

THE
Journal
OF
THE KILVERT SOCIETY



THE KILVERT SOCIETY

*Founded in 1948 to foster an interest in the Reverend Francis Kilvert,
his work, his Diary and the countryside he loved*

Registered Charity No. 1103815

TO JOIN THE SOCIETY, go to our website www.thekilvertsociety.org.uk

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If you are on email please help us to cut postage costs by sending your e-address to the Secretary at jeanbrimson@hotmail.com

The Treasurer would like to thank all who responded to his appeal to change their standing-orders to the new subscription rates

Front cover The portrait of Admiral Sir Hugh Evan-Thomas that hangs in the formal dining room at Llwynmadoc. See p329
Back cover Scenes from the Society's Commemorative Service at the little 'owl-like' chapel at Capel-y-Ffin in September.

Dates for your diary

All teas and pub lunches must be pre booked with the Secretary by post or email (jeanbrimson@hotmail.com)

Saturday 28 March

Clyro pub lunch and a visit to Lower Cwmgwannon.

Friday 24 April

7pm: The Bishop's Palace Hereford. Annual Meeting and Seminar. Speaker, Dr Sarah Whittingham (see panel on facing page). Buffet supper £4.50, pay on the day.

Saturday 25 April, 10 for 10.30am

At the Radnorshire Arms Hotel, Presteigne.
Seminar: Rob Graves on 'Thomasess, Evan-Thomasess, Llanthomasess; what's in a name?', and Charles Boase on 'Father Ignatius and a lucky escape'.
Tea and coffee will be provided.
6.30 for 7pm also at the Radnorshire Arms Hotel.
The Kilvert Society Annual Dinner (to be pre-booked with the Secretary).

Saturday 27 June.

A visit to Bulkington and Keevil in Wiltshire where Francis Kilvert's father started life as a curate. Followed by a walk and tea. £4.50 per person (full details in the June newsletter).

Sunday 26 July

The Kilvert Pilgrimage: Assemble at Newchurch (HR5 3QF) for 10am morning service. Set out 10.45am, recital and lunch at Bryngwyn 12 noon-1pm, tea at Llanbedr 4-5pm, evensong at Llandewi Fach 6pm, disperse 7pm (transport available back to Newchurch). Join/leave at any stage. Further details from the Gladestry.org.uk website.

Saturday 26 September

Following a picnic lunch a visit to Kinnersley Castle with tea at £7.50 per person.

Sunday 27th September

Evensong at St James' Church, Kinnersley at 3pm, followed by tea and croquet on the lawn at the Rectory, by kind invitation of Major and Mrs James Greenfield. £4.50 per person (full details in the June newsletter).



From the Chairman, David Elvins

WHEN reading any diary, it is not always the 'big' set pieces that one later remembers but the less important vignettes. Kilvert was particularly good at remembering and noting the small details of life and experience that we all share. I have been reading *To Fight Alongside Friends: The First World War Diaries of Charlie May*. Charlie fought on the Western Front and the diary is a daily account of life 'behind the lines' and in the trenches. After basic training he arrived with his company in France in late 1915. On 15 November he writes:

'The ground was white as far as one could see this morning with the bare trunks standing out black against it and the frosty sunlight glistening on the snow. Three inches had fallen in the night to the sorrow of all save sundry boys who whooped and bellowed outside my window.'

Charlie's diary was primarily written for his wife and daughter. On 25 February he writes:

'Cotton came into breakfast with us. He brought the little bible which Burchill had taken from the body of a dead German. On the fly-leaf was the name Herman Stampa, I think, and over this in a child's handwriting the word :Dada:. I suppose he had a wife and kiddie somewhere filled with pride for the daddy who was a soldier and now stricken down with grief for the daddy who is "missing".'

Two days later he describes the ever present fear of a gas attack:

'At 10.30am an apparition appeared at the dugout door. Prince and myself were just thinking of bed. "Gas" it cried in muffled tone, "Gas". On with helmets and out we went finding a jumble of men in all states of excitement. For an hour we stood waiting. In the end word came to stand down. No gas had come into our sector.'

Charlie not only describes the conflict with the enemy but also the rats, dogs and crows. Like many soldiers he uses humour as a means of coping with the horrors of war. It is in the small details of the environment, of friendships, frustrations and boredom which we can all understand that makes this a most interesting and moving diary.

Charlie May was killed on 1 July 1916. He was 27 years old.



From the Secretary, Alan Brimson

I AM pleased to be able to announce our programme for 2015.

Our first event, on March 28, is a pub lunch in Clyro followed by a visit to Lower Cwmgwannon (vol II, p24) where Francis Kilvert visited the 'poor mad creature' Mrs Watkins, one of the sadder entries in his *Diary*, and a place that Eva Morgan wrote about so vividly in *Journal* 35.

Next up, on Friday 24 April at 7pm at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, we start our Society weekend with the AGM and buffet supper, after which we will have the privilege of being addressed by Dr Sarah Whittingham, who is a national authority on ferns in the Victorian period. Members will recall Kilvert's preoccupation with collecting specimens of them with Emma Hockin during his Cornish holiday. See John Toman's enthusiastic recommendation below for the talk.

The following morning, Saturday 25 April, we meet at the Radnorshire Arms Hotel in Presteigne for a seminar with two presentations: Rob Graves will disentangle for us the many branches of the Thomas family, and Charles Boase will talk about that mesmeric yet divisive character, Father Ignatius, who Francis Kilvert met at Llanthony Abbey, his new monastery at Capel-y-Ffin.

After an afternoon free we meet at the same venue for our Annual Dinner (booking form enclosed). This is my personal highlight of the year, a chance to renew and extend the fellowship that is the hallmark of our society, a convivial evening where old and new friends, from all walks of life, meet up with a common interest – Francis Kilvert – and drink a toast to his immortal memory.

Please do your utmost to support this weekend and the other events we have planned for you.

A lecture not to be missed . . .

Dr Sarah Whittingham's talk after the AGM on Friday 24 April promises to be a rare treat because she is the foremost expert on the Victorian fern craze, and has written the definitive book on it, *writes John Toman*.

Readers of the *Diary* will be aware of Francis Kilvert's strong interest in botany. It was more than a pastime for him. His was a 'serious' family: the activities encouraged in the Kilvert home, especially among the children, were serious. Observation of natural objects was a planned element there because study of them was seen as a religious duty, a means of paying tribute to God for his benevolence in creating a

beautiful world. He and his sisters, in their concern with ferns, were showing the extent to which they had been influenced by the fern craze.

This craze was a major cultural phenomenon, embracing not merely an interest in plants and gardens, but a whole range of religious, moral, artistic, and social values. Such was the popularity of ferns they appeared as motifs on glassware, wallpaper, fabrics, woodwork and ironwork.

Dr Whittingham's fully illustrated lecture will take us into the fascinating world of the fern craze and into a significant dimension of the Kilvert family's life. Kilvert Society members should not miss this opportunity.

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Inside Back Cover Society publications and other recommended books

The Annual General Meeting of the Kilvert Society will be held in the Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, on Friday 24 April 2015 at 7pm

Agenda

1. Welcome to Members
2. Secretary's Announcements
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of AGM of 25 April 2014
5. Matters Arising
6. Obituaries
7. Chairman's Remarks
8. Financial Report
9. Election of Officers
 - i) Existing Officers offering themselves for re-election

Chairman	Mr D Elvins
Hon Vice Chairman	Mr M Sharp
Hon Treasurer	Mr R Weston
Hon Auditor	Mr J Wilks
Hon Membership Secretary	Mrs S Rose
Hon Publications Manager	Mr. C. Dixon
Hon Secretary	Mr A Brimson

The following are ex-officio Officers

Hon Archivist	Mr C Dixon
Hon Minutes Secretary	Mr CJ Marshall
Hon Editor of the <i>Journal</i>	Mr C Boase
 - ii) Existing Committee (in addition to the above Officers)

Mrs VJ Dixon, Mr M Rose
Mr EJ Hall, Mr MJ Reynolds

The existing Committee offer themselves for re-election
 - iii) Nominations for members of The Committee

Two or more members may nominate one or more members (with their consent) who are eligible, either as officers or ordinary Committee Members. Such nominations shall be delivered to the Hon Secretary not less than 30 days before the date of the AGM.
10. Any Other Business previously notified to The Secretary.
- End of AGM

INTERVAL

Society publications on sale.

Refreshments (at £4.50 per head, payable on the night) will be provided by a member of the Committee.

Dr Sarah Whittingham will talk about ferns. She is the foremost expert on the Victorian fern craze which greatly interested Francis Kilvert among others.

Vote of Thanks and Close of meeting

Alan Brimson
Hon Secretary

For information only

PRESIDENT

Dr Ronald Blythe FRSL

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs S Hooper, Mr AL Le Quesne

HON LIFE MEMBERS

Miss MR Mumford, Mrs Hurlbutt,
Mrs T Williams, Mr J Palmer,
Dr W Mom Lockwood, Mr J Hughes-Hallett

The Kilvert Society

Charity Registration No: 1103815

Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31 December 2014

<u>Income</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Subscriptions	£4,575.81	£4,472.00
Donations	£217.00	£182.00
Appeal Donations	£26.00	£117.06
Gift Aid	£75.05	£838.25
AGM Income	£149.00	£226.50
Publication Sales	£372.52	£1,743.00
Events	£1,258.20	£1,267.50
Interest	£34.63	£1.50
Legacy	-	£254.00
Transfers	-	£3,000.00
Monuments & Collection	£500.00	-
	<u>£7,208.21</u>	<u>£12,102.31</u>

Expenditure

Grants & Subscriptions	£765.00	£685.00
Monuments & Collections	£550.00	£645.00
Postage, Stationery, Phone	£651.49	£338.43
Printing	£60.00	£3,606.80
Journal	£3,007.11	£3,375.53
Insurance	£152.00	£152.00
Events	£1,246.35	£1,245.00
AGM Expenses	£309.36	£549.17
Website	£385.20	£226.31
Transfer	-	£3,000.00
Refund	-	£22.50
	<u>£7,126.51</u>	<u>£13,845.74</u>

Assets

Balance Lloyds	£3,322.59	£3,301.52
Balance Lloyds Appeal Fund	£52.01	£26.01
Nationwide Building Soc	£11,951.40	£11,916.77
Excess Income over Expenditure		£81.70
	<u>£15,326.00</u>	<u>£15,326.00</u>

Richard Weston,
Honorary Treasurer

Auditor's Certificate

I have examined the foregoing income and expenditure account with the relevant records and certify it to be correct and in accordance therewith.

John Wilks,
Honorary Auditor

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kilvert Society held at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, on Friday 25 April 2014 at 7pm

In the absence of the Chairman, David Elvins, Michael Sharp Vice-Chairman presided, welcomed members and explained the reason for the Chairman's absence – illness of Mrs Elvins.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from:

Carol & Peter Beddall (Dorstone), Ann & Howard Dean (Gladestry), Marjorie & David Elvins (Steeple Claydon), Sally Fury (Abergavenny), Dudley Green (Clitheroe), Penny & Giles Harris-Evans (Southsea), Sheila Hooper (Hassocks), Jill Lawson (Eardisley), Tony Laverick (Boston), Heather & Graham Lovett (Ross-on-Wye), Eva Morgan (Peterchurch), Ray Taylor (Skegness), Michael Tod (Abergavenny), Sylvia Townsend (Bristol), Heather & Richard Vine (Hindon), Caroline & Jim Webber (Calne) and Cathy & John Wilks (Cusop) (25)

According to the Secretary this constituted a record number of apologies for absence from the AGM.

Secretary's announcements

The Secretary asked everyone to sign the attendance book which was being passed round. He referred then to the two forthcoming Society services in June and September. The service at Clyro in June would be led by Michael Sharp and those members attending would be invited to contribute. The September service would be in the chapel at Capel-y-Ffin. The Secretary hoped that both services would be well supported.

Minutes

The minutes of the AGM of 26 April 2013 had been circulated with the March *Journal* were taken as read and acceptance having been proposed by Val Dixon, seconded by Michael Reynolds, they were carried and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Obituaries

The Vice-Chairman was happy to announce that there had been no notification of any members' deaths during the year.

Chairman's remarks

The Chairman had sent his report and this was read to the meeting by the Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman was pleased to report on another successful year for the Society and referred in particular to three visits:

i. Tintern

In June about 30 members enjoyed a beautiful day at Tintern Abbey and its environs. A visit to the Abbey was followed by lunch at the Anchor Hotel. In the afternoon there was a walk along the banks of the Wye with readings from Wordsworth and the *Diary* at the old railway station, followed by tea.

ii. Lacock

In September about 25 members took part in the visit to this attractive Wiltshire village, the venue for several TV productions. After a visit to the home of pioneer photographer William Fox-Talbot the day concluded with a circular field walk and tea at a local garden centre.

iii. Dulwich

In March this year over twenty members visited the Dulwich

Picture Gallery. Despite some transport problems on the trains members arrived in time to enjoy lunch before a tour of the gallery and an opportunity to view the paintings admired by Kilvert and the current exhibition of works by David Hockney.

The Chairman was especially pleased to report that after four years the grave of Addie Cholmeley at Croft (Lincs) was now fully restored. Particular thanks were due to our local Lincolnshire member, Ray Taylor, and to our secretary, Alan Brimson, for their perseverance, hours of letter-writing, phone calls and visits in order to gain permission for the work to begin and then seeing the project through to a successful conclusion. The committee would now turn its attention to restoring the grave of the Solitary at Llanbedr, Painscastle.

The Chairman went on to thank all those who had worked for the Society during the year – the officers, the editor of the *Journal*, the committee, John Wilks our Hon. Auditor and Val Dixon, who was giving up the office of minutes secretary (although she will remain on the committee); Jeff Marshall takes over the role of minutes secretary.

Concluding, he expressed his personal and the Society's special thanks to our Secretary, Alan Brimson, for his dedication, good humour and hard work throughout the year.

Financial report

The balance sheet for the year was circulated to those present. The Treasurer reported that this year the critical figure was the excess of expenditure over income (£1,743.43) and expressed his disappointment over the number of members who had still not amended their subscription payments despite a reminder letter to which only one third had replied positively. However he reassured members that the balances we held were relatively healthy although he is aware that costs, such as postage, will rise inexorably and continue to make demands on our assets. He then went on to comment on particular items of income and expenditure.

Income:

i. The Appeal: Donations here have now ended and the account has been closed.

ii. Subscriptions: The rise in income shown here is a result of the increased subscription announced at last year's AGM.

iii. Gift Aid: Income here is slightly lower than last year but £75 is still due because of some confusion over the correct format of our claim, which delayed it.

iv. Publication Sales: These show a very good increase thanks to the successful launch of John Toman's Photo Album book, which is financed by the Society.

v. Events: Income here was lower than last year's, which had been boosted by the well attended lunch at Monnington.

vi. Transfer: The £3000 transferred from the Building Society account to the Lloyds account in case of need (see below under expenditure) was not required.

vii. Legacy: £254 from the will of our late member, Mr Albert Chuter, who died last year.

Expenditure:

i. Grants and Subscriptions: The rise here is explained by the Society's decision to increase the grant to the Kilvert churches, from £75 to £100.

continued overleaf



Pilgrims – definitely not tourists – amid Llanthony’s ruins

ALAN BRIMSON joins walks in Hay, Llanthony and Capel-y-Ffin before members filled to the rafters the ‘owl-like’ chapel ‘short stout and boxy with its little bell turret. . . the quiet peaceful chapel yard shaded by seven great solemn yews’ for our Commemorative Service

DISAPPOINTINGLY, just 10 members attended the first day of our final weekend of events for 2014, a visit to Hay-on-Wye on Saturday 27 September – and nine of those were committee members. It was the general opinion that members were familiar with Hay and so did not feel motivated to attend. Well, folks, you missed a treat.

The group were more than ably led by our Chairman David Elvins, who has been up until recently a resident of the town. Our first port of call was the parish church, where our picnic lunch was taken and then David led us along the old railway line alongside the Wye, taking various and little known alleyways and shortcuts, many new to me. We visited many of the locations in Hay that Francis Kilvert knew so well and mentions in his *Diary* entries.

Our visit now however took a novel turn, David transformed our visit into a ‘murder mystery tour’ as he revealed in great detail the infamous Armstrong murder case of 1922. We stood

outside the office of the solicitor, Major Herbert Rowse Armstrong, at Beales & Co, more or less opposite the office of local rivals Gadds, where the solicitor was Oswald Martin. The long and short of it was Martin suspected Armstrong had attempted to poison him with a scone. Martin’s father-in-law, a Mr Davies, was the local pharmacist in Hay and at the later trial testified that Armstrong had bought from him arsenic supposedly ‘to kill the dandelions in his garden’. These suspicions had been raised with the local physician Dr Hinks by Martin and they both contacted the Home Office in London. Armstrong was subsequently arrested on 31 December 1921 and was taken to the lock-up at Hay police station where ironically he was clerk to the Magistrates Court.

David led us to the various locations, from the solicitors’ offices to the site of the pharmacy and Dr Hinks’s surgery opposite the clock, now a children’s bookshop and the court house and police station. We then proceeded up Cusop Dingle, pausing outside

minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting continued

ii. Monuments and Collection: In last year’s balance sheet we showed the purchase of the photo album (£1100). This year we have paid £600 towards the restoration of Addie Cholmeley’s grave at Croft (Lincs). A further £550 towards the cost of this will appear in the 2014 accounts. We wish to place on record our very grateful thanks to Mr Mark Caudwell, who has donated £500 towards the work, the total cost to the Society therefore being £650. We also benefited from a discount of 10% on the original price by courtesy of the monumental mason, Frank Wood & Sons. The Society very much appreciates this gesture.

iii. Printing: The cost of printing and publishing the Photo Album book accounts for this year’s increased figure. This worthwhile project was carried out in a remarkably short time. John Toman is to be congratulated on this achievement.

iv. Journal: The rising cost of posting the *Journal* is responsible for the increase here; the actual production cost of the *Journal* has been held for more than five years.

v. Transfer: £3000 was transferred from the Nationwide account to the Lloyds account to cover a possible shortfall or unexpected payments on the cost of the Photo Album book. This proved not to be the case but the money remains in the Lloyds account.

Comments and questions followed, chiefly centred around the underpaid or unpaid subscriptions, which effectively represented a loss of approximately £600 to the Society. The Secretary promised that the committee would examine the problem and see how it could be resolved.

Charles Weston asked whether the website costs were likely to increase. Charles Boase replied that the main cost here was the updating of the events page. However the importance and value of the site to the Society was, once again, emphasised by the Secretary.

The motion to accept the accounts was proposed, seconded and carried. The balance sheet is attached.

Election of officers

Charles Weston proposed and Val Dixon seconded the motion that the present officers be re-elected en bloc. This was passed nem con.

Chairman	Mr D Elvins
Hon Vice Chairman	Mr M Sharp
Hon Treasurer	Mr R Weston
Hon Auditor	Mr J Wilks
Hon Membership Secretary	Mrs S Rose
Hon Publications Manager	Mr C Dixon
Hon Secretary	Mr A Brimson
The following are ex-officio Officers	
Hon Archivist	Mr C Dixon
Hon Minutes Secretary	Mr CJ Marshall
Hon Editor of the <i>Journal</i>	Mr C Boase

Election of the committee

Sue Rose proposed and Patsy Weston seconded the motion that the present committee be re-elected en bloc. This was likewise passed nem con.

Existing Committee (in addition to the above Officers)

Mrs VJ Dixon, Mrs M Oliver
Mr EJ Hall, Mr MJ Reynolds, Mr P Beddall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm. Members then adjourned to the adjacent conference room for refreshments, re-assembling later for a talk by the Very Reverend Michael Tavinor, the Dean of Hereford, who spoke about his early life as recorded in his diary and about his recent publication *Saints and Sinners of the Marches*. He was charmingly assisted by Sandy Elliott who had illustrated the book.

the home of Armstrong and his wife and three children, then known as 'Mayfield'.

