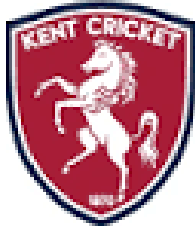




INSIDE EDGE



Spring/Summer 2026

Volume 9
Number 4 (No 36)

*The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust
A View from the Chair
Jo Rice*

A new season has just begun, and we all hope for much better things than the last campaign brought us, for both our men's and women's teams. So far, the weather has played a blinder on our behalf. You have to be an optimist to support Kent Cricket!



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There are a couple of new happenings for you to note and us to be proud of. On 10 May, when Kent Women played a 50 over game against Glamorgan Women at Beckenham, there was a display of memorabilia from our archives, centred around some of Kent's best women cricketers over the years. We hope to repeat this display, and add a few extra bits and pieces to it, during Canterbury Week in June..

A little later in the summer, Canterbury Christ Church University, who sponsor the Horses, are putting on a display centred around women's cricket, which we are happy to have had the chance to get involved with. This will be another display worth seeing, at Canterbury Christ Church from the latter part of June.

We have also just published our first KCHT publication, an appreciation of Bob Wilson, by Mark Stokes, which is available in the club shop. It is a fascinating read, based largely around the many hours of chat that Mark had with Bob, who at 98 is the oldest living Kent cricketer and who must have his eye on the century and a chance to become the oldest Kent cricketer ever.

Finally, I want to make an appeal to any local cricket club interested in writing their history. KCHT can help bring your efforts to fruition, not only through our skills in local history research but also possibly financially in creating a booklet) which can be published and sold for the club's benefit. Please get in touch if you want to explore the possibilities.

Jonathan Rice

Visit our website
heritage.kentcricket.co.uk

A Moment in Time, Saturday August 12 1876

Match Played at Canterbury Kent v

M.C.C.

1st Innings

No.	Batsman.	Runs Made.	How Out.	Bowler.	Runs.
1	W.G. Grace Esq.	344	St Shaw	Lord Harris	344

Canterbury Week 2026 marks the 150th anniversary of one of the most famous innings in first-class cricket history, not surprisingly played by the master of the time, W G Grace,

Kent played the "Gentlemen of the MCC" in a 12-a-side match, They had won the toss on the first day and under a hot sun tempered by westerly breeze, opened their account at 12 noon. It was a moderate MCC bowling attack and Kent were in control from the start, largely thanks to the Captain, inevitably at that time Lord Harris. He seemed to target WG time and again and was seventh out for 154 including 24 fours, At the close the home side were 453 for ten.

The next day the Kent first innings ended on 473 . Grace had bowled 71 four-ball overs. The Gentlemen's innings collapsed, WG contributing just 17, By 4.55 pm they were all out for just 144 with Capt. James Fellowes, RE, right arm fast, taking 5 for 49.

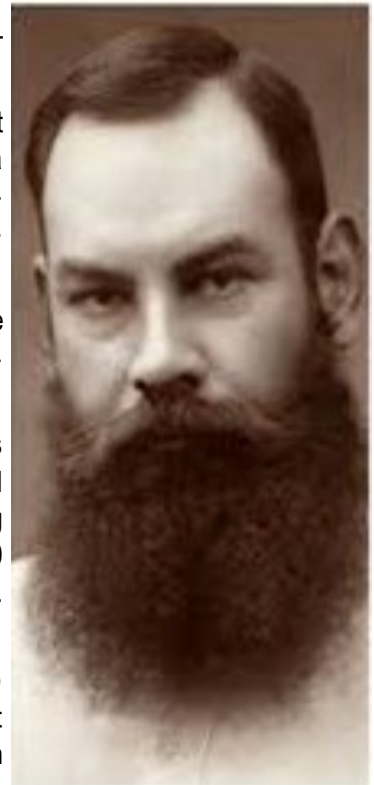
In his *Cricket* Grace is quoted as saying , "Everyone believed the match was now a hopeless thing, and I was extremely anxious to get off that night so I might reach Clifton the next day and have a quiet Sunday's rest before meeting Nottinghamshire on Monday. It was no use playing casually so I made up my mind to hit." He did to some effect. At close he had scored 132* in 110 minutes. It included 25 fours, 100 in runs, three of which now would have been regarded as sixes. *The Daily Telegraph* noted "It was the most astonishing and brilliant batting ever seen".

