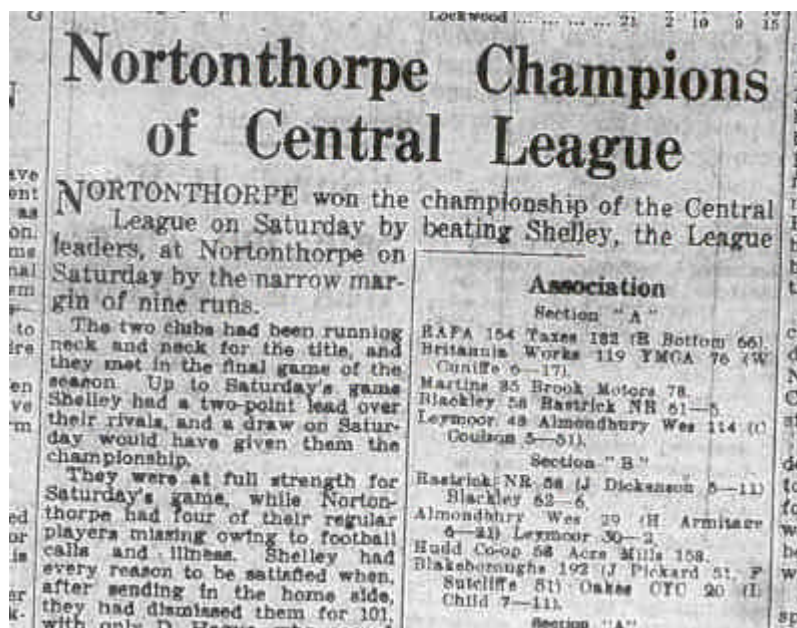


NORTONTHORPE CC

The Later Years

TOP OF THE TREE

1950 – HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



Final Tables
FIRST ELEVENs

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Nortonthorpe	18	11	2	5	38
Shelley	18	11	3	4	37
Denby Dale	18	9	4	5	32
David Browns	18	8	3	7	31
Clayton West	18	7	4	7	28
Lepton Highlanders	18	8	6	4	28
Cartworth Moor	18	6	6	6	24
Penistone YS "A"	18	6	7	5	23
Penistone YS "B"	18	5	6	7	22
Scholes	18	5	6	7	22
Skelmanthorpe	18	6	8	4	22
Emley Clarence	18	4	7	7	19
Thurstonland	18	4	8	6	18
Holmebridge	18	3	9	6	15
Cumberworth United	18	3	10	5	14
Rowley Hill	18	3	10	5	14

SECOND ELEVENs

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Scholes	18	10	2	6	36
Clayton West	18	10	3	5	35
Lepton Highlanders	18	10	3	5	35
Denby Dale	18	9	3	6	33
Cartworth Moor	18	8	4	6	30
Rowley Hill	18	8	4	6	30
Nortonthorpe	18	7	7	4	25
Holmebridge	18	6	6	6	24
Thurstonland	18	5	9	4	19
David Browns	18	4	9	5	17
Emley Clarence	18	4	9	5	17
Skelmanthorpe	18	3	8	7	16
Shelley	18	2	9	7	13
Cumberworth United	18	2	12	4	10



Nortonthorpe's championship side, 1950. From back left: C Blackburn, E Monkman, J Wilkinson, J Greaves, J Battye, A Shaw, D Tipler, R Bentley, D Blackburn; F Exley, K Bowers, R Hardy, B Hoyle, D Haigh, A Scargill, H Senior. Inset: J Armitage, captain.

NORTON'S LEGACY

1952 – SWITCH TO PRESENT GROUND

In 1952 the Club moved to Springfield Avenue.

This switch coincided with the death of George H. Norton, the famous industrialist who owned the famous Nortonthorpe textile mill complex, and it was he who left the land to the Cricket Club.



Actually, he left the land 'in trust' to Nortonthorpe Sports Club, a charity (with four named trustees) set up to manage Norton's former land. The Club inherited seven and a half acres - and the deeds (dated 31 December 1952) say that it must always be used for sport, nothing else.

