

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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10th April 1972

Dear Member,

Once again it is time for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SOCIAL EVENING; it will be held on WEDNESDAY the 26th APRIL in EIGNBROOK CHURCH HALL(S) where we have met each year for many years past. At 7 p.m. (PROMPTLY. PLEASE - as we have a full evening in front of us).

For the benefit of any new members who may be coming for the first time directions are...at the rear of Eignbrook Congregational Church, which is exactly opposite Hereford Eye Hospital; in Eign Street, on the western side of the City. There is a large car park at the adjoining Inn (the Horse & Groom).

The business meeting will (as usual) be got through as quickly as possible so that there will be time for perhaps several speakers before we adjourn to the smaller room for refreshments at about 8 o'clock; maybe one will be a READING of the pages of Kilvert's Diary which relate to Leysters, St.Michael's, Bookleton, and Tenbury Wells; the district to be visited on Saturday afternoon, May 6th - as our Annual Spring Motorcoach Tour. More details about this will be found as an item in this newsletter. BOOKINGS (and coach fare too, if you please) WILL THEN BE TAKEN BY A COMMITTEE MEMBER. Please come prepared to book your seat if intending to come on the coach.

The main items of the evening comes after refreshments; this will be given by our member the REV.L.W.WRAY, for many years Vicar of Belton in Leicestershire and now living in retirement near Ross-on-Wye; and will be a TALK on the LLANTHONY VALLEY in the BLACK MOUNTAINS, illustrated with a number of slides. Many years ago when a young man - Mr.Wray was the Baptist Minister of two churches in that valley, Henllan and Capel-y-Ffin; and afterwards joined the Church of England. Just a year ago Mr.Wray spoke briefly, just enough to whet our appetites for what will surely be a most entertaining talk on what was then a remote valley that was perhaps little different to when Francis Kilvert walked it on more than one occasion a hundred years ago, saw the building of the Monastery, and talked with Father Ignatius.

If time permits there are a number of slides (Kilvert Society slides) which most members have not yet seen---taken at Clyro (Cae Mawr etc); at Oxford when we went to Wadham College; and some from Wiltshire---which can be shown to end the evening.

Finally; a brief note on this year's COMMEMORATION SERVICE-----last year's newsletters announced that it was to be at LANGLEY BURRELL in WILTSHIRE; the date and the special preacher can now be given. It is to be on SUNDAY 25th JUNE at 3 pm. with CANON R.W.KILVERT (of Catherington Vicarage, Hampshire) in the pulpit from which his great-grandfather and great-uncle (the Diarist) were so often heard. The June Newsletter will have all details of what will surely be a most memorable day. It is likely that there will be an AUTUMN SERVICE (October) at ST HARMON in Radnorshire.

Yours sincerely,

C.T.O. Prosser

(C.T.O.Prosser)

Hon.Secretary

The Statement of Accounts for year ended 31-12-71 is enclosed as a separate sheet.

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE SUBSCRIPTIONS Will all members please note that from now on ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS SHOULD BE PAID TO OUR ASSISTANT HON.TREASURER (Mrs E.G.Peters, address as above) and NOT to Mr Worsey as for so many years; this arrangement has been made in order to relieve Mr Worsey of some of his duties as Hon.Treasurer after doing it for 20 years; it is nice to be able to report that he is carrying on doing the accounts and paying the bills etc. etc. WE ALL OWE A BIG DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO HIM, AND OUR THANKS ARE DUE TO MRS PETERS FOR UNDERTAKING TO DEAL WITH ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS HENCEFORTH.

AN IMPORTANT POINT---RECEIPTS WILL BE HELD OVER TO COME WITH THE NEXT NEWSLETTER UNLESS ANY MEMBER SPECIALLY REQUESTS THEM TO BE POSTED - AND SENDS A S.A.E.

NOTICE RE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Regretfully, this will be the LAST NEWSLETTER that some members will receive — I refer to those who have allowed their subscriptions to fall badly into arrears. AS THEY HAVE NOT SENT IN THEIR RESIGNATION I HAVE CONTINUED TO SEND THEM NEWSLETTERS: IN THE HOPE THAT THEIR CONSCIENCES WOULD ONE DAY WAKE UP, AND THEY WOULD THEN PAY UP. THE TIME HAS NOW COME (with ever rising costs—if it is not postage it is production costs) TO CEASE DOING THIS.

THE OLD MINIMUM

Just to remind those members (very few) who have decided to stick to the old minimum of 25p per annum—AND RECEIVE ONLY ONE NEWSLETTER EACH YEAR. THIS IS IT—and they will not receive either the June or the October newsletter with details of summer and autumn events.

THE NEW MINIMUM

The now generally accepted 50p minimum covers all members of the same household but each household naturally only gets one copy of each of the three annual newsletters. We are very happy with all those members who so regularly pay their 50p per annum; and we also specially thank those who exceed this new minimum (and there are very many who do so); and are especially grateful to those who pay far far above it each year.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

A good many members have already taken advantage of the offer of life membership for a payment of £10. It is these payments that account for most of the £270 now in our Deposit A/C (see entry on enclosed STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS which is headed RESERVE FUNDS). There is another reference to this under MUSEUM).

NOTES and NEWS...by the Hon.Secretary.....plus contributions from members

OUR PRESIDENT

First of all some news of Dr Plomer's movements and engagements etc.—this is something that so many members like to know.