His wife had died in 1920 and doubts were raised over the circumstances of her death. Her body was exhumed from Cusop churchyard and taken to the old school opposite. Here, a post mortem examination was performed by Sir Bernard Spilsbury and her body was found to contain arsenic. The body was reinterred in the churchyard, this time in an unmarked grave.

Armstrong's trial was held in Hereford in 1922. Found guilty, he was hanged at Gloucester gaol on 31 May 1922. It is now thought the trial was flawed and that today the Court of Appeal would have ordered a re-trial.

After 'Mayfield' and the Old School in Cusop, our stroll took us to Cusop church, where we returned to matters Kilvertian. In the church of Kilvert's good friend Andrew Pope we came upon by chance the Society's hon auditor John Wilks, a local resident, who was busy doing some maintenance work.

Leaving the church behind us we descended through the village of Cusop before crossing Cusop brook, from England back into Wales. Our route took us through a delightful meadow. Below lay Hay on Wye spread out before us. This again was an aspect of Hay I personally had not viewed before. We returned to the Hay parish room for a sumptuous cream tea and a most welcomed cup of tea. A nice surprise was to find among the helpers our former committee member Elizabeth Rowe.

My worry was now how many members would brave the narrow lanes to meet at Llanthony Priory for a picnic lunch the next day, Sunday. In contrast to the previous day's attendance a good throng of members arrived in good time to view the ruined priory and enjoy a picnic lunch. We were again blessed with 'Kilvert weather', bright and warm in the late summer sunshine. Before our departure our member Michael Tod good sportingly re-enacted the *vulgar, illbred, offensive and loathsome British tourist* by pointing out what to admire about the ruins with his faithful sturdy walking stick!

The group then proceeded, en convoy and without mishap, up the ever narrower lane to Capel-y-Ffin where it had been arranged for us to park in the field behind the little church of St

Mary. Here we were in the heart of the countryside that Francis Kilvert so loved.

We had time on our hands and most of the party took the short walk up to the remains of Father Ignatius' monastery and returned back down to Capel-y-Ffin crossing the bridge over the Honddu brook, where, Kilvert records, *before the chapel house door by the brookside a buxom, comely, wholesome girl with fair hair rosy face blue eyes and fair clear skin stood washing at a tub in the*

sunshine, up to the elbows of her round white lusty arms in soapsuds.

We returned to the beautiful little church nestling in the steep sided valley for evensong and our commemorative service. This was conducted by Father Richard Williams, Vicar of Hay, who also played the harmonium so well. He was assisted by his 'curate' Jimmy and new addition of Daisy the Deaconess, both handsome standard poodles. Over the years Father Richard has been a good friend of the Kilvert Society and I was pleased that we provided a good congregation for him. The tiny chapel was packed to the rafters with standing room only available to latecomers.

The service commenced with the hymn *Who would true valour see* by John Bunyon to the tune of Monk's Gate, followed by *God that madest earth and heaven* – the English version of that great Welsh hymn *Ar hyd y nos* – Charles Wesley's *Love divine all loves excelling*, and *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah* to the tune Cwm Rhondda.

The readings were by our vice-chairman, Michael Sharp (Genesis ch35, 1-15) and our minutes secretary and former Editor of the *Journal*, Jeff Marshall (Matthew ch5, 1-20) Father Richard preached movingly of Kilvert and his place in the beautiful local landscape. The singing of the hymns reverberated around the packed little church, and I wondered exactly when was the last time its walls had echoed to such hearty singing. This was a truly Kilvertian occasion in a magical setting, long to remain in the memory of all in attendance.

Members then returned over the Gospel Pass to Hay and the parish rooms where society member Diana Jones and her team of ladies from the church had, for the second day running, laid on a magnificent tea in the grand tradition of the Kilvert Society, drawing our activities for 2014 to a close.



Michael Tod with his famous stout staff gamely plays the 'noxious' British tourist amid the ruins of Llanthony Priory



In praise of Kilvert's loving vision

We learn through Kilvert that love is anything but blind, FR RICHARD WILLIAMS told us in his sermon for our Commemorative Service at Capel-y-Ffin. He praised the Diarist for seeing those people and things that surrounded him with eyes that are open and clear. Love is eye and heart opening, he said

I WOULDN'T dare start speaking to you about Kilvert because you know far more about Kilvert than I do. But I was reading in the *Diaries* about when he met the Solitary at Llanbedr and was rather moved by that. I will just remind you of it. I am a trustee of the Fr Ignatius trust and I do know that a week after he met the Solitary he came across one of the Anglican monks of the new monastery of Fr Ignatius. It is interesting he met a holy man and, a week after, met a very young postulant at the monastery. The date is July of 1872:

When we came down from off the hill the Solitary compelled us to come into his hut again and sit down for a while. The gambo stood at the door with its load of mawn but the landlord and his horse and son were gone home. At our request the anchorite hunted among his piles of rubbish with a candlestick covered with the thick grease of years, trying unsuccessfully to find one of his shorthand pamphlets in print. But to give us an idea of his system he drew to the table a flour pan covered with a board, and sitting down on it he produced a pencil and a piece of paper and for our benefit wrote in shorthand the following verse which he had seen in a sampler lately in a farm house and which had taken his fancy:

*A little health,
A little wealth,
A little house and freedom,
And at the end
A little friend
And little cause to need him. Sweet!*

This verse the Solitary wrote with extraordinary rapidity and conciseness. A dozen strokes and the thing was done. He said he had no opportunity of trying the new system of shorthand he had discovered except by writing his sermons in it.

Looking round his habitation it seemed suddenly to occur to him that it was not just like other people's. 'I am afraid', he said, 'that I am not very tidy to-day.' A little girl, he told us, came to make his bed and tidy up, four days a week.

Going to a dark corner he routed out three wine glasses which he washed carefully at the door. Then he rummaged out a bottle of wine and drawing up his flour pan to the table and taking his seat upon it he filled our glasses with some black mixture which he called I suppose port and bade us drink.

The Solitary accompanied us to Pencommon to get the horse and then showed us the way down the lanes towards the Church. The people who met him touched their hats to his reverence with great respect. They recognized him as a very holy man and if the Solitary had lived a thousand years ago he would have been revered as a hermit and perhaps canonised as a Saint. At a gate leading into a lane we parted. There was a resigned look in his quiet melancholy blue eyes. The last I saw of him was that he was leaning on the gate looking after us. Then I saw him no more. He had gone back I suppose to his grey hut in the green cwm.

The evening became lovely with a heavenly loveliness. The sinking sun shot along the green pastures with a vivid golden light and striking through the hedges here and there tipped a leaf or a foxglove head with a beam of brilliant green or purple.

That dear old Solitary of Llanbedr, living in squalor, I suppose, but living in glory because he has an eye for the presences of God, not over and despite creation but through and within it.

This is the secret of the Solitary, this is the secret of a saint, this is the secret of Christ, this is the secret of God, to see heaven, to see truth, not way up in a Sinai-type experience with flashings of lightnings above some vast mountain top like our Black Mountain here but rather to see glory, to see God, to see truth at our feet.

I couldn't help thinking, comparing this Solitary, if he lived in 2014, and he was the Vicar of Llanbedr or the Vicar of Hay in this day and age. He'd have gone to a meeting, which I unfortunately was the victim of, going to a diocesan meeting and hearing about 'messy church', hearing about all this kind of rubbish, and he would be thought of as a complete idiot, wouldn't he, as a fool. Kilvert said, if he had lived a thousand years ago he would have been revered as a hermit and perhaps canonised as a saint. But if he lived 150-odd years later, in these days, he would have been thought of as an eccentric, as someone best pensioned off, got rid of, for the 'brave new church'.

The thing that I have perceived of my little reading of *Kilvert's Diary* is that he does paint, he's got a pictorial way of writing. He does paint a picture of the area in which he lives and the people who live in that area. And far from that rather cynical dictum that people sometimes come out with – they say that love is blind – we learn through Kilvert that love is actually anything but blind. It is, as the ancient Jewish tradition has it, it is the state of the open eye. You can't really describe something clearly and vividly unless you have a vivid eye, an eye which is open. So, love, far from being eye-closing, is eye and heart opening. And the way he describes people and the way he describes. . . I came across something the other day where he was walking through a field of wheat and the gentle wind and the breeze were blowing the wheatheads in a wonderful synchronised flowing pattern and he recognised it, he didn't just see it, but he recognised it as the wheat blessing God. Vespers being said by so-called brute creation. And on this feast day, the feast of St Michael the Archangel and All the Angels, which we keep today in this parish, strictly it is tomorrow, we do ask God for an eye for the unseen.

Many years ago I went to the Wigmore Hall to hear a piano recital and I came in too late to have a programme and anyway I knew that there was a contemporary piece of music by a very good Spanish composer, so I didn't know where it was going to come in the programme. And then the pianist – brilliant pianist – started playing something that was full of vivid silver light and wonderful deep-hued flowers. You could hear all these colours in the music and I thought, That's the piece by the Spanish contemporary composer and indeed it was. I was right in that, but that was not due to me being very very sensitive, it was absolutely all there. You could hear the Spanish sunshine. You could hear, smell, see, every sense, those vivid coloured flowers which are in so many parts of Spain.

And it is interesting to me that, as a musician myself, I do

At the beginning of the service, Fr Richard talked about the vision of Our Lady of Capel-y-Ffin:

In the corner of the church there is the icon of Our Lady of Capel-y-Ffin. There is a lovely story about that, which I am sure Francis Kilvert would have known of. The little boy on Mary's right, he's got open hands, the same as the little girl on the other side. They were playing cricket with an improvised bat, which was a stick, in the abbot's meadow, just by Fr Ignatius' place where Francis Kilvert met Fr Ignatius himself and his mother, Mrs Lyne. When the Presence was beginning to manifest herself there was a light across the mountain and what makes me very believing actually of the authenticity of the image of the Virgin being seen there is the little child dropped his stick. Before dropping his stick he said to his friend – his name was Tom Ford – 'If that thing comes any closer to me I'll hit it with my stick.' And that has the ring of authenticity; it's not a little French peasant child maybe saying an Ave Maria or whatever but a wonderful, very human, inept response to epiphanies of the divine. The best we can do really as Christians is to do something mysterious with the bread and wine in response to the manifestation of God. And I find it very touching that a little boy wanted to hit Mary with a stick. I find it rather marvellous. We are all kids when it comes to coming into the presence of God, and his ineptitude is an icon of how all of us are in the presence of mystery. The little boy's stick, it lies at his feet, but his hands far from being vacant are full of awe and recognition of mystery.

In our prayers we prayer a blessing on all those who inspire us through writing, through lives lived. We bless God for Kilvert, for his Diaries, for his love of this area and its people, for his sight in seeing those people around him and the things that surrounded him with eyes that are open and clear. We pray for a share in open sight.

In our prayers, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted in the ancient places of the Church, in Syria, Iraq, North Africa – so many places now. We bless



God for the faithfulness of, in some places, two thousand years of witness in the Church's ancient places, holding to the ancient faith of the Apostles.

We pray for those who have fled, for those unable to flee through illness or through other circumstance. We pray for peace in the world.

We pray that we ourselves, who pray for peace, may be peacemakers. Not necessarily peacekeepers where something is wrong, but people who make peace.

We bless God that he enlarges our hearts through other human beings.

notice that in what the musician or the poet or the artist or the diarist really loves there is a quality not only of that which is beholden but there is something from deep within him or her which flows out into what he creates or she creates, same as that pianist, and same as Kilvert as well.

This is all to do with the open eye, of seeing things very very clearly and if you think of the Artist of all artists, the Musician who has composed the spheres and all things that are, then God's essential nature is invisibility and so most of his creation, if I can be so vulgar as to use decimals, 99.999 per cent of his creation must be invisible because that is how the artist, the musician works. Out of their very nature they produce something of excellence and beauty.

So it is wonderful to think of the angels and the archangels, the principalities, the powers, the dominions, the authorities, whatever those are, the cherubim, the seraphim, the natural by-products of a creative God who's invisible. We say in the Creed,

Creator of all things visible and invisible. I think maybe we ought to put it the other way round – Creator of all things invisible and that small part too of his creation that which is visible, of you and me and that great mountain behind me.

Here, at this little church, it is Bethel, in other words a place of encounter with God, it is where God comes to meet us. I often say about this church that this is where God comes and takes his shoes off, kicks them off, and puts his slippers on, because this is God's home as much as his house. There is something beautifully domestic not only for us but for God. And we discover that the things of the kitchen are the things of the sanctuary, the bread and wine, out of all our kitchens they are found in the sanctuaries of God too.

So maybe on this day when we think of the angels, messengers of God, and we think of that particular messenger of God, Kilvert, we pray for a share in their open eye, that we may speak of things that we have seen.

Sparing the rod . . . Alexander Constantine Ionides and Euterpe Ionides and their children in this 1841 oil painting by GF Watts. It hangs in the Watts Gallery at Guildford



Don't let's get the Victorians all wrong

We should not let stereotypes of the Victorians get in the way of understanding how funny, kindly and clever they were – and relaxed about the body too, says AN WILSON

Having spent much of my adult life studying the Victorian age, I am frequently puzzled by the clichés and stereotypes so often repeated, not only in journalism but even in serious history books.

We are asked to believe that the Victorians were all amazingly puritanical, hung up on sex, and so afraid of the erotic that they covered chair legs with upholstery lest the word 'leg' led their thoughts astray.

The picture that emerges in a recent book, *Fatherhood and the British Working Class*, by social historian Julie-Marie Strange, is very different indeed from the image of the stern Victorian male.

While mothers commonly warned misbehaving children that fathers would strap them when they came home from work, Dr Strange found almost no evidence that Victorian fathers hit their children any more than we do – and perhaps rather less. It seems David Beckham and Jamie Oliver were not the first generation of 'new dads'. There were plenty of kindly Victorian men who loved their children and were loved in return.

But this is not the only way we've been getting the Victorians wrong all these years. Although portrayed as puritanical, they were in many ways more relaxed about the human body than we are.

I recently read in the news of some naked bathers being threatened by a local authority for having committed an act of indecency – just by skinny-dipping. How different from the Victorians, who regularly bathed naked. The Rev Francis Kilvert, one of their best diarists, described visiting Weston-super-Mare in the 1870s and watching the crowds, all naked, gambolling in the water. 'There was a delicious feeling of freedom in stripping in the open air, and running naked down to the sea,' he wrote.

We are often told the Victorians had a cruel justice system and, yes, they had the death penalty. But when two eight-year-old working class boys, Peter Barratt and James Bradley, killed an infant in 1861, in circumstances eerily similar to the murder of James Bulger in 1993, there was far less hue and cry than in our press. The killers, deemed too young to be murderers, were sent to a reformatory school for five years for manslaughter, then spirited away. One imagines they joined the army. Both the judicial system and the press took an enlightened view of the tragedy.

It is often said Victorians were all religious maniacs, biblical literalists who were shocked to the core by Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. In fact, many of Darwin's keenest supporters were broad-minded clergymen, such as *The Water-Babies* author Charles Kingsley. Those who opposed Darwin most vociferously

were the scientific establishment of his day, not the Church.

In his memoirs of Victorian childhood, GK Chesterton remarked that, by the 1890s, 'atheism was the religion of the suburbs'. I once toured London's East End with an elderly clergyman who could remember the days just after the First World War. Pointing to a huge church, I said, 'Built in the age of faith!' 'Not so,' replied the priest. 'Built by a rich priest as a propaganda exercise. No one, but no one, ever attended that huge building. The services were always empty.'

But surely we know that the Queen was 'not amused'? Victoria, we are told, was a prude if ever there was one, never laughed, and was utterly pompous. Having just written a biography of her, I saw how those who edited her letters wanted to present an image of her to the world that was quite unlike her real self. She had a keen sense of humour and was always getting the giggles.

And she was indulgent towards friends when they got into scrapes. When the mad Marquess of Queensberry, who persecuted Oscar Wilde, accused the Liberal prime minister, Lord Rosebery, of being gay, the Queen (who did not know whether this was true or false) sensibly advised the PM to go abroad until the fuss had died down.

So where did this dour image of the Victorians come from? When Bertrand Russell, the philosopher, was jailed during the First World War for being a conscientious objector, his warder was surprised to hear laughter coming from his cell. He went in and saw Russell reading a volume by his friend Lytton Strachey, called *Eminent Victorians*.

Russell, the grandson of Liberal prime minister Lord John Russell, had experienced an austere upbringing, largely at the hands of a rather frightening grandmother. Strachey saw many such alarming parent figures in the upper-class world to which he and Russell belonged, and when they grew up and formed the friendship group that became known as the Bloomsbury Set, they determined to lampoon everything about the Victorians.

In reality, the Victorians were far more varied than our stereotypes would have us believe; far more prepared to adapt and change, far funnier, far cleverer and possessing the all-important capacity for self-criticism. Dr Strange's research has dispelled yet another myth: like the humourless Queen and the sexual prudes, the stern Victorian father was a figure of fantasy.

We are grateful to The Daily Telegraph for their kind permission to reprint this book review; and to Eva Morgan for alerting us to the article



What will the master of the 'Pirate' find to lie about now?

ROB GRAVES concludes his study of Admiral Sir Hugh Evan-Thomas (the charming 'Hughie' we meet in the very first pages of the Diary) with an account of how his central role at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 overshadowed the rest of his life, leaving him prematurely aged and in permanently poor health

ON 30 May 1916 Naval Intelligence deciphered German radio messages to the effect that the High Seas Fleet was planning to put to sea the next day in a movement up the west coast of Denmark. This information was transmitted to Jellicoe by the Admiralty, and on that same evening, in darkness to avoid being spotted by submarines or zeppelins, the Grand Fleet slipped their moorings and headed out to intercept the Germans. At Rosyth, Beatty's six remaining battlecruisers along with their supporting cruisers and destroyers and the Fifth Battle Squadron – though minus the squadron's name-ship *Queen Elizabeth* which had gone into dry dock at Rosyth for refit – did the same. They left their bases four and a half hours before any German ship had got under way. The first stage of the Battle of Jutland had been set in motion.

Although in the minds of many in these ships there still lurked doubts as to whether this might be just another wild goose chase and that the German battlefleet might not be met with after all, there cannot have been a man among them who was not at least hoping for a knock-out blow against the German High Seas Fleet, a victory to rank with Trafalgar. This was the opportunity they had all been waiting for, it was what the country wanted and it was the reason why their massive fleet had been created in the first place. This, they hoped, might at last be their chance of glory in the time-honoured tradition of the Royal Navy. No-one could have foreseen the failings and

inadequacies the coming confrontation would disclose. Amidst the underlying mood of expectation there were few who recognised the uncomfortable truth that Trafalgar had been fought more than a century ago, that those long years of British command of the seas had bred an air of complacency in the Navy, a sense of innate superiority that had not been earned in battle, and that initiative, the key to each of Nelson's victories, had been all but eliminated among the senior officers, to be replaced by conformity and centralisation. Their ships might have been the products of the most up to date technologies, but the men who sailed forth that night were not the battle-hardened veterans of Nelson's navy, nor were their systems and procedures shaped and honed by years of war. The consequences of the 'long calm lee of Trafalgar'¹⁰ were soon to become fatefully evident, as

much to Hugh Evan-Thomas as to many of his fellow officers.