Norton was part of an important family that hailed from Cuttlehurst and after whom the village of Nortonthorpe was named. The patriarch was Benjamin, a small-time clothier; he was a weaver himself, and also put weaving work out to others.



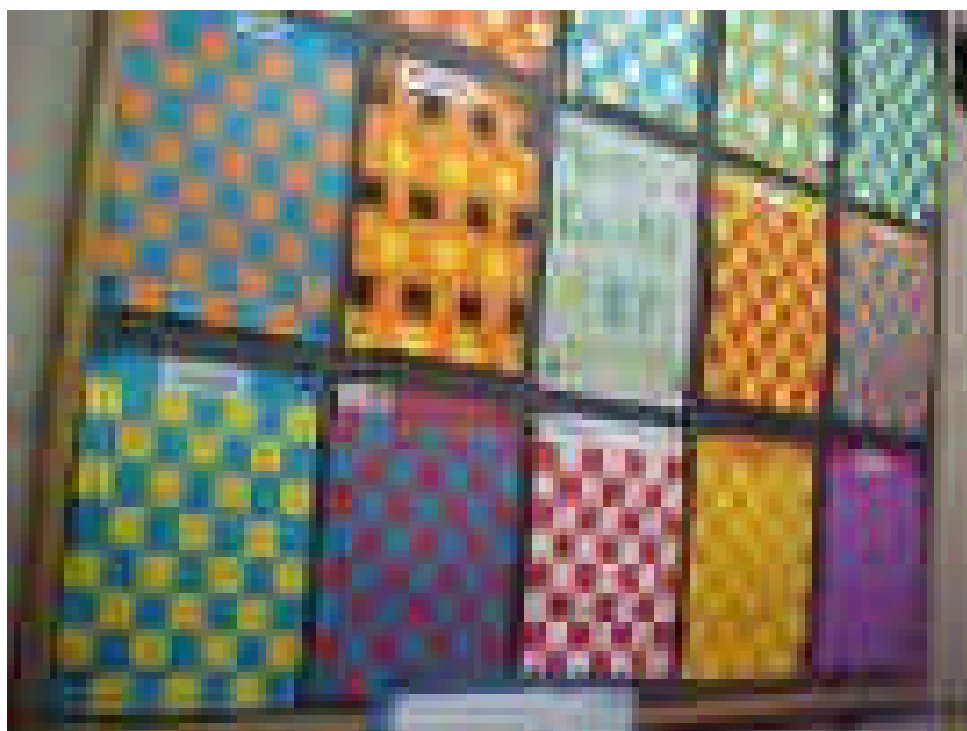
Joseph, one of his sons, bought Highbridge Corn Mill in 1825 and most of the land upon which the villages of Scissett and Nortonthorpe would eventually be sited. (Scissett's 150th anniversary was celebrated in 1980, so local people date the birth of the place to 1830).

Joseph used water power to drive his various machines. He also built Nortonthorpe Hall (now used for educational purposes) and a row of houses for his workers, on Busker Lane. In their heyday, the Norton family employed about 1,000 local people.



Meanwhile, George lived at Bagden Hall (now a hotel). One of his steam engines acquired the nickname 'Violet' in honour of his daughter, christened with the same name. George followed closely in the footsteps of his father and brother.

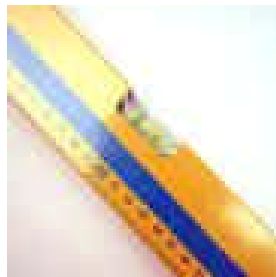
The Norton family was instrumental in the emergence of Nortonthorpe as a village - distinct from Scissett, but also part of Scissett.



The mill, which gained an enviable reputation for its weaving, spinning, scribbling, finishing and dyeing, closed in the early 1980s, and was superseded by a business park.

But the influence of the Norton family lived on.

Following their move to Springfield Avenue, the Club had to engage in some necessary excavation work, and also had to level the playing surface so it was suitable for local league cricket.



