphy, Patrick** – Cricket: umpiring. Pelham, 1981.

**Hon W S Cornwallis** (*Kent 1919-1926*)

**Boorman, H R Pratt** – The spirit of Kent: the Rt.Hon. Lord Cornwallis, KCVO, KBE, MC, DCL. *Kent Messenger*, 1968.

**Hon C S Cowdrey** (*Kent 1976-1991*)

**Hon G R Cowdrey** (*Kent 1984-1998*)

**M C Cowdrey (Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge)** (*Kent 1950-1976*)

**Tennant, Ivo** – The Cowdreys: portrait of a cricketing family. Simon & Schuster, 1990.

**Hon C S Cowdrey** (*Kent 1976-1991*)

**Cowdrey, Chris and Lemmon, David** - What's your sport? Cricket. Partridge, 1989.

**Cowdrey, Chris and Smith, Jonathan B** – Good enough? Pelham, 1986.

**M C Cowdrey (Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge)** (*Kent 1950-1976*)

**Black, Bernard** – Colin Cowdrey in test cricket. BB, 2005

**Cowdrey, Colin** – Cricket today. Arthur Barker, 1961.

The incomparable game. Hodder & Stoughton, 1970.

MCC: the autobiography of a cricketer. Hodder & Stoughton, 1975.

Tackle cricket this way. Stanley Paul, 1964.

- new edition. 1969

- new edition. 1974.

Time for reflection. Frederick Muller, 1962.

**Milton, Howard** – Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge CBE. (Famous cricketers series.) Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, 2003.

**Murtagh, Andrew** – Gentleman and player: the story of Colin Cowdrey, England's cricket most elegant and charming player. Pitch Publishing, 2017.

**Peel, Mark** – The last Roman: a biography of Colin Cowdrey. André Deutsch, 1999.

**Walsh, Richard** – Sir Colin Cowdrey. Richard Walsh Books, 1995.

**A M Crawley** (*Kent 1927-1947*)

**Crawley, Aidan** – Leap before you look: a memoir. Collins, 1988.



# KENT COUNTY CRICKET GROUNDS

150 YEARS OF CRICKET ACROSS THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

by **HOWARD MILTON**  
with **PETER FRANCIS**



TOGETHER, WE ARE KENT



Marking the 150th anniversary of the Kent County Cricket Club comes a history of all the grounds in Kent where county cricket has been played in that period..

This is a unique volume in the extensive bibliography of Kent cricket. The result of forty or more years of research, it not only includes the 18 post-1870 grounds but for completeness, mentions all those used before 1870 for first team matches and since 1911 for second eleven games. This is truly a comprehensive account (239 pages) of county cricket across the Garden of England supported by an extensive collection of illustrations (over 330), including those of how these grounds or their sites look today.

Along the way, there is be found many individuals whose names you would not expect to be found in such a volume as this. Julius Caesar, Elizabeth Taylor, the man whose fascination with shells led to the naming of a world famous company, the man who invented refrigerated sea cargo, Wat Tyler, Field-Marshal Montgomery, a Jack the Ripper suspect.....

Compiled by two individuals with a long standing commitment to Kent County Cricket – Howard Milton, the club Honorary Statistician and Peter Francis, Editor of Kent County Cricket Supporters magazine – the book is available from the Kent Cricket Club Shop online at [www.kentcricketclubshop.co.uk](http://www.kentcricketclubshop.co.uk). Kent County Cricket Club, Kent County Cricket Supporters Club and Kent Cricket Heritage Trust members can acquire it at a reduced price of £20 (£25 to non-members) plus postage and packing. Individuals without an online facility can pay by cheque via the form below.

---

**Kent County Cricket Grounds: 150 years of cricket across the Garden of England.**

To:- Peter Francis, 34 Park Avenue, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5HL

Please supply ..... copy/copies at the members rate of £20 plus £6 p&p.

Please supply ..... copy/copies at the non-members rate of £25 plus £6 p&p

Please make cheques payable to Peter Francis

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone.....

E-mail.....