Much has been written about Jutland, and controversy has raged over the battle ever since it was fought. One thing, though, which remains beyond dispute is that Jutland too, at least in its first and longest stage, would be an action centred round the battlecruisers. When, on the afternoon of 31 May, the battlecruiser squadrons of the opposing sides met, both well ahead of their supporting battlefleets, it was by the purest accident. German destroyers and the British light cruiser *Galatea*, going to investigate a Danish steamer whilst scouting ahead for their respective forces, suddenly found themselves face to face. *Galatea* at once made the signal 'enemy in sight', and the first exchanges of fire took place. It was shortly after this that an incident occurred which has long been a source of argument, and which has a direct bearing on the role played by Hugh Evan-Thomas in this crucial phase of the battle.

Prior to receiving *Galatea's* signal, Beatty's Battlecruiser Fleet had just turned to a course of north by east in order to effect a rendezvous with Jellicoe heading down from Scapa. The enemy sighting, however, caused Beatty to order a hurried change of course to south south-east issued first to his destroyers and then in the form of a general signal to the battlecruisers and the Fifth Battle Squadron. Unfortunately, for reasons never satisfactorily explained, Beatty had chosen to station the four ships of the Fifth Battle Squadron, *Barham*

(Hugh's flagship), *Warspite*, *Valiant* and *Malaya* at a distance of five miles from his battlecruisers. His signal to turn to south south-east, made by flags, appears not to have been made out on *Barham* at this distance, and Hugh's response to the sight of Beatty's six battlecruisers making off at speed in a haze of smoke was to assume that he was to revert to the zigzag course – a deterrent against submarines – which the entire force had been following before their turn to north by east. He accordingly ordered a change of course to north by west, one directly opposed to that taken by Beatty. What was worse, he continued to hold this course, delaying any decision to turn in pursuit of Beatty, for a full seven or eight minutes (the timing is disputed), thereby lengthening the gap between his squadron and Beatty to about ten miles. The consequence of this delay – it has been



Hugh Evan-Thomas as a young officer

described by Gordon as 'doubt and dither'¹¹ – was that the Fifth Battle Squadron, the most powerful body of ships at Beatty's disposal, was for some twenty minutes prevented from entering the action which had now begun in earnest. During those twenty minutes, as the British and German battlecruisers blasted away at each other, the first British loss of the day occurred when the battlecruiser *Indefatigable* was blown apart by an explosion in her magazines with the loss of 1,017 men.

Twenty-four minutes later the *Queen Mary* suffered a similar fate, prompting Beatty's infamous remark: 'There seems to be something wrong with our bloody ships today.' By this time, though, Hugh had awoken to the situation, turned his squadron about and managed to bring his fifteen inch guns to bear on the Germans with considerably greater accuracy than was being achieved by the battlecruisers, notorious for their poor shooting. Beatty was later to express his warmest gratitude to him for this act, though the sentiment was to be short-lived. Despite this intervention, the battle seemed at the present juncture to be going very much in the Germans' favour. Not only had two British battlecruisers been lost, but Hipper, the German battlecruiser commander, was also drawing Beatty's ships straight towards the heavy guns of the oncoming High Seas Fleet. It must have looked to the Germans as though their strategy of isolating and destroying a portion of the Grand Fleet was about to succeed. Very soon they might have not only the battlecruisers in their trap but the Fifth Battle Squadron as well.

And here a second controversial incident was about to occur, it too hingeing on an aspect of questionable British flag signalling. With the outlines of Scheer's dreadnoughts growing visible on the horizon, Beatty ordered his heavily pummelled battlecruisers to reverse course and head away from the approaching danger. The Fifth Battle Squadron, astern of him, was meanwhile maintaining its south-easterly course. It was clearly Beatty's intention, as his battlecruisers headed north, to signal to *Barham* to turn and follow him as their squadrons passed each other. This signal was duly made, but not made executive (ie hauled down) for a full three minutes. The result of the delay was that for those three minutes Hugh's squadron continued on a course that took them straight into the fire of the German battlefleet. Whether this was another consequence of 'doubt and dither', and on whose part, will never be known for certain.

Hugh has been called 'the signals guru of the pre-war navy'¹², and he was still the most experienced flag-officer in this field. It was neither in his temperament nor his training to react improperly to a signal received by flags, and as he stood on towards the High Seas Fleet, waiting for the critical haul-down, he closed the distance between himself and the Germans by four thousand yards. By the time his squadron eventually made its turn it was well within the range of several German battleships, whose gunners were able to concentrate their fire with ease on the spot where each of his ships turned in succession. It was the purest luck that none of them was disabled or lost at this point in the action.

It was Beatty's signals officer, Lieutenant Ralph Seymour, later blamed by Beatty for 'losing three battles for me,' who received most censure for this error. Yet there does emerge here an underlying pattern of failure in procedures that characterises the way the battle was fought on the British side. Beatty himself must take a heavy share of the blame on this occasion. Incredible though it may appear, during the few days spent by the Fifth Battle Squadron at Rosyth, Beatty seems to have made no attempt to acquaint Hugh with his general doctrine as a fleet commander.

He failed to furnish Hugh with a copy of Battlecruiser Fleet Battle Orders detailing procedures to be carried out by ships under his command, and there is no record of any meeting between the two men prior to the battle. These failures are symptomatic of a more widespread malaise. To Jellicoe's frustration, such basic lapses of communication were to hamper the effectiveness of British tactics throughout the battle.

The same failings would become acutely evident in the next phase of the action. With Beatty's four remaining battlecruisers and the Fifth Battle Squadron finally heading north, it was now they who were leading the Germans into the trap presented by Jellicoe's Grand Fleet, steaming at full speed towards them. Unfortunately, Jellicoe, desperate for information about the enemy, was

receiving pitifully little from Beatty and none at all from Hugh Evan-Thomas. Only the cruiser *Southampton* was giving him any of this vital information. The main culpability here must clearly fall on Beatty, but Hugh, his squadron closest to the Germans, must also be considered at fault. As Andrew Gordon rather damningly puts it, again emphasising Hugh's experience as a signals officer: 'That he should not think of signalling to Jellicoe the enemy's position, course and speed was an abnegation of his specialised career credentials.'¹³ Although, in his defence, it should be pointed out that *Barham's* wireless telegraph was by this time out of action, it would still have been within his power to relay messages through one of his consorts.

At about six o'clock, with daylight starting to fade, the Grand Fleet came into sight. Even now, in response to Jellicoe's urgent appeals for information, Beatty was less than forthcoming. It was only after a second direct request that the Commander in Chief managed to elicit from Beatty details of the enemy's bearing. This was vital information if Jellicoe was to deploy his battlefleet so as to 'cross the T' of the Germans, ie deploy his dreadnoughts in line across the head of the enemy in order that all his heavy guns could be concentrated on Scheer's fleet. Even as he did so there occurred one more loss to the Battlecruiser Fleet as *Invincible*, leading the Third Battlecruiser Squadron on Jellicoe's left flank, blew up, taking 1,026 of her men with her. An entire third of the battlecruisers present at Jutland had now been lost.

This tragedy aside, by 6.30pm, the Germans found themselves to their horror confronting a seemingly interminable wall of fire as the Grand Fleet opened up on them. Realising he had blundered into Jellicoe's trap, Scheer ordered an about-turn. After only some fifteen minutes the Germans were in full retreat. The first fleet engagement was over almost as soon as it had begun.

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The senior British naval officers of World War I are captured for posterity in this 1921 tableau by Sir Arthur Stockdale Cope. Jellicoe is seated at the right and Beatty is the beribboned figure standing in the centre. Admiral Sir Hugh Evan-Thomas is three to the right of Beatty, at the back under the globe. The picture is reproduced by kind permission of the National Portrait Gallery

One further clash did occur between the fleets before the day had run its course. This took place when Scheer, finding himself too far west for comfort and with Jellicoe now blocking his route home, turned back only to run straight into the Grand Fleet's broadsides yet again. Scheer turned away to flee for a second time. Facing a torpedo attack from destroyers covering the German retreat, Jellicoe too veered off, to the south-east, a move that has since been the subject of much criticism, allowing as it did the High Seas Fleet to make its escape with only forty minutes of daylight remaining. This was to prove the last clash of the battlefleets at Jutland.

Later that night, Scheer, once more reversing course, managed somehow to steer his mauled ships through a gap between the rear of the British battlefleet and the British destroyer flotillas following at a distance behind. Fierce actions were fought in the dark and the glare of searchlights between the Germans and British light cruisers and destroyers. Stationed in the rear of the Grand Fleet's night cruising formation was the Fifth Battle Squadron, by now reduced to only three ships with the withdrawal of *Warspite* in the evening due to damaged steering gear. Although aware of the destroyer actions astern of them, and despite sighting German ships in the darkness, neither Hugh nor any of his captains – nor any other

British senior officer in the vicinity for that matter – made any attempt to inform the Commander in Chief of what was going on behind them. The last chance to inflict significant damage on the High seas Fleet had been thrown away. This was to be the final act in the Jutland drama. Once safely to the east of the Grand Fleet and with the route to their base open, the Germans were able to return to the safety of Wilhelmshaven. The Battle of Jutland was over.

Or was it? In some ways the Battle of Jutland did not end in those fateful early hours of 1 June 1916 as a disappointed Grand Fleet returned to its own bases. The battle's repercussions would resonate for years, growing ever more acrimonious and bringing into sharp focus the actions and personalities of the three admirals who had played such key roles in its enactment: Jellicoe, Beatty and Hugh Evan-Thomas.

It would resolve itself into a battle of recriminations from which none of the three would emerge totally unscathed, but in the course of which Beatty's efforts to shift blame from himself were to prove particularly unedifying. On 4 June, three days after his return to Rosyth, Hugh received Beatty's glowing letter of appreciation for the role he had played in the battle: 'Just a line to thank you from the bottom of my heart,' Beatty wrote, 'for your gallant and effective support on Wednesday. It was fine to see your fine squadron sail down as

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it did. I hope your good ships are not too much knocked about. *Warspite* will not be long, nothing serious. Your coming down in support and young Bertie Hood's magnificent handling of his squadron will remain in my mind for ever.'¹⁴ This was one of numerous letters of congratulation sent to Hugh from many and varied quarters at this time as the Navy, in the light of German claims of victory, set about presenting the battle to the British public not as a missed opportunity but as a re-assertion of British command of the seas. Hugh was now hailed as the saviour of the battlecruisers and a hero of Jutland. In August he was made a KCB, and in June 1917, following Jellicoe's replacement as Commander in Chief by Beatty, he was knighted aboard *Queen Elizabeth* by his old friend King George V, Beatty in a characteristically theatrical gesture handing the King his own sword for the purpose.

It is a common misconception that after Jutland the High Seas Fleet never left port. In fact it did so on no fewer than three occasions, in August and October 1916, and also on 22 April 1918, but it was never again brought to battle. The final surrender of the German fleet on 21 November 1918 was not witnessed by Hugh. On 1 October, he had relinquished command of the Fifth Battle Squadron and gone ashore. In March 1921 he was appointed Commander in Chief at the Nore, one of the three home port commands, along with Portsmouth and Plymouth, reserved for the Navy's 'elder statesmen'.

Beatty, meanwhile, in November 1919 had gone on to the Admiralty to take up the post of First Sea Lord. On arrival there he found on his desk a copy of a record of Jutland commissioned by his predecessor, Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, and produced by Captain John Harper. This, the so-called Harper Report, contained, to Beatty's dismay, some stark criticisms of his part in the battle. Harper had singled out in particular his neglect to keep Jellicoe informed of the enemy's position, his failure to inflict damage on a numerically inferior enemy during his clash with Hipper (including the Fifth Battle Squadron, Beatty had ten capital ships at his disposal as against five German battlecruisers), and the inaccuracy of the battlecruisers' firing. The outcome of this discomfiting discovery, and Beatty's efforts to suppress Harper's findings, were to lead to a long and laboured process to produce a historically accurate account of the battle. Its consequences were to have a devastating effect on Hugh.

Among the Bourdillon family papers at Llwynmadoc is a letter to Hugh from Oswald Frewen who had assisted Harper in compiling his report. In it Frewen summarises this process, by now several years old, and highlights Beatty's determination to get Harper's account suppressed to suit his own version of events. According to Frewen, the outcome of Beatty's intervention was that, while the Harper Report was passed on, still in an unpub-

lished state, to the naval historian Sir Julian Corbett for inclusion in his Great War series of books, the Navy now set itself to producing what became known as a 'Staff Appreciation' of the battle for internal naval consumption only. Frewen refers to this, the work of the brothers Alfred and Kenneth Dewar, as a 'precis', and he is scathing of their endeavours to muddle through the conflicting battlecruiser signals and reports. The final version of this 'Appreciation', though acceptable to Beatty with its plaudits for him and criticism of Jellicoe, was however considered unfit to

be issued by the Navy. In the end the Directorate of Training and Staff Duties was given the task of compiling an account of the battle free of venom and personal animosity, and this eventually took the form of the Admiralty Narrative of the Battle of Jutland.

A proof copy of this was sent to Jellicoe, now Governor-General of New Zealand, in 1922. Jellicoe was horrified by the criticism it contained not only of himself but also of Hugh Evan-Thomas, both in regard to the latter's delay in turning to the south south-east in the battle's early phase and in the later turn to the north. On the first point Jellicoe, ever loyal to his old friend, made his feelings plain in a letter to Hugh, in which he stressed that according to his own Grand Fleet Battle Orders the signal to turn to south south-east should not have been made by flags alone but should have been repeated by signal lamp and wireless, and that no blame could be attached to Hugh for his inability to read flag signals at a distance of five

miles. While on the turn to the north he was adamant that Hugh had acted correctly in waiting for the executive signal to be made.

Despite Jellicoe's welcome, if distant, support, Hugh was now growing increasingly anxious that this final record of the battle would on publication reflect badly on him. He accordingly requested an interview with the current First Lord of the Admiralty, Leo Amery, to put his case and to ask that amendments be made to the Narrative taking into account his own view of events.

A first meeting with Amery in July 1923 had no effect. A second meeting, scheduled for 3 December, took a most bizarre form. It seems that Beatty, still First Sea Lord, having got wind of Hugh's visit, waylaid Hugh as he was entering Amery's office, and, in Hugh's own words, pushed him out of the room on the pretext of having an urgent matter of his own to discuss with the First Lord. The interview did not take place.

On his way back to Chatham, Admiral Sir Hugh Evan-Thomas, seething with resentment and frustration at this treatment, suffered a partial stroke. Four months later he retired from the Navy to spend a large part of his remaining years in nursing homes. In the Birthday Honours list for 1924 his KCB was upgraded to GCB, though he was not fit enough to attend the award ceremony and would not be so for another year. When, in May



Admiral Sir Hugh Evan-Thomas with his flag lieutenant

1925, he was sufficiently well to receive his award in London, he was granted a half-hour interview with the King. Even King George, however, could do nothing to help him achieve a fair hearing at the Admiralty, being fearful of further controversy and anxious in those difficult days for the Navy to have Beatty stay on as First Sea Lord.

Hugh never regained his health, though he was somewhat heartened by the eventual publication of German accounts of Jutland which offered a fairer perspective on his role in the battle. As he wrote from a Harrogate nursing home in 1926, referring to an account penned by Hipper: 'So now the Germans and especially Hipper my especial enemy have published so much I am wondering if the master and crew of the *Pirate* will try and find something different to lie about to keep their face up.'¹⁵ The allusion to Beatty here is uncharacteristically ferocious.

The final blow to Hugh came with the publication in 1927 of Churchill's third volume of his narrative of the Great War, *The World Crisis*. An extract from this was published in *The Times* on 9 February, in which Churchill revealed himself an out and out Beatty advocate (Beatty had been his naval secretary from January 1912 until February 1913 during his term as First Lord and the connexion between the two men can be traced back to a chance encounter in the Sudan in 1898). In the extract Churchill voiced his clear disapproval of the Fifth Battle Squadron's delay in rallying to Beatty's support during the first disputed turn.

Hugh's response to this came in the form of a letter which was published in the newspaper on 15 February. Hugh did not mince his words both in refuting Churchill and condemning Beatty. 'After all,' he wrote with regard to the latter, 'isn't it one of the fundamental principles of naval tactics that an admiral makes sure that his orders are understood by distant parts of his fleet before rushing into space, covered by a smoke screen? Also if, as I believe, he knew that German heavy ships were at sea, should he not have seen that his most important ships were close at hand?' And as for Churchill's views, he states: 'I would submit, as one of the Flag Officers who were there, that they are a mixture of armchair criticism, want of vision from a sailor's point of view, an



Hilda Barnard, who married Hugh in 1894. She came from Cople, near Bedford, and he was to die at her family home in 1928, aged 66, prematurely aged by the long battle over Jutland. There is a memorial to him at Eglwys Oen Duw, near Llwynmadoc, below. Hilda died in 1938



Valiant and *Malaya*, were all scrapped in the years following the war.

REFERENCES

- 10 Andrew Gordon, *The Rules of the Game*, Naval Institute Press 2012, p151
- 11 Ibid, p92
- 12 Charles London, *Jutland 1916: Clash of the Dreadnoughts*, Osprey 2010, p52
- 13 Andrew Gordon, *The Rules of the Game*, p424
- 14 Bourdillon Family Papers
- 15 Ibid
- 16 Ibid

My especial thanks are due to Patrick and Miranda Bourdillon for giving me access to their family papers at Llwynmadoc. Patrick Bourdillon is a direct descendant of Charles Evan-Thomas and the great grandson of Hugh's brother Algernon. ROB GRAVES

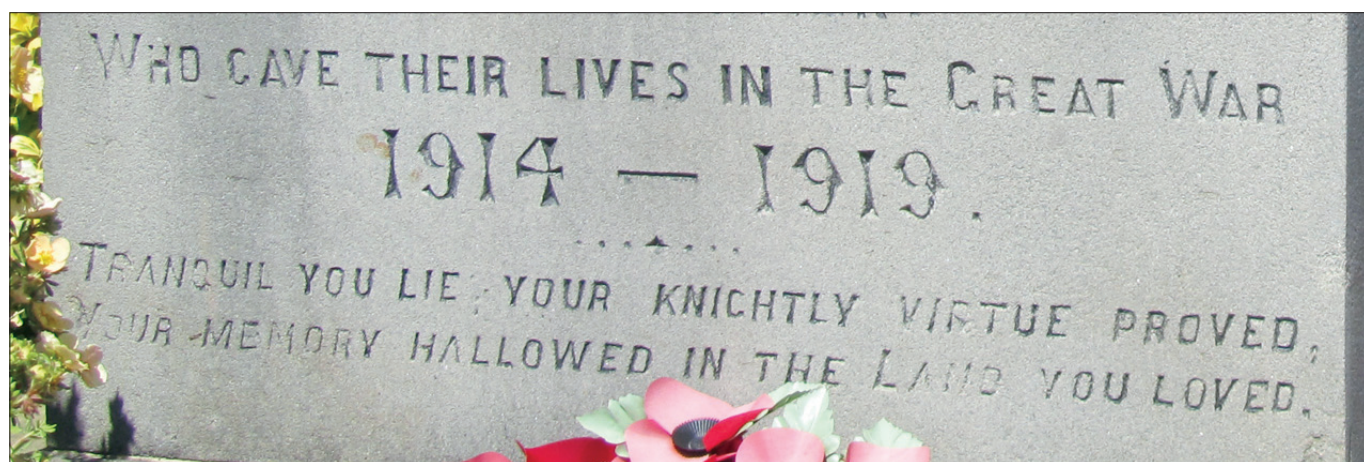
utter disregard of the effects of smoke, gunfire and fog, added to a terribly partisan account.'¹⁶

This was Hugh's parting shot in the Jutland controversy, one in many ways more bitterly fought than the battle itself. What went wrong at Jutland is still a matter of debate. Even now the blame game has not been fully played out, as today's Jellicoeites and Beattyites will attest.