He continued on the final day. Initially he seemed nervous and fidgety. A broken bat did not help nor did the replacement. Rectification came with old bat bound with twine. Back to normal, as it were, he reached 225* at lunch. Afterwards he beat his personal highest (268) and the then highest score (William Ward's famous 278), at which point play was suspended for champagne and seltzer from the Officers' Tent.

Fortified, he passed 300 at 5.35 pm and on 546 for 7 was finally caught low down at mid-off, at which point the successful bowler (Lord Harris no less) gave an undignified jump for joy. His final score (344) remained the world record until 1895. It is till the highest individual score against Kent, a record set against the fact Kent are, as writing this, the only county not to concede a triple hundred. It also remains the highest individual score on the Canterbury ground.

The statistics of Grace's innings (extract from the scorebook above) are— he batted 380 minutes, hitting 51 fours, six threes, 20 twos and 76 singles. He did not give a chance.

With acknowledgements to Kent County Cricket Club: fifty of the finest first-class matches; by David Roberston, Howard Milton & Derek Carlaw. Tempus Publishing, 2006.



From the Kent Archive - 50 Years Ago

Kent Women versus Australia Women 1976

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust has recently been given some papers relating to the Kent Women's cricket team. One document, now 50 years old, is a report on a match held on 18 July, 1976 when Kent women played against Australia at the Bat and Ball Ground, Wrotham Road, Gravesend. The scorecard, included in the donated papers, provides the names of the teams.



Women's
Cricket Association
Golden Jubilee
1926-1976

Donation to W.C.A. 5p



Kent v AUSTRALIA

Bat & Ball Ground, Wrotham Rd., Gravesend, Kent
Sunday, July 18th, 1976

HOURS OF PLAY 11.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m.
(Lunch 1.15 - 2.00 p.m. Tea 4.15 - 4.45 p.m.)

ONE INNINGS MATCH

AUSTRALIA

** 1	A. Gordon (Victoria)	.....
*† 2	M. Jennings (Victoria)	.....
3	W. Blunsden (S. Australia)	.....
4	L. Hill (Victoria)	.....
5	W. Hills (W. Australia)	.....
6	J. Lumsden (N.S.W.)	.....
7	M. Lutshini (N.S.W.)	.....
8	P. May (N.S.W.)	.....
9	B. McDonald (S. Australia)	.....
10	K. Mortimer (S. Australia)	.....
11	K. Price (N.S.W.)	.....
12	J. Robinson (N.S.W.)	.....
13	R. Thompson (Victoria)	.....
14	J. Tredrea (Victoria)	.....
15	S. Tredrea (Victoria)	.....

Bowling Analysis

O M R W Wds. N.B.

Fall of Wickets

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Extras

Total

KENT

* 1	S. Goatman (K. Nomads)	.....
2	C. Watmough „ „	.....
3	M. Lear (Invicta)	.....
4	C. Brown „ „	.....
5	P. Sheringham (G. Chart)	.....
6	K. Brown (Invicta)	.....
* 7	M. Pilling (K. Nomads)	.....
† 8	J. Law (G. Chart)	.....
9	L. Newton (K. Nomads)	.....
10	C. Mason „ „	.....
11	C. Symes „ „	.....
12th	J. Noble	.....

Bowling Analysis

O M R W Wds. N.B.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Extras

Total

** Captain *V. Captain †Wicketkeeper

Umpires E. Riley & S. Hill

Scorers M. Horescroft



Chris Watmough

© 1968 WCA

The report of the match by the Women's Cricket Association recorded that Kent won the toss and put Australia in to bat on what was considered 'a good batting wicket with a fast outfield.'

Kent bowler Mary Pilling was unable to stop Lorraine Hill from scoring and catches were not forthcoming. Chris Watmough was the star of the fielding team throwing from the boundary. Lorraine Hill and Margaret Jennings batted strongly although the slow bowling made them more uncertain.

Australia declared on 211 for no wickets with Lorraine Hill reaching 1,000 runs on the tour. Kent had to make the required runs in 165 minutes whilst facing the fast and tight bowling of Sharon Tredrea and Raelee Thomson. After an hour the score was 62 for 1 wicket achieved through quick singles and the 'aggressive batting' of Chris Watmough. Chris continued to bat taking risks until she was caught for 51 at 79 for 2.



