



ARUNDEL CASTLE CRICKET FOUNDATION

REVIEW 2017

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1961 – 2017

Simon's contribution to Arundel and the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation was immense. His sense of purpose, energy and selfless support for more than ten years as a Trustee – he had indeed just been installed as Chairman before illness struck – imbued all he met with confidence and enthusiasm. Simon was always very much a doer both in the field of sport and academia. The special evenings he hosted at Caldicott School where he was Headmaster for 19 years will never be forgotten – Ambrose and Walsh, Strauss and Atherton amongst his guests – and the proceeds of which were generously given to our Foundation at Arundel.

Simon, from a brilliant all-round career at school and university then, like his father Hubert before him, dedicated his life to education and the promotion of young people, and all this he shared with his wife, Antonia, a partnership in which laughter, humour and fun were never far from the surface. They were a joy to be with.

How grateful we are at Arundel for such loyal and steadfast love and support which has done so much to ensure the success of this project for the future.





Many of us (of a certain age) will remember where we were and what we were doing when President Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963. I was playing cricket in a classroom when a teacher popped his head round the door and said, ‘*President Kennedy’s been assassinated.*’ At the time I wasn’t quite sure whether I should feel happy or sad, being unsure of what this long word meant.

I am writing this Review on the 54th anniversary of that momentous event in Dallas as a reminder of how impressionable young people are. They tend to take things to heart much more than ever we might believe. The same must surely go for many of the 2,000 or so young people, with a vast variety of needs and aspirations, who visit Arundel each year – and goodness knows how many more since 1986 when we started out. Ours is a project based largely on trust where

statistics and data have little to prove, so I can only take a wild stab at the positive effect we have had over the years. ‘*The young are like chips that have flown while the wood is being chopped.*’ We know that they are out there somewhere and hope that our effect upon them has been both profound and enriching and, above all, has made a difference to their lives.

Social welfare and ‘the burning injustices’ in society, which Theresa May spoke about when she became Prime Minister, appear to have been put on the back-burner and taken something of a backseat with so many other priorities raising their heads. Pressing though these may be, there was a time when a social reforming government was quite a possibility. But since then, events have been overtaken by the shocking tragedy of Grenfell Tower – now a dark, forlorn and burnt out shell in West London – which serves as a stark and chilling reminder to us all of the glaring inequalities in our society – the ‘haves’ and the ‘have-nots’. The disaster, like so many before it, should of course act as a catalyst for change because, as things stand, the poor and deprived cannot count on the same rights to

life, comfort or safety, as those in more privileged circumstances. The message from Grenfell is surely that divisions such as these can no longer be countenanced and that opportunities for all should be more readily available and perceived to be so.





Whilst we understand this inequality and social need will never vanish nor will they be met by the taxpayer, so small charities such as ours and much larger ones too, have for years taken up the mantle to make sure that as many young lives as possible are imbued with a spirit of joy, happiness and fulfilment and so changed for the better. That is what education is all about. Children learn best from people they trust; that is the single and most important ingredient upon which Arundel thrives.

And it is that trust, as well as a sense of security and safety, that has encouraged so many thousands of youngsters to visit Arundel, often staying overnight as well, and make the very most of such an opportunity. The London Boroughs have played a prominent part in this programme of social development which brings together both cricket and its varied skills as a rich form of education and so strengthens the prospects of the young as their lives unfold. How blessed we are at Arundel to have a castle, seaside and downland, as well

as so much space on our cricket ground at our disposal, to which some 90 days are set aside for both Inner City and Special Needs activity.

In addition we also host as many as 50 competitive matches each year. It was a privilege, for example, to welcome **Bangladesh** in early May for a match against The Duke of Norfolk's XI. Despite the cold, hundreds of Bangladeshis and their families from London and elsewhere converged upon the ground to support their team, many of them travelling down from the very

boroughs from where so many children visit us each year. They provided us with colour and atmosphere, the beating of drums and a good many tiger costumes too. It was a family day out where goodwill and happiness warmed us all up and made for a spirited and successful day.