The consequences of the affair left Hugh himself prematurely aged and in permanently poor health. He died, at sixty-six, on 30 May 1928 at the home of his parents-in-law at Cople in Bedfordshire and was buried in the churchyard there.

A memorial service was held for him at Eglwys Oen Duw, and there is a brass plaque to his memory in the church to the left of the altar. His medals, many from abroad, are preserved along with other mementoes of his life at Llwynmadoc, where his portrait occupies a place of honour on the wall of the formal dining room. His wife Hilda, whom he had sought to shield from the worst of the acrimony, outlived him by almost ten years, dying at her Westminster home on 21 February 1938.

The ships of the Fifth Battle Squadron went on to serve in the Second World War. Only *Barham*, Hugh's flagship at Jutland, was lost to enemy action, being sunk by torpedoes fired from *U331* off the Libyan coast in 1941. She suffered a magazine explosion and sank with the loss of 56 officers and 806 ratings. The remaining ships of the class, *Queen Elizabeth*, *Warspite*,



Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved, Your memory hallowed in the Land you loved

THOSE words, inscribed on the war memorial at Clyro (*above and right*) and used to head a feature in the last *Journal* – without a thought on my part as to where they came from – held a deep meaning for our member David Machin, *writes the Editor*.

He wrote: ‘The moving article in the September issue of the *Journal* about members of three *Diary* families who were killed in the First World War is headed by a quotation from the hymn *O Valiant Hearts* (also known as *The Supreme Sacrifice*). This was written by Sir John Arkwright, formerly of Hampton Court, Herefordshire, sometime MP for Hereford and Lord Lieutenant of the county. It was given extra poignancy when, just a short time after it was sung for the first time in Westminster Abbey in August 1917 at a service marking the anniversary of the outbreak of the war, his own brother-in-law, Colonel Richard Chester-Master [of the Moccas Park family], was killed by a sniper at Ypres.

‘The words inscribed on the Clyro war memorial have an extra resonance for me. My elder brother, a teenage midshipman, was killed during the Battle of Crete in 1941, and is buried in the El Alamein cemetery. Long before I met my wife and learned about her family connection with John Arkwright, my parents chose these same words for inscription on his gravestone.’



O VALLANT HEARTS was once much better known than it is today, when it has been eclipsed by hymns like *Abide with me*, *I vow to thee my Country*, *O God, our help in ages past* and *He who would valiant be*. Perhaps it is time for a revival.

The words come from one of the poems Sir John Arkwright published in 1919 under the title *The Supreme Sacrifice*, and

other Poems in Time of War. The poem was set to music by the Rev Dr Charles Harris, vicar of Colwall in Herefordshire, and although both Vaughan Williams and Holst arranged or composed music for it, it is to the Harris tune that the hymn is usually sung today. YouTube has several examples of choirs and bands performing it.

*O valiant hearts who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.*

*Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,
To save mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.*

*Splendid you passed, the great surrender made;
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.*

*Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay,
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self same way.*

*Still stands His Cross from that dread hour to this,
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.*

*These were His servants, in His steps they trod,
Following through death the martyred Son of God:
Victor, He rose; victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.*

*O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,
Whose cross has bought them and Whose staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand.*



Filling the 'Long gap' in Kilvert's Diary

TERESA WILLIAMS distils decades of research to fill in biographical details for the Diary's 18-month 'Long gap' in 1876-77. In the past the Society might have published this work as a booklet, seen by few. Now, with our Journal, it is good this valuable research can be made available at full length for all to enjoy

THE published version of *Kilvert's Diary* is silent for two periods: a 'Short gap' of six months from Friday 10 September 1875 until Wednesday 1 March 1876, and for a 'Long gap' of eighteen months from Wednesday 28 June 1876 until Monday 31 December 1877. We do not know for certain why, or by whom, the volumes covering these periods were destroyed, and many thoughts and opinions have been expressed on the subject since the publication of the *Diary*. We do know, however, that we have been greatly deprived.

In 1979 I became a member of the Kilvert Society and was able to attend the services to commemorate the centenary of Francis Kilvert's death. I also held a reader's pass at the British Newspaper Library at Colindale, NW London, and decided to attempt to trace the life of the Diarist in the two gaps through contemporary newspapers. This plan was soon revised to collect as many references to him and his family as possible, when it became apparent that Kilvert was reported as having attended many religious and secular events. Over the years I was fortunate enough to discover 'sightings' of him, his appointment as Chaplain to WTM Baskerville, Esq, for the Radnorshire Assizes in 1868, and the August 1876 farewell speech at the Langley Burrell presentation, to mark his preferment to St Harmon's. In his speech he hinted that he was engaged to be married.

Regretfully, in 2011 the Newspaper Library facilities at Colindale were deemed to be unsuitable from a conservation point of view and it was gradually wound down, finally closing in November 2013. The bulk of original publications were moved to robot and temperature controlled premises at Boston Spa in Yorkshire with microfilm transferred to The British Library at St Pancras, London. Unfortunately, many newspapers have not been microfilmed and the originals are now too frail to handle. Online researching of newspapers is possible but only by subscription and with a comparatively small percentage of the millions of world-wide publications which previously were available. After 34 years of being able to read original contemporary newspapers at Colindale, online researching is a very poor substitution, and no longer free.

It has always been my hope to record all the 'sightings' of Kilvert found in newspapers and Church and civil records. One list for the pre-*Diary* years of 1862-1865, has been made (published in *Journal* 38). A further one for the years of 1866-69 is currently being compiled, and a collection for the *Diary* years is planned. Intriguingly, the *Diary* has several recollections of past events in Kilvert's life and these 'sightings' will be included as appropriate. This article, however, principally concentrates on 'sightings' of Kilvert in newspapers during the 'Long gap.'

We do have some knowledge of Kilvert during this time from the St Harmon's Church and School records. Valuable research by Eva Farmery and Ray Taylor has provided us with details of his apparent engagement to Katherine Heanley and the tragic story of her later life. The Diarist visited the Heanleys at Croft in Lincolnshire during March 1877 and Kilvert wrote to the Reverend Richard Lister Venables from France at Whitsun 1877. We

learn retrospectively of his family holiday at Aberystwyth and of poems he wrote during that fortnight. Other information is available in letters and diaries in the Venables Collection at the National Library of Wales which contain brief mentions of the Diarist.

But the destruction of the volumes for the second half of 1876 and the whole of 1877 has deprived us of so much detail. We have no chance of knowing how he coped with the duties of his incumbency at St Harmon's, in lodgings at Rhayader, or as Vicar of a church he described at first sight as *built in the Dark Ages of fifty years ago simply hideous. But ugly as it appeared externally the interior was worse and my heart sank like a stone as I entered the door. A bare cold squalid interior and high ugly square boxes for seats, a three-decker pulpit and desk, no stove, a flimsy altar rail, a ragged faded altar cloth, a singing gallery with a broken organ, a dark little box for a vestry, and a roof in bad repair, admitting the rain.* (vol III, p289).

How pleasing it would have been to learn of his engagement to Katherine Heanley with the possibility of a future family life and a wife to support him in his parish work. He had hinted at this in his reply of thanks after the Langley Burrell presentation to him on Tuesday 15 August 1876. Covered in local papers, the report in the *Chippenham Chronicle* of Saturday 19 August 1876 was printed in the Kilvert Society *Newsletter* for February 1983. A similar account appeared in the *Calne Chronicle & Chippenham News* of Thursday 17 August 1876. Both newspapers reported Kilvert's speech when 'alluding to the present from Langley House said he received it at a happy time when a friend of his who was dearer to him than his own life was staying at Langley, and one whom he hoped would shortly halve his troubles and double his joys.' The present to which he referred was the 'beautiful fish slice and fork,' given by the servants of Langley House. This gift would have been in a silk lined box, the fish slice and fork having a delicately chased design, if it resembles the Victorian set I inherited from my late mother-in-law's family.

In July 1876 Kilvert's appointment to the vicarage of St Harmon's had been listed in more than a dozen provincial newspapers and ecclesiastical publications. It has not been possible to find any report of his induction, but we know from the journal of George Stovin Venables that his brother, the Reverend Richard Lister Venables, attended the ceremony on Tuesday 5 September 1876, that it was a rainy day, and 'Lister went by 9am train and returned at 5.20pm.'

The next newspaper mention of the Diarist is in the *Calne Chronicle & Chippenham News* dated Thursday 5 October 1876. The occasion was the close of the season Supper for Langley Burrell cricket team. The report was as follows:

'Langley Burrell Cricket Club – The members of this club closed the season by having supper together on Wednesday evening last, 27th September, when about 20 sat down to a substantial repast, supplied by Mrs Killing, with Mr T Bryant, the captain, in the chair. – Supper over, the Chairman said he was

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This map in our series from the 1887 survey of the borderlands covers the Brecknockshire parishes of Hay (with a sliver of Herefordshire) and Llanigon – where the Thomases of Llanthomas lived – and Llowes, across the river in Radnorshire, where Tom Williams, Kilvert’s good friend, was the vicar.

Studying the map with a magnifying glass may even revive the terrors of the haunted road to Llowes!

The map is reproduced by kind permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library.

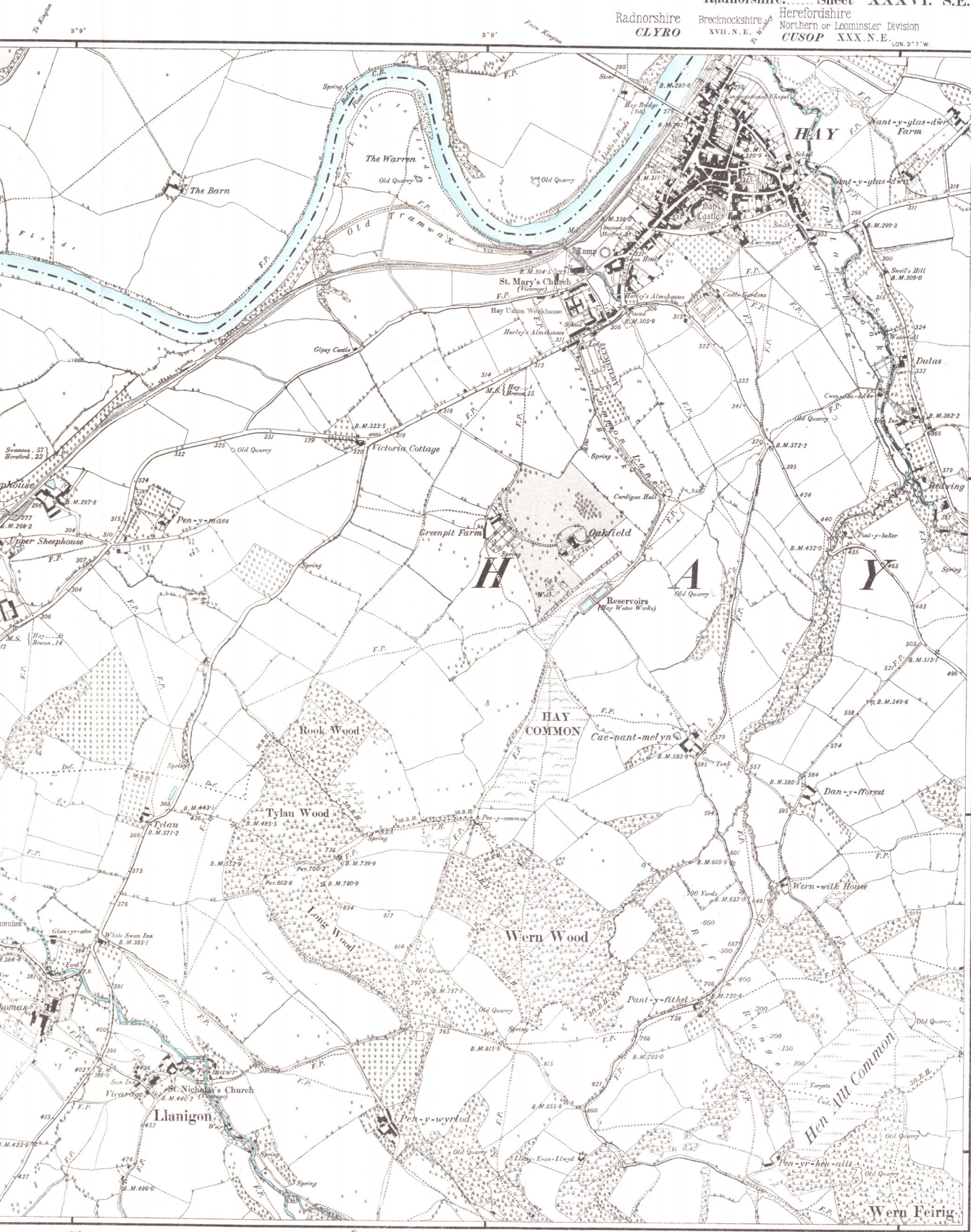


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Herefordshire. Sheet XXX. S.E.
Brecknockshire. Sheet XVII. S.E.
Radnorshire. Sheet XXXVI. S.E.
Herefordshire
Northern or Leominster Division
CUSOP XXX. N.E. LON. 3° 7' W.

Radnorshire
CLYRO

Brecknockshire
XVII. S.E.



XXXI. S. W.

Herefordshire
Northern or Leominster Division
Cusop
Brecknockshire

XVIII. S. W.

LLANIGON

Breck. XXIII. N. E.

LON. 3° 7' W.

Scale - Six Inches to One Statute Mile or 880 Feet to One Inch = $\frac{1}{10560}$
Price 1s.
10 Chains 5 0
40 Perches 20 0
Here... Sheet XXX.
Breck... Sheet XVII.
Rad... Sheet XXXVI.

1888

continued from page 335

pleased to meet the members on that occasion and hoped to do so every year; the club had now increased to 22 members, and alluding to the play of the season just closed, said they had come off victorious in six matches out of seven. He was sorry to announce his intention of resigning his office as Captain, and hoped they would elect a better man to take his place. It would also be necessary to appoint a Secretary, as the Reverend F Kilvert, who had for the last three years kindly acted in that capacity, had now removed from the parish. – At the urgent request of the members, Mr Bryant was induced to hold office another year, and on the proposition of Mr Marks, seconded by Mr Neale, he was unanimously appointed Captain, and Mr F Collett, Secretary. On the proposition of Mr Neale, the healths (sic) of the honorary members, including Mr Goldney, MP, the Rev RM Ashe, Rev R Kilvert, Mr W B Wood, etc., were cordially drunk. The Chairman proposed success to the club, which was responded to by Mr Collett. He adverted to the state of the finances, and from which it appeared they had closed the season with a balance of £3 10s. od., in hand. Songs were sung by several of the club members and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Squire Ashe's support for Langley Burrell cricket club is confirmed by the *Diary* on Friday, 31 July 1874 when Kilvert visited Langley House *to ask the Squire for a subscription to our cricket club. He readily and kindly gave me a guinea, was interested in the Club, and asked several questions about it.* (vol III, p56). At least six Langley Burrell cricket matches are mentioned in the *Diary*.

On three different occasions, Kilvert confirms his brother, Teddy, played for the team. Entries for Saturday 3 August 1872 (vol II, p241-2) and Saturday 8 August 1874, (vol III, p59) indicate that Kilvert acted as scorer. On the former occasion, we learn he 'scored for both sides through both innings.'

Teddy was staying at Langley Burrell on Saturday 2 September 1876, (presumably so he could attend his brother's induction on Tuesday 5 September,) so was available to travel with the cricket team to Christian Malford. This game was, according to the *Wiltshire Independent*, Thursday 7 September 1876, 'an easy victory for Langley Burrell eleven. The batting and bowling of Messrs R and J Iles was exceedingly good, especially the batting of Mr R Iles who played a good innings of twenty-four runs, not out.' Teddy was caught Fregard, bowled [Reverend] A Law for two runs. Langley Burrell won by an innings and 13 runs.

Very little is known about Kilvert throughout the winter months of 1876 into 1877. Details from the St Harmon's Church records, together with brief entries in the Venables journals and letters, are not substantiated by newspaper reports. Events such as the School Feast on the evening of Kilvert's induction, Harvest Festival celebrations on Thursday 28 September 1876 attracted no press attention. If the Diarist went home to Langley Burrell at Christmas 1876, it was a short holiday for we know he visited the St Harmon's School on 22 December 1876. Six days later on 28 December 1876, the St Harmon's Burial register records he officiated at the burial of David Francis aged 81 years, of Cwmdaiddwr.

In March 1877 when Kilvert visited Croft in Lincolnshire, the Parish Church was raising funds towards the purchase of a new tenor bell. Katherine Heanley sent a copy of Kilvert's poetic paraphrase of Psalm xxiii to the editor of a magazine publication, *Sunday at Home*. It was accepted and published in the March

edition, the editor sending 10 shillings to Katherine which she gave as a subscription to the bell fund. A *Diary* entry twenty-one months later on Thursday, 19 December 1878 (vol III, p439-440), tells how Kilvert, whilst visiting a Bredwardine parishioner, recognised his paraphrase in an old copy of the magazine and comments, *How strange the coincidence that this very number of the magazine should have been lying on the bed today and that I should have come in and taken it up.*

We know Kilvert was on holiday in France at Whitsun 1877 for we have the contents of a letter dated 21 May he wrote to the Reverend R L Venables. A month later the Diarist is on holiday in Aberystwyth with his parents and sister Dora. Their names are listed in the *Aberystwyth Observer* for Saturday 30 June 1877 and Saturday 7 July 1877 as having stayed at Mrs Lloyd's boarding house at 38 Marine Parade. During that holiday he wrote some poems, one of which, entitled

'The Fishermen,' was published in the Aberystwyth paper on 14 July, 1877 signed 'R F Kilvert, Aberystwyth. July 1877.' His parents stayed for another week at Mrs Lloyd's, being joined there by 'Mrs WR Smith and Family from Monnington on Wye': Kilvert's sister, Thersie. None of their names appeared in the 'Visitors' List' for 21 July 1877.

The next 'sighting' of Kilvert in a newspaper is contained in a very long report published in the *Hereford Times* dated 21 July 1877. He had taken a choir of 17 people to a Choral Festival held in Christchurch, Llandrindod on Thursday 12 July. The account says, 'The day was fair, the air balmy, and the scenery charming. The [twelve] choirs that took part in the Festival numbered over 200 voices.' Newbridge-on-Wye's choir numbered the highest at 30 voices: Nantmel sent 24; as did Cwmbach: Ysfa had 23 voices and Llandegley sent 21: the smallest choir being Llandrindod and Cefnlllys with nine voices. 'The Ven Archdeacon of St David's, the Reverend R Lewis, MA, preached and the Reverend W Howell, the rector of Lower Chapel, was the intoner.'

'The clergy present included the Rev TJ Thirlwall, RD, vicar of Nantmel, the Rev – Fortescue, curate, the Rev WW Vaughan, RD, vicar of Llandegley; Rev JJ Evans, vicar of Llanyre, and the Rev WET Morgan, curate; Rev T Macfarlane, rector of Disserth; Rev DD Pierce, vicar of Llanwrthol; Rev –Kilvert, vicar of St Harmon's and Rev D Williams, curate of Cwmbach. The clergy walked in procession, surpliced, from the vestry into the church, the choirs singing the processional hymn beginning:

Forward ! be our watchward, steps and voices joined:

Seek the things before us – not a look behind;

Next was the anthem which was very well rendered, and before the sermon the choirs sang the hymn commencing:

Jesu ! where'er Thy people meet,

There they behold Thy mercy seat.

