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# INSIDE EDGE

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



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This has been a busy time for the Trust, and it looks as though we will have a busy winter too. Over the summer months, we have had two BBC television programmes take an interest in Kent's cricket heritage. First, it was *Celebrity Antiques Road Trip*, who filmed a segment at Harbledown CC and then at the Spitfire Ground, looking at the beginnings of cricket in Kent. Then, in August, *The Antiques Road Show* visited Belmont House, the family home of Lord Harris, inviting John Shepherd along to talk about his cricket career. Both shows will be aired over the winter, and as soon as we know the dates they will be broadcast, we will let you know.



We have also had some major reshuffles on our committee. David Robertson has retired as Hon Secretary, and his role has been taken over by Colin Jarman, while Tony Kilbee has also stepped down as Hon Treasurer, and Keith Austin has stepped up to take his place. We also have a new Heritage Officer, Ian Phipps, taking over from Caroline Ellis, as you will read elsewhere in this issue. These changes also mean that the Trustee board is undergoing a reshuffle.

We are also in the process of revamping our Facebook page, and establishing a presence on LinkedIn, which will help us find new ways of telling the stories of Kent's cricketing heritage. And among other things we will be up to over the winter is setting up many more opportunities for people to enjoy conducted tours of the ground, all through the summer. So we are busy, and needing your support more than ever.

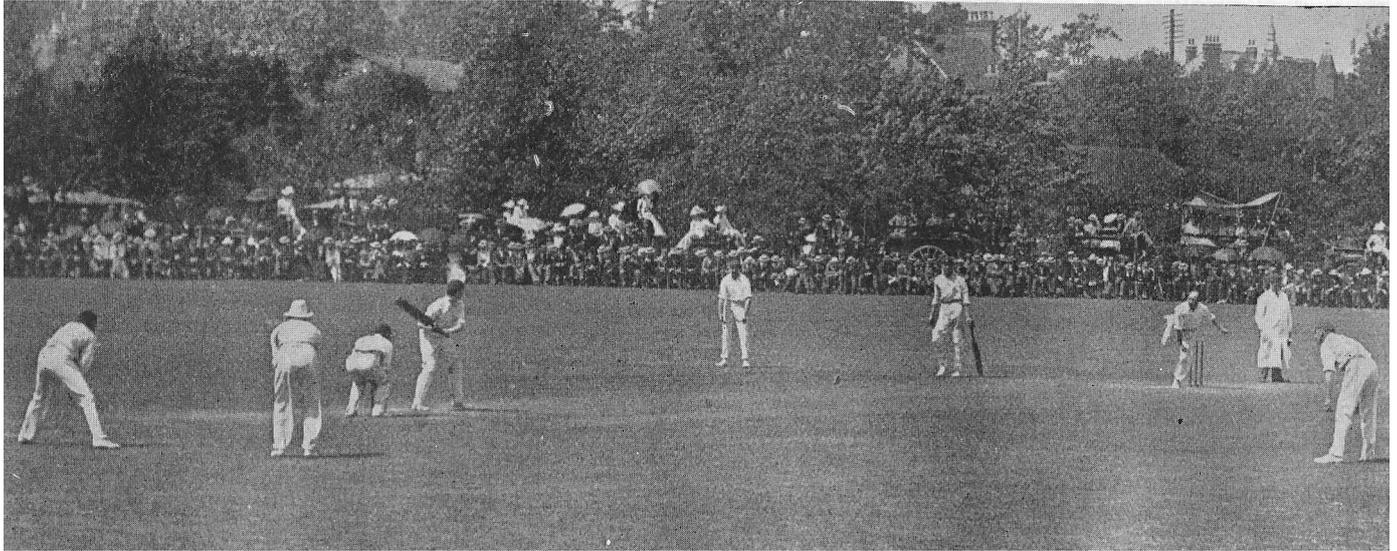
We all hope you winter well, and have a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Jonathan Rice*



*The West Indies tourists at Belmont 1923*

*A Moment in Time, Tuesday 20 June 1900*



The fairly common practice of cricket memorabilia dealers for cutting up and selling individual pages of old bound illustrated magazines should not really be encouraged. But, hidden within these publications are many gems which have not seen the light of day for well over a hundred years and, with their contents not known, are likely to remain so. They have provided a fruitful source for this publication and here is another. In this case it is from *The King* magazine for 30 June 1900.