Today, Norton and his generosity are remembered fondly. Club secretary Roger Littlewood comments:

The heritage of the Club is interesting and important. My father was actually a manager at Norton's mill, so I'm very aware of the link between the mill and the Cricket Club. Norton was Nortonthorpe, and our Club is deeply indebted to him. We're very proud of our connection with him; if it wasn't for him we would not have the lovely ground we now have.

If Joseph was the founder of the village, George was the man to whom the post-1952 Cricket Club is indebted.

MOVING ON UP

1954 – HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION 'B'
CHAMPIONS

Section "A"					
	P	W	L	D	PLs
Skelmanthorpe	18	9	4	5	32
Thurstonland	18	7	3	8	29
Clayton West	18	6	2	10	28
Scholes	18	6	2	9	27
Penistone "A"	18	7	6	5	26
Cumberworth United ...	18	5	3	10	25
Denby Dale	18	6	6	6	24
Salmebridge	18	5	5	8	23
Leymoor	18	2	9	7	13
Section "B"					
	P	W	L	D	PLs
Nottonthorpe	18	10	4	4	34
David Browns	18	5	4	9	24
Cartworth Moor	18	5	5	8	23
Lepton Highlanders...	18	5	5	8	23
Bretton	18	5	8	5	20
Rowley Hill	18	5	9	4	19
Shelley	18	4	7	7	19
Penistone "B"	18	3	7	8	17
Emley Clarence	18	3	8	7	16

KNOCKOUT DELIGHT

1961 – ALLSOP CUP WINNERS

The 1960s began well for Nortonthorpe and after the 2nd XI had scooped the Tinker Cup in 1960, the 1st XI enjoyed similar success in their knockout competition, bagging the Allsop Cup the following year.





NORTONTHORPE C.C. 1963

STANDING: E. Monkman, N. Mosley, R. England, B. Glover, Dennis Bentley, M. Taylor, J. Batty
SEATED: F. Exley, S. Holden, R. Hardy (Capt.), K. Armitage, T. Kitson

TO THE POWER OF TWO

1965 – HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL LEAGUE & ALLSOP CUP WINNERS

After another championship success in 1964, Nortonthorpe's dominance of the Huddersfield Central League peaked again in 1965. The 1st XI repeated the feat of 1963 by claiming a League and Cup double for the second time in three years.

HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL CRICKET LEAGUE

Nortonthorpe do it again

Next Saturday sees the final games of 1965 in the Central League and as yet, only two of the important positions have been resolved.

Nortonthorpe won their game at Skelmanthorpe, after quite a fright, and with it the Championship, so completing the cup and league double. Nortonthorpe had the first first knock and by dint of steady batting they managed to reach the respectable total of 125. This score would have been much larger but for good bowling by A. Grainger which brought him the return of 7-5. Nortonthorpe must have thought that Grainger had a grudge against them for after they had captured six home wickets for only 66 runs he came to the crease and thumped 50 runs from their bowling including four

their efforts were well backed up by F. Beaumont 29 n.o. and Clayton West had seven wickets to spare at the end.

Good scores at Scholes

Scholes entertained Kexborough and their batsmen took 155 runs from the visiting attack for the loss of eight wickets, with four Kexborough bowlers sharing the honours. Their top scorer was P. Weatherhead 50. Kexborough were well served by opener D. Kaye 61 n.o. and though they never threatened to get the necessary runs they hung on for a point at 123-5 at the end of 45 overs.

Holmbridge just make it

Five Holmbridge bowlers were responsible for dismissing their visitors Cawthorne for only 106.

Nortonthorpe make use of David Brown's mistakes to win Allsop Cup



Last Saturday was the occasion of the Central League's biggest day when the finals of the Allsop and Tinker Cups were played. However, the sun did not shine on these games for they were both interrupted by rain and the one for the second strings did not even get to the half-way mark before being abandoned because of rain.

