

Focus on - Stones Cricket Club

The first in a new Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

Village side goes from strength to strength...



Celebration match: at the pavilion opening in 1995

STONES Cricket Club, Ripponden, was formed through the local Wesleyan chapel. The first ground was situated in a field opposite the church. This can still be identified today, as a ledge where the wicket was leveled remains visible.

A number of other local teams were members of the Halifax and District Amateur League in the late 19th and early 20th centuries: Barkisland, Zion, Soyland Town, Rishworth and Ripponden Conservative Club.

In the early days, Stones fielded a side made up exclusively of cricketers with the surname 'Whiteley'!

Like many other local cricket clubs, Stones were affected by the Great War, and closed down due to the dislocation. They moved to Swift Cross in the immediate post-war period.

Up until 1924 the Swift Cross ground was rented. The opportunity then came to buy the ground for £100. Four club members acted as trustees, providing £25 each. The ground was bought from J.R. Whiteley at Great House.

In the 1920s and 1930s Swift Cross was not just the site of a cricket ground; there was also a putting green and a set of tennis courts.

Some time in the 1930s the club changed its name from Stones Wesleyans to Stones Methodists. Given that the club is now known simply as 'Stones', this means that it has had three different incarnations!

In the 1930s members erected a small tea hut near where the scoreboard stands today. They had brought the construction all the way from The Shay football stadium



Early glory: how the *Courier* reported Stones' 1938 Parish Cup triumph

in the middle of Halifax. In 1938 and 1954 Stones bagged the prestigious Halifax Parish Cup - an amazing achievement for a small village side.

A new pavilion was opened in 1971. In 1995 the building was extended and refurbished - the whole project costing £25,000.

Stones recently held a fundrais-

ing Sportspersons Dinner at the Cedar Court Hotel, Huddersfield, at which England Test selector Geoff Miller was guest speaker.

And the club is proud that stalwart David Normanton is currently president of the Halifax Cricket League.

Their home at Swift Cross remains one of the highest and

FACT FILE

Founded: 1884

Ground: Swift Cross

Former ground: Rochdale Road

Nearest landmark: Beehive Inn

Nearest other clubs: Triangle, Barkisland

League: Halifax

Former Leagues: Halifax and District Amateur Cricket League, Halifax and District Amateur Cricket Association League

Greatest moment: 1938 and 1954 Parish Cup wins

Local hero: David Normanton - current Halifax League president

Bizarre fact: In the 1930s a visiting club complained that too many local hens were laying eggs on the outfield at Swift Cross!

most interesting cricketing venues in the area.

● If you have any additional information, photos or documents relating to the history of Stones CC, please contact Dr Peter Davies on 01484 472405 or via p.j.davies@hud.ac.uk. See also www.cckricketheritage.org.uk

Focus on - Barkisland Cricket Club

The second in a new Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

Future bright at Woodfield

Barkisland Cricket Club was formed in 1899. It originally played its home matches at Norland Moor.

In 1906 Barkisland were playing in the Halifax and District Amateur Cricket Association League.

According to Stanley Palmer, six local teams were members of this league in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They were Barkisland, Zion, Soyland Town, Stones Wesleyans, Rishworth and Ripponden Conservative Club.

The club applied to join the Halifax Parish Cup in 1938. A year later, in 1939, they joined the Halifax Parish Cricket League and played in the Halifax Parish Cup for the first time.

In 1941, as war raged across Europe, Barkisland scooped the Halifax League championship. The club also withdrew from the Halifax Parish Cup competition.

Barkisland rejoined the Halifax Parish Cup in 1946. A year later, in 1947, they bagged the Halifax League Division One championship.

The club balance sheet for 1956 indicates that whist drives and dances were a key source of income – and this helped the committee meet the cost of kitchen crockery, talent prizes and gas.

Remarkably, a year later, in 1957, there were three pairs of brothers in the Barkisland team: the Schofields, Hallowells and Tennysons.

In 1975 the new pavilion was opened, with a little bit of help from Australian cricket legend Dennis Lillee.

Club members had been working on the building since 1970. One said: 'A builder provided the shell - we did the rest!'

Barry Tennyson skippered the 1st XI to the Halifax League championship and Halifax Parish Cup 'Double' in 1977.

The new hi-tech scoreboard was a massive coup for the club – members erected it and then wired it up in 1983.

The club celebrated its centenary in 1999. Barkisland's decision to leave the Halifax League, and move into the Huddersfield League in 2001, was indicative of their ambition and aspiration.

Barkisland are an extremely go-ahead organisation: the club tracksuit carries an array of sponsors' logos and the matchday programme is a colourful, glossy and professional publication.

And the Woodfield ground is a picture postcard venue – representing all that is best in local league village cricket.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1889

Ground: Woodfield, Scamonden Rd.

Former ground: Norland Moor

Nearest landmark: The local parish church, Christ Church

Nearest other clubs: Stones, Greetland, Triangle

League: Drakes Huddersfield

Former Leagues: Halifax and District Amateur Cricket Association League, Halifax and District Cricket League, Halifax Parish League

Greatest moment: Winning the Halifax League and Parish Cup 'Double' in 1977

Local hero: Barry Tennyson – former trophy-winning skipper and now chairman of the Halifax Cricket League.

Bizarre Fact: In 2005 a home match was interrupted when landowner John Maude drove his 4x4 vehicle onto the wicket



Seeing triple: The Schofield, Hallowell and Tennyson brothers who all represented Barkisland in the 1957 season. Harry and Tom Schofield are at the back, Herbert and Eric Hallowell are in the middle and Terry and Barry Tennyson are at the front

Focus on - Triangle Cricket Club

Grassy paradise

The third in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

Triangle Cricket Club was founded in 1862. It was originally attached to Triangle Reading Club, which was based at the Old White Bear Public House.

Initially, the club had 40 members. They played their first match on October 20 1862 against Sowerby.

Grassy Bottom, Triangle's cricketing HQ, staged a special athletics event on Whit Monday, 1878.

The club won the Halifax Shield Competition twice in succession - in 1886 and 1887. In the following year, 1888, they entered the Halifax Parish Cup for the first time.

Around 1890, rugby was played on Triangle's ground. But this was brought to an end when a bank was built to allow the field to be flooded, so that skating could take place there in the winter!

Triangle bagged the Halifax Parish Cup for the first time in 1903. In the same year, Jack Steele was employed by the club as professional and captain.

In 1913 Triangle officials attended the meeting at which the Halifax Parish Cricket League was officially formed.

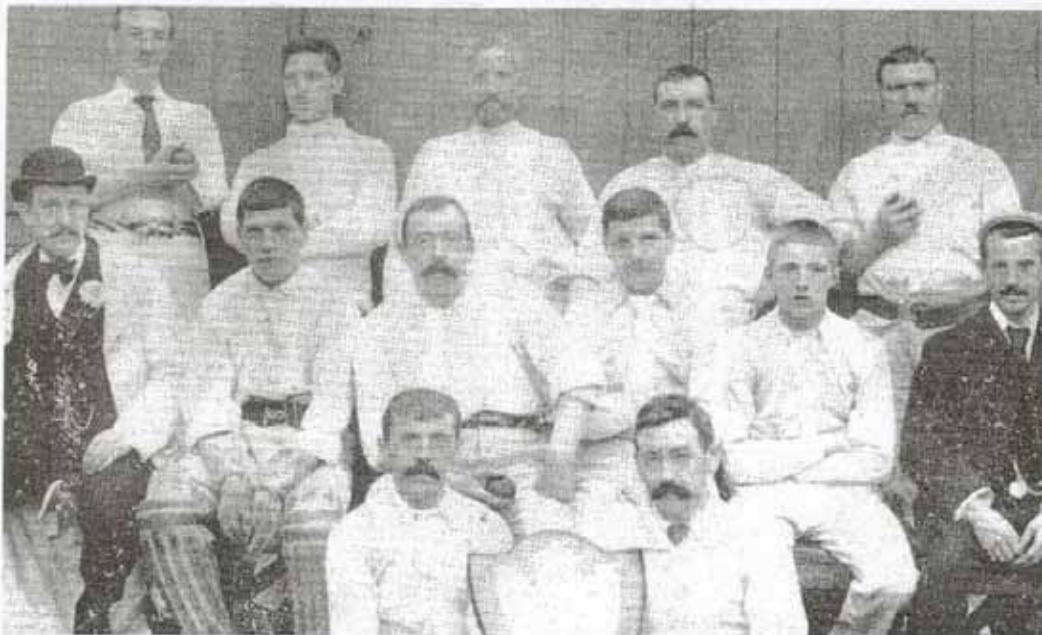
Grassy Bottom was bought for £650 in 1927 by local mill-owner Colonel Tom H. Morris. Morris then presented it to a board of trustees acting on behalf of Triangle CC.