So much still hinges around healthy family lives to help days such as these to run smoothly, but evidence continues to suggest that the concept of family is under threat. Divorce, separation and ill-humour are commonplace whilst the concept of the 'one-parent family' is part of normal social jargon and has been so for a long time. It is usually the children who suffer most and many of them, especially those who visit us, are growing up quite ignorant of what was once understood by the term 'family life'. Reasons for this breakdown are too manifold to list but the large numbers of messed-up and mixed-up young people we see suggest the statistics are not far off the mark. We don't pretend we can work miracles at Arundel but we can at least lend a helping hand. And that is really what we do best.

As much as anything else, I find it is teamwork which, at its best, helps to improve communication and, in turn, gives a boost to confidence and self-image. The concept of listening and talking has never been more important than it is now in an era when technology and social media have for some created

something of an addictive 'virtual' world of its own and even become a substitute for real life. As a result, health and happiness suffer as many become less aware of what is going on around them. Throughout the day mobiles are put on hold at Arundel and instead plenty of discussion encouraged, especially at meal times. Noise doesn't bother us! Recently, I have seen no better example of teamwork than in Sir David Attenborough's remarkable new television series, '*Blue Planet II*'. In it two fish, a grouper (no beauty) and octopus team up as unlikely partners in their quest for food and survival. They rely upon extraordinary understanding and intuition so that these entirely different species pool resources to help each other. Whilst teamwork at Arundel is not quite so dramatic or drastic, it does emphasise the point that most of us, when working together and in teams, achieve more positive results than we do under our own steam. This concept lies at the heart of all our activities.

"The coaches were really helpful and gave us feedback on what we did. They really cared about what we did. They really helped us."



Matches, games, castle, lunch, more games – that's the order of the day, both inside and out, we are so lucky to have both to choose from. More than a hundred London children visit us twice a year in the late spring and mid-summer led by **Ratan** (Md. Shahidul Alam) on behalf of **Capital Kids Cricket**. The sun shone upon both boys' and girls' groups and, from time to time, I would hear a triumphant shout, *'Today's the first time I've ever been on the winning team in a match.'* Goodness, I can relate to that; it took me five years at Sussex to play on the winning side, (some may not find that surprising).

'The first time I've ever played on grass before' – not an uncommon cry and perhaps gently illustrates the point about 'haves and have-nots'.

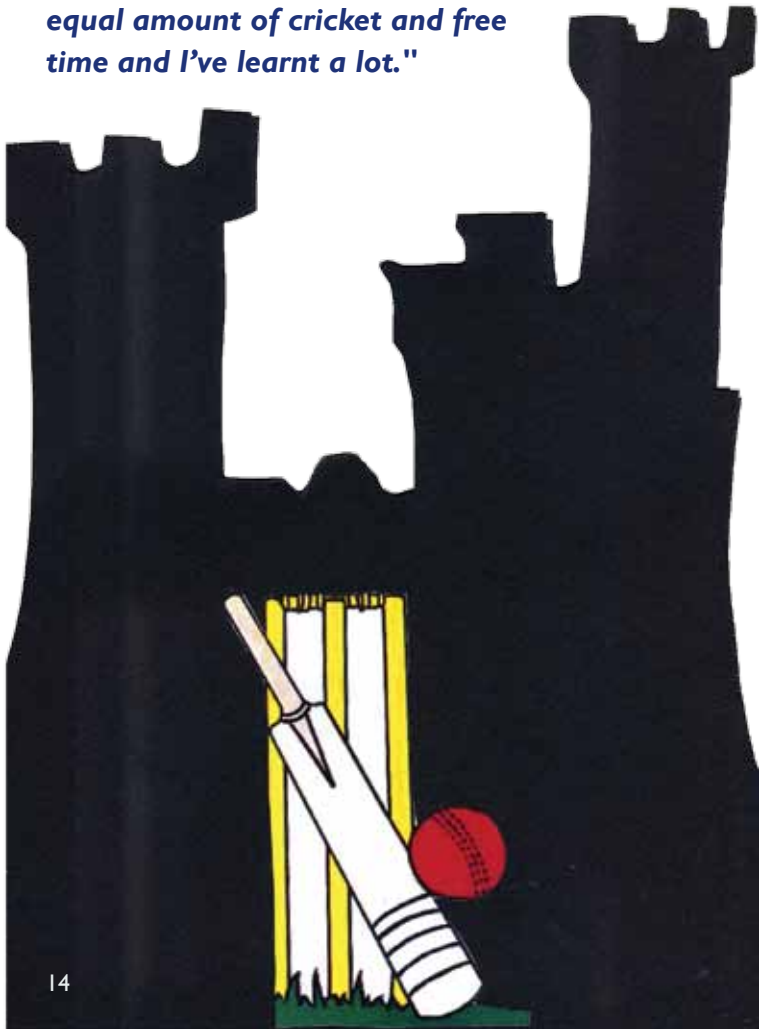
"It was really fun because our coach was always motivating us. We all enjoyed playing matches to improve our skill. All round it was so awesome! Thanks, Ratan and coaches. Especially thanks to Mr Ratan for organising this fantastic event. We wish we stayed here longer!"