The Venerable Archdeacon took for his text the 9th verse of Psalm 132 and the discourse was listened to with considerable interest. At the offertory, the choirs sang:

Sing praise to God who reigns above,

The recessional hymn was that beginning:

Sun of my soul, my Saviour dear,

'The style of the music was pure Gregorian, and the Psalms were very heartily and creditably rendered. In the Anthem the first chorus was started with life and vigour, as it ought to be, but in the same chorus, "O pray for the peace of Jerusalem," the commencement was unsteady, but the conductor soon recovered



A plaque to the recasting of the bells at Croft, to which Kilvert indirectly contributed

the singers, and they then sang well together. The last chorus was heartily rendered and although the "Amen" which closes it is rather a difficult one, the choirs completed the task most creditably. The Rev DD Pierce had undertaken the training of the choirs, and the result of his labours must have been most satisfactory to himself. The success of the festival also showed that the Rev WET Morgan very efficiently performed the duties of hon.sec. The Lessons were read by the Rev T Dowle and Rev Mr Fortescue. The organist was Mr Osborne of Abbeycwmhir. There was a large attendance at church, among the congregation being Mr E Middleton Evans of Llwynbarried: Rev R Lister Venables and Mrs Venables of Llysddinam: Mr GH Phillips and Mrs Phillips of Abbeycwmhir: etc. The offertory amounted to £16 17s 5d.

'On leaving the church the choirs proceeded to the Assembly Room, where they were entertained at a substantial luncheon, provided by Mr Ellis, of the Llanarch Hotel.'

Several speeches followed the luncheon, the main speakers being the Ven Archdeacon Lewis, the Rev JJ Evans, vicar of Llanyre who thanked the Rev Mr Pierce (who was not at the luncheon) for all his hard work in training the choirs, and also the Secretary [the Rev WET Morgan], 'for the ability and readiness with which they had undertaken and performed the work devolving upon them. (applause).' The Rev WET Morgan responded saying that as Mr Pierce was not with them 'he, the unworthy secretary' must speak for them both.' He said, 'They knew that the office of secretary was a very unthankful one and whoever held it had to expect more kicks than halfpence. (laughter).' He promised that if there 'were to be a Choral Festival next year and he was in the same part of the world, they could call upon him. (applause). The company then separated and most of the choirs returned to their homes by early trains.'

On the 23 August, 1877, the Rhayader Horticultural Show and Amateur Athletic Festival took place in the grounds of 'The Dderw' the home of the Reverend TC Prickard, 'a pleasantly situated residence . . . which commands an unobstructed view of the hills and vales for many miles distant.' The *Hereford Times* for Saturday 25 August 1877 reports the event in great detail. The event was smaller than in previous years because the customary Eisteddfod festival was not being held, but despite this, 'just after twelve noon, many thousands of persons had poured into Rhayader by the trains which were run on the Hereford, Hay & Brecon and Mid-Wales Railway.

'The little town itself assumed a gay appearance. In the morning the Herefordshire Militia Band, under Mr W James, came into the "Square" and played selections from the best music much to the delight of the inhabitants – the sweet strains echoed far away among the green and wooded hills.' Mr John Price of Rhayader House was Secretary of the Festival. He was supported by two committees, the first consisting of the principal gentlemen of the county of Radnorshire, and the second of local clergymen and inhabitants. Kilvert's name appears in the second list together with the Rev TRJ Laugharne; Mr S G Evans-Williams, Mr Stephen W Williams, etc. A group of Lady Patrons, amongst whom was Mrs R L Venables, gave money for prizes to winners in the 'Amateur class' contests for fruit and vegetables.

The Athletic Sports took place in the latter afternoon when the 'cool breezes which fanned the brows of the hills, and the clear sunshine which smiled upon them, rendered the outdoor sports attractive.' The programme had 12 events and the 'Flat Races' over 120 or 660 yards, attracted over a hundred entries. The Half and One Mile Walks were also popular. Hurdle races over 200 yards and the High Jump (won by W Davies of Beulah at a height of 5ft 4ins) attracted many entrants, with competi-

tors from London, Cardiff, Worcester and Birkenhead, etc. As soon as the Sports were finished the Band, who had been playing Valses, Fantasias, Overtures and Marches during the afternoon, played dance music, and 'immediately a large number of the vast assemblage fell to the tripping of the "light fantastic toe" with great energy until the dark shades had crept far down the green hill sides. The usual game of "Kiss-in-the-Ring" was also played and various sports of an impromptu and promiscuous description were indulged in as the long shadows fell.

'Then the Band struck up the National Anthem and the visitors began to stream down the hill to the town, as dark shadows spread across the valley. Shortly after nine o'clock the excursion trains steamed out of the station...once more leaving the little town of Rhayader to its wonted state of repose among the green and picturesque hills.'

The next 'sighting' of Kilvert is in connection with the restoration and re-opening of Bryngwyn Church in September 1877.

Page 54 of the Kilvert Society's publication, *The Oswin Prosser Memorial Booklet*, records an entry from the diary of the Reverend R L Venables, dated Friday 2 April 1869; 'Walked with Kilvert to Bryngwyn to certify that the Rectory was unfit for residence. Church in a disgraceful state. Nothing done in the last 4 years – not even Chancel window glazed.'

Bryngwyn Church had had no resident incumbent since 1834 when the Rector, the Reverend Samuel Davies, who was also the incumbent of Oystermouth, Swansea, married Mary Ann Masters of Greenwich and elected not to live at Bryngwyn. In 1857 the Reverend David Vaughan (of Newchurch) became Curate of Bryngwyn and he was appointed Rector in 1865.

The condition of Bryngwyn Church was the subject of correspondence in the *Hereford Times* in August and September 1870. The correspondent, signing himself as 'An Observer,' described some of the dilapidations he had seen on a recent visit.

'The chancel (or as Bryngwynians call it, the 'chansery') window, first attracted my attention. This window at some remote period seems to have been glazed, as pieces of broken glass adhering to strips of lead attached to rusty old iron bars are still to be seen. It now answers a two-fold purpose, it being one of the principal airways in the Bryngwynian system of ventilation, and chief thoroughfare for the jackdaws located in the chancel.' The letter writer found a window low enough for him to see through and discover the reason for 'the very loud discordant noise from within.'

He saw, 'Upon the communion table three young jackdaws were being fed by one of the parent birds, whilst others perched on the rails around the altar, cawing.' He described the nettles surrounding the Church as so prolific that 'Bryngwyn Churchyard should be justly proud of them, as finer, I never saw, even in the vicinity of a dung-heap,' and he wondered how 'a large alder tree covered with blossoms, growing through the [church] roof, obtained nourishment in its elevated position in this dry season.'

On 3 March 1871 Mr Venables notes in his diary: 'Kilvert and I walked to Tynycwm to call on Mr and Mrs Hughes (Rector of Bryngwyn). Found them at home.' John Hughes had been appointed Rector in November 1870 and had shortly afterwards married Miss Marianna Elizabeth Harrison from Laugharne in Carmarthenshire. A new rectory was built and Mr and Mrs Hughes started a five year campaign to raise funds for extensive structural repairs to the church. Mr Hughes later estimated he had written 'at least thirteen thousand letters appealing for help.' The church was finally re-opened on Tuesday 11 September 1877. The day was very wet which reduced the attendance but it was still necessary 'to obtain extra chairs from the Rectory for

visitors who could not find a seat in the Church.' The restored church could seat 140 persons. A very long account of the day's ceremony was published in the *Hereford Times* for Saturday 15 September 1877.

Kilvert did not attend the re-opening, but according to an item in the *Kington Gazette* for Tuesday 25 September 1877, and a short article in the *Hereford Times*, Saturday 22 September 1877: 'The Reverend R F Kilvert, Rhayader, sent a subscription of Ten Shillings towards the offertory.' Both newspaper accounts said, 'an amount of £12 4s 5d was collected on the day, which sum considering the weather and the fact that nearly everyone present had already contributed, was as much as could be expected.' The newspapers have made, perhaps inadvertently, Kilvert's subscription to appear very generous in comparison with the offertory total collected from the congregation.

The next appearance of Kilvert's name in a newspaper occurs on Saturday 13 October 1877 when his poem, entitled: 'To Some Little Friends at Aberystwyth,' and signed 'R F Kilvert, Rhayader, July 1877,' was published in the *Aberystwyth Observer*.

On Saturday 13 October 1877, the St Harmon's schoolmaster wrote in the School log book for that week: "Rev R F Kilvert visited [the] School on Wednesday [10 October] and informed me of his appointment to another living.' Kilvert had accepted the living of Bredwardine with Brobury: an appointment partially facilitated by the Reverend R L Venables as confirmed by letters in the Venables Collection at the National Library of Wales. Kilvert was quite premature in advising the schoolmaster of his new appointment since the letter to Mr Venables from the two Co-Trustees confirming their agreement, was dated a week later on 17 October 1877.

There is a curious twist to this correspondence: On 4 May 1880, R L Venables wrote to his brother George Stovin Venables that 'Katy had discovered a letter behind a cushion in the Hall, unopened and dated October 1877 from Mr Bayly and his Co-Trustee.' The letter had requested Mr Venables tell Kilvert, 'the Co-Trustees would nominate him for the living of Bredwardine.'

The vacancy at Bredwardine had been caused by the sudden death on 8 September 1877 of the incumbent the Rev John Houseman whose appointment to that living was listed in the *Ecclesiastical Gazette*, December 1871. The *Northampton Herald* of 15 September 1877 reported he had been visiting Hannington Rectory, near Northampton, (the home of his father-in-law, the Rev J Downes, Rector of Hannington), and had been 'rowing in a boat with the curate of Moccas, [Rev R Bishop] when excessive exertion caused the illness from which he died in his 45th year.'

There is another link with Kilvert, for John Houseman also had been a curate at Clyro. On 19 January 1857, the Rev RL Venables wrote to his brother, George, saying he had 'advertised for a Curate.' Mr Houseman BA, (Exeter College, Oxford) who had recently been ordained deacon, was ordained Priest by the Bishop of St David's in 1858 and received his MA degree in 1859.

On Wednesday 31 October 1877 Kilvert preached at Llandegley on the occasion of the annual Harvest Thanksgiving service held in the restored Church. St Tecla's was re-opened in December 1876 after having been rebuilt on the old foundations by SW Williams of Rhayader, with a new nave and west tower. The old singers' gallery had been removed and the whole building re-roofed. Some small parts of the Church's earlier structure were retained and incorporated into the restored building. A report of the services was reported in the *Hereford Times*, Saturday 3 November 1877, as follows:

'The Church was tastefully decorated with corn, fruit, vegeta-

bles, evergreens and flowers. The sermon in the morning at 11 am was preached by the Rev RF Kilvert, Vicar of St Hannon (sic) from the 14th and 15th verses of the 104th Psalm, and that in the evening at 6pm by the Rev T Vaughan Thomas of Crickhowell from the 4th chapter and 6th verse of St Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. Both the rev. gentlemen preached most eloquent sermons and made touching appeals on behalf of the Indian Famine Relief Fund, the offertories amounting to £12 being given in aid of the sufferers. The Rev WW Vaughan, Vicar of the parish, read the prayers at both services. The Church was crowded in the evening and great credit is due to both the churchwardens (Messrs Duggan and Wheeldon) for so thoroughly fulfilling their office in seating the congregation. The harmonium was presided over by Miss Annie Wilding and Miss Ralph, and the choir rendered the hymns and chants in a superior style and gave great zest to the ceremony.'

A formal notice of Kilvert's preferment to Bredwardine was published in the *Hereford Journal* on 10 November 1877, as follows:

'The living of Bredwardine has been offered to and accepted by the Rev F Kilvert, vicar of St Harmans (sic) and previously Curate of Clyro, in succession to the late Rev John Houseman, whose sudden and untimely death caused universal regret.' Other versions of this notice appeared in numerous publications during November and December 1877.

'The Hill Home,' under the pen name of 'Eos Gwy' was the final of Kilvert's poems to be published in 1877, and was printed on 14 November 1877 in the *Hereford Times*. It was the second poem written about the Hill sisters, Florence and Eleanor, who lived at Upper Noyadde and who feature in the *Diary*. The first poem, entitled 'The Hill Flowers,' under the pen name of 'Eos Clyro' was published in the same named newspaper on 20 May 1876 shortly prior to the 'Long gap.'

On Tuesday 20 November 1877, the West Herefordshire Farmers' Club held a Ploughing Match at Bredwardine. In the evening Kilvert attended the Match Dinner and made a speech.

A report of the Meeting and Dinner which occupied four columns of the printed page, was published in both the *Hereford Journal* and the *Hereford Times* on Saturday 24 November 1877. The account began by giving some history of the Society together with its purpose.

The society was thought to have been established by a Mr Matthews of Blakemere, and a 'few other enlightened agriculturalists in about 1838,' and claimed to be the oldest such society in the country. Originally, a forum for 'discussion on crop growing and stock breeding, by degrees it changed to include prizes offered for competition by farm workmen for skill in the various branches of their calling. Besides offering rewards for that sheet anchor of agriculture, good ploughing, it induced care and skill in the producing of stock, and its care thereafter.

'The shoeing of horses and encouragement for thrift, tidiness and good management among the labouring classes in the shape of substantial gratuities for long membership with friendly societies and for neat cottages and gardens. It also aims to stimulate skill in hedging, rickmaking and thatching and the like; and provides prizes for male and female servants for long continuance in the same service. The Society operates in Bredwardine and adjoining parishes for a considerable radius. The Rev Sir George Cornwall, Bart of Moccas Court is the President, and Mr Henry Haywood is Vice-President.'

The Ploughing Match had taken place that morning 'principally on the Brobury Court land belonging to Mr Williams but partly also on land in the occupation of Mr Preen of Brobury.

There were 33 entries in the five classes for ploughing and 29 of the competitors put in an appearance. The land was not in good condition either for working or for showing off the work when done, owing to the late heavy rains, and allowance being made for this circumstance, the ploughing generally was excellent; in the farmers' sons' class, it was first-rate and there was some especially good work in the wheel plough class. Some capital work was also done in the hedging and ditching class, while better shoeing it would be hard to find in the county or out of it.

'The dinner was held as customary at the Lion Inn, Bredwardine, and was a well served, ample repast, highly creditable to the hostess, Mrs Wall.'

The report in the *Hereford Times*, gives the credit to Mr Edward Wall who 'fully sustained his reputation as a caterer by placing upon the table an excellent repast. The dining room was hung around with neatly ornamented mottoes having reference to the character of the gathering. The Rev HW Phillott presided, Mr Haywood filling the Vice-Chair. The guests included also Rev Sir George Cornwall, Bart., Rev – Kilvert, the new Vicar of the parish: Rev T Powell, Dorstone: Rev C S Palmer, Eardisley: Rev WR Smith, Monnington: Mr PB Giles, and Mr PB Giles, junr, MD: Mr T Giles, Mr F Evans, Old Court: Mr T Davis, Preston-on-Wye: Mr T Williams, Brobury: Mr W Holloway, Letton Court, (Hon Sec): Mr Davies, Llanthomas: Mr E Preen, Brobury: Mr Harper of Bredwardine: etc, etc.'

Grace was said before and after the meal by the Chairman: at the removal of the cloth the usual toasts were given from the Chair. 'The Chairman proposed the toast to "The Queen" and also to the "Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." The Rev Mr Phillott said he 'was old enough to remember the Queen coming to the throne and the expectations which were entertained of her: he thought that during her long reign she had fully deserved the confidence placed in her. (applause). He gave them, "The health of her Gracious Majesty, the Queen." (cheers).'

Mr Phillott then spoke of the Prince and Princess of Wales saying he 'was told that whenever the Princess of Wales drove into the Park there were large numbers of people there which indicated good feeling and loyalty towards her. (hear, hear).'

In a *Diary* entry for Monday 10 March 1873, Kilvert recalls the day of the royal marriage: *On this day ten years ago the Prince and Princess of Wales were married and we had the dinner in the Bowling Green at Langley under a great tent and sent up fireworks and planted the twin memorial oaks.* (vol II, p334).

The Chairman proposed the next toast, 'The Army, Navy, Militia and Reserve Forces.' He regretted there was no-one present to speak for it. He 'could remember as a child seeing two swords belonging to his father (who is now 94 years of age). They hung in a cupboard and he thought his father must be very brave to have two swords.' His father told him that although he had served in the Volunteer Militia, the swords had never been drawn in anger nor had he ever fired a shot, but all the Volunteers were willing to fight for their country.

At that time there was a very real fear of invasion. The response was by Mr P B Giles, junr, who praised the fine Volunteers and their high state of efficiency.

Mr P B Giles, senr, said he had been asked to give the next toast to include 'the name of a gentleman, (Rev J Houseman) who was for some years connected with the toast but who had now passed from us. He had left in the parish a fully renovated church. (hear hear).' The toast was 'Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese, and Ministers of all denominations.'

'The clergy in that neighbourhood did their duty most efficiently, not least in supporting this Club. He would couple with the toast, the name of Mr Kilvert. (applause).'

'Mr Kilvert, the newly appointed vicar of Bredwardine, whose name was associated with the toast, said he would not say what it was so common to hear said on an occasion of this kind, that he wished the task of returning thanks had devolved upon somebody else, because he did not – (hear). He was very glad to be there and to speak for himself. (hear). He did not mean to say and he did not feel there were not many gentlemen who would have been able to respond very much better than he was able to do, but he felt there were circumstances which gave him great pleasure in responding to the toast that evening. He was very glad when

some kind friends of his were thoughtful enough to give him the opportunity of being present. He did not feel at present as if he had a real right to be there (not having been inducted yet to his benefice): at the same time it was a very great satisfaction to him to be there and to make one of the clergy who so loyally and faithfully gave their support to the Society and it gave him great pleasure to meet on that occasion so many who he hoped, would shortly be his neighbours, and he hoped more earnestly, his friends. (hear.)

'It was with great pleasure that he looked forward to coming to live in that part of the country. It was not entirely unknown to him; for he lived nearly eight years at Clyro, and very happy years they were. In coming back, therefore, to those parts, he felt he was coming not altogether among strangers but among very many friendly faces and kindly hearts. (hear).'

'He was not able to be in the field to see the ploughing, having been very much engaged during the day in other ways and he regretted greatly, that he could not be there. For, if he might go back, he remembered that when a boy he had been sent to a farm for the benefit of his health, and eventually became a farming pupil. There he learned a great many things and passed a very happy time, and it gave him a most pleasant impression of country life and of farming life, and of farmers, of whom he knew many, and received from them great kindness. He used, whilst thus engaged, to attend ploughing matches and ploughing match dinners, and they always left a pleasing feeling in his mind of good fellowship.

'He was glad to hear this Society was distinguished above all others in the county by being so heartily supported by the clergy. He hoped that would always be the case; and speaking for himself he might say that it would always be to him one of

'It gave him great pleasure to meet on that occasion so many who he hoped, would shortly be his neighbours, and he hoped more earnestly, his friends'

the greatest pleasures of the year to be present and to meet at that table an increasing number of friends and neighbours every year. He did believe that gatherings of this kind did a great deal of good. The more the clergy and the farmers saw of each other the more kindly and friendly would be the feeling that would grow up between them, and the more they would come to feel they were members of the one great brotherhood they ought to be – (hear). He hoped the Society would continue to have the support and kindly feeling of the clergy of the neighbourhood, and that as years rolled on the Society would prosper more and more. (applause).’

The toasts and responses continued throughout the evening, with speeches from the clerical gentlemen and the two Match judges. The President, the Rev Sir George Cornwall apologised for missing two previous meetings, but explained he had been with his children at the sea-side. The Rev Thomas Powell in his speech acted a sketch of the trials endured by a young clergyman in his first curacy where there resided a lady of very pronounced High Church views.