Triangle scooped the Parish Cup in 1930 - beating Smith Bulmer's by 96 runs - and then again in 1947 and 1953 and 1955.

In 1968 the club's first XI and second XI both tasted success - topping their respective Division One tables. But Triangle lost in the final of the Parish Cup, even though they were much fancied.

The scoreboard at Grassy Bottom moved in 1982 - from atop the pavilion to the other side of the ground.

Triangle CC boasts its fair share of women members and supporters. The



Early Triangle side: the Grassy Bottom club's team from 1896

club also has a female secretary - Margaret Whippey. In short, women are now fundamental to the running of local cricket clubs, Triangle included.

On matchdays the club's female supporters tend to congregate near the tea hut and main entrance

And, like many other local cricket clubs, Triangle rely to a significant extent on the goodwill of local sponsors.

Grassy Bottom remains one of the most beautiful and atmospheric cricket venues in Calderdale, and in recent decades the club have claimed more than their fair share of silverware.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1862
Ground: Grassy Bottom
Former Grounds: None
Nearest Landmark: Triangle Inn
Nearest Other Clubs: Stones, Sowerby Bridge, Barkisland
League: Halifax
Former Leagues: Played in Halifax Shield and Halifax & District League before joining the Halifax Parish Cricket League in 1913/14
Greatest Moment: Celebrating their cen-

tenary in 1962 - earlier than many clubs
Local Hero: Dick Rodger. A prolific run-maker whose career spanned four decades from the 1950s to 1980s. He has also been club captain and president
Bizarre Fact: In the early days, when the team played fixtures in Lancashire, villagers knew the results before the team returned home...as the scores were sent by carrier pigeon to the Triangle Inn, where all the supporters were drinking!

Focus on - Sowerby Bridge CC

Bridge no longer taking prisoners!

The focus is a Sowerby series on Crickdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University.

A set of 'rules' exists that was adopted by Sowerby Bridge Cricket Club on 26 April 1852, at what appears to be the club's inaugural general meeting.

This club played at White Windows and was disbanded some time before the current Sowerby Bridge CC was formed. Rule 6 specified that 'any Gentleman desiring to join this club, shall communicate his intention in writing,' so membership was clearly restricted to those of higher social status.

In the period between this club being disbanded and the formation of the current Sowerby Bridge CC, cricket retained a strong presence in the town.

The current club was formed in 1877 and eventually moved to the Walton Street ground.

It was stated, in the 'History of Sowerby Bridge Cricket Club,' published in 1925, that: 'In the early years... a heavy roller was purchased from Mr. Albert Siddall, Engineer, and although this roller has since been many times repaired it is yet one of the most useful articles under the heading of 'ground tackle.'"

The club purchased its Walton Street ground in 1916. The original scoreboard was erected two years earlier, in 1914.

During the Second World War, Walton Street was used by the War Office as a detention barracks or prisoner-of-war camp.



Bridge over troubled waters: Sowerby Bridge's Walton Street ground is flooded in 1992

One barracks official remembers: 'The ground itself was turned for a parade ground, and two mills on either side of the entrance housed the gym, workshop, sleeping quarters and sergeant's mess'.

Approximately 200 soldiers were held there. One morning one of them broke away and swam across the river and escaped. Someone went after him

and caught up with him at the 'friendly pub!'

As such, the club had to find an alternative venue for its wartime fixtures, and so it lodged temporarily at Sowerby St. Peter's CC.

Because of the 'merging' of the two clubs between 1959 and 1985, some Sowerby Bridge players switched to the St. Peter's club and vice-versa.

For the duration of 24 years, between 1961 and 1984, Sowerby Bridge competed in the Central Yorkshire League.

Over the decades, Walton Street has suffered its fair share of natural disasters - including fire and floods - but Sowerby Bridge remains one of the oldest and most distinguished clubs in the area.



Blat from the past: the Sowerby Bridge first team in 1980

FACT FILE

Founded: 1852
Ground: Walton Street
Former ground: White Windows, Fern Lane, Burnley Road
Nearest landmark: The 'River Castle' runs by on one side of the ground.
Nearest other clubs: SBCL, Sowerby St. Peter's
League: Halifax
Former leagues: Central Yorkshire League
Greatest moment: 1904 - the club's first Parson Cup triumph
Local hero: Fast bowler David Pickett - played 41 times for Yorkshire in the post-war years
Recent fact: A campaign was launched in 1947 to return Walton Street to its status as a cricket venue after wartime requisitioning. The War Office relented - but only in 1951!

CRICKET

Focus on - Sowerby St Peters CC

The fifth in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

Saints extend the hand of friendship

LOCAL cricket historian Andrew Hardcastle refers to a team in Sowerby in 1855. There is also mention of a game between 'Sowerby' and Triangle in 1862.

According to Hardcastle, 'Sowerby' opened a new ground in 1869, 'more spacious and better adapted to the game' with a match against SBCI.

It is not clear whether any of these early Sowerby teams became 'Sowerby St. Peters C.C.' at a later date. All we can safely say is that cricket was played in the village at some point in the later nineteenth century.

Around the turn of the century we come across a 'Sowerby Division League', though no sign of Sowerby St. Peter's CC.

The earliest record of the club's existence is a fixture card, dated 1904, which is currently on display in the club's pavilion. In this period there was also another team in Sowerby - St. Georges.

The fixture card from 1904 shows that the club's president was the Vicar of St. Peter's Church, the Reverend John Walker MA.

The church had a central role in the community and being able to play for the village cricket team made membership of the congregation an added attraction.

At this time, whist drives and beetle drives held in the school hall across the road from the church provided much needed funds for the cricket club. Another major source of money was collecting and selling old newspapers.

During the Second World War,

when the War Office requisitioned Sowerby Bridge cricket ground for use as an army detention centre, the St. Peters club showed true wartime spirit by taking in their homeless rivals for the rest of the war and beyond.

They also issued a joint membership card.

Sowerby St. Peters were a force to be reckoned with in the post-war decades.

And in 1983 the first XI crowned one of the greatest years in their history by winning the Parish Cup for the second year running.

Today, St. Peters Avenue is a top-class local league ground. A visiting fan comments: 'Excellent facilities, good atmosphere and great for children. A traditional ground with a nice ambience.'

