

## **Bidders are Bowled Over at Charterhouse**

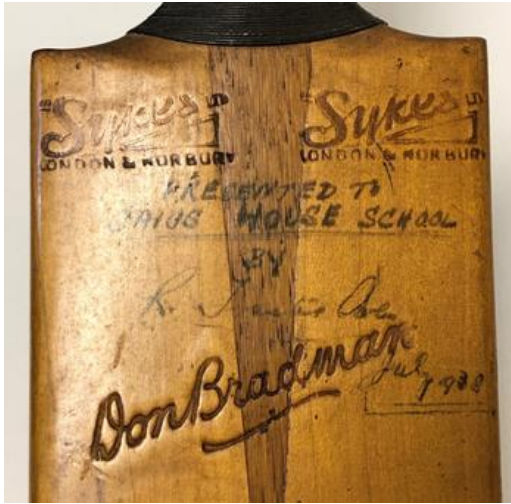
Three cricket bats and a stand are expected to sell for well over £1,000 when they go under the Charterhouse hammer in their **April two day online auction** in Sherborne.

“Having carried out a probate valuation for executors we were then asked to clear the property, a charming thatched Dorset cottage near Shaftesbury,” commented Richard Bromell. “The cricket bat stand, sitting at the top of the stairs, caught my eye pretty quickly. Having had an interest in cricket for several decades I was amazed to see one of the bats was signed by both the England and Australian 1938 teams including cricketing legends Len Hutton, Denis Compton with Don Bradman.”



### **Howzat! Richard Bromell with the cricket bats and stand**

The Sykes willow cricket bat with the team signatures was originally presented to Caius House School, probably by an old pupil or maybe even a parent, in July 1938. The family who lived in the cottage cleared by Charterhouse privately owned Caius House School near Shoreham-by-Sea for many years and retained the bats and stand after the school was closed.



Signatures by the Australian team include Don Bradman (Capt.), Stan McCabe, Sidney Barnes, Arthur Chipperfield and William O'Reilly. For England, the signatures include Wally Hammond (Capt.), Denis Compton, Len Hutton, Charlie Barnett, and Bill Edrich.

The names from both teams represent some of the most famous pre-war cricketers. The 1938 Ashes between Australia and England was drawn. England and Australia won a Test each, with two of the other Tests drawn and the third game of the series, scheduled for Manchester abandoned without a ball being bowled, only the second instance of this in more than 60 years of Test cricket. The Australians retained The Ashes.

Also in the cricket bat stand are two other bats. One is a well-played Gunn & Moore Cannon cricket bat and the other a Victorian bat. This has a brass plaque on the back inscribed 'Presented to Charles Lancaster Esqr by Members of the Calcutta Exhibition Cricket Team for Excellent Batting 1883-84'.