After some weeks she presented the young man with a biretta and when he refused to wear it, she was so offended that she removed herself, her daughters and her household from his church, thus removing two thirds of his congregation.

The Secretary was called upon to read out the list of awards, and ‘the handsome silver cup won by Mr Davies of Llanthomas, was filled with wine and circulated around the board, to the health of its worthily successful owner.’ ‘At various intervals throughout the evening songs were sung ensuring the gathering was a very pleasant and successful one. Throughout the day, unlimited ‘Old English’ hospitality was shown to visitors to the field by Mr Williams, Brobury Court, Mr Preen of Brobury and others.”

Kilvert’s speech at the Dinner explains the references to Lanhill, just to the west of Chippenham, contained in the published *Diary*. We do not know if he were ill that he should have been sent to live on a farm for his health’s sake, or whether the tragic deaths of two of his father’s brothers, Thomas and William, before they attained the age of 20 years, might be relevant.

Page 42 of the Kilvert Society’s booklet, *More Chapters from the Kilvert Saga*, tells how Thomas, ‘who in boyhood had grown immensely and had tried his strength by too much exercise, was seized by a sudden lameness, and in a short time was pronounced to be suffering from a dangerous affection of the socket of the hip. He was confined to bed for a year and a half, ‘until he sank and passed away from mere exhaustion.’ On page 44, Robert says, ‘William, the next above myself in the number of brothers, lived to become a fine man, but just as he was attaining his majority, he showed symptoms of decline.’ The symptoms Robert describes suggest consumption.

The photograph of the Diarist in David Lockwood’s book, *Francis Kilvert*, shows a boy who looks well-built especially in comparison with some of his fellow scholars. If Robert was concerned about his son’s height or a threat of consumption, a disease which was widespread in the population, it would account for his decision to send young Francis to a farm to live.

We have no positive information when he left home for Lanhill, but I believe he lived with Edward Little who moved from Sheldon Farm, Lower Sheldon sometime during 1854. In the 1851 Census, Edward is aged 35 years of age, farming 450 acres,

employing 20 labourers. His wife, Elizabeth (née Bayliffe) was born at Seagry where they were married in 1839. In 1851, their family numbered two sons and four daughters aged from eight years to one year.

Edward’s brother, Robert Davis Little who is listed in the 1851 Census at 39 years of age, was a Land Surveyor, farming 300 acres at New Lanhill farm, and the employer of ten outdoor labourers. Sadly he died in November 1852 after a protracted illness, leaving a widow, Susan, aged 30, with seven children under the age of twelve. It would seem very unlikely that the Diarist was sent to live in the house of an ill person.

Robert had been the Secretary of the Chippenham Agricultural Association from the late 1830s. Following his death, Edward Little became Secretary in his place, a position he occupied until his own death in November 1882. Each year a ploughing match took place in July or August and in November/December, a livestock show took place and the prize winners received their awards. Some years the awards were smocks or great-coats adorned with buttons bearing the society’s crest. The newspaper reports on these events varied from year to year, with some accounts giving interesting information of a day which

must have been a welcome change from the daily routine.

Competition was fierce as success was highly regarded by both candidate and employer alike.

There are nine references to Lanhill in the *Diary* and the entry on Wednesday 10 January 1872, (vol II, p113-115), is probably the most interesting. On that day Kilvert went to see *old Jacob Smith who used to be head carter at Sheldon when I lived at Lanhill*. Jacob had reached a good age being 77 years old. Kilvert found him in his bedroom resting as he had suffered a fall.

We talked over the old times and the old people and we had many ancient memories in common. I asked after the old labourers on the farms. And some of them were dead long since and some were gone away. The Diarist is in a nostalgic mood recalling their names and characteristics and remembering the happy and relatively carefree days he spent in their company.

Jacob Smith had been a carter or horseman in the service of Edward Little and at the 1853 Chippenham Agricultural Association prize giving, Jacob was awarded a ‘Bounty of Ten Shillings and sixpence’ given for his skill in his job and his long and loyal service to his employer.

The final newspaper ‘sightings’ for 1877 all refer to Kilvert’s preference to Bredwardine. There is no published account of his induction, merely the following item in the *Hereford Journal* on Saturday 1 December 1877:

‘The Bishop of Hereford has instituted the Reverend Robert Francis Kilvert, MA, to the Vicarage of Bredwardine with Brobury Rectory: Patron: Mr Creasy Evans.’ From the written record in the Diocesan Registry Book, we learn that Kilvert’s induction took place on the previous day, Friday 30 November 1877.

On 31 December 1877, the ‘Long gap’ ends, the *Diary* resumes, and we can enjoy Kilvert’s evocative prose as he visits his parishioners and regales us with tales of village life, or his duties at Bredwardine and of his deep appreciation of nature’s beauty. But just fifteen months later, the *Diary* is silent again; this time for ever.

Once more, we are greatly deprived.

Kilvert’s speech explains the Diary references to Lanhill

Kilvert's accounts of only two concerts hint at so many more *William Plomer's essential cuts to abridge the Diary must surely have deprived us of much of the Diarist's keen appreciation of concerts, says SHEILA JONES. But from the accounts we have it is evident Kilvert loved oratorios in particular and was knowledgeable about the performers and where to go to hear them in concert*

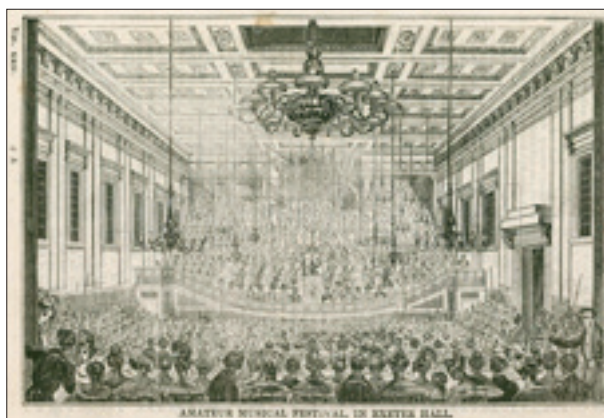
ON 22 January 1870, Francis Kilvert attended a concert at Exeter Hall in the Strand with Mrs Pearson, Mrs Venables's sister-in-law. Now demolished, the Hall was a magnificent building, with a narrow recessed entrance between two paired Corinthian columns which led to a wide foyer with a curved staircase at each side. There were two large halls, one holding 4,000 people and the other 1,000.

Of the concert, Kilvert declared: *A grand orchestra, but the instrumental music too severe and classical for me* (vol I, p25-26) The 18 January edition of *The Times* advertised the programme in detail. Since no review was found in subsequent editions, it has had to be assumed that what was advertised was performed (likely) and that items were performed in the order given (less likely). A Full Band of the most eminent instrumentalists under the conductor Henry Leslie played Arthur Sullivan's *Processional March*, Beethoven's *Symphony No 1* in C major (one guesses that this is the item Kilvert particularly disliked) and Auber's Overture: *Masaniello*.

The young German who played a violin solo exquisitely (*Desdemona's Prayer from 'Othello'*) making his violin almost speak (vol I, p25-26) was August Wilhelmj, then aged twenty-five, a famous violin virtuoso. The piece referred to was Ernst's *Fantasia on airs from Rossini's opera Otello*. Wilhelmj also



Exeter Hall in the Strand. Below the larger of its two auditoriums in use for an amateur music festival



played an andante by Bach, which one is not stated; he probably made his choice at the last minute.

Kilvert picks out Sims Reeves for praise: *he was delightful* (vol I, p26) This was John Sims Reeve, now nearly fifty, the leading tenor of his era. (There is a long review of his career on Wikipedia.) He sang two solos. One was Jacques Blumenthal's 'The Requital' written to words by Adelaide Proctor, which starts 'Loud roared the tempest, Fast fell the sleet/ A little child angel passed down the street/ With trailing pinions and weary feet'. This was extremely popular in its day, which is perhaps the best that can be said for it! The second song was Henry Brinley Richards's 'Anita', to words by Henry Farnie.

Charles Santley, a baritone who had an outstanding career, (again there is a long review of it on Wikipedia), sang 'Cleansing

Fire', words also by Adelaide Proctor set to music by Virginia Gabriel, which starts: Let thy gold be cast in the furnace,/ Thy red gold precious and bright. He also sang the recitative 'I rage, I melt, I burn', which leads into the well-known air 'O ruddier than the cherry', both from Handel's opera *Acis and Galatea*.

Mademoiselle Sinico, the third singer Kilvert mentions by name, was a well-known soprano whose birth name was Clarice Marini, but who took the name 'Sinico' from her music-teacher. She sang

the aria 'Ah, fors'è lui' from the First Act of Verdi's *La traviata*, when Violetta, a courtesan, expresses her longing to love and be loved. Then she sang, 'by general desire' (she had sung it at earlier concerts) Henry Smart's 'The Birds were Telling One Another'.

Sims Reeves, Santley and Sinico sang a trio, 'Alma Infido', from a Donizetti opera, *Roberto Devereux*, a slice of fanciful English history, in which Queen Elizabeth orders Devereux to be executed for falling in love with Sara, the wife of Lord Nottingham; too late, she realises that it is all a misunderstanding.

A singer who also performed, whom Kilvert doesn't mention by name in the published version of the *Diary*, was the bass Signor Foli, whose real name was Allan James Foley, an Irish opera singer who gave his name an Italian flavour for professional reasons. He sang Bordese's 'David Singing before Saul', which had words by Henry Farnie (see 'Anita' above). His second song was 'The Diver', music by EJ Loder to words by G Douglas Thompson. Then he joined with Santley to sing the stirring 'The Lord is a Man of War' from Handel's oratorio *Israel in Egypt*.

With its mixture of orchestra, choir and soloists performing well-known and popular items, the Last Night of the Proms is perhaps the closest in modern times to this kind of concert. As well as a Beethoven symphony, the audience heard four singers of national and international reputations in opera and oratorio singing not just their usual repertoire but what would be termed today 'crossover' songs. One guesses that Kilvert's preference lay in these and the oratorio extracts rather than the pieces from opera and orchestral items.

Kilvert went to the Colston Hall on Friday 24 October 1873 to the Bristol Music Festival, to hear Handel's *Messiah*; he escorted his two younger sisters and two women friends. Line drawings on the internet show the exterior of the Hall and the grand staircase as they were in Kilvert's day, but most of the building was destroyed by fire in 1895 and there have been four rebuildings in total since. After attending the 11 o'clock service at St Mary Redcliffe, they walked fast to the Trenchard Street entrance to the Hall for the unsecured seats. Arriving only five minutes before the doors opened, they became part of a great crowd heaving and struggling to get inside; they *were shot in like cannon balls by the terrible pressure from behind* (vol II, p386)

The entry is headed 'Bristol Music Festival'. One wonders if this was supplied by the Editor to explain the extract. As Kilvert would have known, this was not just a music festival but part of the first ever Bristol Triennial Music Festival, an event of great civic pride and widely publicised all over the country.

On Thursday had been performed a new oratorio, *John the Baptist*, composed by George Alexander Macfarren. Then on Friday was *Messiah*, followed on successive days by Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Requiem* and Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, a very impressive programme of concerts. Charles Hallé conducted his Manchester Orchestra, as he did on successive occasions; the very large Chorus (300-400 are mentioned), under their organist and chorus master Alfred Stone, were amateurs.¹

Staff at Bristol Archives kindly found for me a newspaper review for the programme, which gives the soloists for *Messiah* as follows: 1st part – Vernon Rigby, Mr Lewis Thomas, Madame Otto Alvsleben and Miss Enriquez; 2nd part – John Sims Reeves, Charles Santley, Madame Lemmens Sherington and Miss Patey; 3rd part – Madame Lemmens Sherington, Miss Enriquez, Charles Santley and Mr Kidner, who replaced Vernon Rigby at the last minute. Kilvert had heard two of the male soloists before, Sims Reeves and Santley, at the concert on 22 January 1870 (see above), and was to hear two of the female soloists, Alvsleben and Sherington, on 26 June 1874. Madame Alvsleben had been born in Dresden in 1842 and had been a member of the Royal Opera at Dresden before coming to England to further her career. Madame Lemmens Sherington was English, having been born in Preston in 1834. Miss Enriquez had sung *Messiah* at the

Hereford Musical Festival in the same year and is named in several concert programmes alongside the other soloists at Bristol, as was Lewis William Thomas, a well-known bass. Janet Patey, a contralto born in 1842, had studied under Mrs Sims Reeves and Ciro Pinsuti was another singer who had a distinguished career. No information was found on the internet about Vernon Rigby. Mr Kidner could well have been a member of the Chorus invited to take the role of

soloist at the last minute – this is what often happens in a concert-hall emergency.

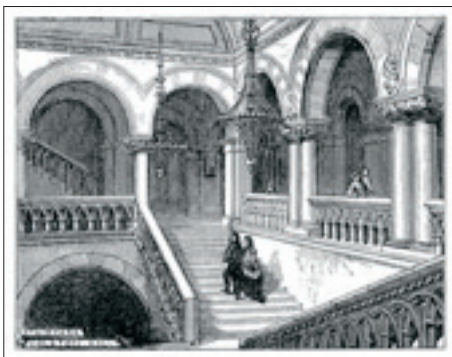
Messiah is normally sung by four soloists; one can only account for the four names allotted to each of the three parts of the oratorio by supposing that they also sang on the following three days of the Festival and were unwilling to strain their voices.

Kilvert would probably have named the soloists in the 'long account' which William Plomer omitted from the published *Diary*. Considering his comments on the two classical music concerts we know he attended, he must have given his views on how well or badly each aria or chorus was sung, what the acoustics were like, his emotional responses. *Messiah* was long considered a semi-religious work – Kilvert's attendance at matins before the concert strongly suggests this would have been his attitude too.

On 26 June 1874 Kilvert had the chance to hear Sims Reeves and Santley again, together with Alvsleben and Sherington, and Signor Foli from the 1870 concert, this time in the Crystal Palace, the occasion being the 5th Triennial Handel Festival, promoted by Sir Michael Costa, when the oratorio *Israel in Egypt* was being performed. He stayed overnight with Mr and Mrs Venables and caught a special train which should have got him in good time to hear the concert, but it was late starting. He did not arrive at the Palace until 11.30 *when the doors had been open and all the best seats filled for half an hour. I was a long way from the Orchestra and on one side yet I heard all the 28 Choruses admirably. Some of the solos were almost inaudible and all sounded like faint voices coming out of a vast empty distance* (vol III, p44). Anyone who has attended a concert in a venue with poor acoustics will sympathise. He seems to have been able to hear the duet between the two sopranos, 'The Lord is my Strength' – these were Madame Otto



The Colston Hall as Kilvert would have known it. Below, the grand central staircase



'Imperfect but very curious and of some merit'

Following on from her 'Kilvert and wassailing' in Journal 36, SHEILA JONES discusses his visit to the landlord of the Sun Inn at Colva in pursuit of what he hoped were Radnorshire folk-songs

ON Saturday 26 February 1870, Francis Kilvert walked from Clyro to Colva and back, calling on parishioners on his way. The distance was around 12 miles or 19km as the crow flies, rather more along the lanes and field paths that Kilvert followed, but he was a strong walker and made nothing of jumping across swollen streams or being out on the bleak hillside in winter. His objective was the Sun Inn at Colva, now a farmhouse, whose landlord, Mr Phillips, had promised to let him have the words of three songs, which Kilvert names in the *Diary*. Mr Phillips being out, Kilvert left a message asking him to send the words by post. They duly arrived a few days later.

Mr Phillips could remember only two of the songs, *imperfect but very curious and of some merit* (vol I, p46). The word 'imperfect' is interesting; does this refer to missing content or uneven metre? One song about our Saviour is too vague to be conclusively identified. Kilvert records that it had the true ballad swing, so it could possibly have been 'Have You Not Heard of Our Saviour's Love?' which had first appeared in a collection of Christmas Carols in 1775. The first four verses read:

- 1 Have you not heard of Our Saviour's love?
And how he suffered like a harmless dove,
But still we in our wickedness remain,
We crucify our blessed Lord again.
- 2 If you were going to be put to death,
You'll find it hard to find a friend on earth,
That would lay down his life to set you free,
But Christ did shed his precious blood for thee.
- 3 Consider what our Lord did undergo,
To prevent them from the gulf of woe:
Repent in time, your wickedness refrain,
Christ will not shed his blood for us again.
- 4 Then let each other, as we ought to do,
'Tis God's command, though kept by few.
For little love does in this world abound,
Nothing but spite and malice to be found.

These sound like sentiments Kilvert would endorse.

The second song was 'Dives and Lazarus', which is very well-known indeed. Its inspiration is the story found in St Luke 16:19-16:31: 'There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores....'

continued from facing page

Alvsleben and Madame Lemmens Sherington, (*Madame Lemmens' voice pierced like lightning*) - and also 'The Lord is a Man of War', sung this time by Santley (a baritone rather than the bass Kilvert calls him) and Signor Fali, presumably a mistranscription of 'Foli'. *Sims Reeves sang 'The Enemy Said' as splendidly as ever*. This comment may infer that Kilvert had heard Sims Reeves sing this aria on another or other occasions.

He concludes: *To my mind the most marvellous part of this marvellous oratorio is the Chorus describing the plague of darkness. In the thick heavy muffled music you could feel the waves of darkness coming on*. This comment suggests a real love of oratorio and a familiarity with this particular one.

William Plomer had to cut the *Diary* by two-thirds to make it suitable for publication. What more likely than that he omit-

There are a number of variants on the words. One starts off: As it fell out upon a day,/Rich Dives he made a feast,/And he invited all his friends/And gentry of the best. / Then Lazarus laid him down and down,/And down at Dives' door;/Some meat, some drink, brother Dives,/Bestow upon the poor. The tune is very early indeed - it has been traced to the 16th century as a carol sung to the words 'Come all ye faithful Christians'. You can hear it set in reflective mood in Vaughan Williams's 'Five Variations on Dives and Lazarus', or, as a complete contrast, with lyrics belted out by Maddy Prior backed by Steeleye Span, which brings out all the triumphalism of the story, when Dives gets his come-uppance at the end. The tune was used for other songs, the one most familiar perhaps being 'The Star of the County Down'.

The third song, the one Mr Phillips couldn't remember the words of, was 'King James and the Tinker', which tells the tale of how King James I got separated from his courtiers on a hunting trip in Enfield Forest and drank with a tinker in an ale-house, who didn't recognise him until his courtiers caught up with the king. It was in existence by at least 1686.

One would have expected Kilvert to have copied the words into his *Diary*. Perhaps he did but they weren't selected for publication. If he simply kept the piece of paper Mr Phillips sent him, they were no doubt thrown away some time after his death, along with other documents, letters and suchlike that Kilvert had kept.

Mr Phillips had been born in Wandsworth in 1813 according to the 1871 census, though he was living in Colva by at least 1851, as recorded in the 1851 census. These are English folk-songs, as secular singing and dancing had long been frowned on in non-conformist Wales, so it is likely that he heard them as a child or young man in the South-East of England. If Kilvert was under the impression that they would form part of a collection of Radnorshire folk-lore, he probably soon realised his mistake.

Mr Phillips would hardly have offered to let Kilvert have the words of three folk-songs he remembered (or thought he did!) if he hadn't been known in the Clyro area to be actively collecting them. It may have been a short-lived or spasmodic interest or it has been filtered out in the selection of *Diary* entries by William Plomer, as so much else has been.

ted further descriptions of concerts in the interests of including what he felt would engage the interest of the reader. People who thoroughly enjoy going to concerts, as Kilvert did, writing about what he heard with real appreciation, will make the opportunity to do so when they can, and Kilvert had easy access to Bristol, to Bath and to London. There must have been more. Sadly we'll never know.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 The Provincial Music Festival in England 1784-1914 by Pippa Drummond, pp.123-125. Pub. 2013, Ashgate Publishing. Read as a google e-book.