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1904

Ground: St. Peters Avenue

Nearest landmark: St. Peter's Church

Nearest other clubs: Sowerby Bridge

SBCI

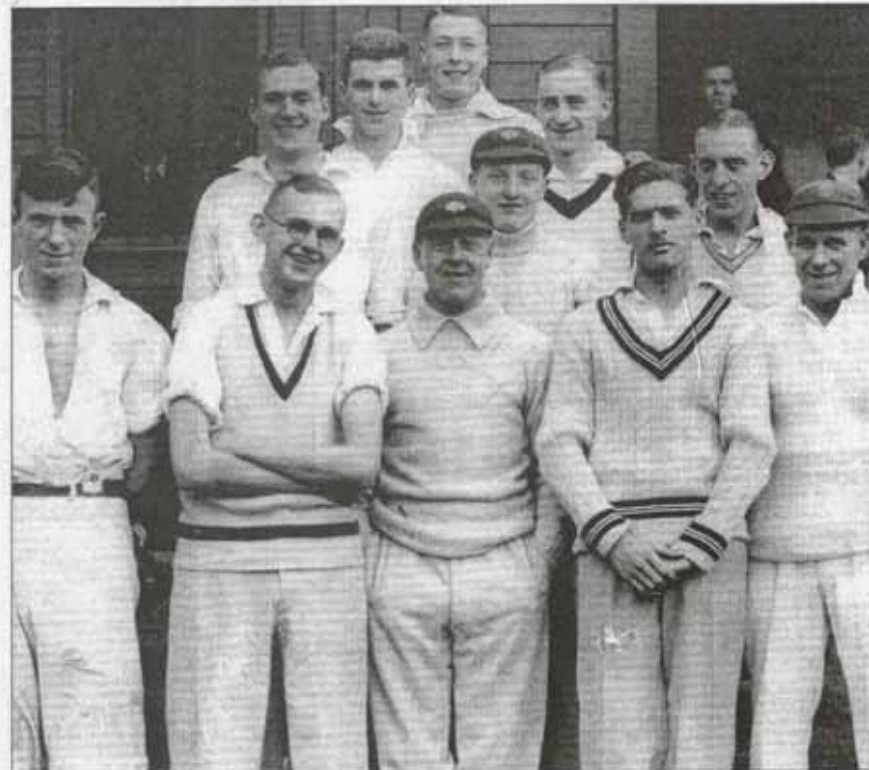
League: Halifax

Former league: Halifax & District Amateur League

Greatest moment: 1926 - winning the Parish Cup for the first time.

Local hero: Donald Hoyle; successful captain of the 1950s and club stalwart.

Bizarre fact: In days gone by, sheep were fattened up for market on the ground to keep the grass short. Club officials remember having to clear up the droppings from the wicket before play could commence!



Old timers: A Sowerby St Peters side from the 1980s

CRICKET

Focus on - SBCI

The sixth in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

Fund-raising efforts pay off in fine style

The earliest mention of Sowerby Bridge Church Institute (SBCI) CC comes in 1878 - a 2nd XI away match at Eland St. Mary's.

The cricket club was linked to the Young Men's Class of Christ Church, Sowerby Bridge.

During a financial crisis at the Institute in the early 1930s, brought about in part by economic depression, the cricket club was told it would no longer receive financial support.

The members responded by making the club financially independent from the church, and since then the club has grown apart slightly from its roots.

The first SBCI CC fundraising whist drive & dance was held at the Victoria Assembly Rooms on 2 February 1935. The five-piece New Astoria Band was booked at a cost of 50 shillings, and a profit of £2 14s 6d was recorded.

War hit the club hard: there was no committee meeting between March 1940 and September 1941, at which point the club ceased to function and the ground fell into five years of neglect.

In the early 1950s SBCI Under-18s dismissed Siddal for 12 - and lost the game when they were bowled out for 11, losing by one run!

After overcoming Division One leaders Triangle in the semi-final, the odds were stacked against SBCI when they met big guns Booth in the 1964 Parish Cup final. SBCI won by one wicket in a thrilling game.

The SBCI Ladies' Fund-Raising

Committee held their first meeting on 15 January 1965 - their stated aim 'to raise money for the Cricket Club'.

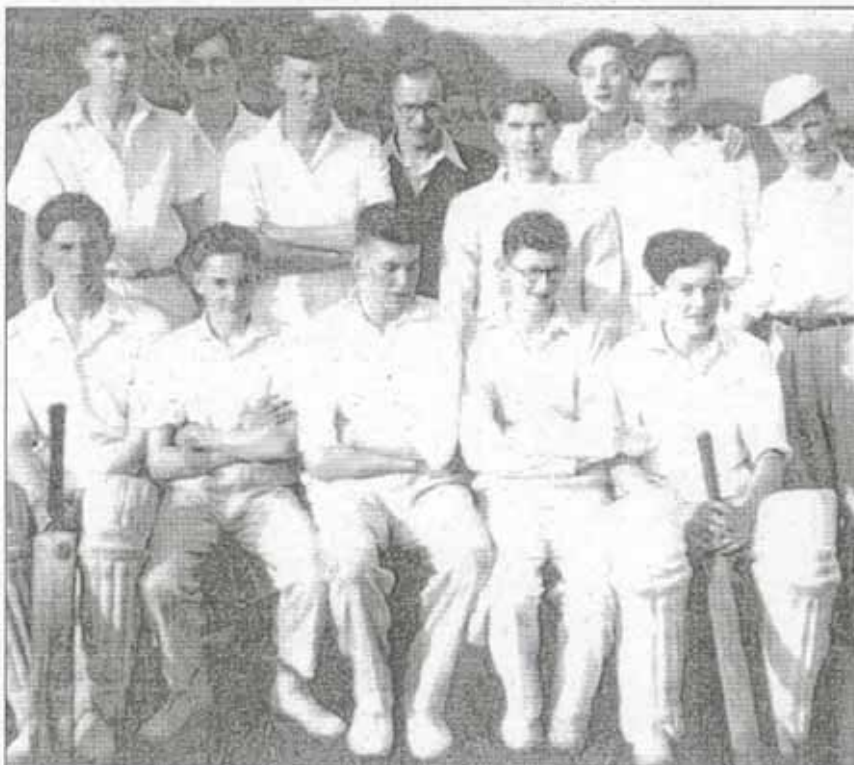
Their first event was a hair-dressing demonstration, but bazaars, jumble sales and dinner dances became the annual core of their activities.

By 1970 the ladies were expanding their horizons into more social activities. A trip to Bradford to see the Black and White Minstrels was minuted as 'most enjoyable', and a raffle was held which made a profit of £1 17s.

In recent years SBCI have been one of the most pro-active clubs in the Halifax area in encouraging women's cricket. And the club's future was secured in 1998 when they scooped £160,000 to build a new pavilion - and also help them promote women's and youth cricket.

FACT FILE

Founded: c1878
Ground: The Astleys
Former Grounds: Norland, Pye Nest, Holmes Burnley Road, Albert Road (now Milton Avenue), Sowerby Bridge Grammar School
Former Leagues: Sowerby Division League, Halifax Amateur League
Greatest Moment: 1999 - the opening of the new pavilion
Local Hero: Alan Jowett - long-serving player, official and stalwart
Bizarre Fact: In the 1930s the SBCI pitch was re-buffed 'using sods from our own field' - and bitter objections were raised to an invoice for 13 hours rolling over two days when the committee had only requested eight hours rolling on one day!



Heady days: The SBCI team of 1964

CRICKET

Focus on - Warley

The seventh in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University



Paradise Lane: Warley's home

Mowers? No, grazing sheep

In the early years of the twentieth century, 'Warley Young Men' represented the village in cricketing competition.

This club was linked to Warley Congregational Church Sunday School. It appears that this club gradually became known as 'Warley C.C.'

The early Halifax Parish Cup records reveal that 'Warley' made their first appearance in the competition in 1906, though it is not totally clear whether this was the Sunday School side or another.

In the 1920s, when the club was temporarily defunct, cricket was still played at the Paradise Lane ground.

One old photograph from the decade shows local cricketers mixing with umpires, players of knur and spell (an early form of golf especially popular in the Halifax area), and women of the village.

After a series of meetings in late 1932 and early 1933, Warley CC was resurrected.

At a meeting held on January 12, 1933, W. Moore moved, and J.G. Fawcett seconded, a proposal that 'G.H.

Summersgill should meet with Mr. Wilson about the field and draw up an agreement.'

Many of the members worked tirelessly for the new club during this early period.

At the AGM held on February 10, 1939 it was recorded that: 'On behalf of the members of both teams Mr W. Lately presented Mr E. Copley with an electric reading lamp, in appreciation of his work on their behalf.'

Paradise Lane has seen its fair share of improvements. The original pavilion had a new floor and new roof put in, and the current construction was built by club member Howard Smith in the 1960s.

Ian Buckley is another club stalwart. As a boy during the war he acted as club scorer and played for Warley for several decades.

He has vivid memories: "In the early days we had a problem with the grass. It was too long," he said.

"Sometimes you could run five for a gentle push! In the end we had to move some sheep in to graze during the week - just so it would be short enough for the weekend!"