Megan Lear gained confidence and batted strongly finishing on 86, not out, helping Kent to finish just 27 runs behind. The match for Kent was described as 'a very creditable result.'

In the *Kent County WCA Report of 1977* Chair, Audrey Disbury, wrote the "Highlight of the season was, of course the visit of the Australian team during the Golden Jubilee Year of the Women's Cricket Association in 1976." Audrey commented that the success of the visit was due to the hard work, not just in the field, but months before in preparing and organising events.

Olive Middleton, one of the county's scorers, submitted the following report:

Sunday was the big day for Kent, when they played the Australians in an all-day game on the Bat and Ball ground. An unusually dull, over-cast sky early in the day prompted Kent to invite the Australians to bat first. What happened? The sun came out and the Aussies made 211 for 0 declared. Despite this high score ... time ran out to leave the result as an honourable draw. ...

Megan Lear when she was the England Women's Coach

© 2015 WCA

Reporting on the 1976 season, Sue Goatman, the Kent 1st XI Captain, noted that there had been 'all round improvement' and results were 'far more positive.' Not surprisingly, Sue wrote about the match against the Australians being the 'climax of the season.' Although the Kent bowlers were not able to take any wickets they had worked hard and she extended congratulations to not just the bowlers but also the fielders. With regard to the batting, she commented that Kent was 'always just behind the asking rate'.

The match had taken place on a sunny day, was watched by a large crowd and the Kent Women's team had shown the Australians 'they were a force to be reckoned with.'

Rosemary Piddock

Gore Court or Not Gore Court ?

In the days of yore when the most direct route back from the resorts of the Thanet coast to north west Kent was the Thanet Way and the A2. This was before the almost equal delights of the M2 and one could say it was quicker flying to New York given the weight of traffic. A major bottleneck was the Key Street crossroads when the journey met the A 249, the main thoroughfare from the south onto the Isle of Sheppey. But as you stuttered along to west of Sittingbourne it did offer a view of one of the most attractive of Kent's many attractive non-county grounds. The home of the Gore Court Cricket Club

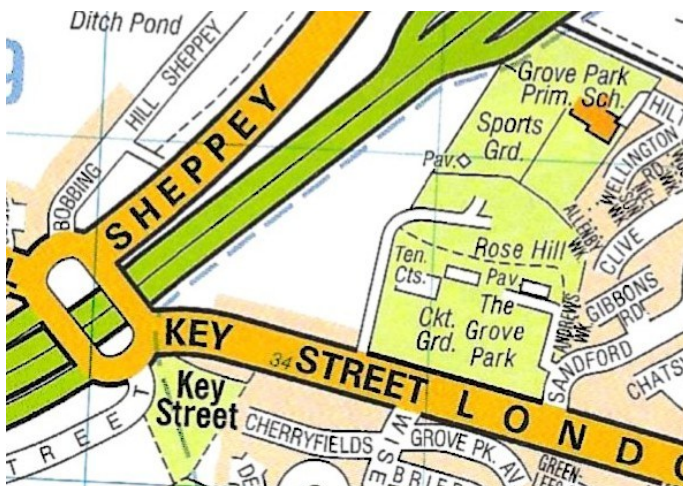


Set against a hill and totally open to the public access, the ground is often referred to, after its occupants, as Gore Court,. But technically the location is not Gore Court. This has a history some way apart from the present location.

Gore Court Cricket Club originated in a country estate which had a substantial park covering much of the area between Sittingbourne and Tunstall to the south.. The latest mansion was completed in 1792 and in the 1830s was owned by Mr Frank Bradley Dyke, who is usually referred to as the founder of the Cricket Club in the grounds. There may have been crick-

et there before 1839 from which date Gore Cricket Club dates its origin, but it was certainly Bradley Dyke who first laid out a cricket pitch for his children and their friends in the vicinity.

Club records do not exist for the earlier days. but its existence was erratic, apart from the ownership of the estate which passed through a number of hands, including a school from 1889 until the outbreak of World War I (famous pupil "Bomber" Harris of Bomber Command in World War II fame). It is in this period that Club had its greatest stability to an extent that in 1908 it was given the accolade of a Kent Club and Ground match. This was followed in 1909 by a Kent Second XI game.. The former attracted a crowd of two thousand.



