



Westborough's 2002 Section B Championship-winning side.



Above and below left: Club stalwarts Barry Mitchell, above, and Dave Lodge.

# We're a phoenix from the flames

Dr Peter Davies, senior lecturer in history at Huddersfield University, has been given a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to research cricket history in Kirkstoes. Here he tells us something about the history of Westborough Cricket Club.

**T**HE origins of Westborough CC lie with two former Dewsbury and District League clubs. One of these clubs was Dewsbury NALGO CC, which was formed through a local branch of the National Association of Local Government Officers. The other club involved in the roots of Westbor-

ough was a local pub team called White Hart CC. In 1922 both the Dewsbury NALGO and White Hart clubs competed in section B of the Dewsbury and District League. During the 1970s, local government reorganisation had a major impact on Dewsbury NALGO CC. By

the 1980s White Hart CC had also stumbled on hard times and the club was also looking for a lifeline. The two clubs decided to merge and became The Hart CC, who by 1982 were playing in section C of the Dewsbury and District League. Tragedy struck The Hart CC in 1991 when the pavilion at the club's council-owned Healds Road ground was set ablaze. The fire caused thousands of pounds worth of damage - and the police suspected arson. The future Westborough CC underwent another change of identity in 1994. This time the end of the club's relationship with the White Hart pub caused a new headquarters to be found. The club ended up using another local pub called the Royal Oak and became Royal Oak CC. Along with the new identity came entry into a new compe-

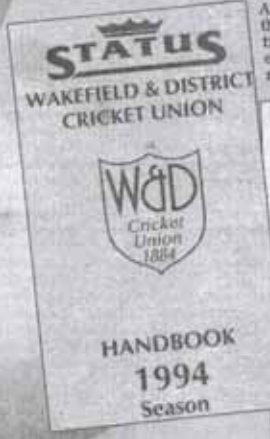
dition, as Royal Oak CC joined the Wakefield and District Cricket Union. In 1988 the club once again took on a new identity as Westborough CC was born. They chose this name on account of their geographical base: their council-owned Healds Road headquarters was located slap-bang in the middle of the Dewsbury suburb of Westborough. The start of the 2002 season was marred by another fire at Healds Road. The council stepped in and supplied the club with a small replacement clubhouse. Every cloud has a silver lining - and the fire encouraged the club to develop its relationship with Westborough Methodist Church. And for the past few years the church hall has acted as tea-room on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, with players trooping across the road for some hottime food. In the last decade, Westborough have scooped their fair share of silverware - the

Huddersfield Central League section D title in 1998, section C in 1999, and section B in 2002. Westborough continue to flourish in the Central League - and have just moved pub headquarters, from The Woolpack to The Swan at Mirfield. And in Barry Mitchell, Dave Booth and Dave Lodge, Westborough have three outstanding and hard-working club stalwarts.



Above: The view from the boundary.

Left: How we reported the fire back in 1991.



## Cricket fire 'no accident'

POLICE are seeking arsonists who completely destroyed part of a Dewsbury cricket pavilion. Hundreds of pounds' damage was caused in the blaze of the council-owned pavilion on playing site at Healds Road, Westborough. Firemen arrived at the scene but building was already badly damaged. A report in the paper said the pavilion had been used as a tea room for the club.

The council would be putting it on insurance claim to pay for the fire damage. "It was clearly an arsonist who did this," he said. "Most of our pavilion was burnt so they do need to select a suitable site for a new pavilion." The council would be putting it on insurance claim to pay for the fire damage. "It was clearly an arsonist who did this," he said. "Most of our pavilion was burnt so they do need to select a suitable site for a new pavilion."

By Simon Parrock