The Poetry Society—a little news-item from November reads—"William Plomer, having completed his 3-year term as President of the Poetry Society, was asked to stand for re-election, but felt reluctantly obliged to bow himself out, because of other commitments".

Farewell party—on 17 December the Poetry Society gave a farewell party for its outgoing president; 4 poets read, one of them was Dr Gael Turnbull from Worcestershire; Stephen Spender (who said that he had known W.P. for 42 years); Robert Gittings (the greatest authority on Keats); and Tom Raworth. Dr Plomer says that they "gave him a very heart-warming evening".

Other engagements—these are too many to enumerate here. I happen to know that medical advice has been to "ease up a bit"—but often wonder how well this is being obeyed!! Dr Plomer would much like to be with us at Langley Burrell in June, and we all hope that he manages it, but at this stage it seems a little doubtful.

Celebrations—this is the title of William Plomer's latest book of poems; published by Jonathan Cape and now available. It is the Poetry Book Society Choice. The few words on its dust cover give good clues to some of the subjects covered by the poems..."An incident during the Indian Mutiny, the first night in England of The Cherry Orchard, an architectural masterpiece in Bavaria, a summer afternoon in Bloomsbury before 1914, the rapid resurrection of the burnt-out Maltings—such creative moments and monuments and their implications are commemorated by William Plomer in his fine new collection" and then "A few of the poems are guided missiles aimed at some exemplars of contemporary priggishness by a marksman who has been observing with accuracy ever since his childhood in the Edwardian era."

Miss Zelda Friedlander—Dr Plomer tells me that this South African lady, who is constantly making propaganda for Kilvert, has some idea of helping to plan a tour of English Cathedrals for a party of South Africans next autumn, including a visit to the Kilvert country, the visitors having been briefed about Kilvert beforehand. Miss Friedlander stayed in Hereford a few years ago and on one day of her visit my wife and I took her out-around Hay and Clyro, over to Painscastle etc and also to Llanigon and to Bredwardine; it was a wonderfully clear and sunny day although in early November; she was enchanted with it all and has referred to that day time and time again in her letters (she has been a K.S. member for a number of years). It was Miss Friedlander who gave us the news that Kilvert's Diary is a standard work for students of English at the University of Cape Town.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL At a recent Committee Meeting it was decided to send £5. from the Society's funds to the WORCESTER CATHEDRAL APPEAL—a mere mite towards the £275,000 required (of which £66,377 is still outstanding) but in view of the strong Kilvert connections with Worcester Cathedral it was felt that even if £5. is no more than a gesture we must send something.

MUSEUM

For years there has been talk about establishing a little museum for the many items that we already have pertaining to Kilvert, members of his family and people of the Diary (and for the other items that would, I feel sure, come to light once such a museum was a fact). Either Clyro or Hay is an obvious place, various suggestions have been made, a new idea put forward by a member recently was for a small shop-to be let at a very nominal rent to someone who would look after a little museum in a room at the rear of it. Sounds an excellent idea; all we want is the money with which to carry it out. Among our many members (and the latest count gives the total as well over 600) have we anyone who would like to finance it? We are slowly building up Reserve Funds but these would be needed for incidentals; buying a small property is a very different matter. All ideas on this subject would be welcomed.

ASHBROOK HOUSE, CLYRO

The replacing of the plaque on this house—Kilvert's "lodgings" in Clyro-----with something larger and more worthy of the house where much of the now world-famous diary was written, and of the man who wrote it—HAS BEEN IN THE MINDS OF MANY OF US FOR SOME TIME. The original was put there by the Society in its early days, when costs had to be carefully considered, coupled with the fact that the owner-occupiers at that time would probably not have allowed anything more than the simple plaque that can be seen there today. When the house was sold, a few years ago, we were delighted that it was bought by members of the Society, Mr and Mrs L. Le Quesne; from whom we have had splendid co-operation. We were looking forward to them being there for years. But now they have to sell it and move to Shrewsbury—Mr Le Quesne's professional commitments in that town make this necessary (though I hear that they hope to find a cottage in or near Clyro for holidays etc.) This news makes it imperative that we "get cracking" right away; for although the Le Quesnes do not contemplate moving until much later on in the year it will take time to reach decisions and have it made and erected. Various people have been consulted for opinions etc and the Committee have met and discussed it. The overwhelmingly popular idea for the wording is—FRANCIS KILVERT, PRIEST AND DIARIST, LIVED HERE 1865-1872; and for the tablet itself to be something on the lines of what is seen in London and other places on houses where people of note have lived, a blue plaque with white lettering—or something very much on those lines. The plaque and its fitting will no doubt be quite costly, perhaps £60/£70, perhaps nearer £100. With this newsletter will be found a green leaflet inviting all members and friends who feel that they would like to contribute to this project to send a donation to me at 23 Broomy Hill, Hereford; and pointing out that no receipt will be sent unless specially requested. Our hope is that it will be all settled and the plaque fixed during the next two months, well before Mr and Mrs. Le Quesne leave Clyro.