The war preceded the end of the whole estate. Occupied by the Army, the house was left in a state of considerable disrepair and it took some years to settle its fate. Unsaleable, it fell into the hands of the auctioneer, who began a programme of building houses on the estate. Finally in 1926 the mansion was pulled down. Increasingly the Club was squeezed out of its playing area until in 1927 plans were agreed to the establishment and building of Borden Grammar School, which now sits on what was once the Club's playing area. The sports area adjacent to the school is a vestige.

A delay in that coming to pass was needed in the search around various sites in the Sittingbourne area until attention turned to a piece of land known as the Grove on Key Street,, The actual ownership of the ground was vested in the local council so a lease with them of 399 years was agreed and the first games of the Club were played there in 1929.

Thus, the true name of the ground is The Grove, not Gore Court. Perhaps the compromise is that it is The Gore Court Cricket Club Ground, The Grove Sittingbourne.

Sources: Allinson, Helen *The story of Gore Court House and Estate, Tunstall.* Sittingbourne Heritage Museum, 2006.

Gore Court Cricket Club 1839-1989 150th anniversary: souvenir programme. The Club, 1989.

From the John Websper Collection

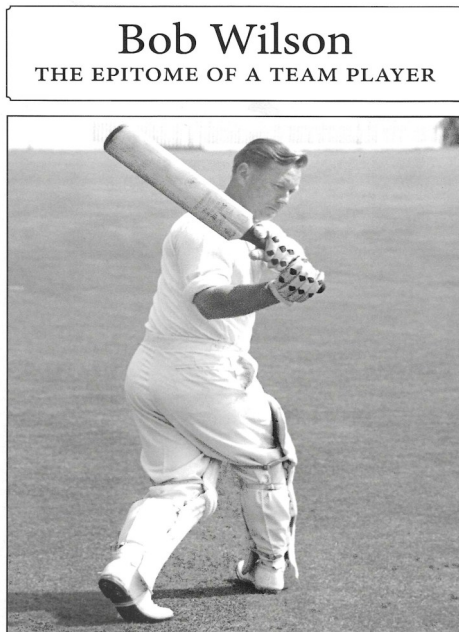


KCHT has previously announced the very generous intention of John Websper to donate his considerable collection of Kent cricket grounds photographs to the Trust. There is thus the hope the selections from this archive will appear in this publication in the issues to come.

Thus, we have here two photographs of the Wrotham Cricket Ground, home of Wrotham (St George's) Cricket Club. One was taken in 1993, the other is September 2025. The latter which is at the opposite end of the ground to the original is a community project which gives access to local organisations like the cricket club to the facilities. Situated on a raised area it gives excellent views of the playing area..

Book Review

Bob Wilson: the epitome of a team player; by Mark Stokes. Kent Cricket Heritage Trust. 88pp. £15.



Mark Stokes

Over its history, Kent County Cricket Club has produced many great cricketers. Names such as Lord Harris, Frank Woolley, Colin Blythe, Tich Freeman, Leslie Ames and Doug Wright roll off the tongue as easily as more modern heroes like Colin Cowdrey, Alan Knott and Derek Underwood. Books have been written by and about all of them, and deservedly so. However at the heart of the history, and the soul, of Kent CCC are the names of many a county stalwart whose contribution to their club is equally great, but who remain ignored by biographers.

Happily, the story one of these pillars of Kent's county cricket history, has now been committed to paper. Bob Wilson, who played for Kent from 1952 to 1967, is the subject of the new book by former Kent Messenger writer Mark Stokes, and it is a fascinating tale. Bob, now 98 years old and the oldest living Kent capped cricketer, had many long conversations with the author during his research for the book, so what we read is often in Bob's own words.

Bob was born in Bapchild in 1928, the youngest of four brothers, and has lived all his life in Kent. He was always a keen sportsman, excelling especially at football and cricket, where his left-handed batting proved prolific at club level.

He was reluctant to make the move to county cricket when he was offered the chance, as he was worried that if he did not succeed, he would also have lost his job at Bowaters. However, in the event he need not have worried. He quickly became a fixture in Kent's batting order, and from 1954 to 1966 scored at least 1,000 runs for the county every season. In 1964, he scored 2038 runs at an average of 46.31, becoming at the age of 36 the last man to date to score 2,000 runs in a season for Kent. With the reduced first-class fixture lists of today, it is extremely unlikely that this feat will ever be achieved again. By the time he retired, he had represented the county 365 times, and had scored 19,454 runs for Kent at an average of 32.10, with 30 centuries. This places him in eighth place on Kent's all time most prolific run scorers, and among left-handers, second only to the immortal Frank Woolley. Undoubtedly a Kent great.

