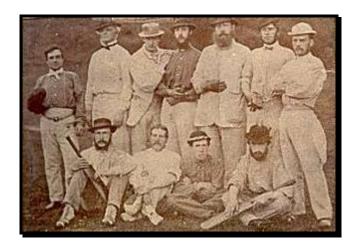# George G.J.A. Peake

George Peake (Pictured above in the 1864 team, middle of the back row)was the outstanding cricketer of the mid 19th century, he excelled as a batsman, bowler and fielder. He also had the foresight to keep printed records of the club's matches. Making him one of the first archivist's.

George James Allen Peake made his debut in 1860 on August 6th against Lord Maldons X1, the name by which the Crickhowell team was known in those days.

In 1861 George Peake was one of 6 Abergavenny players selected to play for the County, Monmouthshire against Brecon.

He also took part in a number of single wicket matches in the Castle Meadows, this form of challenge match had became quite common at the time.

George Peake was a fast round arm bowler most destructive with his off break. He was a very fine batsman and a straight and tremendously powerful hitter; he frequently hit the ball from the 'market' ground into the Hereford Road.

In 1860 he caused a stir by dispatching a 'half volley' over the houses facing the market. The ball coming to rest in a yard, where it found an unimpeded course to the Kibby Brook and was then swept away by the flowing stream.
In addition to his other athletic accomplishments he was a great thrower of a cricket ball, his record cricket ball throw was measured at 106 yards. In 1866 George Peake who had been the backbone of the side left Abergavenny, he did appear for the club in future years but only when he was visiting the town.

In 1869 Peake returned to the town after an absence of 3 years and he again enriched the motivation and achievements of the team while he remained. He was still playing in 1879 under the captaincy of J.B.Walford

Mr Badham writing 'Fifty Years of Cricket in Abergavenny' observed that Peake was the hardest of clean hitters, safest of catchers, longest of throwers, steadiest of bowlers, with just enough curl from the leg to find out a crooked bat, and also at all times the best of good fellows. He was a master at King Henry V111 school