Note: For internet users, the music Kilvert heard can be found on YouTube, others as midi downloads, some as sheet music and some with words as well. There are also CDs of some.



Why Faust was an appropriate remembrance of Worcester

Francis Kilvert's prospects were blighted by his lack of serious means. However, DAVE HEPWORTH's research into the will of Richard Caink, whose sister married Thomas Kilvert and who was the coach builder to whom Francis Kilvert's grandfather was apprenticed, casts matters in a new light

ROBERT KILVERT, the diarist's father, loved his grandmother. He tells us so:

The person I knew most of, and remember most particularly, was my Grandmother on my father's side.

Robert tells us that his 'dear grandmother' had been a widow for many years when he first knew her. From his description, she was a formidable woman, and had strong likes and dislikes, which she was not shy in expressing:

My eldest brother and I were singled out as objects of the former, and the rest of our large family, seven brothers and one sister (and including my dear mother, I am sorry to say) fell under the latter.

Robert felt that his grandmother

had never heartily condoned my father's marriage.... She did not like the family he had chosen from; and there was the added grievance that her only daughter had married my mother's brother.

Clearly this almost octogenarian was a force to be reckoned with, and found much to be dissatisfied with. Robert Kilvert knew her well, but her name he seems to have known only from the record of her marriage:

She was born, I remember hearing her say, in the year 1734, (she signed the marriage register as Elizabeth Caint).

Perhaps her handwriting had been shaky with the excitement of the day, or perhaps Robert had misread it. For the fearsome grandma with a soft spot for Robert and his brother Francis was Elizabeth Caink.

Elizabeth Caink was baptised at Llanymynech, a few miles west of Shrewsbury, on 14 November 1735, the daughter of Robert Caink, a farmer, and his wife Elizabeth.

She became the wife of Thomas Kilvert, and they had three children, Robert, Francis, and Anna Maria.

Their middle child, Francis Kilvert, worked in Bath as a coach-maker, and had served his apprenticeship there. In the Register of Duties paid for Apprentices Indentures we find Francis on 14 March 1775. His Master was Richard Caink, the fearsome grandma's brother. Richard had himself been apprenticed in Bath, to William Bridgen, coach-maker, in 1754.

Richard Caink (1740-1797) left an interesting will, written in 1782:

Richard Caink of the City Of Bath in the County of Somerset Coach maker being of sound and disposing mind and memory and understanding (praised be God for the same) do make and declare this to be my last Will and Testament in manner following (that is to say) First I will and direct that all my [...] funeral [expenses] and the charges of proving this my will be paid and discharged by my Executrix hereinafter named out of my personal Estate hereinafter bequeathed to her and subject thereto and to the payment thereof I give and bequeath to my dear wife Elizabeth Caink all such sum or sums of money as shall or may be due or owing to me at the time of my death from any person or persons whosoever

or mortgage bond drafts or other security or securities and also all my household goods furniture pictures plate China linen and impediments of household of what nature or kind soever to and for her own sole use and comfort. I also give, devise and bequeath unto my said dear wife all my real estate whatsoever and wheresoever and of what nature and kind soever and whereof and wherein I own or any person or persons who trust for me own or is or shall or may be anyways seized possessed of or entitled to in possession and reversion remainder or expectancy or otherwise howsoever and also all the rest residue and remainder of my personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever not herein before by me specifically given or disposed of and all my estate right title and in trust therein and thereto to have and to hold the said real and residuary personal estate unto my said dear wife and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life and from and after the death of my said wife I give devise and bequeath my said real estate and my said residuary personal estate unto my sister Elizabeth Kilvert of Condover [just south of Shrewsbury] in the County of Salop widow her heirs executors administrators and assigns forever and do hereby appoint my said wife sole Executrix in Trust of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all former and other wills by me at any time heretofore made. In witness whereof the said Richard Caink have herewith set my hand and seal this 25th day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two.

Richard Caink

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Richard Caink as and for the last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses hereto

W Percival

R Watkis

Robt Clark

The gist, then, of this will is that Richard paid his debts, and left his worldly goods to his dear wife Elizabeth, and, in the event of her death, to his sister, Elizabeth Kilvert, and, after her death to her 'heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever'.

His wife died, followed by Elizabeth Kilvert in 1820. She had been widowed for 38 years when she died.

But who would benefit from Richard Caink's will?

The answer is easy to miss. But at the head of the next, unrelated, will in the ledger, a slightly illegible marginal note written in the corner tells the story:

On the 20th day of September 1826

Admin[istration] / with the will [concerned?] Of the Goods Chattels and Credits of Richard Caink in the City of Bath deceased left by Elizabeth Kilvert Widow the Sister and Universal Legatee substituted in the said will was granted to the Revd Francis Kilvert [his name

is followed by four uppercase letters – an abbreviation of status or qualification ?] one of the executors of the will of the said Elizabeth Kilvert deceased Grandson sworn by comon duly to administer Elizabeth Caink the wife sole Executrix and Universal Legatee for life named in the said will died in the lifetime of the said Testator.

The beneficiary of the chain of events following after Richard Caink's will was the favoured grandson, later of Claverton Lodge.

When Rev Francis Kilvert died on 16 September 1863, his will, proved two months later, had Rev Robert Kilvert, the other favoured grandson, as one of the executors.

Somewhere, perhaps the fearsome grandma allowed herself a small smile.

Elizabeth Caink's elder son was Rev Richard Kilvert. His younger brother Robert tells us that Richard went to Shrewsbury School and became a 'ripe and excellent scholar' before going up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

He was afterwards, in succession, beside other preferments, Rector of Hartlebury in Worcestershire, Examining Chaplain to Bishop Hurd, and, by royal gift, Canon of Worcester Cathedral.

Richard made his will in 1817, the year before his death:

In the Name of God Amen

I Richard Kilvert Clerk one of the prebendaries of the Cathedral Church of Worcester do make my last Will & Testament in the manner & form following I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Maria Kilvert all my household goods plate & furniture and all the live & dead Stock which I shall die possessed of to be taken and enjoyed by her immediately after my death & to be at her own disposal also I give and bequeath to my nephew the Rev Francis Kilvert Clerk of Bath Clerk the sum of five hundred pounds Sterling also I give to Richard Hurd Esq now resident at the Bishops palace in Worcester & my said nephew Francis Kilvert Clerk all & singular my money and Securities for money as well in the public funds as elsewhere and all the real and residue of my personal Estate and Effects whatsoever upon trust to permit and suffer my said wife all the Real issues and profits thereof for the use and maintenance of herself and my daughter Frances Maria Kilvert for and during the natural life of my said wife or as long as she shall continue my widow & remain solo and unmarried & from & after her death or second marriage whichever shall first happen I give & bequeath all and singular my said money Securities for money as well in the public funds as xxxx & all the Real and Residue of my personal estate to my daughter Frances Maria Kilvert and I do nominate constitute & appoint my said wife Maria Kilvert to be Executrix of this my will. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this sixteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & seventeen

R Kilvert SS

Signed sealed published and declared by the Estate of Richard Kilvert as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request have subscribed our names as witnesses hereto

Sam Picard Hartlebury Castle Worcester

Charles Collins Crump curate of Hartlebury

Proved at London 8th August 1818 before the judge by the oath of Maria Kilvert widow the Relict & sole executrix to whom administration was granted having been first sworn by Comon [the word appears to be 'comon' with an abbreviation indication over it. It is a legal term I do not recognise] duly to admir [administer]

Frances Maria Kilvert died on 26 November 1870, and it was her funeral In Worcester that the diarist wrote about so hilariously at the beginning of December.

Kilvert was struck by her face when he saw her in her coffin on 1 December:

The face that lay still, frozen down into silence, in the coffin was a very remarkable one. It was a distinguished face with aristocratic features. A firm mouth, fine highly formed nose delicately and sharply cut. There was a slight frown and a contraction of the brows. It was the face of a person of considerable ability, stern, severe and perhaps a little contemptuous, an expression which with the contraction of the brows was so habitual that death had smoothed neither away. . . . There was a strong family resemblance to my Father. . . .

Kilvert's father had described Elizabeth Caink's features:

My grandmother was a person of strongly marked character expressed in her features, which must at some time have been fine and in some degree handsome, but the eye and nose were aquiline, and the upper lip too firmly set, too ready to express indignation and disapproval.

There is a marked similarity here. Grandmother and granddaughter were two peas in a pod, and it is clear that DNA was as powerful an inheritance as the goods, chattels and securities for money with which the wills dealt.

On 2 December 1870, in the calm following Aunt Maria's funeral, Kilvert went to hear her two executors read her will.

The estate proved to be £36,000 and about £7000 will come to my father. When he left Langley [to come to the funeral] he did not even know if he should have enough left him to pay his expenses.

An approximate conversion makes Robert Kilvert's surprise legacy worth nearly £400,000 in today's money. He need not have worried about his expenses.

Kilvert himself, who struggled to impress Daisy Thomas's father with his prospects, and maybe failed to impress others too, died before his father, and so did not benefit from the chain of family legacies which, had he lived but three years longer, might have made him a wealthy man.

But wealth would have been wasted on him.

Before travelling home from the funeral, he went to pick up a newspaper in hopes of seeing a report of the funeral, a report which would not have come close to his own wonderful recording of it. He had his hair cut, and his beard cut square against the advice of the barber, and was happy to have five shillings given as a birthday present from his mother.

He spent 2/- on a copy of *Faust*, as a remembrance of Worcester. It is an interesting choice. We all know the bargain Faust made, and perhaps Aunt Maria and the will reminded him of the huge value of being not only content with what you have, but happy.

Francis Kilvert did not benefit from the chain of family legacies which, had he lived but three years longer, might have made him a wealthy man



Spreading the word and fostering research

The success of our website – www.thekilvertsociety.org.uk – is being taken a step further with the decision to expand the Archive and to open it to all-comers, irrespective of whether they are members or not. It is hoped visitors will be attracted by the society's evident fellowship

BIG changes are coming to our website that will make it easier to use to research the life of Francis Kilvert.

The committee has decided that from now on you will no longer need a password to access our Archive of past publications. At the same time, the range of material on the website has been hugely expanded with the addition of all the *Newsletters* from 1960 to 1999. We already have the *Journal* from September 2010 online and the missing years will be filled in soon, as will the few gaps among the *Newsletters* and those before 1960.

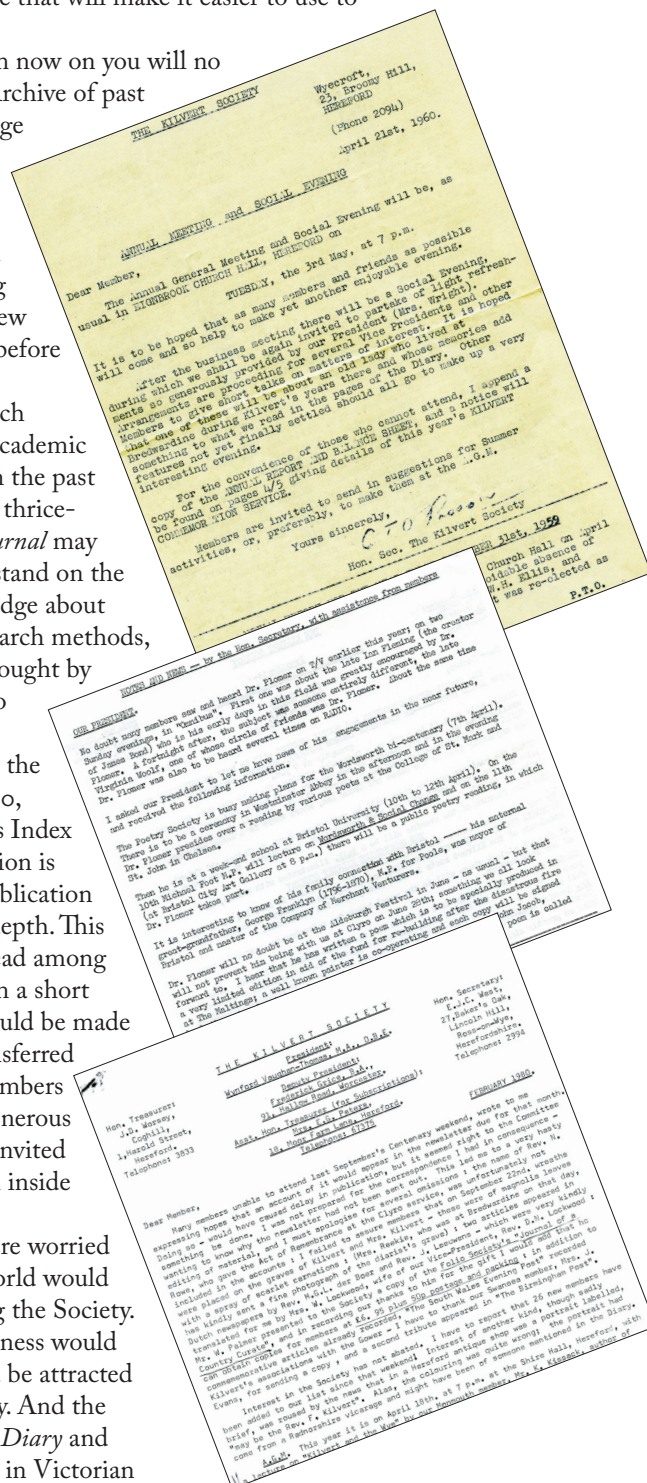
The resource now available for research takes the Society on to a new level of academic potential. Members who have joined in the past few years and who have never seen the thrice-yearly *Newsletters* that preceded the *Journal* may be unaware of the extent to which we stand on the shoulders of our forerunners in knowledge about Kilvert; and now we, with modern research methods, can add to what was discovered and thought by those who compiled and contributed to the *Newsletters*.

We already have in print an Index to the *Newsletters* and *Journals* from 1956–2000, compiled by the Rev Dr JN Rowe. This Index will also be available online. The intention is to expand it to cover all the years of publication and perhaps to index them in greater depth. This is a large task that would be better spread among several members, each concentrating on a short period. The work-in-progress index would be made accessible only to the indexers and transferred at intervals to the accessible Index. Members who would like to be involved in this onerous yet interesting and rewarding task are invited to email the *Journal* Editor (address on inside front cover of the *Journal*).

Some members of the committee were worried that having the Archive open to the world would discourage people from actually joining the Society. But on balance it was agreed that openness would serve the Society better. Visitors would be attracted by the evident fellowship of the Society. And the more that people knew about Kilvert's *Diary* and the important role it should be playing in Victorian and family studies the better it was for the Society. Nevertheless, the Archive page will display a panel inviting visitors to make a small donation and pointing them towards membership.

The Society will monitor how it all goes and if it appears to be having a serious adverse effect on membership then the decision on openness could be reversed.

One other decision by the committee was to delay the posting on the website of the latest *Journal* for two months after publication in print.



Welcome to new members; notes, books, obituaries

The Society warmly welcomes the following new members

Peter & Vicky Austerfield, of Westhope, Hereford

Mrs Jenny Boden, of Piddinghoe, East Sussex

Celia Cundale, of Cusop, Hay-on-Wye

Robert & Elizabeth Evans, of Hereford

Howard & Marion Peel, of Worcester

Matt Rose, of Penryn, Cornwall



Our President wrote to Michael Sharp, an old friend, in September. 'I just want to thank you and all the other Kilvertians for keeping the Society so alive!' said Dr Blythe, pictured by the



Editor last autumn at the door of his home, Bottengoms Farm, in Essex.

'It is wonderful what you achieve. I wish I could be with you on those outings, but it isn't possible. I just wanted to assure you I am not a sleeping President. Antiquity and distance keep me at home. But I read Kilvert to my Matins and Evensong congregations now and then. I am a lay canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and Reader at 3 churches here, and I sense that youthful though sadly brief curate of Clyro by my side. I miss the Border hills!'

Readers of the *Church Times* are able to enjoy Dr Blythe's regular column, Word from Wormingford, which often mentions the Diarist.



AS John Toman has reminded us, Francis Kilvert was keenly interested in the scientific questions of the day – he regularly read three heavyweight journals. In *Journal* 39 (following on his address to the Society in April 2014 and his book *Kilvert's World of Wonders*, Lutterworth Press 2013,), John expounded on Kilvert's fascination for geology.

His knowledge, said John, manifested itself in two main areas: mineralogy and land forms. The latter was connected with changes wrought by time on the surface of the earth, and here Kilvert clearly saw dynamics at work, in contrast to those

who still believed the earth was ever thus. Minerals, on the other hand, were important to him as the source of the nation's wealth. The two aspects came together in Kilvert's visit to Cornwall and it is here that claims of his geological expertise have come into question.

The subject has been touched upon in an article in *Cornwall Life* by Derek Stonley, who here expands his views for the *Journal*.

He writes: I quote from *Kilvert's Cornish Diary* (eds Maber and Tregonning 1989) for part of the trip undertaken to the Logan Rock and other sights including Land's End on 27 July 1870. *As we returned up the steep narrow pass or gangway among the broken tumbled piles and wildernesses of rocks, H and Captain*

Parker discovered the black streak of a vein or lode of tin in the rocky pathway underfoot. The close solid black ore glittered and sparkled with a thousand tiny points, and I brought away a bit in remembrance of the place.

If Kilvert had had any basic geological knowledge, he should have recognised that the sparkling black mineral whose physical characteristics he described very accurately, was not the ore mineral of tin (cassiterite), which is dark brown in colour, but fine needles of the quite common, shiny black mineral tourmaline, a complex boron-rich silicate mineral.

Veins of tourmaline are present in the granite in the vicinity of the Logan Rock, and it would have been material from one of these that was discovered by H (William Hockin, Kilvert's host at Tullimaar) and Captain Parker. I suspect that these two wished to impress their credulous guest with a discovery of tin, and despite their Cornish roots may not have themselves really known what they were offering. Kilvert, with his supposed geological knowledge,

appears to accept their identification as truth and is happy to pocket a sample to take away as a souvenir.

Later that day he describes the appearance of the granite cliffs in considerable detail, but again offers no geological insights as to how they might have been formed.

There is virtually no chance that what was found that day would have been tin. Cornwall had been prospected very thoroughly by the time of Kilvert's visit and it beggars belief that a vein of tin, outcropping in a path to a much frequented tourist site, would have passed un-noticed.

This would have been even more the case in 1870, which was the first year of what became known as the great tin boom, which lasted until 1872. The price of tin rose very rapidly to a price not seen since 1810, due to a near complete cessation of supply from Malaya. This was caused by serious fighting between two Chinese secret societies, the Hai San and the Ghee Hin, who sought to control the coolies who actually dug the ore. Each secret society was supported by different sultans of the Malay States, such that the area descended into virtual civil war, which the British had to quell in 1874.

There was frenzied new prospecting in Cornwall at this time, and 1871 saw the all-time peak of mining activity for tin. Needless to say, no tin was found around the area of the Logan Rock, and none has been found up to the present day.



Welcome to new members; notes, books, obituaries

The Society has welcomed the election of Richard Frith as Bishop of Hereford and has decided to make him an honorary member while he is bishop.



Bishop Richard, who is 65, comes to Hereford from Hull where he has been suffragan bishop in the Diocese of York since 1998. He has four children and four step children as well as seven grandchildren.

The Dean of Hereford, Michael Tavinor, said at the time he was named to the see: 'Bishop Richard has worked in a mix of urban and rural areas in his forty years of ministry. He is very

committed to team working and to the ministry of the whole church, lay and ordained.

'We are very much looking forward to welcoming Bishop Richard and his wife Kay to the City of Hereford and to our community at the cathedral.'