More often Canterbury Cricket Week and its social whirl was a subject, but here is another ground, Tonbridge. The above photograph is of action on the second day of the Kent-Sussex match in 1900. Fred Tate is bowling to the Rev William Rashleigh. Kent are facing a large Sussex total of 343 (C B Fry 110) and wickets are falling after Alec Hearne and "Pinkie" Burnup put on 106 for the first wicket. They would continue to fall. For this is truly a "Moment in Time" for probably moments later Tate bowled the Rev for just six. Kent were all out for 186 and Sussex then piled on another 311, thanks to another great Sussex of the time, Ranji, 192 not out in just over three hours (one six, 32 fours). That was into the third day. But then Kent was saved by a torrential storm which flooded the ground.

The picture (right) shows the Rev Rashleigh going out to bat for his short innings. The Canon (as he became) William Rashleigh (1867-1937) was a mainstay, when free of his ecclesiastical commitments, of the Kent batting order between 1885 and 1901 playing in 96 matches scoring 4003 runs @ 24.70 with seven hundreds. C B Fry commented that his style was "the best". "No one plays the forward stroke better. His cutting is perfection; a very fine driver, especially to the on side. He pulls strongly on slow wickets and is clever at placing to leg. He is, when set, as fine a punishing bat as there is", But he was a poorer starter with 25 ducks and three pairs to his credit in his career. He was also a poor fielder.

His appointment as a Minor Canon at Gloucester Cathedral effectively ended his first-class career. After Gloucester, from 1903 to 1911 he was a Minor Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, and Curate of St Mildred's Canterbury, 1904-1911 Rector of St. George's, Canterbury 1911-1916, Vicar of Horton Kirby, 1916-1927, Vicar of Ridgemount, Bletchley from 1928 until he retired.

Rashleigh was an extremely active club cricketer for clubs including Band of Brothers, Bickley Park, Crystal Palace, Farningham, High Elms, Oxford Authentics, St. Lawrence, Sevenoaks Vine, Tonbridge and Tonbridge Rovers.



## *Introducing Kent Cricket's New Heritage Officer*

As you will have read in Jo Rice's introduction to this issue of *Inside Edge*, I have recently taken up my position as Heritage Officer at Kent Cricket, following in the footsteps of David Robertson and Caroline Ellis. I'd like to take this opportunity of introducing myself to members of KCHT and outline what my duties will include over the next few years.

I first watched Kent as an eight year old child in July 1971, a rain affected Gillette Cup Semi-Final against Warwickshire. After the game, Asif Iqbal signed my scorecard and kindly gave me an old cricket ball from the boot of his car! From that moment, I was hooked and in 1974 became a Junior Member, spending much of my school holidays watching cricket. I have fond memories of wandering round an old white hut that stood behind the (then) Annexe which had a fascinating display of old scorecards, bats, and photographs. I soon appreciated what a long and important history our club has and that was something I was keen to learn more about.

In the mid '90's, I started my own framing business and got to know many Kent players, past and present. I have also framed many items for Kent Cricket, including most of the pictures that now hang in the Pavilion. This brought me into close contact with David Robertson who introduced me to the club's archive of cricket memorabilia. My job now is to be the custodian of that archive so that the next generation can appreciate it.

Initially, I will continue the on-going task of preserving and protecting the oldest and most fragile items in the club's possession. The huge task of cataloguing the entire collection was started several years ago but requires finishing. I'll also be looking at the displays around the ground, particularly the Pavilion and Cowdrey Stand, to ensure that these are topical and represent the Club's history and diversity. Several years ago, I made the Capped Players frames that adorn the Pavilion Stairway - the same now needs be done for our capped women's players to hang alongside them.

In the medium term, I will try to broaden the scope of the collection. I'd like it to reflect not just Kent Cricket history, but the wider history of cricket in Kent. I will encourage others, especially those who've never undertaken research before, to explore aspects of cricket in the County which have so far been overlooked. This may include the history of a village club or school, or perhaps the life story of a lesser known Kent cricketer. In this modern age, there's no reason why we shouldn't develop a digital archive of such documents which we wouldn't otherwise have space to store in printed form. There are many online resources available by subscription or free via the Kent Libraries website. Nobody needs a huge budget to attempt such projects, just time and patience!

In the long term, I'd love to see the development of a museum on the ground at Canterbury, a "Resource and Reference Centre" and much needed permanent home for the Archive. We have a great club with a history unrivalled by any other county so we should show it off and inspire the next generation of 8 year olds, just as that old white hut did for me all those years ago.