What comes across most strongly in this book is how popular Bob has been, among teammates and fans alike. The title of the book, "The Epitome of a Team Player", sums him up perfectly. I'm afraid if you are looking for stories of wine, women and illegal substances, you will be disappointed, but if you want to get some understanding of how post-war county cricket worked in those post war years which marked the slow collapse of the distinction between amateurs and professionals, then this is a good read. Bob's family, his parents, his brothers and more importantly his wife Marlene and daughters Julie and Carol play a central role in his story, but it is Bob himself who comes out as the hero – the good guy who made good.

This book also marks the first publication of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust. More are in the pipeline, and the plan is to release a handful of new publications every year, to plug the gaps in Kent's cricketing history. This is a very strong start.

Jo Rice

Copies of this publication are available for sale from the Kent County Cricket Club shop on the ground in Canterbury.

Cricket Books—All Bargains

We are very grateful to everyone who donates books to the Trust for us to either add to the Kent Cricket collection at Canterbury or to dispose of in a suitable manner.

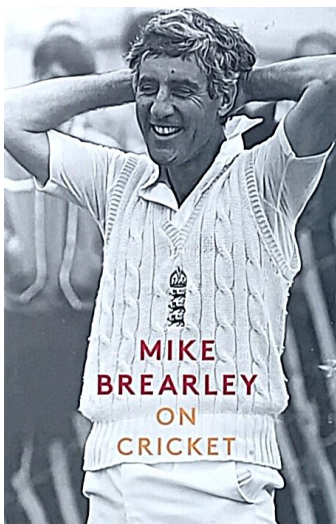
Listed below are a few titles we would now like to offer for sale. As a charitable trust, rather than set a fixed price, we invite any sensible offers for them. 100% of the proceeds will be used by KCHT to maintain and conserve the many historically valuable artefacts under our management. Please email your offers to Kent Cricket's Heritage Officer Ian Phipps at heritage@kentcricket.co.uk.

*** WISDEN CRICKETERS' ALMANACK – KENT CRICKET ANNUALS ***

We have many duplicates from the 1950's to date; please email heritage@kentcricket.co.uk if you are looking for a particular year to add to your collection.

ARLOTT. THE AUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY by David Rayvern Allen. Published 1994, Harper-Collins; 392 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*

THE HISTORY OF COUNTY CRICKET. KENT by Arrowsmith, R.L. Published 1971, Arthur Barker; 165 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper (minor snags at head).



KP THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY by Kevin Pietersen. Published 2014, Sphere; 324 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*

MIKE BREARLEY ON CRICKET by Mike Brearley. Published 2018, Constable; 418 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*

A LAST ENGLISH SUMMER by Duncan Hamilton. Published 2010, Quercus; 367 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.* [William Hill and Wisden Book of the Year 2009]

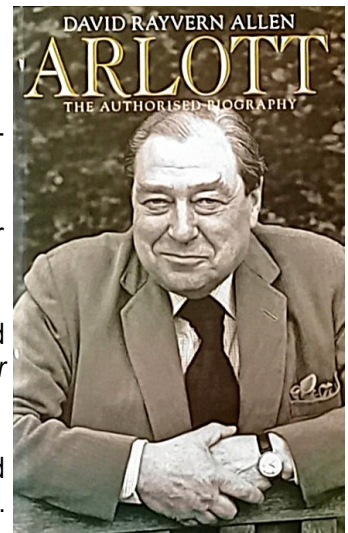
THREE MEN AT THE MATCH. A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ENGLISH COUNTY SEASON by J.S Finch. Published 1989, MacDonald Queen Anne Press; 220 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. [Includes commentary of two Kent matches in 1988]

BRADMAN THE GREAT by B.J. Wakley. Published 1999, Mainstream; 315 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*

ATHERTON'S ASHES. HOW ENGLAND WON THE 2009 ASHES by Mike Atherton. Published 2009, Simon and Schuster; 245 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*

IT'S NOT THE WINNING THAT COUNTS by Max Davidson. Published 2009, Little, Brown; 276 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*

DOUGLAS JARDINE. SPARTAN CRICKETER by Christopher Douglas. Published 1984, George Allen & Unwin; 206 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper.