In recent years Warley have scooped silverware aplenty and the superbly named Paradise Lane stands as one of the most intimate and atmospheric of Calderdale cricket grounds.



Warley's Parish Cup winning side of 1962

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1900
 Ground: Paradise Lane
 Local Landmark: Maypole Public House
 Former Grounds: None
 Former Leagues: Halifax District League, Halifax Amateur League, Halifax Association
 Greatest Moment: Re-formation in 1933

CRICKET

Focus on - King Cross

The eighth in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University



Old boys: team picture, 1882 style

Cartoon fun: the 1948 line up



Highs and lows of King Cross

LIKE many clubs that began life during the second half of the 19th century, King Cross were strongly linked to a religious organisation.

In 1878 the Young Men's Class at King Cross Wesleyan School started a cricket team which played its early matches on Savile Park Moor.

According to the *Yorkshire Evening Post* in the 1930s, this club was known as King Cross Wesleyan C.C. But when a new ground was rented at West View, the club was re-formed as King Cross Cricket Club.

The birth of the new club coincided with the involvement of two families who would become synonymous with King Cross Cricket Club during its first 50 years: the Ramsdens and the Clarksons.

In 1900 the club moved to Upper Kingston - and in 1905 joined the Yorkshire Council, a prestigious county-wide cricket competition.

In 1908 a clubhouse was built at a cost of £300.

The club held a Jubilee Bazaar to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 1928. They also staged concerts on four separate nights to raise money for a new tea pavilion.

A new scoreboard, dedicated to Mr James Clarkson, was opened in 1933.

In 1935 King Cross became founder members of the Yorkshire League and they scooped the Parish Cup in 1945, 1949 and 1951.

King Cross switched from the Yorkshire League to the Halifax League in 1956 and chose not to employ a professional.

The spirit of King Cross C.C. was severely tested in 1979 when 19 players left the club. The ground and its facilities were also in poor state.

However, the club managed to recover in the 1980s and a number of signings, including Amzat Jilil - an opening batsman from Rawalpindi, Pakistan - saw performances improve.

A new stone clubhouse was built in 1988 at a cost of £55,000 to replace the original wooden one which had fallen victim to a fire. While the pavilion was out of order, the cricketers had to use the bowling-green changing facilities.

In 2004 the club left the Central Yorkshire League and returned to the Halifax League. Officials are also thinking through a possible move away from their historic home.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1878
 Ground: The Ramsdens
 Local Landmark: A tall chimney directly opposite the pavilion
 Former Grounds: Savile Park Moor, West View
 Former Leagues: Yorkshire Council, Yorkshire League, Central Yorkshire League
 Greatest Moment: 1951 - the club's fourth Parish Cup win in 11 years.
 Local Hero: Jim Bain - post-war skipper and star batsman.
 Bizarre Fact: The club's old pavilion at West View was known as 'Duck House'!

CRICKET

Focus on - Old Crossleyans

The ninth in a Saturday-series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

Crocs are the young guns of the local scene



Work and play: The first XI pictured in 1999 (above) and club members enjoying a recent tour of Surrey (right)



OLD Crossleyans is a relatively young cricket club, formed in 1976. It has a historic link with what is now the Crossley Heath School, located close by in the Skircoat area of Halifax.

The Crossley Heath School is the product of a 1985 merger between Crossley & Porter School and Heath Grammar School.

Crossley & Porter School was originally the Crossley Orphanage and became a secondary school in 1919. Heath Grammar School had been founded by Dr John Favour in 1600.

Boarders at the school previously resided at Standeven House, Broomfield Avenue. What is now the function room and bar used to be the schoolboys' library.

Even though the boarders have long since gone, the school still uses the arena for sports fixtures. And today, Old Crossleyans C.C. play their home fixtures at Broomfield Avenue.

Old Crossleyans joined the Halifax & District Amateur Cricket Association in 1976.

In the early days, they were very much an 'old boys' cricket club.

Today, Old Crossleyans are a hybrid organisation: there is a rugby union club, a cricket team, a squash side and a junior rugby league XIII. The grandiose clubhouse by the main entrance, Standeven House, serves all club sportsmen.

Not so long ago, Old Crossleyans were captained by Australian batsman Charlie Daly.

He was also involved in a special sponsorship deal, whereby the club

benefited financially if he hit a certain run target by the end of the season. Daly did his bit in the nick of time - and the club duly hit the jackpot!

Old Crossleyans C.C. celebrated 25 years of cricket in 2001. To mark the anniversary, they held a special reunion event, which was attended by players from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and many other guests. Ex-England batsman Derek Randall was the speaker.

Today, perhaps just less than 50 per cent of the club's members have a connection with the school. As such, it is now an 'open' club and welcomes new members from all over.

The club run a 1st XI, 2nd XI and a Sunday team, plus junior sides. Club officials also suggest that their ground is the biggest in the Halifax League in terms of the size of the playing area.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1976

Ground: Broomfield Avenue

Nearest Landmark: Standeven House

Nearest Other Club: Copley

League: Halifax

Former League: Halifax Association

Greatest Moment: 1978 - joining the Halifax League

Local Hero: Charlie Daly - Aussie star of the 1990s. Skipped Old Crocs to Lindley Moor Trophy glory in 1993.

Bizarre Fact: In 1991 the club launched an irreverent newsletter entitled *Stumps*.

CRICKET

Focus on - Copley

The 10th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

United front is the key to continued success

It is probable that Copley Cricket Club (founded 1880) had a precursor in the shape of 'Copley United C.C.', who were apparently playing in 1864.

Today, the framed memorabilia in the pavilion bar at Copley Lane emphasises the history of the club, including team photos from the early twentieth century ('West Vale Baptist League Champions 1901', 'Akroydon and District League Winners 1902'...). A new pavilion was built in 1909 at a cost of £60 and replaced in 1969. The ground was bought from Bentleys Yorkshire Brewery for £200 in 1920.

During the Second World War, the army used Copley's ground for their own cricket fixtures.

Locals remember the day in 1947 when the River Calder burst its banks.

Club stalwart Tom Thorpe explains: "The ground used to get flooded, and then the whole of the village. The water just used to seep through the whole place. On one occasion some of our wooden benches were transported by the torrents onto the main road."

Today, the venue is safe from flood alerts. Mounds have been built around the ground - and the village - to stop the spread of water, and Yorkshire Water has made strategic adjustments to the water flow.

In 1952 Copley scooped the Parish Cup for the first time, vanquishing Booth in the final. For good measure they also claimed the Division One title in the same summer.

The club continued to stack up the silverware in the 1960s and 1970s and then started to dominate the local cricket scene in the early 21st century.

Copley Lane is a regular venue for showpiece Halifax League events and is always packed to the rafters on such occasions.

It is a scenic and atmospheric cricket ground, located in the shadow of Copley Viaduct.

Legend has it that once upon a time, when passing trains left clouds of black smoke in their wake, umpires did not hesitate to take the players off the field for a breather.

In 2005 the club celebrated its 125th anniversary, and Lancashire and England coach Mike Watkinson spoke at their special dinner.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1880
 Ground: Copley Lane
 Nearest Landmark: Copley Viaduct
 Nearest Other Clubs: Old Crossleyans, Sowerby Bridge, Greetland
 League: Halifax
 Former Leagues: West Vale Baptist League, Akroydon & District League
 Greatest Moment: 1973 League & Cup 'Double' under the captaincy of Brian Hulme.
 Local Hero: Roy Smith - club stalwart and Halifax League VIP.
 Bizarre Fact: Only one batsman has ever cleared the viaduct with a big hit - and he played for Blackley!



As time goes by: The first XI pictured in 1920 (above) and club members watering the pitch in the 1950s



CRICKET

Focus on - Greetland

The 11th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

Future looks bright for club with glorious past

Local cricket historian Andrew Hardcastle has uncovered matches featuring a number of Greetland teams during the mid-nineteenth century, with the earliest coming in 1858.

By 1864 a team called Greetland Royal Albert was playing matches, and in that year they met West Vale United.

By the time the Halifax Parish Cup committee carried out a report on the grounds of member clubs in 1891, Greetland's move to West Vale had taken place.