KILVERT'S DIARY (latest edition)

For years letters have been coming which told of difficulty in getting the three volumes of the Diary (and at times the abridged edition too) for, despite it being known all over the world there seem to be numerous booksellers in G.B. who have never heard of it (did you ever hear the tale of the girl in the bookshop who, when asked if they had Kilvert's Diary replied that they only stocked diaries at Christmastime!!!) So, last year, arrangements were made with Jonathan Cape Ltd. for the Society to have a small stock of them. Already we have sold a lot of the abridged edition and several sets of the three volumes. There are always copies of the abridged here, and the price is 95p plus 15p for postage. There is usually at least one or two sets of the three volumes here too, ready for immediate despatch, if out of stock at any time a set can be obtained very quickly. The price of the latest edition is £12; Plus 25p towards packing and postage. These three volumes are exactly the same as all previous editions, except that the books themselves are larger and more handsome than any before. Profits go to swell the Reserve Fund.

An idea...one of our Vice-Presidents recently gave the set of three to some friends in the country as a wedding present.

LANGLEY BURRELL—June 25th

A motor-coach will be run from HEREFORD, most probably at 10 am. from Hereford Town Hall, we can then have a picnic lunch en route and perhaps visit some place of interest before arriving in good time for the 3 o'clock service.....just the same programme as on our two previous visits to the Chippenham area for Kilvert Commemoration Services. THIS ADVANCE NOTICE is given so that members living en route can get in touch with me if they would like to join it. FURTHERMORE, as we now have the choice of several different routes we can run the way to suit the greater number. This is via Ledbury or via Ross to Gloucester and onwards; via Ledbury, Cheltenham and Cirencester; or via Monmouth and Severn Bridge. Early replies to this invitation will be welcomed. (Hon. Sec.)

THE KILVERT WEEKEND...October 9th & 10th 1971

The newsletter dated 22nd September 1971 gave advance details of this weekend—all went off so well—and so well attended, here are accounts of each event. The first ever such weekend—we hope for more.

Saturday October 9th—the day of the walk "Across the moors to the Rocks of Aberedw"—some 16 cars turned up at 11 am. at Clyro, and after a short wait for any late-comer all set off over the hills to Painscastle and on to the rendezvous beyond Llanbedr (but doing a detour by Llanbedr Church and Llanbychllyn lake in order to stop at a high spot en route to look across to the Rocks of Pen Cwm and the site of the cabin of the 'Solitary'. (New ground and new views for many.) Then up on to Llandeilo Hill, where cars were parked and lunch eaten. What a party we were, from London, Guildford, Norfolk, Yorkshire, Suffolk, Birmingham, Bristol, Bucks, Glamorgan, Worcester, members with friends from Trenton, New Jersey; others from Stroud and from Ledbury—and the locals from Hereford, Clyro and Hay. A lovely day for the walk across the moors, along paths between fern and gorse; misty in the distance—so that the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons showed up somewhat ghostlike, otherwise nothing could have been better. Something less than 3 miles brings one to the top of the famous rocks, with the Wye in its valley down below; after wandering round between the fantastic shapes and up on the plateau above, the party started the return, a few going down towards the valley of the Edw to Llewelyns Cave but all meeting up again near the parked cars for tea...to which full justice was done!! Then back to Clyro by varied routes, some over the hills to Glasbury-on-Wye with a call en route at the ancient little Congregational church on the hill, the oldest chapel still in use in all Wales is Maesyronen with its backless benches and a 17th century air; it looks across the Wye valley to the Black Mountains, by now clear in the evening sun. Others went by different hill roads down to Llowes, to visit the church of our former president—and found it beautifully dressed for Harvest Festival. Then on to Clyro, to devour various 'snacks' at the Baskerville Arms before trooping across to the Village Hall, where we found Mr Godfrey Davies setting up projector and screen for the evenings entertainment. The party had by now been augmented by members from Kent and more from Worcester, with more locals too, so that a nearly full hall enjoyed slides and films of people, places and events of Kilvert interest. What had been a very full day ended about 10 o'clock and was voted by all as being a most enjoyable one. "And so to bed"—to be ready for tomorrow.

Sunday October 10th 1971—the "Special Autumn Service" at MOCCAS; what crowds turned up for the 3 o'clock service; all who were on yesterday's walk plus many many more, and friends from near and far. Maxwell Fraser's account on another page gives an excellent picture of it all. The lovely little church (tucked away in Moccas Park) normally seats but just 100; but that Sunday, with chairs in every corner; the aisle narrowed until even in single file it was not easy to progress up it; the west end so jammed with seats that the little vestry under the organ loft was not to be got at, and the clergy robed in the porch!! Then the porch was filled with seats too, for the day was nice enough for the door to be left wide open—and almost 200 were eventually seated. The organ to be renovated (the original inspiration for this service—as a help to raising something towards the fund) has been so well described in this and in previous newsletters that I need say no more about it; and this also goes for Mr Price's splendid ADDRESS...and the visit that so many paid to Moccas Court when the service was over, a real 'highlight' of the afternoon. TEA afterwards, in Moccas Village Hall was a splendid event, with a real "country" flavour, all home-made eatables, and all so cheerfully served by the local ladies. The sentiments of many were summed up—I am sure—by the apt words of our member Mr David Harris of Holt, Norfolk, when (as the one from furthest away) he was asked to voice thanks, he said that "it would have been worth coming from Norfolk for the tea alone". It is worth noting that as the members from furthest away at Moccas that day Mr and Mrs Harris were closely followed by Mr and Mrs Trinick from Bodmin in Cornwall, and by Mr Philip Dawson from Settle in Yorkshire. It is impossible to list all who came substantial distances to Moccas that day, but mention must be made that two Wiltshire members were among the company...Commander Richardson of Box, and Mr. J. F. Jefferies of Trowbridge (who is mentioned on another page).