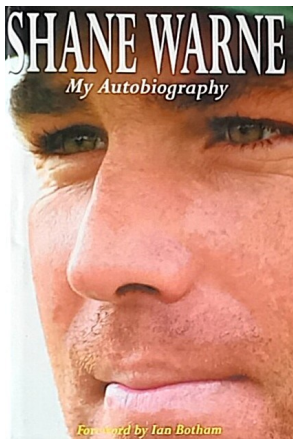
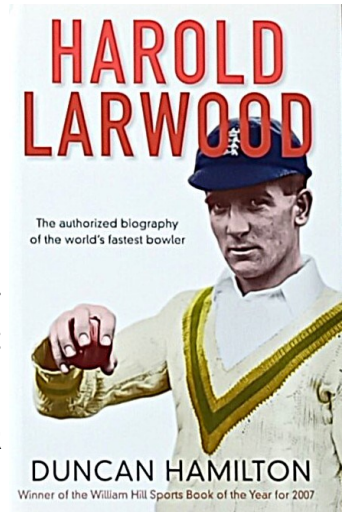


CALLING THE SHOTS. MY STORY AS ENGLAND CAPTAIN by Michael Vaughan. Published 2005, Hodder & Stoughton; 270 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper.

COMING BACK TO ME by Marcus Trescothick. Published 2008, Harper Sport; 342 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*

TROPHIES AND TRIBULATIONS. FORTY YEARS OF KENT CRICKET by Clive Ellis and Mark Pennell. Published 2010, Greenwich Publishing; 287 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper.

HAROLD LARWOOD. THE AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST BOWLER by Duncan Hamilton. Published 2009, Quercus; 388 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*



BEFORE THE LIGHTS WENT OUT. THE 1912 TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT by Patrick Ferriday. Published 2011, Von Krumm; 327 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*

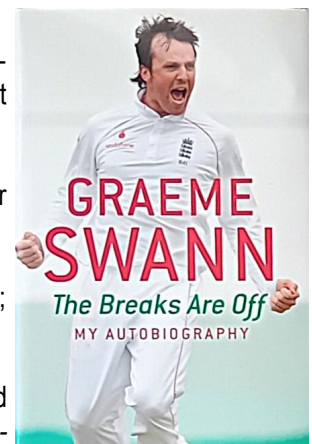
BODYLINE AUTOPSY by David Frith. Published 2002, Aurum; 477 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*

SHANE WARNE. MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY by Shane Warne. Published 2001, Hodder & Stoughton; 331 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper.

THE BREAKS ARE OFF by Graeme Swann. Published 2011, Hodder & Stoughton; 399 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper.

OPENING UP. MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY by Mike Atherton. Published 2002, Hodder & Stoughton; 330 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper.

ARLOTT, SWANTON AND THE SOUL OF ENGLISH CRICKET by Stephen Fay and David Kynaston. Published 2018, Bloomsbury; 384 pages, illustrated with dust wrapper. *Near mint condition.*



Visit our website

heritage.kentcricket.co.uk

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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.

KCHT

Website: heritage.kentcricket.co.uk

E-mail: heritage@kentcricket.co.uk

KCHT NEEDS YOU!

Dear Reader, your Kent Cricket Heritage Trust has many plans for expanding all we can do for those interested in our county's cricket heritage, but our goals are frustrated, or at least slowed down, by a lack of volunteers on our team. We have a dedicated, but rather small, band of people who do a remarkable job under difficult circumstances, so we are appealing for more of you to come and join the team. In particular, if you have special skills such as website management, archive and information management, membership affairs, publications management, or a good knowledge of Kent cricket history (men and/or women), including records and statistics, we certainly need you. If all you have is the most important ingredient - enthusiasm for what we are trying to do - you will still be most welcome to come on board.

We are not asking you to give up hours of your time every day (unless you want to!) but just to give us a little of your spare time as and when it suits you. The rewards are minimal, an occasional cup of coffee and a biscuit at best, but it is interesting and rewarding work.

Please get in touch with either Ian Phipps, Heritage Officer, or me, by email at one of the addresses given in the details at the top of this page,

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks

Jo Rice

Chair, KCHT