The report explained: 'When completed, this field gives promise of being a very good one.'

In 1894 Greetland became founding members of the Halifax & District Cricket League. They also won the Parish Cup - thus becoming the first club to break the Halifax-Elland stranglehold on the trophy. Greetland also bagged the Parish Cup in 1911.

In 1919 the club began to hold an annual Workshop Competition for local works teams and others.

During the 1920s Greetland C.C. began to arrange annual away fixtures during the Wakes Week holiday.

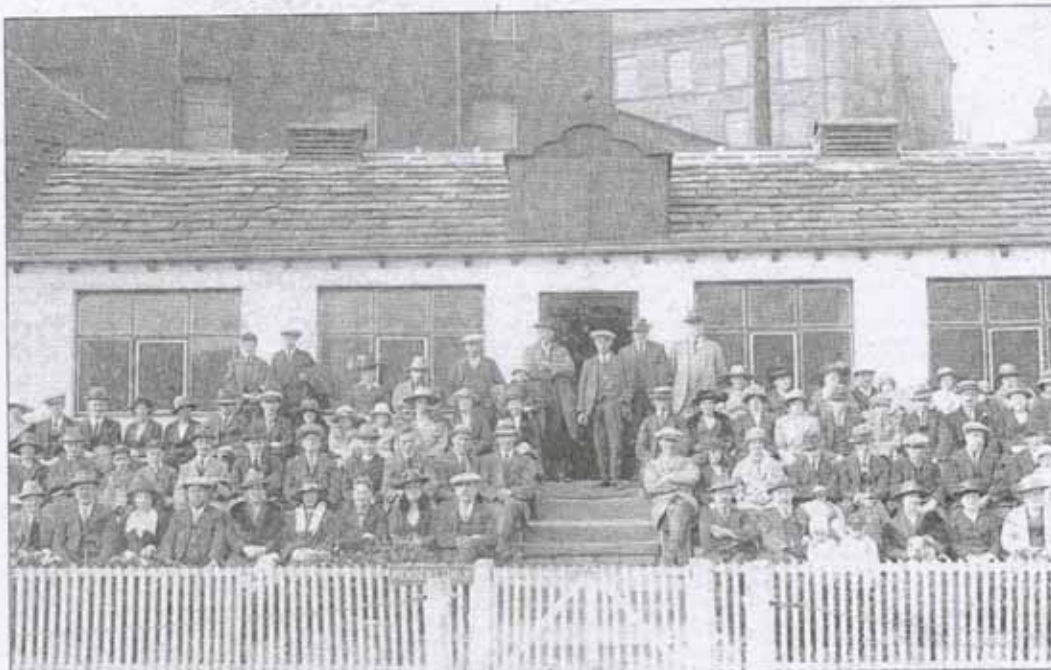
One such match was played at Pateley Bridge, in North Yorkshire, where some remarkable early action photographs were taken.

A Greetland women's team also existed in the 1920s - an indication that the inter-war boom in ladies cricket affected small village clubs as well as 'town clubs' such as Brighouse and Todmorden.

1934 was a busy year for Greetland. They won the Parish Cup, they bought a scoreboard from King Cross for £18, and also A.J. Richardson was employed as cricket coach during May and June. His fee was 5/- per evening.

In the 1930s a local blanket manufacturer, John Horsfalls (based on Stainland Road), donated the ground, The Holme, to Greetland C.C. as a gift. The club was charged just a pepper-corn rent - sixpence a year.

In 1957 Greetland bagged the Parish



Grand day: A large turnout for the opening of Greetland's new pavilion in 1921

Cup and the Halifax League Championship - a very special 'double'.

As club stalwart Bill Betts comments: 'Greetland were a top side in the 1950s and 1960s'.

Last summer Greetland welcomed players from ex-Halifax Association side New Riding C.C. and are now looking forward to a bright future.

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1870s/1880s

Ground: The Holme, Saddleworth

Road

Nearest Landmark: Andy

Thornton Ltd. mill

Nearest Other Clubs: Elland,

Copley, Barkisland

League: Halifax

Greatest Moment: Winning the

Parish Cup for the first time in

1894.

Local Hero: 'Mr Greetland' Les

Forester - tireless club stalwart and umpire.

Bizarre Fact: The ground incorporates pigeon coops belonging to Stainland and District Homing Society!

CRICKET

Focus on - Elland

The 12th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

Aussies and clowns in Elland's rich tapestry

Cricket teams were appearing in Elland from 1859, and that included the side that went on to become Elland CC.

A cricket XI was formed of teachers and scholars linked to Providence Independent Sunday School in 1860, and it was out of this side that Elland CC came into being.

In the late 1870s and 1880s the rising status of Elland CC was reflected in a series of major matches which were played at Hullen Edge.

The most famous of these 'big matches' was the first one, against the mighty 1878 Australian tourists. The club also played against a team of touring Clowns.

In 1886 the Indian Parsees joined the list of prominent touring sides to visit Elland.

Apparently, the exotic nature of the Parsee players and their surnames proved memorable to the locals.

The pronunciation of names such as D.D. Khambata, S.M. Bhedwar and J.D.P. Pochkhanavalla was particularly challenging for the nineteenth-century Yorkshire tongue, much to the amusement of the spectators.

In 1916 Elland played Staincliffe in the Yorkshire Cricket Council Play-off Final. Elland scored 260 for 9, Staincliffe a mere 62.

This was one of only two occasions when the club reached the final of this prestigious competition (which covered the whole of the county and included many of its leading clubs).

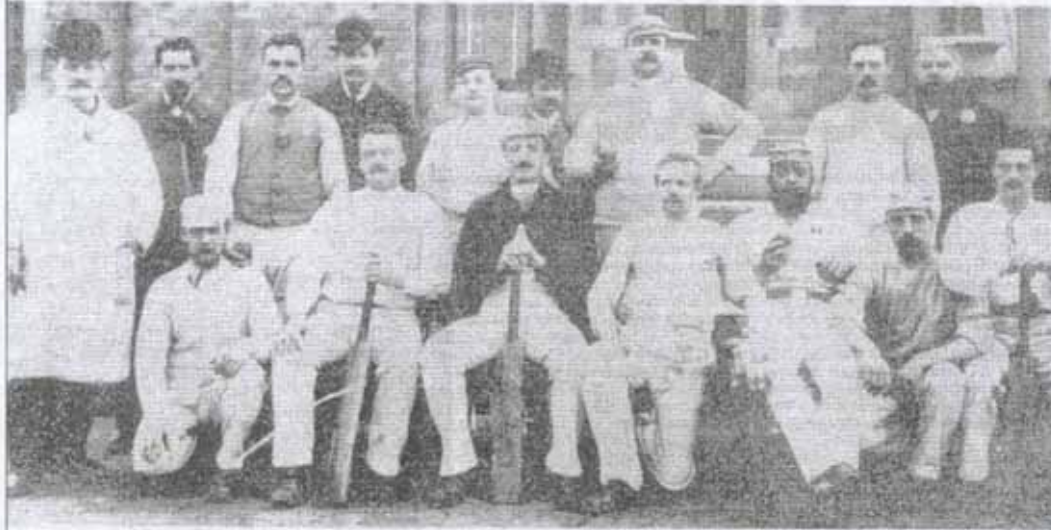
In 1935 Elland won their first Sykes Cup, beating big guns Huddersfield by 38 runs.

The club used the money it was left by Ernest King, after his death in 1959, to buy its first motorised roller—a major landmark so far as ground maintenance was concerned.

As the twentieth century came to a close, Elland Cricket Club's proud tradition of staging premier cricket matches was still going strong.

In 1978, exactly 100 years after the visit of the most prestigious touring team of all, the Australians, Yorkshire County Cricket

.... AND SOME OF THE MEN THAT MET THEM



The Elland Eighteen were: J. Lumb, M. Lockwood, B. Lister, N. Marsden, T. Foster, T. Walker, E. Osburn, W. Robinson, G. Hay, J. C. Pennington, H. Kaye, J. L. Byrom, The Rev. W. J. Kendle, T. Tong, R. Hudson, The Rev. E. A. Sandford, F. Shaw, W. Aspinall.

