

In April 2006 Andrew Hardcastle's book, *Lost: The Former Cricket Clubs and Cricket Grounds of Halifax and Calderdale*, was published by the Cricket Heritage Project. It was officially launched at a special event at King Cross Cricket Club



Andrew switches his research to cricket

A KEEN historian has uncovered the story of many extinct cricket clubs in the Brighouse and Rastrick area.

Andrew Hardcastle, from Norton Tower, Halifax, has researched the story of every cricket club in the area. His new book is called 'Lost: The Former Cricket Clubs and Cricket Grounds of Halifax and Calderdale'.

'It's been a real labour of love,' said Andrew. 'The book is the product of years of research in local libraries and interviews with cricket club contacts.'

In all there are around 500 ex-cricket clubs in Calderdale, and the new volume chronicles the life of each and every one, including Rastrick Church CC, Rastrick St John's CC, Brighouse Adult School CC and Brighouse Primitives CC, and many others. The book contains detailed write-ups on each of these 'lost' clubs.

Mr Hardcastle, a school-teacher by profession, has previously written about the history of Halifax RLFC.

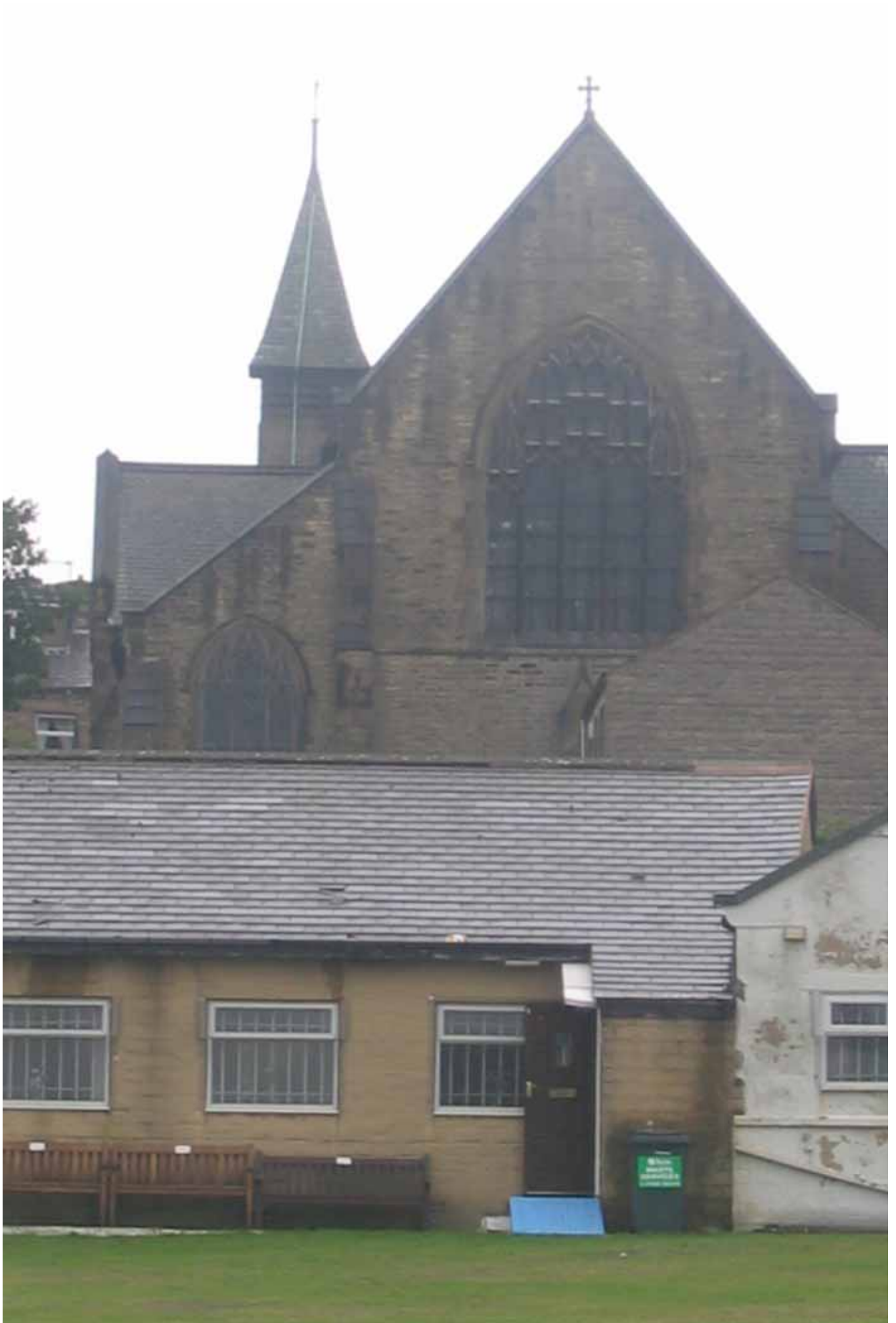


Andrew Hardcastle

During his own cricket career he played for King Cross CC and various other local league clubs. He also served as an administrator with the Halifax Association Cricket League, which survived until last year.