I plan to attend most home games from next summer and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Please come and say "Hello" and feel free to share with me any cricketing memory you might have. I will also be happy to let you know about the archive at Canterbury and the work we are doing.

Wishing all members of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust a wonderful Christmas and healthy, happy 2023.

**Ian Phipps**

## *Cricket on Ice*

Cricket is not always played at traditional locations and one unusual venue is “on ice”. It is obviously weather dependent and came into its own in 1878/79 when a variety of English waterways froze over from early December to February, with matches recorded at locations including Cambridge, between “Town and Gown”, Windsor Park, under the light of the full moon, Gateshead, Hull, Grimsby, Sheffield, Chesterfield, Gainsborough and the Duke of Devonshire’s pond at Swiss Cottage.

However, this form of cricket was being played at Watlington over 20 years earlier in 1855 and was reported in the *Kentish Express*. Members of the local club played a 7-a-side match involving Skaters who beat the Non Skaters. The match was played on a lake at the home of James Fremlin Esq, whose family were well known Kent brewers. It attracted a large crowd, who saw the players going down as well as the wickets. At the conclusion of the game, the players and others adjourned to the Duke’s Head, where a very comfortable evening was passed.

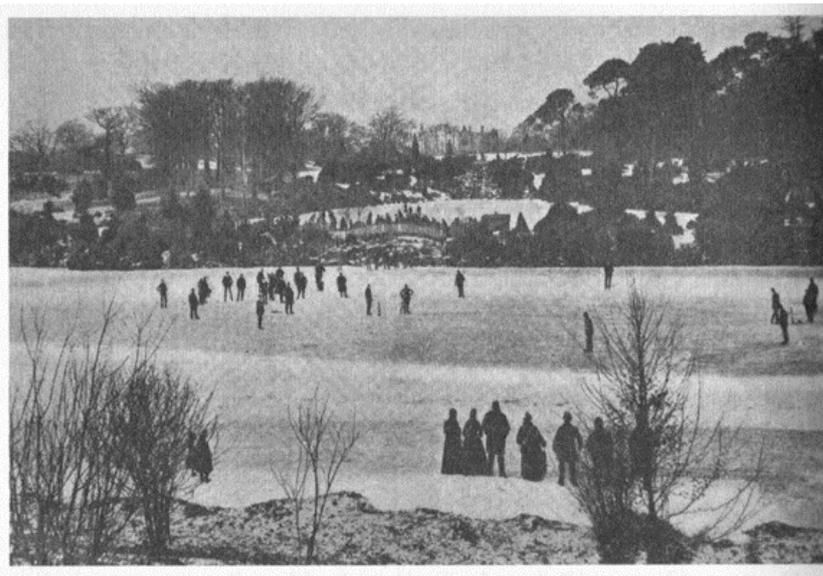
Tenterden hosted an even earlier match which was confirmed in the following report of a later match in the *Kent Messenger* in February 1891, “A sight was witnessed in Tenterden on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, the like of which has not occurred for 50 years, viz, two teams of skaters contesting a game of cricket on the frozen surface of the Mill ponds”.

The details of the match in 1891 are as follows:

T B Sayer’s XI 52 (T B Sayer 17, Extras 13) versus J M Mace’s XI 59 (E Cary 18 retired hurt, Extras 12, T Martin 10)  
Mace’s XI won on the first innings by three wickets.

Rain rather interfered with the enjoyment of a large crowd who were entertained by the strains of the drum and fife band of the G Company (Tenterden) of Volunteers.

Just over the Kent border in Sussex at Sheffield Park a match was taking place on the Upper Woman’s Way Pond in January 1891 and was recorded in the following photograph.

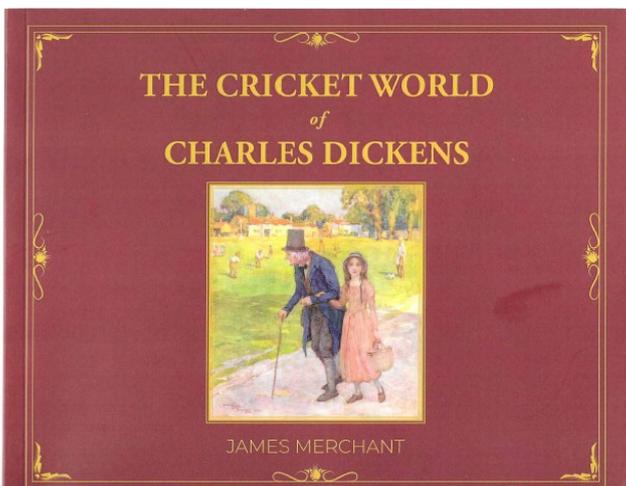


Four years later another match took place at Sheffield Park, with seven Sussex first-class cricketers taking part, including Fred Tate, father of Maurice, who is mainly remembered for his only Test appearance, against Australia in 1902. Batting at number 11, he was the last man out having previously dropped a crucial catch. England lost the match by three runs and with it the series.