The Allsop Cup final was played at Emley and was between Nortonthorpe and David Brown's. It turned out to be very much a one horse race. Nortonthorpe had first knock and were given a good start

Rain halts Tinker Cup match

Scholes and Holmbridge played for the Tinker Cup at Cartworth Moor and it is refreshing to see the finals going to clubs who have hardly had their share of these events. Scholes made a steady start when they batted first, and opener N. Turner batted well to score 38 n.o. and R. Brownhill hit 28 before he had to retire with an injury. Scholes lost two wickets in scoring 78 runs and at the end of 20 overs down came the rain and play had to be abandoned for the day and this was position at

HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL CRICKET LEAGUE

League

FIRST ELEVEN Section

- Nortonthorpe
- Penistone
- Scholes
- Holmbridge
- Thurstonland
- Denby Dale
- Kexborough
- Skelmanthorpe
- Cawthorne
- Clayton West

INTO SECTION 'A'

1976 – HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION 'B'
CHAMPIONS

	SECTION "A"				Drawn		Pts
	P	W	L	T	(3)	(1)	
Kexbrough	21	10	3	0	6	2	60
Holmbridge	21	10	6	0	3	2	51
Higham	21	11	6	0	1	3	50
Clayton West	21	7	5	0	6	3	49
Cawthorne	21	10	7	0	2	2	48
Emley	21	6	5	0	3	7	40
Denby Dale	21	8	6	0	0	7	39
Bradley and Colne	21	7	5	0	1	8	39
Hoyle and Swaine	21	3	6	0	6	6	36
Scholes	21	4	6	0	4	7	35
Penistone	21	3	11	0	2	5	23
Cumberworth	21	2	15	0	1	3	14
SECTION "B"							
Nortonthorpe	21	13	1	0	1	6	61
Thurstonland	21	8	2	0	7	4	57
Shelley	21	10	4	0	3	4	53
Lepton	21	11	6	0	2	2	52
Dodworth	21	9	8	0	1	3	42
Penistone	21	8	9	0	3	1	42
Leymoor	21	7	4	0	2	8	42
Cartworth Moor	21	6	8	0	4	3	39
Skelmanthorpe	21	6	10	0	2	3	33
Bretton	21	6	12	0	0	3	27
Denby	21	4	15	0	1	1	20
David Browns	21	3	12	0	1	5	20
SECTION "C"							
Denby Dale	21	14	5	0	0	2	58
Emley	21	12	5	0	2	2	56
Woolley	21	13	5	0	0	3	55
Cawthorne	21	13	6	0	0	2	54
Kexbrough	21	11	6	0	1	3	50
Holmbridge	21	11	8	0	1	1	48
Penistone Sports	21	10	9	0	0	2	42
Scholes	21	8	11	0	0	2	34
Skelmanthorpe	21	6	12	0	2	1	31
Clayton West	21	5	12	1	1	2	27
David Browns	21	4	15	0	0	1	17
Nortonthorpe	21	3	15	1	0	2	16
SECTION "D"							
Higham	18	14	1	0	2	1	63
Cumberworth	18	11	4	0	1	2	49
Bradley and Colne	18	10	6	0	0	2	42
Shelley	18	10	6	0	0	2	42
Thurstonland	18	8	6	0	2	2	40
Denby	18	8	9	0	0	1	33
Cartworth Moor	18	7	6	0	0	5	33
Leymoor	18	4	12	0	1	1	20
Dodworth	18	4	13	0	0	1	17
Lepton	18	2	15	0	0	1	9



A Nortonthorpe team from the 1970s.
Is this the Division 'B'-winning side?

IN THE NEWS

1977 – HISTORY ARTICLE

Nortonthorpe still looking for revival

Central

IN the 1960's the name of Nortonthorpe usually sent shivers down the spines of rival cricketers in the Central League.

When clubs were to play this Dearne Valley side they knew that usually they were in for a very tough game, and if any points were to be won it would be as difficult as breaking granite with a toffee hammer.

Actually situated in Clayton West, the field was cut into the hillside, and the earth removed at one side was used to build up the opposite side; many hours of toil and sweat have gone into this "construction."