The 100-page book has been published in association with the £50,000 Cricket Heritage Project currently running at the University of Huddersfield.

Call 01484 472405 for more information.

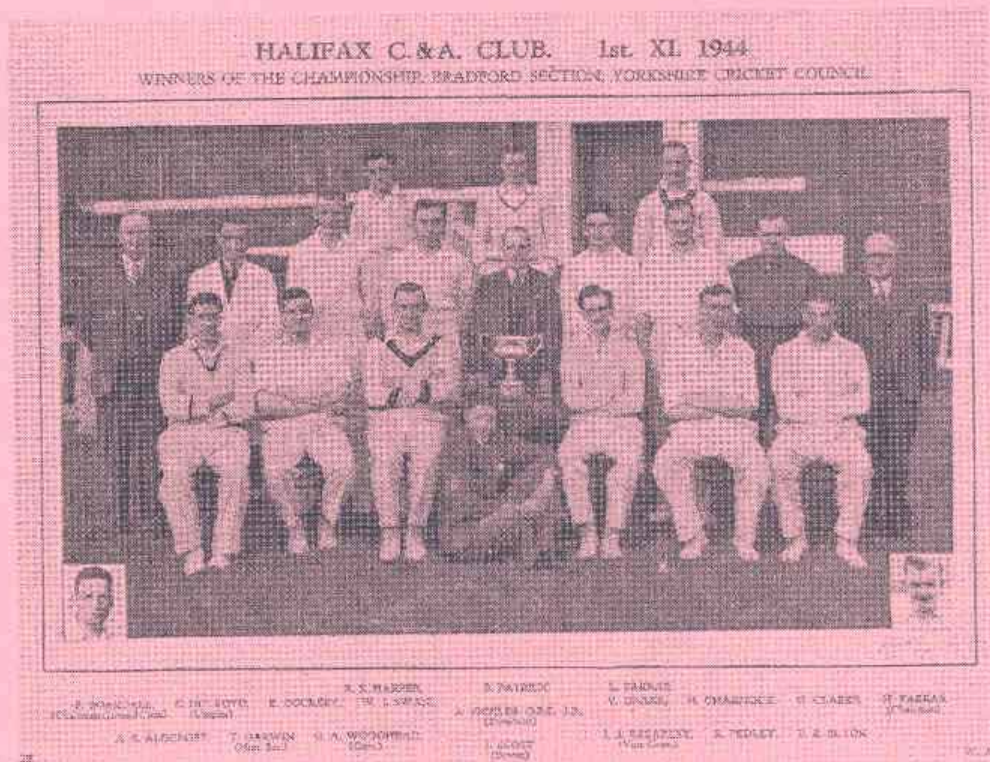


The King Cross clubhouse

LOST

The Former Cricket Clubs and Cricket Grounds of Halifax and Calderdale

Andrew Hardcastle



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

Andrew uncovers lost clubs

By Ian Rushworth

LOCAL rugby league historian Andrew Hardcastle has turned his hand to a different sport in 'Lost: The Former Cricket Clubs and Cricket Grounds of Halifax and Calderdale.'

The Norton Tower school-teacher has discovered evidence of around 500 former clubs in the area. Ovenden once had 11 clubs while the tiny hill top village of Heptonstall had four.

Most local club members are likely to find out something new about the history of their club from the book.

My own club, Northowram Fields, goes back further than I thought - to 1907. It was formed as Northowram St Matthew's (after the village church) and started life playing in Shibden Park!

Hardcastle has produced the book, which costs £5, in association with the £50,000 Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University.

It will be launched by the author, an ex-Halifax Association official, at his former club King Cross on Thursday (8.0).

"It has been a real labour of love," said Hardcastle. "The book is the product of years of research in local libraries and interviews with cricket club contacts."

Hardcastle has given 'Courier Sport' two copies of the book as competition prizes.

To have a chance of winning one, send the answer to the following question with your name, address and daytime phone number to Courier Sport, King Cross Street, Halifax by 9am on Thursday. Usual 'Courier' competition rules apply.

Where was Halifax Cricket Club's home ground between 1886 and 1998?



Digging into the past: Andrew Hardcastle