

# *From Centre Vale to The Oval...via Halifax and the West Riding: A Cricketing Journey*



Greetland ladies cricket team (Halifax) c.1920s

**ACS Conference**  
**University of Huddersfield, Castle Hill Suite**  
**Saturday 25 October 2008**

Admission: £5 members, £6 non-members

<http://acscricket.com>  
[www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk](http://www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk)

## Welcome to the University of Huddersfield!

Welcome to Huddersfield and the Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale & Kirklees Project. Cricket is a fundamental part of the local cultural tradition. Yet often, the heritage of grounds, and the societies that shape them, is neglected.

Clubs in Calderdale/Kirklees act as a focal-point for community life. It is not just that local men play for senior sides, but children turn out for junior sides, women often help on the social side, and many elderly people take on administrative roles. There is also high ethnic-minority involvement.

This Project received a £43,400 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and also received an in-kind contribution of £7,000 from the University of Huddersfield. The Project aims to explore and celebrate the cricketing heritage of Calderdale/Kirklees, focusing in particular on the 100+ local league cricket clubs and grounds in the area.



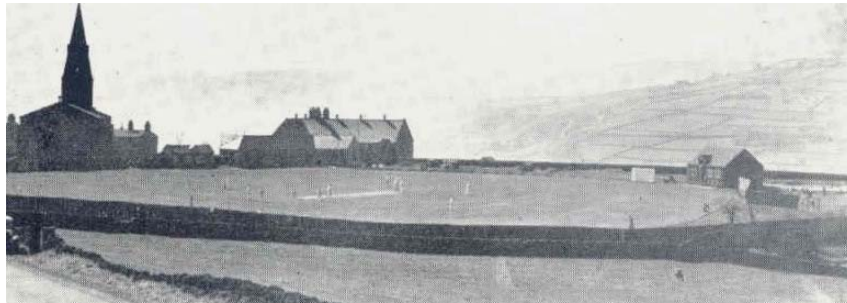
Mount CC (Batley), 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebrations

Since 2004 the Project has had many public outcomes including the following:

- Over 100 community exhibitions about local cricket
- Electronic cricket archive at [www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk](http://www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk)
- Archives set up at Halifax and Huddersfield town libraries
- Oral history interviews conducted and broadcast on website
- Cricket heritage walks devised and now downloadable
- Activity packs for schools created and distributed
- Three annual Pennine Cricket History conferences held
- 'Bat & Ball' course staged & books and articles published

## Today's Batting Order

- 11.00 Welcome: Dr Peter Davies (University of Huddersfield Cricket Heritage Project) and Dr Andrew Hignell (ACS)
- 11.15 'Cricket in Todmorden in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century': Brian Heywood  
12.00 *Light Refreshments*
- 12.15 'Cricket and Religion in Calderdale c.1860-1920': Dennis O'Keefe  
1.00 *Lunch – The Varsity*
- 2.00 'Cricket in the 19th Century West Riding': Dr Rob Light  
2.45 *Light Refreshments*
- 3.00 'Cricket and Regional Identities – The Case of Yorkshire and Surrey':  
Duncan Stone
- 3.45 Concluding Comments: Dr Peter Davies (University of Huddersfield Cricket Heritage Project) and Dr Andrew Hignell (ACS)
- 4.00 Departure



Broad Oak CC, Huddersfield

## Extras

Brian Heywood: Brian co-wrote *Cloth Caps & Cricket Crazy: Todmorden and Cricket 1835-1896*. He played for Todmorden CC and Accrington CC and lives near Scarborough. He follows Burnley FC and is currently working with the club on a pioneering schools project.

Dr Rob Light: Rob recently completed his Phd at Leicester De Montfort University on West Riding cricket in the nineteenth century. He has published on various aspects of cricket history. He plays for Pateley Bridge CC and supports Leeds Rhinos and Yorkshire CCC.

Dennis O'Keefe: Dennis is currently researching his Phd at the University of Huddersfield on religion and cricket in Calderdale c.1860-1920. He wrote a social history of Illingworth St. Mary's CC (Halifax) as part of his MA and he also teaches Italian. He lives in Halifax.

Duncan Stone: Duncan is currently researching his Phd at the University of Huddersfield on regional identities in English cricket. He completed an MA in the Sociology of Sport at the University of Leicester. He hails from Guildford and is a keen club cricketer.

Dr Peter Davies: Peter is leader of the Calderdale and Kirklees Cricket Heritage Project. He has written books and articles about cricket history and also the French Revolution and fascism. He supports Lancashire CCC and his favourite cricketer is V.V.S. Laxman.

Dr Andrew Hignell: Andrew is Archivist and 1<sup>st</sup> XI scorer at Glamorgan CCC. He is currently spearheading a project about the history and heritage of cricket in Wales. He has written many books about cricket, and cricket in Glamorgan and Wales in particular.

# Forthcoming Project Events

## 2009

Publication of new book: History of Burnley CC by Tony Lister

Wed 18 Feb - Talk at Shelley Ladies Circle

Sat 28 Mar - 5th Pennine Cricket History Conference

Spring - Talk at Cragg Vale History Group

May - East Bierley Heritage Exhibition (provisional)

May - 'Cricket and Industry' exhibitions in Calderdale/Kirklees

Tues 30 Jun - Talk at Colne Valley Probus

## 2013

History of Huddersfield Central League to be published



*Top left - George Dawson, Slaithwaite CC; top right – unknown Emley CC batsman; bottom - Stones CC, league winners in the 1920s*