The make-up of this field is more clay than good soil. One advantage is its ability to soak up rain water, but once it is saturated it takes a long time to dry out.

Although the outfield tends to be a little uneven, especially at the far end where the cricket and football pitches overlap, the wicket itself is one of the best in the league, and 99 per cent of the credit for this must go to Frank Exley, a veteran player and

stalwart of the club, who tends the ground with a fatherly affection. Heaven help anyone who trespasses on to the wicket at any time other than on match days!

The Nortonthorpe club has seen many changes since the early days of the old wooden pavilion and tea-room. The new pavilion, built in the early Sixties, is a big improvement although, at the moment, the upkeep is not all that it ought to be.

Initially the building of this new pavilion was to have been a joint effort between members of the football and cricket clubs, but it was mostly the cricketers who slaved away.

The power of this club was felt in the 1960's, alth-

PRETTY PICTURE

1982 – WINNERS OF H. ROBINSON TROPHY FOR MOST IMPROVED GROUND



BRICKS AND MORTAR

1987 – REBUILDING OF PAVILION COMPLETED



This is an action shot from the same year – Harry Blackburn batting against YMCA at Springfield Avenue.



NOSTALGIA PIECE

1995 – HISTORY ARTICLE

In 1995 local cricket writer Bob Haigh took a look back at the remarkable achievements of Nortonthorpe C.C. in the early 1960s.

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BOB HAIGH takes a nostalgic look at the history of a local cricket club




Nortonthorpe's 1961 cup-winning side at a celebratory dinner at the Crown Hotel. From top left: N Bentley, N Dixon, A Ginn, R England, M Taylor, D Sumner, B Barry, E Bentley, Ginnery, F Exley, J Kilman, J Harris, B Hardy, K Anning, Nortonthorpe were also in a family side. The two umpires Noel and Ernest Bentley were brothers and Dixon was club captain. Ginnery's three top final innings produced two successive half centuries and he was mentioned also on the third. Cheung Yee-mun (Norman Blakey), who now acts as umpire, was one of four visitors who played for the club during this period.

Nortonthorpe's championship side, 1966. From back left: C. Hinchman, E. Sheehan, J. Wilkinson, J. Gwynne, J. Harris, A. Swan, D. Tipler, B. Bentley, D. Duckhams, F. Exley, K. Bennett, B. Hardy, B. Hoyle, D. Haigh, A. Scragg, W. Baker. Inset: J. Armstrong, captain.

Nortonthorpe's glory years

THE DAWN of the 1960s produced a dream for supporters of Nortonthorpe Cricket Club. A team that had joined the Central League in 1952 and had won several honours, from the inauguration of the Hinchman, who took a second century of wickets in a match.

Bentley, 20, a Nottinghamshire batsman, had been a star for an all-star team of 13, together after their club had lost two early wickets. Both found an expression half century before the hour was passed. Bentley made 26 and Bentley W. Not only did the pair

on the ground at the fall of the sixth wicket. However a brilliant seventh wicket partnership of 80 between Frank Exley (77) and Roger Redford (52) brought the stress back on the all-star team member.

A hard hitting 80 by Michael Taylor raised the club's comeback. Exley, Stuart Hobbins and Denis Sumner took wickets. Exley scored 100 and Redford made 100. The pair in 151-140 (only 77 runs) before cover was hit from a ball that hit over all out for 50 with Exley from a hard hitting 2-31.

10 runs later Exley's average reached figures of 5-206. They were not to be out of the club, when they showed the same aggressive style as their previous work. The winning pair of the match was Exley and David Cairns making 77, when Exley reached 100-4.

In those days even a run in the side was a big score. Virtually all were batsmen, born and bred, and most did not go to the ground. Around 1960 there were no umpires, signing — all runs were taken — who was to win the league. Exley averaged 19 runs and 1964 with figures of 33 and 30 respectively.

