

Special Researcher  
on this Exhibition:  
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THE STORY OF  
LASCELLES HALL CRICKET CLUB  
1811-2011

SOFTENIA PROGRAMME  
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Exhibition Programme

A BATSMAN'S PARADISE?



Although Lascelles Hall earned its greatest fame as a nursery for some of the finest Yorkshire cricketers, the Club is also renowned for its fine ground in a beautiful setting, against a backdrop of hills.

MOVING STORY



By the late-1850s Lascelles Hall players began to create a new cricket ground at a site known as the Peasemore Field, which they had bought from the Willey-Beaumont estate, a major landowner in the area since the Middle Ages.



However, an economic downturn caused by the American Civil War (1861-65) meant that the funds stopped for a time and stopped work on the ground. It would not be ready until 1868.



In 1932 the author of a series of articles called 'King Willow's Haunts' in the Huddersfield Daily Examiner wrote that the Lascelles Hall ground 'was renowned for its perfect turf and wickets' - a reputation still maintained. Thus, the Lascelles Hall club is known as a batsman's paradise.



CRICKET IN T'CROFT

Lascelles Hall C.C. originated in 1825 when the kind-hearted wife of the local squire - tenant of the Hall that gave the village its name - persuaded her husband to allow the cricket-mad local lads to use some of his land for a playing field.



FIRST INNING

It was in June 1868 that Lascelles Hall C.C. played its first match on its new ground, when it hosted a first-class cricket match. The first opponents were the Manchester Wanderers and the visitors spoiled the party by 'winning' the match. Huddersfield Chronicle commented the Club on its new ground.



# Aussie cricket star's Lascelles Hall lesson



■ **VISITOR:** Former Australian cricket star Geoff Lawson (left) is pictured with Lascelles Hall secretary David Haikings in front of the Lascelles Hall exhibition at The Beaumont Arms pub in Kirkheaton. (S)

**FORMER** Australian cricket star Geoff Lawson popped into a Huddersfield pub and saw part of an exhibition of local cricket.

The main exhibition is at the Tolson Museum, but part of it, about the town's first club, Lascelles Hall, was at The Beaumont Arms in Kirkheaton which Geoff visited.

Geoff, who took 180 wickets in 46 test matches mainly in the early 1980s, is part of the Test Match Special commentary team on BBC Radio 4 and visited Huddersfield after the test match at Old Trafford that finished in a dramatic draw.

The main exhibition at the Tolson Museum in Ravensknowle Park is called 180 Not Out — The Development of Cricket in Kirklees.

It is 180 years since Lascelles Hall became the first Huddersfield cricket club in 1825.

The exhibition has been put together by Dr Peter Davies,

By **ANDREW HIRST**  
News Reporter

who was given a grant to run the Cricket Heritage Project.

He has amassed a collection of memorabilia, some of which is on display at cricket clubs around Huddersfield.

● Children have a final chance to try out traditional summer games at a Huddersfield museum.

The final Game On day will be held at the Tolson Museum in Ravensknowle Park this Thursday.

It gives youngsters the chance to try out old games including cricket, croquet and stilt-walking.

It is free, but children aged under eight must be accompanied by an adult.

The two sessions are from 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 4pm.

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