About this time another match was taking place in Sussex, on the great lake in Eridge Park in front of 2000 visitors who witnessed hockey being played at one end of the lake and cricket between Lord Henry Neville and ES Williams teams at the other. The captains both scored half-centuries but the match ended in a draw when bad light stopped play.

Ian Lambert

### *Recent Publication*



**The cricket world of Charles Dickens; by James Merchant.**  
The Cricket Press Pty (Australia) 64pp £25.

Charles Dickens's love of cricket is well known. Not the least that he established a cricket field in the grounds of his much loved last home, Gad's Hill in Higham, on the road between Gravesend and Rochester.

Also, he was almost certainly visiting friends in the vicinity of the ground in Town/West Malling at a time when for a few years this unpretentious small town was the centre of English cricket. The famous match in *The Pickwick Papers* reflects this,

This lavishly illustrated volume reflects this with a huge variety of images ranging from the original drawings from *The Pickwick Papers* to letters, ceramics and a wide variety of other types of memorabilia.

Dickens's aforementioned Kent connections are well covered with features on both West Malling and Gad's Hill.

It is probably true to say that nothing of particular original intelligence is included, but with Irving Rosewater's small booklet going at £500 when one comes to light, this does sum up similar territory with illustrations at a fraction of the price.

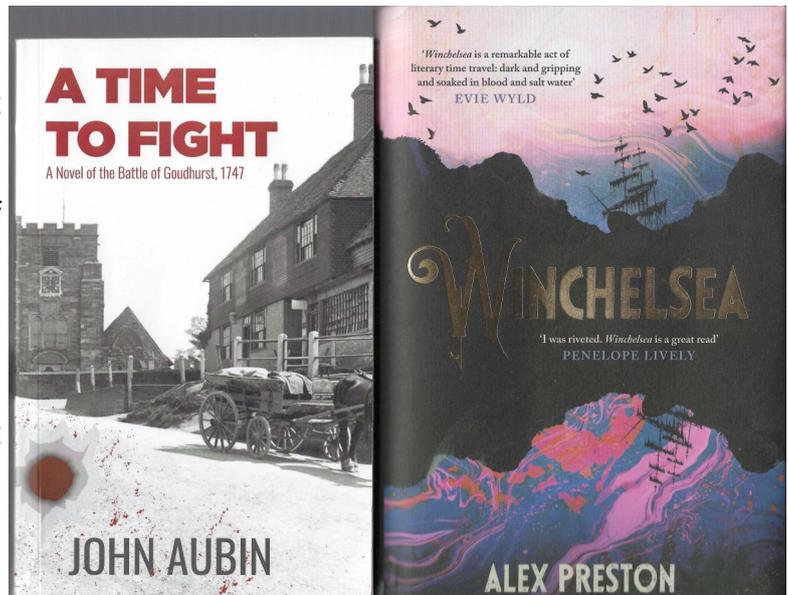
Charles Dickens's daughter, Mamie, is quoted as saying, "Dickens enjoyed cricket intensely as a spectator, always keeping one of the scores during the matches at Gad's Hill."

There is an extensive bibliography and over 120 "Endnotes" or references.

## Smuggling and Cricket

Two novels have been recently published where the broad subject is smuggling, and both have intriguing cricket references of the 1740s. The two books are *Winchelsea* by Alex Preston (published by Canongate) and *A Time to Fight: A Novel of the Battle of Goudhurst* by John Aubin (self-published). Both are available online from the usual suspects!