Md. Shahidul Alam
(Ratan)



"The trip is really fun. There is an equal amount of cricket and free time and I've learnt a lot."



The girls sometimes have different priorities. They not only have their cricket of course, much encouraged by the surge in popularity and interest for the women's game but also immerse themselves fully into the culture of Arundel, its castle and all it has to offer. A display of Civil War battle scenes including soldiers dressed for a skirmish caught their eye as did the birds of prey – all very Hogwarts. Half way round the castle – I think we were in the Barons' Hall – one girl, whom I had taken to be a Londoner, took me by surprise when she said, *'It's not much like Wolverhampton is it?'*

These were golden days but the importance of what we do lies in the values we impart, the friendships we build and the joy we can provide. It's the delicate balance between privilege and deprivation that is one of the keys to our success.



"If you come to Arundel, they will provide you with impeccable food such as shrimp, lasagne and more. The rooms are colossal! They have hangers and cupboards for your things, small lighting next to your bed and more. The best thing at Arundel is the cricket ground. It's very large and spacious and you can do anything in the large space. Thanks for having us!"





I am as proud of our **Special Needs Project**, and all we do for the disabled too, as any of the initiatives we have embarked upon in over 30 years. Spurred on by wonderful support, not only from **Ken Merchant** and **The Cricket Society Trust** but also the bountiful generosity of a number of charitable trusts and other individuals, we now set aside some 50 days each year dedicated purely to those for whom life is a real struggle and so in need of a boost. We do just that. Above all we show kindness, *'the golden chain by which society is bound'*, by doing small things, little gestures, which

make a big difference – the economy of grace, I believe.

Simple things tend to do the trick – fish and chips, paddling and throwing stones at the incoming tide, camping at Lodge Hill where our pupils stay, toasting marshmallows on the fire, exploring the woods – wild garlic, bees, terrapins and roses in the castle gardens. Many things to touch and smell (though perhaps not the bees). We do a lot of walking, sometimes amidst chatter but often silently – autism being a difficult one to get to grips with. *'I don't like pink or Sundays or yellow but I do like Fridays'*. Many children live in a

strange world of their own. Buzzards are popular and more recently ravens too – important to identify their different calls and colours – I look them up in my bird book and then point out what's what to the children. From time to time and amidst much excitement a deer is sighted and even pursued for a short while. The castle is always popular; above all else they love the library which is very beautiful and atmospheric, a treasure trove like a jewel box. I explain the books are not the sort you actually read, not like Harry Potter. A young lad took this in and, with an intense look in his

eye, said, *'Books don't bother me much.....I can't read'*. Several weep when it's time to say goodbye and return home. Emotions run high. Interestingly, I have found myself tempted over the years to devise all manner of programmes with which to keep the youngsters occupied and happy. Non-stop activity, hustle and bustle. Now I prefer to tread more gently, go with the flow as they say, and always to remember that it can also be something of an achievement when nothing much happens.