Heady days: The Elland players that hosted the mighty Aussies in 1878

Club began to play regular 2nd XI Championship matches at Hullen Edge.

In all, 21 matches were played before the last, in 1999.

Elland are now one of the premier clubs in the area, with an impressive, attractive ground and plenty of silverware in the trophy cabinet.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1860
Ground: Hullen Edge
Nearest Landmark: Elland Golf Club
Nearest Other Clubs: Greetland

Blackley League: Huddersfield (1926)
Former Leagues: Spennings & Calder Valley League, Yorkshire Council
Greatest Moment: Hosting the

Australian tourists in 1878
Local Hero: 'Mr Elland' Derek Gedhill — lifelong club stalwart
Bizarre Fact: In 1977 Red Rum opened the function room

CRICKET

Focus on - Stainland

Long and rich history

Although local cricket historian Andrew Hardcastle has found references to cricket being played in Stainland during the 1870s, the current club traces its roots back to 1884.

By 1886 the club's fixtures and officers were being printed in the *Halifax Courier*.

Fixtures included matches against Hartshead, Outlane, Halifax St. Thomas, Elland 2nd XI, Crosland Moor, Colnebridge, King Cross, Lightcliffe, Paddock Congregational, Hopwood and Longwood.

The club also had an entry in the Athletic News Cricket Supplement and Directory.

For the best part of 40 years - 1884-1922 - Stainland played their home matches at Drury Lane, a venue famous for its bandstand.

In 1894 the club became founder members of the Halifax & District League.

Stainland enjoyed their first Halifax Parish Cup success in 1901, beating Lord Nelson by 7 wickets in a low-scoring final. Gate receipts at Thrum Hall were more than £24, which suggests a healthy crowd.

In 1922 the club received their current ground, on Stainland Road, as a post-war present.

The working men of the village had a new recreation area, and the folk at the British Legion were named as trustees. It was christened the Memorial Ground.

Under the captaincy of E. Longbottom, Stainland scooped the first XI Second Division in 1959.

Another superb year for Stainland seconds was 1968. They won the Crossley Shield



Blast from the past: Stainland's 1960 line-up

under the captaincy of J. Lewthwaite - and also netted the Division Two title.

Some at the Memorial Ground argue that the club has been unlucky.

Like all local cricket clubs they have been on the lookout for young cricketing talent, but recently they have been scuppered by the fact that, for all the modern housing going up in the village, few new residents

have knocked on the club's door wanting to play cricket.

In 1998 Stainland's pavilion burnt down. The council provided the club with some temporary changing facilities and a portakabin to use as a tea room, but the club had to think long-term.

They decided to go it alone, and by May 2001 a handsome new pavilion had been erected and officially opened.

The 13th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

FACT FILE

Founded: 1884
Ground: Memorial Ground, Stainland Road
Local Landmark: Red Lion Public House
Former Grounds: Drury Lane
Greatest Moment: Winning the Parish Cup in 1935 for the second time in three

years
Local Hero: Len Norcliffe - veteran player and club stalwart
Bizarre Fact: Officials complain that in recent years most families connected to the club have given birth to girls rather than boys!

CRICKET

Focus on - Outlane

A hard road to success

OUTLANE C.C. was formed in 1897 as Outlane Methodist New Connexion Cricket Club.

In 1898 a tent (pavilion) was purchased for £2-10-0d and in 1903 a subscription appeal was launched to pay for a new pavilion costing £18.

The 1917 season saw the cricket ground requisitioned by the wartime authorities for food production and the club effectively ceased to function.

A momentous meeting took place in April 1919 at which the club decided to 'take hold' of the field and also change its name to 'Outlane Cricket Club'. The Church trustees were also asked to renounce all claim to the club.

The club originally played their Huddersfield Association fixtures near Outlane Golf Club but in 1929 they moved to a new ground at Cote Farm, and

then in 1934 they relocated to Lindley Moor.

In 1951 running water arrived and then, on 3 April 1958, the club was able to purchase the ground off Websters Brewery for £100.

The 1960s were dominated by motorway-related troubles. The first mention of the proposed M62 came in 1961, and by June 1964 the club had made its first official objections.

In 1970 the club was told to vacate their ground so building could start – and they only returned in 1974.

In between they hired the Highfields ground in Huddersfield for home fixtures, although it was also mooted that the club might move permanently to another site, either in nearby Mount or Salendine Nook.

On their return to Lindley



Sturdy men and true: The Outlane team from 1960

Moor, the club laid a new wicket and erected a new pavilion. They also had electricity and a bar.

In 1975 the first XI won the Halifax Parish Cup and the Under-18s and Under-14s won their respective league titles – a golden summer.

On 30 August 1997 there was a fire at the club, caused by a

faulty thermostat in the kitchen. Extensive damage was caused by the smoke, which meant having to renovate the whole of the clubhouse.

In 2004 Outlane C.C. put on a spectacular Sportsman's Dinner at the Cedar Court Hotel, Ainley Top. The main speaker was Essex and England batting legend Graham Gooch.

The 14th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

FACT FILE

Founded: 1897
Ground: Lindley Moor Road
Local Landmark: M62
Former Grounds: Outlane Golf Club, Cote Farm
Greatest Moment: 1921 – winning the Lumb Cup for the first time

Local Hero: Andy Wray – club stalwart, official, historian and umpire
Bizarre Fact: The club bought its first mower in 1926 – a 14" Ransome costing £14!

CRICKET

Focus on - Blackley

Toast to fine history

ON May 7 1869 Blackley United played away at Elland and lost by 20 runs. Later on in the summer they visited Lindwell Victoria, going down this time by 18 runs.

There is also evidence to suggest that a group of local men each chipped in 1½d per week to get the club up and running around this time.

In the early days, 'local rules' applied at Blackley's picturesque home ground.

If a ball hit the boundary it was two; if it cleared the fence it was four. And there was no pavilion as such - just a small wooden hut adjacent to where the Golden Fleece pub now stands.

And there were tennis courts too, sited adjacent to the pub.

Blackley's first recorded game took place in June 1870, while in 1880 they moved into league cricket (possibly the West Vale League).

The club still possesses a book of minutes that stretches back to the first years of the twentieth century.

The highlights? A call for a lawn-mower price list (1903); a motion in favour of a weekly 'dancing' night in the pavilion (1904); and a suggestion to the effect that a fixture against Salendine Nook be accompanied by a garden party (1906).

In 1920 Blackley joined the Huddersfield



Glory days: The Blackley side that won the 1967 Parish Cup final

Cricket Association League and reached the Lumb Cup final.

Later, during the Second World War, we are told that the cricket square was kept in neat condition by locals playing bowls on it!

Blackley's ground was put up for sale in 1946, and, with the club not having enough funds, Mr Fred Wilkinson, club president, bought it and drew up a 999-year lease.

In 1970 the club was informed that a section of the cricket ground was required for the new M62 slip road.

Work on a new pavilion began in 1976 - but was halted as high winds ripped the new roof off before it was finally completed.

However, following the disaster, work did re-start.

On the eve of the new pavilion opening, club members were devastated by the death of their popular president, Richard Wilkinson.

Today, Blackley possess a picturesque ground - and a pub on the boundary for all thirsty fielders!

The 15th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1869
 Ground: Lindley Road
 Local Landmark: Golden Fleece public house
 Former Grounds: Blackley Field (South Lane)
 Greatest Moment: Winning three trophies in 1986
 Local Hero: Julie Pearson - club stalwart and secretary
 Bizarre Fact: About a century ago, the print run for the club's matchday programme was 250 - quite a readership!

CRICKET

Focus on - Badger Hill

Happy days at the Hill

Badger Hill C.C. were originally known as Rastrick New Road Sunday School C.C.

The earliest surviving minute is dated 1896, when those in attendance voted to have a cricket club for another year.

This appears to have been an annual practice until 1900

when the vote appears to have been dispensed with.

The club was an integral part of both Rastrick New Road church and the local community.

Fundraising brought the whole community together in well organised occasions such as Minstrel Shows and 'At Homes' events.