One reference is indeed common to both. In August 1744, according to Aubin, one Jarvis Lambert was “high on his hay rick”, with a cricket match between teams from Goudhurst and Cranbrook taking place the other side of a hedge, when three members of the Hawkhurst Gang of smugglers attacked him (they “kicked him like a pig’s bladder”) and left him for dead. He recovered, in this book, and took his part in the Goudhurst militia in the “Battle of Goudhurst”. In Preston’s book, Lambert is attacked “where he lived in Horsmonden .... as he watched a cricket match on the village green”. He was “bludgeoned .... to death in front of the massed ranks of cricketers, and not one man stepped in to intervene”.



This is based on the narrative of Thomas Henry Baker written in December 1847, which chronicles memories from Goudhurst of the 1740s, passed down through the Lambert family. A copy of this document is held in the archives of the Goudhurst and Kilndown Local History Society.

A splendid scene in *Winchelsea* takes the main character and her brother on a late-afternoon horse ride from their home towards Hawkhurst, and the house of the leader of the Hawkhurst Gang. Beautifully described, the ride takes them towards the Udimore ridge, on over the Rother “at Newenden. There was a game of cricket finishing in the long late rays of sunlight, the fieldsmen crouched close around the bat ...”

That clearly points to the present-day very attractive small ground at Newenden, close on the Kent side of the old road bridge. There is an 1825 reference to a match at Newenden in *Scores & Biographies* though the location is not identified. Cricket would undoubtedly have been seen in different parts of the Weald and nearby before and during the 1740s (e.g. Hawkhurst and Warehorne 1727; Coxheath and Penshurst 1728; Rye 1747; Hastings 1749).

There is a final passing cricket reference in *Winchelsea* – Alex Preston is an active cricketer, after all – but I’ll leave that for the reader to spot.

Both of course are novels, it must be stressed, with the authors taking liberties with what might be considered the known facts. *Winchelsea* is a deep dark work of fiction where the Jacobite cause runs as steeply through the book as does smuggling, whereas *A Time to Fight* focuses on the Goudhurst battle itself, the events that led up to it, and its aftermath. Both books are excellently written and highly recommended.

David Kelly

## *Stamps and Kent Cricket*

The penny black was issued in 1840 and since then stamp collectors of all ages have specialised in the almost limitless subject of "Thematics". Sport, birds, animals, military, the list is endless. Cricket was somewhat slow off the mark in this aspect of collection and it wasn't until January 1962 that the initial cricket stamp was issued by the Capo Verde postal authorities (*fig 1*). Some sixty years later well over eighty countries and dependencies have issued at least a single stamp featuring cricket as its subject.

This initial issued was followed, later the same year, by Pakistan with two stamps showing various items of cricket equipment. The first stamp from the West Indies was a single stamp issued in 1966 to mark Barbados independence. Guyana followed two years later with a se-tenant issue of three stamps to mark the MCC tour of the West Indies in 1968. At the same time these stamps appeared in a block of nine which was the first Miniature Sheet of a cricket scene. Many of these islands continue to produce some of the most attractive cricket stamps commemorating numerous anniversaries and achievements by their world class players. In 1973 the UK postal authority marked the centenary of County Cricket with three stamps each showing an image of WG Grace. India with an image of KS Ranjitsinhji were the first to issue a cricket stamp using a photograph rather than an artist's sketch.

In the early 1980's a commercial company, "*Leaders of the World*" (LoW) delivered a "beamer" into the stamp world so much so that the Stanley Gibbons Co. issued a statement, "... have observed with concern, the proliferation of "artificial" stamp-issuing territories." The result being that these stamps were not recognised as genuine issues. This was a situation that *took several years to resolve*. As far as cricket was concerned LoW began, through a number of Caribbean and Pacific islands, issuing stamps featuring, in the main, players from Kent and Yorkshire. The initial issue through Grenadines of St Vincent in August 1984 included five Kent players, Bob Woolmer (*fig 2*), Derek Underwood, Eldine Baptiste, Alan Knott and Les Ames. The sole Kent player in an issue by Nevis in November 1984 was Brian Luckhurst. A second issue in that year by the Grenadines showed Laurie Potter and the full Kent squad (*fig 3*). Next came Graham Johnson, Richard Ellison, Graham Dilley and both Chris and Colin Cowdrey. On this occasion they were issued through Union Island (The Grenadines of St Vincent). The following year publication switched to the Pacific with Niutao, part of the Tuvalu complex. On this occasion the four stamps all featured Kent players, Simon Hinks, Chris Penn, Terry Alderman and Kevin Jarvis. Next came four stamps from Nui also part of the Tuvalu complex, which featured Goldsmith and Waterton. These were followed by Nukufetau and finally Nukulaelae, Aslett and Taylor appeared on the former while Godfrey Evans was only Kent representative in the latter.