Exley was the first and that was correct over 40 runs. Exley's average for runs in the club was 100-4. With one of these very players, Brian Colver, Exley would be able to play the club's most successful season. Exley's first century was 100-4 and he quickly showed a hint of being a first-class player. Exley's first century was 100-4 and he quickly showed a hint of being a first-class player.

PRIDE OF THE CLUB

TEAM PHOTOS



SOS EMERGENCY

1999 – CLUB PROBLEMS

In 1999 a chronic lack of players caused the Club to put out an SOS call to the local community.



Club spokesman Roger Littlewood explains:

We've had our moments, but since the 1970s we've struggled slightly. Once upon a time we had the best facilities in the area, but time has moved on. It all came to a head in the 1990s when we were on the verge of folding.



There was a time when we regularly had to field six- or seven-man teams. Eventually we sorted ourselves out, and we were greatly indebted to a group of young Pakistani cricketers for getting us moving again.

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

CLUB TODAY

Today, Nortonthorpe run two senior sides and one team at under-13 level. *'We would like more youngsters,'* says Littlewood, *'but I'm sure every club would say that.'*

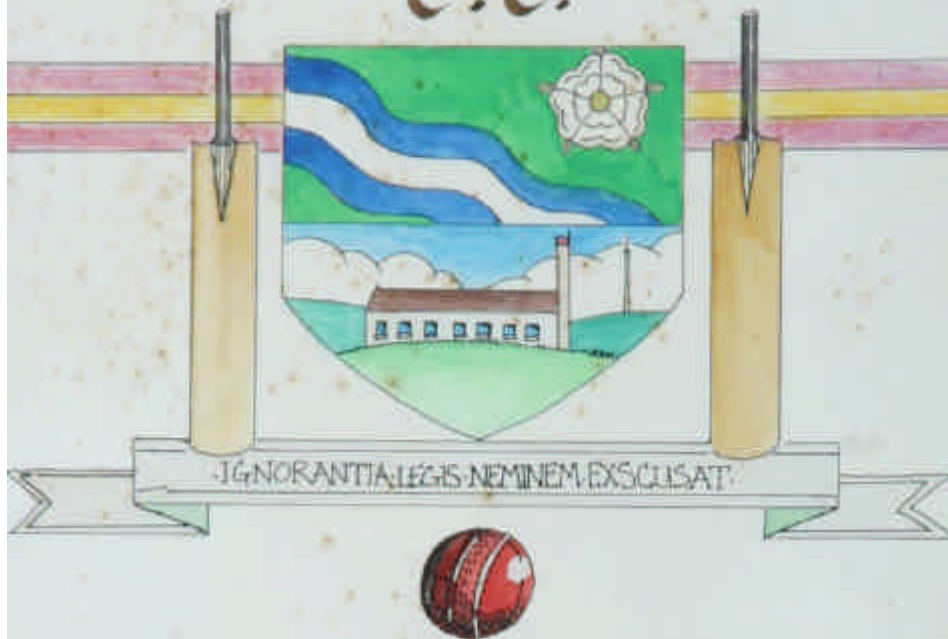


Local rivals

Nortonthorpe's local-derby games used to be against Clayton West and Emley, but since these clubs moved leagues, it is Denby Dale who are the main local rivals.

The Club is also very conscious of its history and heritage.

NORTONTHORPE C.C.



Honours: (To season commencing April 1988) HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL LEAGUE

WINNERS 'FRIEND ALLSOP' CUP
1961
1963
1965

WINNERS 'TINKER' CUP
1960
1963

WINNERS OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP
1932
1940
1950
1963
1964
1965

SECTION 'B' CHAMPIONS
1954
1976

WINNERS OF THE 'H. ROBINSON'
TROPHY (MOST IMPROVED GROUND)
1982
1985

NORTONTHORPE CRICKET CLUB
MOVED TO PRESENT GROUND IN
JANUARY 1953. PLAYING AREA
WAS COMPLETED BY SPORTS CLUB
IN 1956. PAVILION WAS BUILT
BY MEMBERS IN 1965 AND
EXTENSIVELY REBUILT 1987-88.



Springfield Avenue today