PLANS were submitted to Wiltshire Council last autumn that threaten to destroy the essential character of 'Kilvert Country' lying to the north of Chippenham.

The developers Robert Hitchins are proposing to build 500 houses, two primary schools, with retail and business space, at Barrow Farm.

The Society was alerted by member Jenifer Roberts, who lives in Langley Cottage – where Kilvert used to visit the Lawrence family. Langley Burrell Residents Association also reacted with alarm and the Kilvert Society was one of the organisations they appealed to for support.

Their grounds for objection (which had to be submitted by December 4) included the irreversible destruction of green space/agricultural land with an adverse effect on the historic landscape and setting; adverse impact on ecology and the environment; the destruction of 'Kilvert country' and adverse impact on Maud Heath's Causeway; its impact on the cultural heritage – Langley Burrell has 43 listed buildings/monuments – including St Peter's Church (Grade 1 listed), and Langley House, and Kilvert's Parsonage; and an unacceptable increase in traffic on B4069 (local road) – the two proposed roundabouts were said to be poorly sited, with insufficient view and stopping space for a 50mph limit road.

It seems that this last consideration is what may yet scupper the development.

Robert Whitrow, of Kilvert's Parsonage, told the *Journal*: 'The planning decision has been deferred for six months at request of Transport Dept who are looking into the traffic model used to support the claims re traffic impact by the developers....'

'In the interim, Wilts CC has just published its draft proposed Strategic Site Allocation Plan for Chippenham which goes out for general consultation ...which provisionally indicates the preferred/recommended areas for future development around Chippenham (which has to create/absorb c5000 houses by 2026...the good news is that in the current proposed draft, Chippenham expansion northwards towards Langley Burrell is *not* a preferred/recommended development

site...which if it remains/does not get overturned during the consultation process will then get baked into the DPD [development proposals document]...and would make it much harder for developers to develop to the north of Chippenham (as proposed by the Barrow Farm development).... So, we live in hope that the current vaguely optimistic outlook remains.'

Members who want to keep up to date with matters should look at the Langley Burrell website langleyburrell.co.uk



About the time the Society restored the grave of 'Young Addie' Heanley, née Cholmeley, last year, our Secretary, Alan Brimson, received an inquiry through our website from The Light Box, the museum and gallery at Woking in Surrey.

A heritage volunteer at the museum, Jenny Mukerji, was pursuing a local connexion of the Cholmeleys and asked if we could help.

Alan replied: 'Adelaide Mary Cholmeley was a favourite cousin of Rev Francis Kilvert and is often mentioned in his *Diary*. We have little knowledge of her later life after 1874, so we would be grateful for any information you may have. Her daughter Adelaide Maria Heanley (née Cholmeley) died at the age of 24 and the Society has just restored her memorial gravestone at Croft in Lincolnshire.'

Ms Mukerji fell to the task with enthusiasm and came up with some fascinating findings. Some of the facts will, of course, be familiar to members of the Society, but much will not.

Although she takes us on some years from the times of Francis Kilvert, it is worth telling the whole story because it makes us remember that the Kilvert story is still unfolding. The ripples in the pond keep growing and interest in Francis Kilvert can only grow with it.

Adelaide Mary Cholmeley is listed as occupying Beechdene, 14 Midhope Road, Woking, from 1904 until 1906.

Adelaide was the daughter of Rev Francis Kilvert (1796-1863) and his wife Eleonora Adelaide Sophia L, née de Chievre (c.1790-1870) who were married at the Holy Trinity church in Clapham on 10 December 1822. At that time, he was living at Darlington Street in Bath and his bride, who was born in France, was living in Acre Lane, Clapham. In fact, as her mother was born in French Revolutionary times, her family may well have fled to Britain to escape its horrors.

Adelaide was born in Bathwick, near Bath in 1830, where her father was a clergyman. She also had two sisters. Her cousin, whom her father privately educated, was the Reverend (Robert) Francis Kilvert (1840-1879) who wrote diaries about the countryside he loved. They have been published as a series known as *Kilvert's Diaries* which in turn, were translated into film in 1976.

She married Captain Montague Francis Cholmeley of the East India Company Service at Bathwick in November 1853. It was at the marriage of their daughter Adelaide Maria Cholmeley (1855-1879) to Charles Heanley in Sussex in 1874, that the diary's author met and fell in love with a lady called Katherine, but, despite the young Adelaide's intrigue, the match was not to be and Francis married another lady shortly before his death. As we have seen, Adelaide Heanley died in 1879. She was buried in Croft, Lincolnshire and the Kilvert Society recently restored her grave.

JULIA YEARDYE, who (pictured with her late husband Tony) was a popular and regular attendee at the Society's events for years, has 'at last' written her wartime memoirs. Entitled *Trial and Circumstance*, the book will soon be available at £20 including postage. That sounds cheap at the price because it is more than a quarter of a million words long, complete with photos. Julia has also published her fifth anthology of verse, *A Diamond Collection*, available at £8.50 including postage. Orders may be sent to her at 15 Wykeridge Close, Chesham HP2 2LJ.

Julia has a 'near-pristine' set of the three-volume *Diary* for sale at £55 including postage. She says: 'Tony read them three times over – once for me!' She has other Kilvert publications which members might like to acquire, but there are too many to send and would need collection.

Her note to the Editor concludes: 'Please would you pass on this info to members – all of whom I remember with great affection & convey my best regards to!'



Whilst in India, Adelaide gave birth to at least four children. The eldest may have been Adelaide Maria (1885-1879) who married Charles Heanley in the Worthing area in 1879. Francis Kilvert wrote about both his cousin and her daughter, Adelaide in his diaries. Adelaide Mary and Montague were certainly the parents of Montague Francis who was born on 17 July 1856 and baptised at Mercara, Madras on 5 October 1856. When they came back to England he was living with his widowed mother and his cousin Mabel Adye Cholmeley at Westbourne House in Staines in 1891. He was a solicitor and married his cousin, Mabel, in Lincolnshire the following spring. Mabel was a school governess and had been born in Swaby, Lincolnshire in 1867; her father was James Cholmeley, rector of Swaby. Montague and Mabel had five children:

Dorothy Katherine (born in 1893); Penelope Margaret (born 1896); Humphrey Jasper (born in 1898); Elizabeth Mary (born 1899) who married Jerom Victor in 1927; and Barbara Adye (born in 1901).

Adelaide's daughter, Eleonora Penelope (named after Adelaide's mother) was born on 12 December 1860 and was baptised at Mercara on 29 December 1860. Eleonora never married and in 1901 she was living in Bournemouth with her mother. It is most likely that she came to Beechdene with her mother in 1904 and she died in Somerset in 1924, aged 63.

Norman Goodford Cholmeley was born in 1864 in India and married Mary Katherine Batten, daughter of George Hallet Batten on 28 March 1903 in Minbu, Bengal. They had a daughter, Irene Adelaide de Chievre who was born on 25 December 1903 and baptised at Thaystmyo, Bengal on 10 April 1904. She married Frederick W L Horner in Hampstead in 1931. In 1911 she was living in Suffolk aged 7; she was said to have been born in Minbu. Norman and Mary also had two sons. The elder one was Laurence Norman (1905-1991) who was born in Woking and became a Brigadier in the Royal Artillery and was awarded the CBE. He married Patience Mary (1914-2003), elder daughter of the late Mr C S Williamson MC and Mrs Williamson of Arborfield Grange, near Reading in 1936. Their children were Robert, Toby and Phillida. Norman and Mary's other son was Francis Nangle who was born in 1908 in Maymo, India. In 1911 all three children were living in Ixworth, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk.

When Adelaide came back to England she originally lived with her son Montague in Staines, but once he married she moved to 141 Elgin Crescent, Ladbroke, London. She was listed as an elector there in 1894 and 1896. In 1901 she was in Bournemouth with Eleonora. After leaving Beechdene, she was living at Mercara, Kingston Road, Staines and when she died on 31 October 1915, that was still her address. Her daughter Eleonora was granted probate to settle her mother's estate of £1,222.18s.5d and Adelaide was buried at St Mary's churchyard in Staines.



The second edition of John Toman's remarkable book, *The Lost Photo Album: A Kilvert Family Story*, will be appearing very soon. It incorporates more research into previously unidentified characters in the cartes-de-visites album the Society purchased at auction a couple of years ago, and also has more photographs and an index.

In order to keep costs within bounds it was decided against having illustrations in colour. This was a decision taken reluctantly because the facsimile reproduction of the Album itself was a very successful feature of the first edition.

The second edition, like the first, will be produced as a print-on-demand book. That means the Society will not be burdened by having to keep copies in stock. We also intend to publish an e-edition which will be in full colour. The price has yet to be decided, but it will be less than the cost of the print edition.

It is with regret that we record the death of the following members

Mr Ian Hall, of Romsey, Hants, a member since 1990, died on 4 November 2014. Ian was 89 years old.

Mrs Elizabeth Robertson-Smith, of Oxford, died on 4 September 2014. She had been a member since 1985.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of the deceased

Obituary

It is with regret that we record the death of our committee member, Meriel Oliver

FOR the second time in only a few months the Society has suffered the loss of a member of its committee to illness.

Meriel Oliver, who was in her late seventies, put at our service the talents she had honed in a lifetime of service to the community. Her skills – both executive and conciliatory – found vivid expression at the hugely-attended Service of Celebration at Hereford Cathedral in November in the address from the union leader at Hereford health authority, where Meriel had chaired the board. She was a woman whose intelligence was emotional as well as intellectual. She had no airs. Her interests were astonishingly wide. For example, she was president of Headway, the charity for people with head injuries.

‘What has amazed and delighted me,’ her husband John, the former Bishop of Hereford wrote to the Editor of the *Journal*, ‘is the quite extraordinary range of people who have written – a testimony to the countless ways in which Meriel engaged with a huge range of people and places and subjects. She was very special and I was very fortunate to be married to her for over fifty years.’ He added: ‘I know how much she enjoyed the Kilvert Society meetings, although she always felt like a fairly ignorant amateur compared with the real cognoscenti.’

Alan Brimson, Secretary of the Kilvert Society, spoke warmly of her membership of the committee since 2009: ‘In particular I very much appreciated her guidance and encouragement during the lengthy negotiations with the Church authorities to replace the badly damaged memorial gravestone to Adelaide Heanley, née Cholmeley, at Croft, Lincolnshire.’

For members of our Society, the Choral Evensong at St David’s, Glascwm, at All Saints’-tide was especially poignant for it was there, a little over a year earlier, that Meriel and John had conducted our Commemorative Service as a highly-successful two-hander. The choir that performed sublimely on that occasion, Schola, conducted by David White, were with us again. This time the service was conducted by the Precentor of Hereford Cathedral, Canon Andrew Piper; the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, John Davies, gave the blessing.

In welcome, the vicar, the Rev Richard Kirlew, said: ‘When I first came to these parishes six years ago I asked someone about John, who I hadn’t met: “What a wonderful wonderful man”. And Meriel, I asked? After a moment of quiet, those immortal words, “Oh what a saint” And that is how I will remember Meriel, a very saintly figure, a lovely, lovely person.’ (A similar story was recounted at the cathedral by a speaker from the Olivers’ former parish in Dorset: ‘A churchwarden from his previous parish came up to us and said, “You are very lucky to be having John Oliver”. And then there was a short pause, and she added: “You are extremely lucky to be having Meriel”. How right she was. Her wonderful capacity to come alongside people and to truly listen to their concerns she formed

some real and deep friendships.’) Mr Kirlew continued: ‘Hope shone through Meriel’s life and in her preaching as a licensed reader in Hereford Cathedral. Listening to Meriel preach was always a pleasure. Even though she was a woman with considerable intellectual gifts, nonetheless she wore her scholarship very lightly and her sermons were crafted in straightforward language that could be understood easily by those of us who are not academic theologians.’

Meriel’s son Tom, reflecting on how no one works in a vacuum, said with heartfelt urgency: ‘Think of how you amplified Meriel’s character, how you played a part in the goodness we celebrate with her and recognise your own goodness, yours, recognise your goodness, and use it in the future.’

Her other son, Henry, read out ‘just some of the hundreds and hundreds of things people have said and written about her and what she meant to them in their lives since she died’: ‘We loved Meriel’s unwarranted modesty.... I shall remember Meriel, for her joy and exuberance, jumping up and down in her enthusiasm for life.... I feel so grateful to have known Meriel, she was someone very special – kind, generous, wonderful, a wonderful sense of

humour and fierce intellect. Quite simply she made all the difference.... I feel so truly grateful to have known Meriel and received her rock-like support in the long battle to protect our environment.... She was such an efficient committee chairman, so good tempered and tolerant that you didn’t notice the firm hand on the tiller.’ Henry said that Meriel was a fan of CS Lewis – ‘It seems appropriate that one person should have written: Meriel was a sort of female Aslan’.

At the cathedral service we learnt her maternal grandfather was a bishop who led in the creation of the 1928 Prayer Book, which allowed women not to have to promise to obey their husbands. Her father was one of the founders of the National Maritime Museum. Going to Cambridge in 1956 to study theology, Meriel was among the first cohorts to attend New Hall. Life can’t have been all notes and texts for her: we heard of the pet jackdaw she kept, and of the (illegal) use of the roof for sunbathing. Several of her contemporaries were at the cathedral. ‘We were very blessed in having such a friend,’ said one.

Tom said that even after painful treatment, ‘she still had the gumption to say, “Some people say when they get bad diagnoses, Why me? I rather think, Why not me?” When her serious prognosis was known she said she was “disappointed”. When I pressed her, she said, “Oh it’s not the end of the world.” Well, actually, for me it is,’ said Tom.

Charles Moore, the former editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, wrote in *The Spectator*, about Meriel, his ‘dear, funny and truly sainted aunt’. ‘Most of us,’ he wrote, ‘learn too late that one has the right attitude to one’s own death only if one has the right attitude to one’s own life, so we badly need the best examples.’



Three-Volume Diary, packed in slip case, available to members at £60 plus £10.50 p&cp.

The Lost Photo Album: A Kilvert Family Story, by John Toman (including a facsimile of Anna Maria Kilvert's Album). Copies from the Publications Manager (address below)

Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary
A fully comprehensive Who's Who with over 400 biographies and 22 family trees, compiled by the late Tony O'Brien. £13 including p&cp.

More Chapters from the Kilvert Saga (reprinted)
Contents: The Memoirs of the Rev Robert Kilvert (the Diarist's father) and Recollections of Emily Wyndowe (the Diarist's sister); also extracts from Augustus Hare's account of the school at Hardenhuish Rectory. £5.

Jubilee Praise. The Tom Palmer Memorial Booklet, compiled to celebrate the Society's Jubilee in June 1998. This new publication, edited by our former Chairman, Michael Sharp, is a selection from the Newsletters of the last thirty years. £5.50.

Francis Kilvert Priest & Diarist, by Frederick Grice. A reprint of the 1975 original. £5.50.

Collected Verse Contains the 55 poems of Francis Kilvert printed privately in 1881. £4.50.

The Frederick Grice Memorial Booklet Contents: The Missing Year – Kilvert & 'Kathleen Mavourneen'

by Laurence Le Quesne; two hitherto unpublished articles on Kilvert by Frederick Grice; several articles, also by Frederick Grice, reprinted from various newsletters. £5

Kilvert's 'Kathleen Mavourneen', by Eva Farmery and R.B. Taylor. The publication records the painstaking research, extending over some 35 years, into the Heanley family of Croft, Lincolnshire, and the related Cholmeley family, who were related by marriage to the Kilvert Family. Particularly interesting is the section dealing with Katharine Heanley ('Kathleen Mavourneen'), her relationship with the Diarist and her tragic death. £5.

A Kilvert Symposium. Eight contributions from members who read papers at the Kilvert Conference held at Attingham Park in 1975. £4.50.

Kilvert and the Wordsworth Circle, by R.I. Morgan
The author summarises his researches into the Wordsworth – Monkhouse – Dew connection, in which Kilvert was so interested. £4.50.

Looking Backwards. References to Kilvert's wife, their marriage and honeymoon; accounts of their home-coming to Bredwardine and of Kilvert's death and funeral; extracts from the diary of Hastings Smith (Kilvert's nephew) relating to his enquiries into his uncle's year at St Harmon, etc. £4.50

List of Kilvert publications

Miscellany Two: The Oswin Prosser Memorial Booklet.

Contents: The Solitary of Llanbedr by the Rev D Edmondes-Owen; Radnorshire Legends and Superstitions by Mrs Essex Hope; Honeymoon Journal by Dora Pitcairn; The Venables Diaries by A L Le Quesne; Memories of the Monk by Ann Mallinson. £4.50.

Kilvert's Poetry: A Study, by Bernard Jones. £4.

The Other Francis Kilvert. Francis Kilvert of Claver-ton (1803-1863), by Teresa Williams and Frederick Grice. The authors, after diligent research, have produced an extremely interesting account of the life and work of the Diarist's Uncle Francis. £2.

The Books Kilvert Read, by John Toman. £2

Index of Journal/Newsletters 1956-2000, by the late Rev Dr Nigel Rowe. £2.

The Bevan-Dew Extracts. Entries from the original Diary relating to the Bevan and Dew families which were omitted from the published Diary. £2.

Kilvert and the Visual Arts, by Rosalind Billingham. A transcript of the authoritative lecture given by Miss Billingham at the 1979 Annual General Meeting. £1.50.

Vicar of this Parish, by John Betjeman. £2

Children of the Rectory, by Essex Hope. £1.50

Newsletter/Journals. Back

numbers of some Newsletters and Journals. £2.50.

The following books can be purchased from booksellers or on the internet:

Francis Kilvert, by David Lockwood. Seren Books, 1990. ISBN 1-85411-033-0 paperback.

Kilvert The Victorian, by David Lockwood. Seren Books, 1992. ISBN 1-85411-077-2.

After Kilvert, by A.L. Le Quesne. OUP, 1978. ISBN 0-19-211748-3.

Francis Kilvert and His World, by Frederick Grice. Caliban Books, 1980. Hardback ISBN 0-904573-52-4; Paperback ISBN 0-904573-78-8.

Kilvert The Homeless Heart, by John Toman. Logaston Press, 2001. ISBN 1-873827-37-7.

Growing up in Kilvert Country, by Mona Morgan. Gomer, 1990. ISBN 0-86383-680-1.

Exploring Kilvert Country, by Chris Barber. Bloreng Books, 2003. ISBN 1-872730-24-8.

Moods of Kilvert Country, by Nick Jenkins and Kevin Thomas. Halsgrove, 2006. ISBN 1-84114-525-4 / 978-1-84114-525-9.

John Toman's *Kilvert's Diary and Landscape*, £27.50, and *Kilvert's World of Wonders – Growing up in mid-Victorian England*, £25, both published by The Lutterworth Press, PO Box 60 Cambridge

CB1 2NT. Tel 01223 350865, email publishing@lutterworth.com

The three books below are copies of Kilvert's original Diaries and are complete – the only surviving examples of his work.

The Diary of Francis Kilvert, April-June 1870 edited by Kathleen Hughes and Dafydd Ifans. National Library of Wales, 1982. ISBN 0-9077158-02-1.

The Diary of Francis Kilvert, June-July 1870 edited by Dafydd Ifans. National Library of Wales, 1989. ISBN 0-907158-02-1.

Kilvert's Cornish Diary, edited by Richard Maber and Angela Tregoning. Alison Hodge (Cornwall), 1989. ISBN 0-906720-19-2.

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER, Colin Dixon, Tregothnan, Pentrosfa Crescent, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5NW (tel 01597 822062).

Prices include UK postage and packing, unless noted. For overseas orders, please see below. If postage prices change, the price list may have to be amended.

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