

40

Age of Sachin Tendulkar as of April 24. Tendulkar will become only the second 40-year-old Test cricketer since the turn of the century if he plays against South Africa in October. Alec Stewart was the previous man to do this, against Zimbabwe at Lord's in 2003, the first Test of his final season.



MOVE OVER, GALSWORTHY

Meet the painter who prefers the village green to a Test ground

While most cricket fans enjoy the glamour of Lord's and the game's grandest stages, Marilyn Ewens prefers the rural beauty of village grounds for her paintings.

Ewens, a landscape artist who has exhibited across the UK, discovered her new passion when her husband, Chris, joined Crowcombe CC in the neighbouring village to their home in Bicknoller, Somerset. She became inspired to paint cricket.

"All the family played cricket and it was all around me," says Ewens, who is 69. "Our hall was always crammed with cricket kit, so we had to squeeze through and the sport became a big part of our family life. Instead of going shopping or doing something else when they were playing I would

go along and watch and take photos which I would paint later."

While cricket's most famous painter, Jocelyn Galsworthy, is often seen at Test matches painting fluffy clouds, Ewens likes to keep things more rural. "I enjoy watching cricket – village cricket in particular," she says. "I find the competition between these different little villages really interesting and it gives you a sense of community.

"With cricket you have animation, movement and action in the scene, which you can capture and then paint. It's a lively and engaging form of art."

Ewens has painted a number of different cricket scenes and her favourites include the thatched clubhouse at Bridgetown in West Somerset and her own club Crowcombe. Lydeard St Lawrence is shown above.

"I always try to catch the scene, whether it be movement, action or shadows," she says. "It is what I enjoy doing." *David Washington*

Visit www.marilynewens.com to see a gallery of Evans' work



Tea time

The search is on for cricket's best tea – and a new £10,000 clubhouse kitchen awaits the winners. The Great Cricket Tea Challenge, run by Yorkshire Tea, will feature on Channel 5's Ashes highlights and will be judged by Michael Vaughan. Four finalists will be selected for a judging day in the Long Room at Lord's on June 24, when the winner will be announced. So if you think your club has the best teas, you can enter at www.yorkshiretea.co.uk.

THIS MONTH'S ...

House

A house where Rudyard Kipling wrote many of his books is on the market – and it comes with its own cricket pitch. The Gables, in Tisbury, Wiltshire, was home to Kipling's parents for 20 years and the author wrote *Kim* there. The current owners added a tree-lined cricket field on their 3.7 acres of land and, if you have a spare £950,000, it could be yours.

Throwback

Some newspapers got all excited when it emerged that the England batsman Nick Compton was going out with Lady Kitty Spencer, niece of Diana Princess of Wales. After all, this was bringing two great British dynasties together – sporting and social. London's *Evening Standard* got a little too excited, though, leading with a headline straight from the age of Nick's grandfather Denis: "Diana's niece is quite a catch."

Analogy

Kevin Keegan has compared press conferences as England football manager to facing an over in cricket: "You know you will get a couple of easy ones to start with. But you know a bouncer is coming and then a googly." It would have to be one hell of a bowler to pull off a bouncer and a googly in the same over but we take his point.