It was 1986 before the next legit cricket stamp appeared, a single stamp from Nevis. This was followed in 1987 by an excellent five stamp set by Anguilla marking the Cricket World Cup. In 1989 a bronze memorial of Fuller Pilch (*fig 4*) together with a scene from a cricket match in 1743 was part of a very attractive five stamp issue by Tonga to mark the National Stadium's Inauguration and the South Pacific Mini-Games. The various West Indian islands continued to take every opportunity to mark cricketing milestones with new issues. Carl Hooper (*fig 5*) Graeme Hick and Clive Lloyd featured in a three stamp issue by Guyana to mark 100 years of English Tours. Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century the emphasis has moved away from the Caribbean to Africa where many of the now independent countries including Niger, Guinea, Central African Republic and Togo are issuing cricket themed stamps on a regular basis. I'm aware of 26 issues since 2014 with a total of 130 stamps and souvenir sheets.

These include 15 stamps and six souvenir sheets commemorating the centenary of the birth of Sir Len Hutton in 2016. A number of former French speaking African colonies with Le Cricket as the caption have also contributed. In 2008 Grenada launched what must be the largest single issue. The Shane Warne Collection of six souvenir sheets with titles such as King of Spin, The Mastery, The Power. Each sheet has a block of six or eight stamps, forty four in total. Although the UK post office produce many commemorative issues cricket has not appeared too often. Seven years after the WG Grace stamps of 1973 there was a single cricket stamp as part of four marking sporting anniversaries. To celebrate the winning the Ashes in 2005 there was a block of four stamps. Over the next few years the Cricket Philatelic Society logo was added to some 1st class definitive stamps marking various events such as the 150th anniversary of the England tour to Australia in 1861. Two souvenir sheets followed in 2019. These marked the respective World Cup success by the ladies in 2017 and the men in 2019. The only Kentish connection in this period was a “postage paid” stamp featuring Lord Cowdrey. As with so many similar pastimes the collecting of postage stamps is no longer a cheap hobby and to purchase examples from the early years can be expensive. It does however help to recall many of the names and events that otherwise may have faded with time.

**John Websper**



*fig 1*



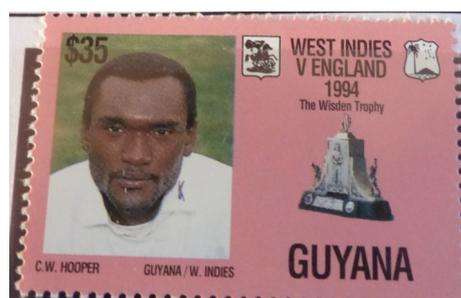
*fig 2*



*fig 3*



*fig 4*



*fig 5*

*Kent County Cricket Club Wicket-keepers  
Since 1871*

*Part 3— 2001 to date*

This list continues and concludes in chronological order all the players who have been chosen to play for the county in that position since the formation of the Kent County Cricket Club in 1871. The following have made their debut since 2001, (Players who have kept in emergency during the course of a match are not included).

The style for matches is first class + List A games. + T20.

**59 Jones, Geraint Owen** (1976-) Kent 2001-2013— 150 + 143 + 91 matches. Keeper: 147 (ct 435 ct 29) + 130 (ct 133 st 38) + 91 (ct 46 st 20), Cap 2003. 34 tests for England (ct 128 st 5), 49 Internationals (ct 68 st 4), 2 T20 Internationals (ct 2), 2 Internationals for Papua/New Guinea (ct 2).

**60 O'Brien, Niall John** (1981-) Kent 2004-2006— 38 + 35 + 20 matches. Keeper: 37 (ct 98 st 18) + 35 (ct 26 st 12) + 20 (ct 5 st 5). Northamptonshire 2007-2012. Leicestershire 2013-2016. 1 test for Ireland (ct 2), 30 Internationals (ct 17 st 10), 103 T20 Internationals (ct 90 st 14).

**61 Dixey, Paul Garrod** (1987-) Kent 2005-2010— 3 + 4 matches (ct 6 st 3 + ct 4). Durham UCCE 2007--2009. Gloucestershire 2011-2012.