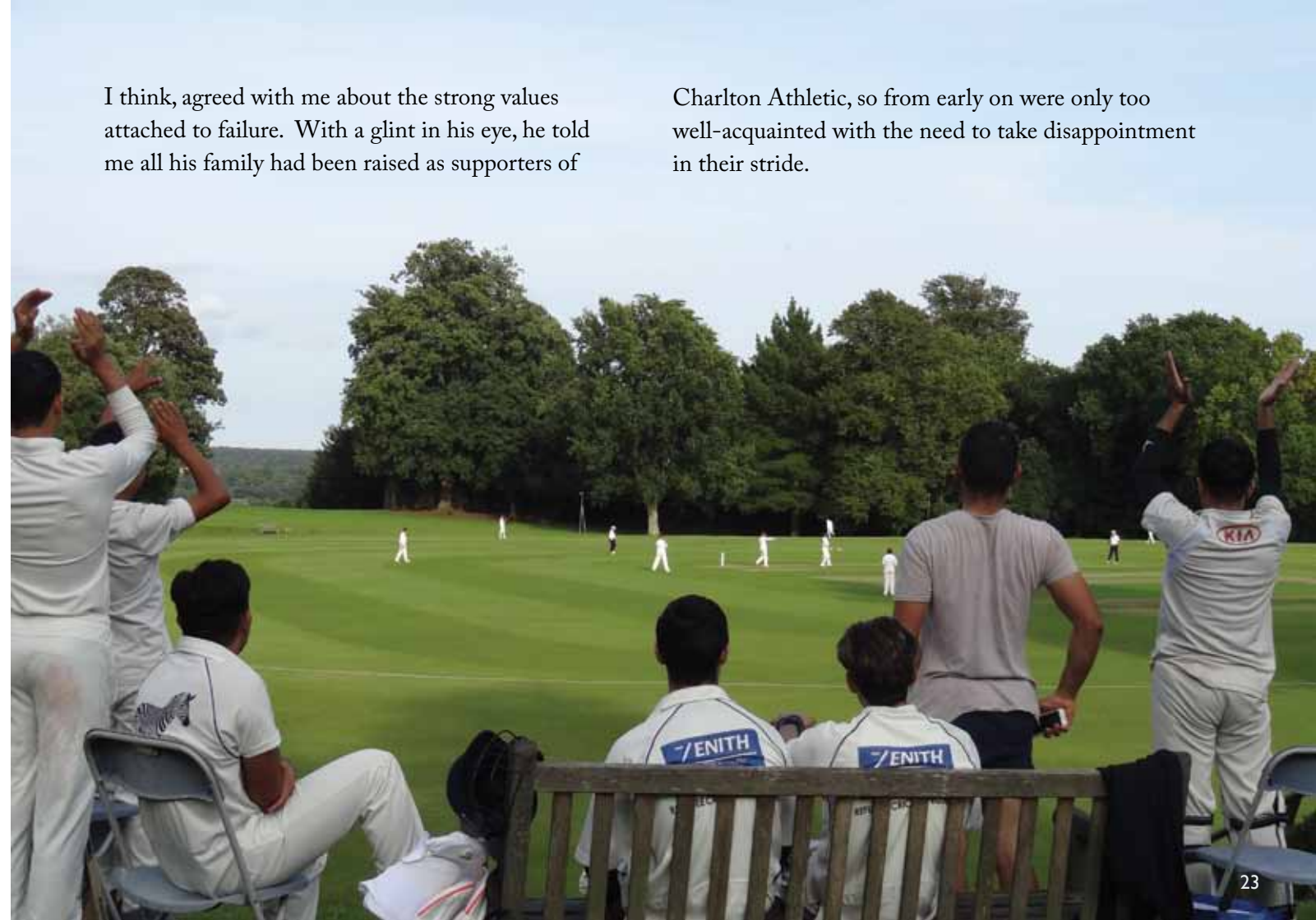
One of the beauties of Arundel is its ability to give opportunities to many people who rarely see each day in a good light. So for many years now we have supported and uplifted **refugees**, mainly teenagers from Afghanistan who come to this country seeking asylum, fleeing from their broken homes and communities. Some are still at school, a few in higher education and others seeking work in England in a bid to escape death and despair in Afghanistan. Strangely, you might think, many of them, like their Pakistani neighbours, love cricket with a passion. **Antonia Cohen**, a volunteer advisor in the Children's Section at the Refugee Council, who for many years has been central to their chances in England, both mothers and looks after them when they reach these shores. She tells me that cricket, with its unusual disciplines and curious laws, gives them some structure within their dishevelled lives. It's a game of strategy – choices have to be made; they have to think for themselves and the game leaves them better equipped to cope with real life. So they play cricket and make friends. *'But for*