Many will no doubt like to know that the ORGAN RESTORATION FUND benefited by exactly £90 from all the efforts by so many people that Sunday at Moccas, this was made up by the collection in church, plus the whole of the proceeds from visits made to Moccas Court, and all the cash paid by those who had tea. Work has started on the organ, and it will no doubt be not long before it is as good as when Francis Kilvert heard the Rev. Sir George Cornewall playing—on 10th April 1875 (p.165 in Vol.3)

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT COPIES OF MR WILLIAM PRICE'S ADDRESS AT MOCCAS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

THE ORGAN FROM HAY CASTLE—NOW IN BRECON CATHEDRAL

One side of the loose green sheet sent out with this newsletter is about this organ. I think that by now we all know that it is the very organ of which we can read in Kilvert's Diary—and the several accounts of Francis Kilvert and a bevy of girls singing around it. A short history of it will undoubtedly be of interest. It remained in Hay Castle until 1901, when the Rev. W. L. Bevan retired from the living of Hay and went to live in Ely Tower, Brecon. Presumably it then went into store, because it is not thought it went to Brecon then. After 1907 it was moved to Pool House, Belmont Road, Hereford, the home of Mrs S. Mumford, grand-daughter of the Rev. W. L. Bevan. Here it remained until 1923, when she moved to Weymouth. "Teddy Bevan" was by now the first Bishop of the new Diocese of Swansea & Brecon, formed in 1923, and the little organ was moved from Hereford to Brecon Cathedral where it was set up in the Corvizers Chapel. Some considerable time later, when alterations were made to the Corvizers Chapel, the organ was moved to the Children's Corner. By this time it was 100 years old, or more, and after so many moves it was in urgent need of repair. The Dean and Chapter having now had expert advice have decided to restore it, and mount it on a moveable platform, so that it can be used in any of the side chapels, or at Concerts or as a substitute for the main organ if repairs become necessary. Mr Robert Munn, the expert, and the firm of organ builders in Clevedon, who are repairing it, have decided that it was probably built in 1789. It is a Bevington chamber organ and is one of the few instruments that retain the old-fashioned toe-pedals, it also has a number of unusual features about the pipes or stops; this puts it in a class by itself. The cost of restoration is to be about £800; about half of this has already been found—by a handsome donation from the Friends of Brecon Cathedral and by substantial donations from two other donors. We of the Kilvert Society must surely help? At their recent meeting the Committee voted £10 to start the ball rolling, and another £10 has already come in or has been promised. The enclosed green leaflet appeals to any member who feels that they would like to help—to send a donation to 23 Broomy Hill Hereford... marked "Organ Fund" please.

Many of us will have a chance to hear this uniquely historic little organ being played; for in 1973 the Kilvert Commemoration Service is to be held in Brecon Cathedral; a kind invitation was received from the Dean of Brecon and the Committee has accepted unanimously and with evident pleasure.

THE ANNUAL SPRING COACH TOUR

The first page of this newsletter announces that this annual event is to be on Saturday the 6th of May and that it will be to Leysters, St. Michael's, Bockleton etc. All places on the Herefordshire/Worcestershire border (near Tenbury Wells) and all figures in Kilvert's Diary. Indeed, it is suggested that those who intend coming would do well to read up pages 73 to 76 and also page 208 - in the second volume (not in the abridged edition....but the second volume can be obtained from most public libraries; the three volumes are in many more libraries than formerly). We shall hope to visit Leysters Church and perhaps Wylden Dingle too, with its "Wordsworth's Stone" and fine view of the Cleve Hills; St. Michael's is always worth a visit, a pity that we cannot be there to hear the fine singing; then on to Bockleton. Kilvert dined at Bockleton Court, it is now a Study Centre for Birmingham children and the Prescott family live in a smaller house nearby. Miss Prescott (a K.S. member) has very kindly said that she feels sure we can go up to it and walk around; and also see the old Vicarage, where Kilvert stayed on two occasions with the then Vicar Mr Mence. The church is very fine, and there is a memorial to Mence. Then through Tenbury Wells to tea at The Plant House at Burford (and we can expect a good tea there too!!!) If time permits a visit to the nearby Burford Church this will prove interesting, in it are monuments of the Cornwalls of long long ago—before they came to Moccas; as well as other items worth seeing. The coach will leave the Town Hall in Hereford at 2 o'clock sharp and the fare will be 50p. Bookings taken at the A.G.M.—following the usual pattern...or by post to 23 Broomy Hill. No doubt some of our Worcester and Birmingham members will want to join us at some point on the tour, or at tea. Please note that I must know numbers for tea a few days beforehand so that the cafe is notified re size of party. Tea is extra, but I am sure that the cost will be reasonable. It will almost certainly be necessary to split our various visits—some before tea and some afterwards.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION at BOCKLETON

Various helpful suggestions re our visit to the Bockleton area have come from the Vicar of Bockleton—the Rev. J. J. Harding (both he and Mrs. Harding are K.S. members)—and members may like to know that they can get B.&B. and evening meal at Bockleton Vicarage at a reasonable price; it is a nice countryside and within easy distance of the "Kilvert Country" (little over 20 miles from Hereford and less than 30 to Clyro). The address is Bockleton Vicarage, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire.