The club didn't raise funds just for itself either.

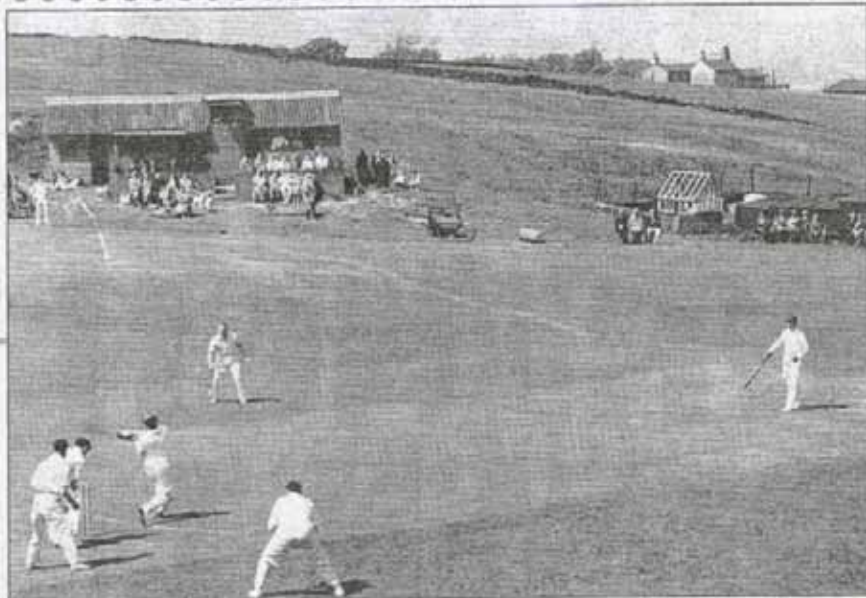
Charity matches were played to raise money for various causes.

Rastrick New Road Sunday School fielded a Ladies team in the 1930s, and in 1937 the men of the club claimed four pieces of silverware.

They also won the



Old boys: A team picture from 1921, when the club were known as Rastrick New Road



Idyllic scene: the Badger Hill ground in the 1950s

Huddersfield Association Lumb Cup 17 times between 1923 and 1983.

The club's ground flooded in 1972. Later, in 1987 Rastrick New Road Sunday School C.C. expressed their desire to play cricket on Sundays.

The Sunday School, however, were opposed to this, and the club faced a difficult decision - stay with the Sunday School and don't play on Sundays, or go it alone?

Following much soul-searching, the club decided to break away. They re-named themselves Badger Hill CC after the name of their ground.

On June 3, 1989 tragedy struck when Trevor Bottomley died during a match. Trevor had been a hardworking and

long-serving member of Badger Hill Cricket Club both on and off the field.

In the mid-1990s, Badger Hill graduated into the Huddersfield Central League after decades in the Huddersfield Association. This meant away matches in Batley, Dewsbury and on the outskirts of Wakefield, Barnsley and Sheffield.

In 2002 vandals torched the 'old' clubhouse. Many Badger Hill players felt that after the fire the end was near for the club. But not everyone was prepared to give in.

Club members spotted two cabins in the local paper, free to anyone who could take them away.

And so the club was able to make a new start.

The 15th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1885
 Ground: Badger Hill, Rastrick
 Local Landmark: The Sun Inn
 Nearest Other Club: Rastrick
 Greatest Moment: Winning the 'Quadruple' in 1937
 Local Hero: The late Trevor Bottomley - legendary club stalwart
 Bizarre Fact: Winston Samuda took over 1,000 wickets for the club between the 1970s and 1990s and also took hat-tricks in successive matches.

CRICKET

Focus on - Rastrick

Shaping up at Round Hill

UNORGANISED, unrecorded cricket was probably first played in Rastrick in the 1840s.

One of the teams from those days was Rastrick United, the forerunner of Rastrick C.C.

Rastrick CC moved to Round Hill soon after they

were established. It is not known exactly where their former ground was, but it was either in Fixby or Grantham on Dewsbury Road.

Visiting teams in the early days didn't really relish playing Rastrick. Transport was not what it is today and opposition sides arriving by train at

Brighouse station faced a two-mile hike - all up hill - to Rastrick's ground.

Originally the hill at Round Hill extended well into the playing area. In 1891, major excavations took place to remove a part of the hill to provide a more level playing field.



As it was: the Round Hill ground in the 1950s



Taking to the field: Arnold Carter leading out the first team in 1952

One intriguing item which occurs repeatedly in early committee meeting minutes is the order for pies each week. Some weeks, as many as 15 dozen or more were ordered if the first team were at home.

The first Round Hill pavilion was opened on April 15 1905 by Sir Thomas Brook-Hitchen - a landmark event.

In the 1930s the club ran a ladies team. On May 29 1931 the Brighouse & Elland Echo reported: "A large crowd [around 1,000] enjoyed the novel 'spectacle of a ladies' cricket match on the Rastrick ground last Monday morning, when teams representing Rastrick and Brighouse met in a friendly game."

It was in the 1940s that the

club was able to purchase its Clough Lane ground. One commentator said that £900 had been raised 'with astonishing ease'.

In 1951 a cricket writer commented: "It is at Rastrick that one can find the old character which is always one of the features connected with a local cricket club."

The club celebrated its 125th anniversary in 1988, and produced some beautiful commemorative plates to mark the occasion. A rather distinguished brick scoreboard was built in 1996 - 20ft tall and constructed at a cost of £26,000.

Today, Rastrick pit their wits and skills against other teams in the Huddersfield League.

The 16th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1863

Ground: Round Hill

Local Landmark: The Round Hill public house

Nearest Other Club: Badger Hill

Greatest Moment: Winning the Sykes Cup for the first time in 1951.

Local Hero: Stuart Fletcher - starred at Round Hill before playing county cricket for Yorkshire and Lancashire.

Bizarre Fact: In 1899 a Rastrick bowler named Shaw took 10-2 in 6 overs, including six wickets in consecutive balls!

CRICKET

Focus on - Brighouse

New era for historic club

Although it is generally recognised that the current Brighouse Cricket Club came into being in 1873, this date actually marks the year in which the club was re-formed and moved to their ground at Clifton Road.

Clifton Road was to become the home of Brighouse cricket until the beginning of the twenty-first century. It was

rented from Messrs J.B. Sugdens, and was later re-laid 'for cricketing purposes'. The first match was played on 30 May 1873.

The club's first professional was William Shotton from Lascelles Hall, Huddersfield. He was engaged in 1876, 11 years after the first of his two first-class appearances for Yorkshire.

Derby matches with

Rastrick were always keenly fought affairs, especially in the 1870s.

In 1893, Brighouse became founder members of the West Riding League, which was recognised by *Athletic News* as 'the chief organisation of its kind in the county'.

In the last summer of peace before the Great War, Brighouse CC hosted a special workshops competition, with

local works teams fighting it out for supremacy on the pitch.

Teams like Turner & Wainwrights, Mill Royd Mills, Beacon Dyeworks and Co-op Decorators took part.

The Brighouse club's first major successes in both league and cup competitions came in 1918 when they scooped the Yorkshire Council Championship and the Halifax Parish Cup.

In the 1930s women's cricket was all the rage in Brighouse and surrounding towns. *The Brighouse & Elland Echo* featured adverts for games, match reports and action photos in its pages - and Mona Greenwood, who went on to play for England, became the pin-up

girl of local cricket.

In winter 1958 Brighouse pulled off a major coup by signing Frank Lowson, the former Test batsman who had been released by Yorkshire.

Then, in 1960, for the first time since 1932, the Bradford League title came to Clifton Road. The team had achieved the remarkable feat of ending the season undefeated.

In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s the club bagged a handful of Division Two titles, and a selection of individual batting awards into the bargain.

Brighouse eventually sold their ground to Tesco and left Clifton Road at the end of the 2002 season for new state-of-the-art premises at Russell Way.