**62 Billings, Samuel William ("Sam")** (1991-) Kent 2011-2022— 70 + 53 + 113 matches. Keeper: 64 (ct 181 st 12) + 37 (ct 41 st 8) + 107 (ct 60 st 15). Cap 2015. Captain 2018-2022. 3 tests for England (ct 8) 58 Internationals—keeper 37 (ct 41 st 9). 113 T20 Internationals—keeper 107 (ct 60 st 15). Holder of the World Record of 12 catches in a match.

**63 Davies, Ryan Christopher** (1996-) Kent 2015— 5 (ct 9) + 3 (ct 4 st 1) matches. Somerset 2016. Durham 2018.

**64 Rouse, Adam Paul** (1992-) Kent 2016-2019— 29 + 37 + 1 matches. Keeper: 28 (ct 92 st 2) + 37 (ct 33 st 1) + 1. Hampshire 2013. Gloucestershire 2014. Sussex 2019 (loan). Surrey 2019 (loan).

**65 Jackson, Callum Frederick** (1994-). Kent 2016—3 (ct 9) + 1 (ct 3) matches. Sussex 2013-2015.

**66 Robinson, Oliver George ("Ollie")** (1998-). Kent 2017-2022— 48 + 26 + 18 matches. Keeper: 44 (ct 141 st 2) + 19 (ct 11 st 1)+ 18 (ct 11 st 2). Cap 2022. Durham 2022 (loan).

**67 Cox, Jordan Matthew** (2000-) Kent 2019-2022 — 32 + 1 + 43 matches. Keeper : 13 T20 matches (ct 11 st 5). In one first-class match kept between Billings retiring and Robinson arriving, not as the nominated match keeper (ct 1).

**68 Houillon, Harry Fraser** (2001-) Kent 2021 — 1 match (ct 3). Called in as cover for Covid absences. Cambridge University teams (not first class) 2021-2022.

**69 Lincoln, Daniel John** (1995-) Kent 2021 —1 + 0 + 2 matches Called in as cover for Covid and Hundred absences. Keeper in 2 T20 games . No dismissals. Middlesex 2019-2020. Berkshire 2012-2022. Not a regular wicket-keeper. Non-league footballer.

**70 Mead, Sebastian William ("Billy")** (1999-) Kent 2022 — 1 match (ct 1). Grandson of S C "Billy" Griffith. Only Kent wicket-keeper to score a hundred for Kent on debut.

## *Who's Who at KCHT*

**President** : Hon Christopher Cowdrey

### **KCHT Officers**

Chairman - Jonathan Rice - [jnhrice@googlemail.com](mailto:jnhrice@googlemail.com)  
Secretary - Colin Jarman - [secretary@kcht.co.uk](mailto:secretary@kcht.co.uk)  
Treasurer - Keith Austin - [keithpaustin@btinternet.com](mailto:keithpaustin@btinternet.com)

### **Kent Cricket**

CEO—Simon Storey - [Simon.Storey@kentcricket.co.uk](mailto:Simon.Storey@kentcricket.co.uk)  
Heritage Officer - Ian Phipps - [ian.phipps23@gmail.com](mailto:ian.phipps23@gmail.com)

### **Also on the Committee**

David Robertson - [david.robertson81@btinternet.com](mailto:david.robertson81@btinternet.com)  
Howard Milton - [howardmilton@btinternet.com](mailto:howardmilton@btinternet.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*  
*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.

## *At Rest*

Work is still in hand on a list on Kent cricketers' burial sites. At present it stands at 388. However, as indicated previously, as the main online sources and the preponderance of Kent cricketers are both nineteenth century, to which added the preference now for cremations, many familiar names are missing. I am still looking for any burial sites where ashes have been interred. Please contact [howardmilton@btinternet.com](mailto:howardmilton@btinternet.com) if you can help. The final list will be available from KCHT later.

## *Call for Volunteers*

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust is, like everybody, looking for volunteers. There are lots of jobs to be done, ranging from keeping our pots and trophies gleaming to archiving and cataloguing existing and new items, from working on new displays to helping with fund raising and many other things. It would be wrong of me to suggest that with a few willing pairs of hands we can create a museum or learning centre out of nowhere – we can't – but if we have enough people to allow us to get together as a group on say one or two days a month, at the St. Lawrence Ground, we can certainly make a difference.

No great skills are needed, just enthusiasm. If you want to help, or even think you might want to think about possibly helping at some time in the future, please get in touch.

**Jo Rice**

[jnhrice@googlemail](mailto:jnhrice@googlemail)

## *Inside Edge Distribution*

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