NEW MEMBERS

Among many new members during the last few months the following have been picked out for special note as being typical of the wide interest in Kilvert and in the Society. This list will surely interest many. The order is by date of joining. They are all most welcome.

Rev.E.H.Waddleton (Rector of Langley Burrell) and Mrs Waddleton

Dr Phil.Williams of Aberystwyth---Chairman of Plaid Cymru.

Canon L.R.Wilson of Durham---Chairman of the Parson Woodeforde Society.

Mr.L.T.C.Rolt (and Mrs.Rolt). Mr.Rolt's books on RAILWAYS etc. are too well known to be more than just mentioned; as is his work with the Talylllyn Railway.

Maxwell Fraser---authoress; (Mrs.Max Phillips).

The Bishop of Bristol---(The Rt.Rev.O.S.Tomkins D.D.)

Mr and Mrs Melville Thomas of Brecon (Mr Thomas a kinsman of "Daisy")

Miss M.Prescott of Bockleton Court, Tenbury Wells (see vol.3 pp.73-6 and 208)

Mr.J.F.Jefferies of Trowbridge, Wilts. (kinsman of the 'old Patriarch' of Langley Burrell....John Bryant Jefferies).

Mrs.W.A.Chester---Master of Cirencester; the family who own the Moccas estate.

Mr (and Mrs) David Davis and Mr Colin Davis---Kent, London; and B.B.C.

Mr.K.A.Lindley---the new Head of Herefordshire College of Art; and Mrs.Lindley

PARSON WOODEFORDE

Among those listed above is Canon L.R.Wilson of Durham---Chairman of the Parson Woodeforde Society. Canon Wilson joined our Society after a visit in the late summer of last year to the Kilvert Country; it is interesting to note that he admits that his interest in Kilvert springs from the enthusiasm of his late brother (Dr Leonard Wilson---formerly Bishop of Birmingham) in matters Kilvertian. Canon Wilson also points out that there is a link between our two Societies, in that Parson Woodeforde preached in the church at Wootton-by-Woodstock in Oxfordshire in 1767 and Francis Kilvert was married in that same church in 1879. He very kindly sent me that very sermon of 1767, in Parson Woodeforde's handwriting; before returning it Mr.J.D.Worsey read it through and has written the following item about it for this newsletter.

May 16,1971---Kilvert members gazed once again on Wootton Church, on their way to Oxford. May 17,1767--- almost exactly 204 years earlier, Parson Woodeforde, another renowned clerical diarist, preached a sermon in that self-same church. His text was taken from Proverbs 23.23 "Buy the truth, and sell it not"; but no-one could claim that the subject matter was likely to provide either interest or entertainment for the folk in the pews. Perhaps the preacher was blessed with a charming voice and an attractive appearance and delivery. If not, sermon time must have seemed a good opportunity for a quiet nap, or some peaceful, and maybe not too spiritual, day-dreaming. However that may be, his hearers at Wootton did not have to endure a repeat performance, whereas at Weston, in Norfolk, the sermon was repeated 5 times in the course of 18 years. Historically, nevertheless, this sermon of Parson Woodeforde's is noteworthy as providing a typical example of Church of England preaching inspired by the Age of Reason. The moral dissertations of the period sought to assert the reasonableness of Christianity, to prove that religion is agreeable to common sense, and that the practice of virtue brings its own reward even in this life. "Happiness is the end we all aim at" says Woodeforde "and truth is the way to obtain it, and consists in a right knowledge of religion and virtue".

The rapid growth of Methodism can be seen as in great part a revolt against the cold intellectualism and the deadening formalism of this period, bringing life and warmth and emotion back into religion, and appealing to the heart and not only to the head. And yet there was a certain beauty and order and dignity and elegance in the pulpit utterances of Woodeforde and his contemporaries, which give them a distinct and rightful place in the development of English preaching. Of both Woodeforde and Kilvert it can be truthfully said that it is not for their sermons that they are remembered today, though one cannot imagine Kilvert being cold and formal like his predecessors of the previous century.

OBITUARY The deaths of several members has-with regret-to be reported. Some since the last newsletter, some much earlier, but the news only recently came in.

Miss Phyllis Howell of Carnarthen-on March 1st 1971, but the notice from the St.David's Diocesan Gazette has only just reached me. Miss Howell was a frequent contributor to that magazine, often it was an article on a Kilvertian theme; she was a devoted church member and organist. A retired teacher with a great love of literature and poetry; other interests were local government and the Red Cross.

Mr H.G.Edwards of Sheffield who, I am now told, died in June whilst on holiday in Llandudno. Mr Edwards had attended at least one of our Annual Services, in spite of living so far away. We had a long chat at Clyro in 1965, where I noticed that he quickly made friends with members from the other end of these islands.

Miss E.Flower of Cardiff who also died in June but it was November before notification reached me---one of our now quite numerous Cardiff members.

Dr.A.M.G.Campbell of Bristol - another Bristol member has just sent me the obituary notice from a Bristol paper. Dr Campbell died quite suddenly on March 4 this year. He and Mrs Campbell joined the Society in 1967.

MY IMPRESSIONS OF MOCCASS...October 10th 1971.....by Maxwell Fraser

Among the many from near and far who came to Moccas on that memorable October day last year was Maxwell Fraser (Mrs Phillips); and I am glad that she agreed to do a contribution for this newsletter-on what she saw and heard. Here it is ...