The 17th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University



Trophy time. The Brighouse team of 1960 with the Bradford League Cup

Sitting pretty. Brighouse Ladies pictured in 1930



FACT FILE

Founded: 1873
 Ground: Russell Way, Bradford Road
 Nearest Other Club: Lightcliffe
 Greatest moment: The big ground switch at the start of the twenty-first century
 Local hero: Geoff Hirst - Bradford League-winning skipper in 1960
 Bizarre fact: The new Brighouse Sports Club function room at Russell Way caters for private functions, corporate events, conferences, business training days, company seminars, weddings and funerals.

CRICKET

Focus on - Southowram

Young club's giant strides

Founded in 1977 and therefore much younger than most of its rivals, Southowram CC boasts an idyllic ground, excellent facilities and a trophy cabinet that contains the 2006 Parish Cup.

Of the various precursors to today's Southowram CC, the St. Anne's Church team had the longest and most cherished history.

The 'new' Southowram CC was founded by a group of local enthusiasts who had decided that it was high time a new club bore the village's name. Their base was the Cock and Bottle pub.

The new club applied to join Division Two of the Halifax Association and was accepted after a re-election application by the works team Peglers was rejected.

To begin with the new club had no ground in the village and played its 'home' matches at Calderdale Council-owned Roils Head and in the grounds of Spring Hall Mansion. Second team matches were played at Wainstalls.

One thought was uppermost in the minds of the men and women involved with running the new club - acquiring a home ground in



Champions: the 1992 side which won the Halifax League's second division title



On borrowed time: the old Southowram pavilion

Southowram itself.

Various possibilities were touted, including a field close to the parish church, where the original St Anne's team might have made its debut 100 years earlier. But in the end an unlikely solution was found.

Ashday Lane in Southowram was the site of a former quarry. Marshalls PLC gave Southowram CC a lease on the site and the ground took shape in the early-1980s. It was levelled, covered with topsoil and then grassed.

In 1988, at the fourth time of asking, Southowram were elected to the Halifax League's Second Division, replacing

RAFA.

Then in 1993 a handsome new pavilion was opened - a major landmark in the club's history.

In August 2000, Southowram met Outlane in the Parish Cup final at Copley and came away with a 13-run victory - another red-letter day.

The popular new Twenty20 format, which had drawn big crowds to county grounds, came to the Halifax League in August 2005 - and Southowram CC were the inaugural winners.

And then came last month's Parish Cup victory over Booth.

The 17th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

FACT FILE

Founded: 1977
Ground: Ashday Lane
Nearest other club: Halifax CC at Siddal
Greatest moments: Winning the Parish Cup in 2000 and 2006
Local hero: Peter Jowett - hardworking club stalwart
Bizarre fact: The club's old pavilion had been purchased from Barksland CCI

CRICKET

Focus on - Northowram Fields

Marching to further glory

Northowram Fields C.C. were formed originally as Northowram St. Matthew's C.C. in 1907 and linked to the local parish church.

At first, Northowram St. Matthew's (occasionally referred to as Northowram Parish Church C.C.) played at Shibden Park.

They then moved to a farmer's field at Only House

Farm around 1912, then a field just above the Stocks Arms, which is now a housing estate.

The club originally played in the Halifax & District Church Sunday School League and in 1920 they moved to Westercroft Lane.

To help pay for the move, the club staged a special dance.

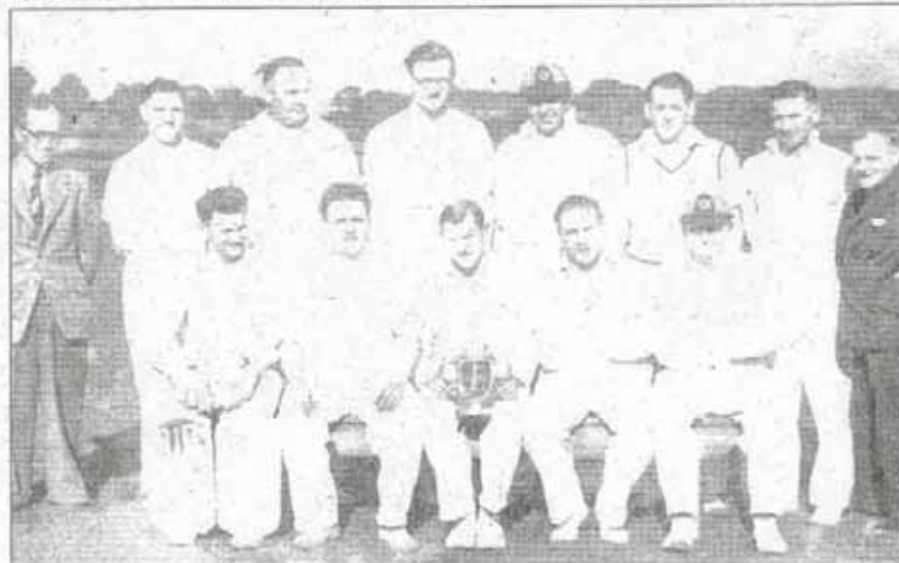
Many cricket clubs were

affected, fatally, by the coming of the Second World War.

Some disappeared, never to be seen again; others disbanded temporarily, only to come again in a different shape and form in the immediate post-war years.

St. Matthews C.C. (as was appear to be a case in point and seem to fall into the second category.

The cricket club that played



Trophy winners: Northowram line up in 1950

at Westercroft Lane before the war re-formed in 1948 – but instead of being known as Northowram Parish Church C.C. or St. Matthew's C.C., the new club came to be known simply as Northowram C.C.

Like all new organisations, Northowram Cricket Club marked its birth with a set of rules.

The aim was to provide 'facilities' for the 'men and youths' of the village.

There was also an emphasis on good, disciplined behaviour.

The fact that the details of the club AGM had to be publicised in the windows of at least three local shops also implied that most players

lived and shopped in the village.

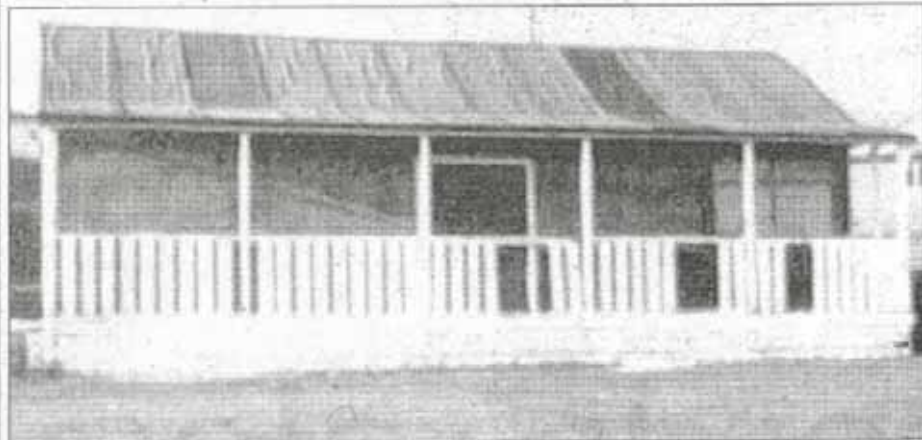
The original pavilion at Westercroft Lane was built in 1959.

A special photograph of the building was taken in 1989 to celebrate its 30th year – and this now hangs in the clubhouse today.

In 1997 Northowram C.C. merged with Fields C.C. Both clubs had been competing in the Bradford Central Cricket League up until this point.

The ambition of the new merged club heralded a move into the Central Yorkshire League for the 2000 season. And the club's impressive scoreboard was erected in 2001.

The 18th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University



Basic: The old pavilion pictured in 1989

FACT FILE

Founded: 1907 as Northowram St. Matthews C.C.
 Ground: Westercroft Lane
 Local Landmark: Northowram Hedge Top C.C.
 Former Grounds: Shibden Park, Only House Farm, Stocks Arms
 Greatest Moment: In 2000 the 1st XI won the Central Yorkshire League Division 2 title, while the 2nd XI netted the Division 4 championship.
 Local Hero: Ann Greenwood – or 'Mrs Cricket' as she is known at the club
 Bizarre Fact: In 1959 the club paid out £62 1 4 in motor mower repair expenses – its largest single item of expenditure!