cricket I don't know where I would be now', one refugee and now a student nurse told me with some pride. It was a good day's cricket too against **The Authors' XI**, with many extravagant shots played. *'Don't go for glory'*, Antonia would implore, *'be sensible'*! Not much notice was taken of this advice but how gratifying that a game with its roots set in the Southern Downland of England should provide a backbone, albeit a frail one, from which young people from remote areas of Afghanistan might develop and enhance their lives.

Failure, disappointment and setbacks are taken in their stride by Afghan communities and many others and especially those who visit us from London's East End. **The Prince's Trust** final played between teams from **Waltham Forest** and **Newham** exhibited a frantic, if exhilarating, enthusiasm – many more Afghans too – where virtuosity stood hand in hand with calamity as the match unfolded. And yet it is often through such failures that we learn most about ourselves and emerge strengthened and with a positive mental attitude as a result. One of the spectators at the match, a parent

I think, agreed with me about the strong values attached to failure. With a glint in his eye, he told me all his family had been raised as supporters of

Charlton Athletic, so from early on were only too well-acquainted with the need to take disappointment in their stride.



Each year these few words can only give a snapshot of all that Arundel is: there is, of course, so much more besides. County cricket, national representative cricket for the disabled, women's cricket as well as important inner city matches involving teams from Yorkshire, London and the South. The skills may be varied but the strength of spirit never wavers. This has been a very good year.

None of these activities and initiatives would be possible without wonderful staff; thoughtful, caring to an extreme and expert in their field. None more so than **John Davies** who is retiring after 28 years of loyal and dedicated service as coach, carer and mentor to thousands of young people from all over the country. He has been both popular and respected by children, teachers, social workers – everyone. He has made them laugh, humour always central to his coaching and communication. We are very grateful to John for all he has done to support our many initiatives more or less from the beginning.

Also, I have just heard that Arundel and Cheltenham have shared the award for **Outground of the Year**

made by the England and Wales Cricket Board. Many congratulations to Lee, our head groundsman, and Iain his assistant. This is a great achievement and nudges us into the forefront of England's best and most influential cricket grounds. And well done Cheltenham too (the scene of one of my very few hundreds!). Must be a good pitch.





I have come to the end now and can only thank you all for your generosity and support without which I wouldn't have so much to write about. Without the development of our charitable objectives, a small corner of our heritage might have been lost and many would be the poorer for that. By preserving a little of the past, you have helped us secure the future.

Thank you all so much.

John Barclay

JOHN BARCLAY, DL • Director of Cricket & Coaching



THANK YOU

Without the support of so many generous people who give so much time and encouragement to all our activities, we would never have been able to achieve so much or help so many young people. We do appreciate enormously the dedication you have shown and thank you for the pleasure derived.

During the course of 2017, the Foundation benefited from a number of fundraising events, notably an 8-a-side cricket day at Arundel. In all, £256,000 was raised over the past twelve months and for that we are very grateful.

The Foundation has also been supported by a number of generous private donors and many companies, institutions and charitable trusts:

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