On previous visits to Moccas, I have had the little church to myself, with leisure to appreciate its simple beauty to the full, but never have I felt its appeal so strongly as when I re-visited it last October with other members of the Kilvert Society, for the combined Harvest Festival and Kilvert Commemoration Service. Mr and Mrs Hermon very kindly drove me from my Hereford hotel, and we arrived shortly after the coach. Although it was an hour or more before the service was due to start, the church was already very full, and soon after we took our seats in a pew, many extra chairs were being brought in. The de Fresnes, Cornewalls and above all, Kilvert himself, were naturally very much in the minds of us all. Was it the de Fresne, sleeping there on his tomb chest who in life had those fourteenth century windows set into the Norman church, to give it added light, and set the lovely stained glass to the glory of God and his family? And was he really Kilvert's ancestor? Kilvert only hoped that he might be so in 1875 but three years later asserted it as a fact to James Davies, his churchwarden at Bredwardine, and claimed that his ancestors had held the land until they sold it to the Cornewalls-at which Davies was suitably impressed. We remembered also that on Kilvert's first visit, the Rector, Sir George Cornwall, was playing the organ which rather overwhelmingly dominates the west end of the church, with its golden pipes and the subdued gaiety of the painted case. Somehow, although it is actually rather incongruous in such a small and ancient church, it is very attractive, and it was good to know that we were contributing to the Restoration Fund. Crowded with worshippers, and decked with flowers and fruit for the Harvest Festival, Moccas recaptured the joyous atmosphere of reverent worship which it must have known when it was first built, and the curious tufa walls seemed to glow with reflected life and warmth. The simple service, conducted by the Rev.J.C.Hayes, the hearty singing of the hymns, chosen from those Kilvert loved, and the inspiring address by Mr D.T.W. Price, with its skilful mingling of the themes of the day-the Harvest Home and the Christian ministrations of Kilvert-struck a homelier and more personal note than the Latin of the earlier Norman priests could ever have done, and I feel sure others shared my feeling that, having gathered together in God's name, we had indeed received God's blessing, as we streamed out of Church. It was only a few yards across the park from the medieval church to the severely classical eighteenth century Moccas Court. Its rather forbidding outward appearance gives no hint of the extraordinary richness and beauty of the interior. Every room has its special attraction of elaborate plaster ceiling skilfully coloured, the most famous of which is the Circular Room, where Mrs Jones pointed out the wonderful craftsmanship with which the doors have been slightly curved to fit perfectly into the circular walls. Even these strikingly attractive rooms were enhanced by the views from the huge windows, looking over the Park laid out by Capability Brown, and the gardens terraced down to the River Wye. The terraces are no longer filled with a riot of flowers, but the closely mown grass makes an effective contrast with the steep wooded slopes on the opposite banks of the river. What a joy it was to see the old house being restored-especially in these days of wanton destruction of so much of our national heritage. It was a delight to hear the enthusiasm of Commander and Mrs Jones as they described plans for its return to life as a happy family home, and showed what had already been accomplished, as we stood in the hall, where the graceful flying staircase rose in the perfectly proportioned sweep so characteristic of the work of the best eighteenth century architects. Would that modern architects could recapture that seemingly effortless beauty! Leaving the house, full of gratitude to Mr and Mrs Chester-Master for their kindness in allowing us to see it, we moved back to the twentieth century again in the Village Hall, where the hospitable ladies of Moccas had prepared a feast of good things to eat. Here there were old friends from all parts of the country to talk to and new friends to be made in the cheerful atmosphere of a real country gathering, under the vigilant eye of our Hon.Secretary Mr Prosser, who seemed to be everywhere at once, seeing to every detail which might add to our enjoyment, and contriving to have a word with everyone. It was a fitting end to a happy gathering, in which Kilvert himself would have revelled.

CHRISTMAS CARDS As soon as one Christmas is over we must think of the next. The new card of Broad Street, Hay-on-Wye as it was many years ago has sold extremely well; as have assorted packets of all six cards (the others being Bredwardine Church & Old Vicarage-Clyro Church 1865, and Clyro Village many years ago-the two Wiltshire "Kilvert" Churches) There is a new card for Christmas 1972 (but available now) it is a picture of a hill farm near Hay-on-Wye, with the Black Mountains in the background, taken about 50 years ago when it was much as many of the other farms in "Kilvert country" were when Francis Kilvert knew them. In the farmyard is a 'ganbo' (the long low farm cart of the Radnorshire area up to 30 or more years ago, now very rare). Prices will be the same as last year, 5 for 22½p; with packets of 6 all different for 27½p; or 7 with the new card for 32½p; BUT POST-AGE IS A LITTLE HIGHER-3½p for every packet of 5, 6 or 7 (all with envelopes of course). There are now three of the above cards available (same prices) with just "BEST WISHES" and therefore suitable for all occasions; they are Bredwardine Old Vicarage, Broad St. HAY, and the hill farm card.

There are stockists in a number of towns. Details of these have been circulated.

CONTRIBUTIONS-AND HELP-FROM MEMBERS

Contributions such as that from Maxwell Fraser-or in any other form-are always welcome. They may not get used straight away, but it is nice to have a number in reserve; some recently sent in will not be used until with the June or the September newsletter. The first N/L each year always seems to have ample material--it is for the later ones that I am more glad to have items by me all ready to go in. I am always glad of offers of help in other ways too. Typing, here I have to specially thank Mrs. Woodward of Bedford and Mrs Cole of Cheltenham for their help. Posters so comparatively few were wanted for MOCCAS in October that it was not worthwhile having them printed as usual, and several members undertook to do a dozen each (or more) by hand, thanks for this are due to Mr Godfrey Davies of Hereford; Mr E. Jelfs of Birmingham; Mr H. Butcher of Hereford and our new Herefordshire committee member Mr M. West. Then there are the other committee members who have stuck hundreds of errata slips in our booklets. Offers of help from anyone are welcomed. Has anyone facilities to do a little "copperplate" typing on an IBM machine once in a while? Is there an artist among our members who will volunteer to do a poster which can be photographed for offset printing? or a notice to be framed, for a church porch or maybe an inn in the Kilvert Country? Any offers will be filed for future reference. Thanks in anticipation!!!

ASHBROOK HOUSE CLYRO...KILVERT'S "LODGINGS" 1865-1872

The loose green sheet with this newsletter tells of the new plaque which is to be placed on Ashbrook House to record that FRANCIS KILVERT, PRIEST AND DIARIST LIVED HERE 1865 to 1872—and appeals to those members who would like to contribute towards the cost of it to send a donation to me at 23 Broony Hill Hereford. For some time it has been generally felt that the old plaque—placed there by the Society many years ago—must soon be replaced by something larger, more plain to read, and much more worthy of the one it commemorates; and this has been mentioned in past newsletters. Now the matter has reached a state of some urgency—as Mr and Mrs Le Quesne will be selling Ashbrook House later on this year AND WE THEREFORE WANT TO SEE THE NEW PLAQUE IN PLACE BEFORE THIS HAPPENS. We were all delighted with the Le Quesnes bought it - a few years ago now, for we knew that they were "Kilvertians"—in fact they joined the Society before actually coming there to live. But now Mr Le Quesne has a new professional appointment in Shrewsbury and it is necessary for them to move to that town; though I believe they hope to find a cottage in the Clyro area for holidays. The form and material of the plaque is not yet decided upon, as the green sheet indicates; but whatever form it takes it will not be cheap; it is likely that something in the region of £70 to £80 will be needed for plaque and fixing; perhaps even more. All donations will be gladly received; if there should be a small surplus it will be given to the Brecon Organ Restoration Fund, re which there is a note further on in this newsletter.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

These are selling quite well. The latest "MORE CHAPTERS FROM THE KILVERT SAGA" has been advertised in THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT several times, bringing orders from far and wide, even some from the U.S.A. and from France (previous year's advertisements brought orders from U.S.A., Portugal and South Africa). With each a list of our other publications is sent, and also a leaflet of details re the Society. Often this brings further orders for our other booklets, and sometimes a new member too!! We also advertise occasionally in COUNTRY QUEST and this has brought orders from Wales and the border counties and some from much further afield; also orders for the other publications, and now and then a new member. Many buyers have afterwards written letters of appreciation, saying how much they have enjoyed reading the MEMOIRS of the Rev. Robert Kilvert, and the RECOLLECTIONS of Emily Kilvert (Mrs Wyndowe); for these are the main features of "MORE CHAPTERS" (the remainder being some extracts from Augustus Hare's account of his time at Mr Kilvert's School at Hardenhuish Rectory). With 128 pages and 9 illustrations it is good value for 65p (plus 5p if posted..... though the postage has actually gone up to 6½p since March 6th). HAVE YOU HAD YOUR COPY YET? If not you are missing some fascinating reading.

Names and addresses of stockists of our publications in a number of towns has quite recently been published.....to these must now be added:-

George Gregory Ltd. Green St. (off Milson Street) BATH

The Book Shop, 25 Sadler Street, WELLS, Somerset
(Mr G.V.M. Heap—a member of the K.S.)

and

Blackwells Limited, Broad Street, OXFORD.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLANDS LOCAL KILVERT MEETING

Our last local gathering took place on Friday October the First by kind invitation of Mr, Mrs and Miss Susan Hine, at their home---127 Woodlands Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

It was something in the nature of a "mixed grill" for other friends---of the Birmingham Midland Institute Ramblers and of the "E.J.S." Ramblers had been invited to be present ---with "E.J.S." (Mr Jack Schatz) of the Birmingham Evening Mail Rambling Articles, himself in the Chair.

Mr E.F.Jelfs, Convener for the B'ham and Midland "Get-togethers" of local members of the Kilvert Society-had been requested to show a mixed audience film and colour slides of the activities of all three societies over the past twelve months or so. The use of an Episcopa in addition meant a first class viewing of newspaper and magazine articles and pictures relating to the life and diary of the Rev.Francis Kilvert---which were as much enjoyed by others present as by the members of the Kilvert Society.

Once again there was rapt attention for the tape-recorded address given at Langley Burrell in 1966 by the Rev.D.J.Lane-Griffiths---a cameoscopic picture of the Diarist and his Diary which never fails to arouse and hold interest-and remains indeed a worthy tribute and memorial to our late friend and president.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the evening was the number of folk who turned up for the meeting-so much so that the speaker himself had to be lifted in through a window to get at the machines he was to operate. Nearly one hundred people were present, and they even spread into the hall and up the stairway!!!

It was altogether a most happy and successful occasion, made the more auspicious by the thought and good wishes of our President-Dr William Plomer-in a letter from him read at the meeting. An evening that was crowned by the most generous hospitality of our hosts, when all were invited to remain and partake of pies and rolls and sandwiches and cakes etc. which had been in the making throughout the previous day. To our hosts for their great kindness; to our Chairman Mr E.J.Schatz and to our speaker and friend Mr Jelfs for his most interesting talk, and for his wizard manipulation of three or four machines at one and the same time-- our thanks were most heartily rendered. An unforgettable evening.

Contributed by H.C.F. and N.W.

LANDSCAPE WITH MACHINES

Title of a book that will without doubt appeal to many of our members and their friends, it is an Autobiography by L.T.C.Rolt (whose name appears elsewhere in this Newsletter as one of our newer members) - and though it came out in 1971 I have only just read it. The whole of it is most interesting, but it is the chapter headed KILVERT'S COUNTRY that will specially attract the readers of this note, and other kindred spirits. Mr Rolt's family came to live at Cusop (Hay-on-Wye) in 1910, and his memories of that area (although he was then a very small boy) paint a picture of such scenes as Kilvert describes, and mention of people that he probably knew. As Mr Rolt says..."So little had changed (in 1914) in the district during the forty-four years that had passed since Kilvert wrote, that his world became my world, and by this I mean not only the landscape but the way of life of the folk who peopled it". There is much about Hay Station and the trains that used it; all of tremendous interest to your Hon.Sec---for he was going to school by train through Hay at the very times that Mr Holt writes about---1914 and thereabouts; when everything was much the same as in Kilvert's days in Clyro.

"OH DAISY"

This was the title of an item in the September newsletter (p.8) and it was also the title of a B.B.C. (Radio) programme that was broadcast on Sunday October 3rd (10.10pm on Radio 4). It was fortunate that a newsletter went out little more than a week before this particular broadcast---for members and their friends were thus made aware of it when otherwise they might not have seen it in the "Radio Times" or in the press. It may be remembered that I wrote that when I first heard of it I was a little worried (for there have been several not very satisfactory broadcasts on Kilvert, by people who were either unsympathetic or not really conversant with their subject---or both) ---but I need not have been; and, in fact, I wasn't, once I realised that it was in the hands of our members Mr Colin Davis and his brother Mr David Davis; the latter so well known from "Children's Hour" and often heard in a variety of subjects. IT WAS ALL JUST SPLENDID, so kindly, so sympathetic, and so true. Afterwards I had phone calls and letters galore from members who had so thoroughly enjoyed it; all saying how well it was done, and how obvious it was that the Davis brothers were true "Kilvertians"; and many (like Oliver Twist) wanting more!!

The kindly Davis brothers sent me the typescript. Perhaps one day I will enquire if it is permissible to circulate it among those members who would like to read it; or perhaps even have copies made for this purpose.

Mr D.T.W.Price

News has arrived-----just in time for inclusion in this newsletter-----that Mr William Price is to be ordained, probably in July. This will be news very gladly received by those who heard Mr Price take part in the 1970 Kilvert Service at Clyro, again at Hay last year, and then give us that splendid address at Moccas in October.

In the three years that he has been a member of this Society Mr Price has become a valuable member indeed. We shall look forward to some-time having another paper from him as we had on THE SHROPSHIRE KILVERTS (in conjunction with Mrs M. Halford) at the A.G.M. of 1970. I understand that Mr Price will continue with his present lecture-ship at St.David's College, Lampeter after ordination, though I have a strong suspicion that a target for the future will be a "living" in the Kilvert Country.

I am sure that all members will wish to be associated with the congratulations and good wishes that I have already sent to this valued member of our Society.

IN BRITAIN

This is the title of the monthly magazine of the British Tourist Authority, and I want to recommend all members (and their friends) to see the April number; they come out soon after the middle of the preceding month, so that by the time this newsletter is circulated, this April number will have been on the bookstalls nearly three weeks. My copy arrived just in time for this note to be included on the last page, a complimentary copy from the Editor. Pages 12 to 16 make it obvious why he sent it to me (and there is an acknowledgment for the use of Kilvert's photograph on page 49).

Those who heard the radio feature "The Countryside in May" ----- nearly a year ago now ----- by C.Gordon Glover (see page 10 of last June's newsletter) will not be surprised to find that the item titled KILVERT'S COUNTRY is a fine piece of writing, by one who is in spirit "one of us". It is so obvious that Mr Glover not only knows the countryside and the diary, but also that he revels in both. The whole article is happy, sincere and accurate, and so much is covered in just 4 pages. What a change from some of the rubbish that has been turned out on these same subjects.

These monthly copies of IN BRITAIN go all over the world, and particularly to visitors to Britain-----good publicity for the Diary as well as for the countryside that for some years has been known as KILVERT'S COUNTRY---with Hay-on-Wye as its "capital"; and publicity for the Society too!!

The photographs are very fine, especially the well known scene of the Old Vicarage at Bredwardine from the river; of the panorama from Clyro Hill (taken from near Penlan) with the Black Mountains in the background; and the delightful picture of Glascwm deep in the Radnorshire hills. Members with relatives or friends abroad would do well to send them a copy; or maybe just tell them about it.