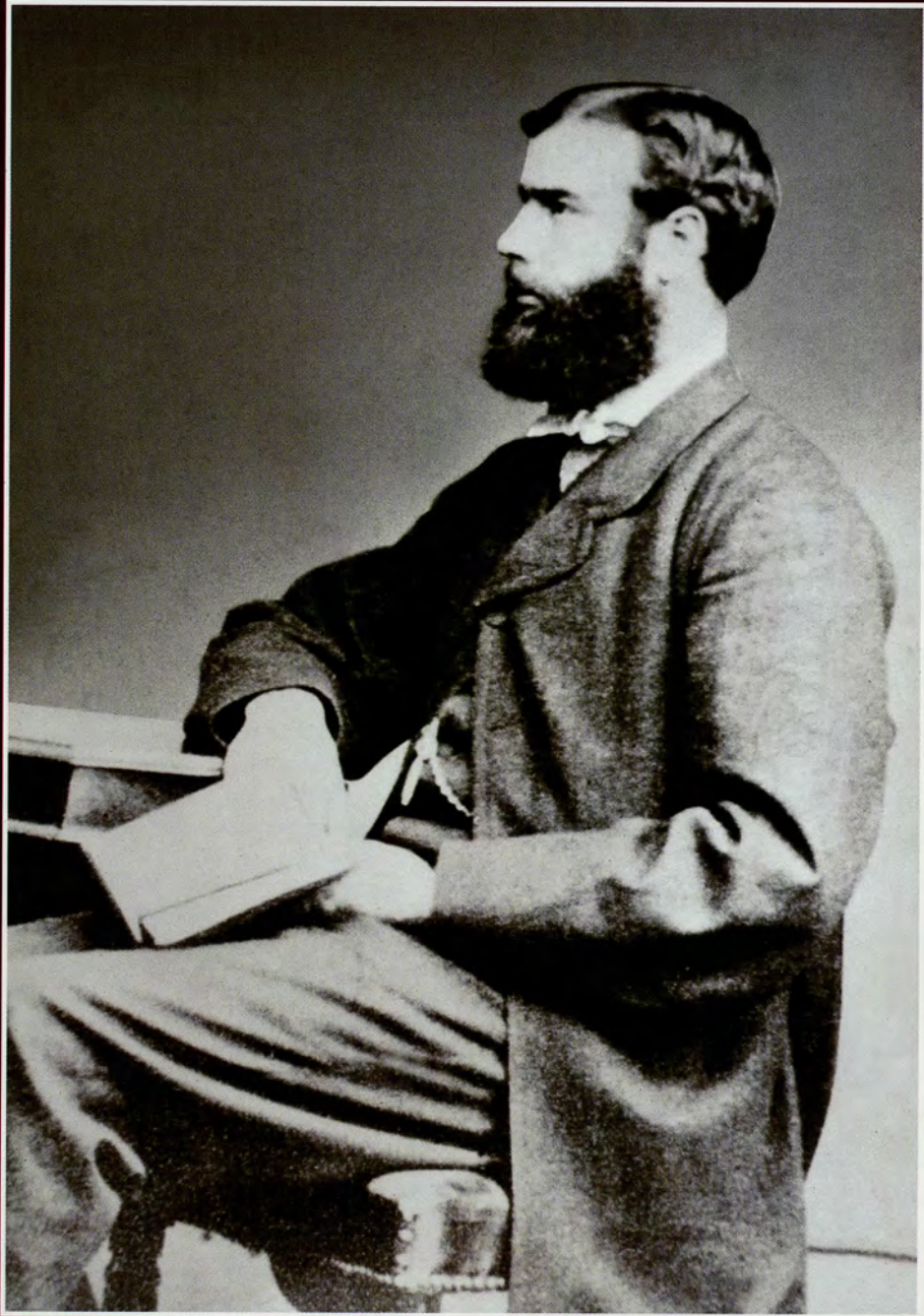


DIAMOND JUBILEE EDITION



THE
JOURNAL
OF
THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Number 26

DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR
1948–2008

June 2008

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Formed (in 1948) to foster an interest in the Reverend Francis Kilvert,
his work, his Diary and the countryside he loved

Registered Charity No. 1103815

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To whom all contributions for the *Journal* should be sent.

Cover:

*The portrait of Kilvert
as we all know it. It is
thought, however, that
it should appear thus:*



THE
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THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Number 26 June 2008

DIAMOND JUBILEE EDITION

From the Editor:

Welcome to the Big Issue (no, not that one!), the Big Issue of the *Journal* to mark the Big Occasion, the sixtieth birthday of the Kilvert Society, its Diamond Jubilee.

In fact, the Big Issue is not that much bigger than usual, just four extra pages which accommodate part of a brief look back at the early years of the KS, and, more importantly perhaps, which pay tribute to those first Kilvertians, in particular Sid Wright and Hedley Burrows, whose enthusiasm for the *Diary* led them to establish our Society 'to foster interest' in RFK, his life, his work and 'the countryside he loved'.

There are archive words and photographs, black and white in those days, of course, and just look at the crowds at the commemorative services, the fashions (hats were *de rigueur* and not just for the ladies) and the cars! All of which is not to forget the usual mixture of contents: details of future events, reports, new research, correspondence and so on.

I have heard that the AGM weekend was a great success (we were sorry to have missed it) even if the attendance was less than usual. There would have been another seven members present had it not been for the family wedding which took place that same weekend... in France, near Avignon.

We did, however, not forget you all on that occasion for, at a family dinner on the eve of the Saturday ceremony, a toast was proposed and drunk to the Society and to the Immortal Memory of... Francis Kilvert.

My dictionary (*Chambers*) defines a Jubilee as 'a time, season or circumstance of great joy and festivity' – so that is for the end of June then and here is another toast: 'To the next sixty years, at least, of the Society' and, to ensure that it continues to survive and thrive don't forget the Sixtieth Birthday Present. If you have forgotten what that should be I refer you to paragraph three of the editorial in the March *Journal*.

We look forward now to a weekend of 'great joy and festivity' when we meet in Hereford and Kinnersley – very soon!

THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, CLYRO

Members will be distressed to learn that the Lady Chapel of St Michael's was defiled and vandalised on Easter Sunday just after morning service. The details are most unpleasant. Shortly afterwards police arrested two juveniles who were later released on bail.

This lamentable incident was headline news on the front page of the *Hereford Times* of 27 March with a fuller account on page two which included a reaction from our chairman. On Monday 31 March a large congregation gathered in the church for a service of cleansing and rededication where the Society was represented by Ann and Howard Dean.

The vicar, the Reverend Heather Baker, led the service during which young Matthew de Winton movingly played *Amazing Grace* as an instrumental solo.

The congregation shared Holy Communion and prayed for the two young men responsible.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2008:

June Weekend

Friday 27 June 6.30 for 7.00

Saturday 28 June 12.00 noon

Sunday 29 June 3.00 p.m.

The Kilvert Society Diamond Jubilee Weekend

Dinner at the *Three Counties Hotel*, Hereford – £24.50 per head

Speaker the Very Revd Michael Tavinor, Dean of Hereford. After the talk a musical presentation of Victorian songs will be given by the Dolau Mixtures.

Meet at Kinnersley for a walk led by Michael Sharp with tea to follow.

Evensong at Kinnersley Church, followed by tea, archery and croquet on the lawn at the rectory.

September Weekend

Saturday 27 September	10.30 a.m.	Visit to the Radnorshire Museum, Llandrindod Wells, home of the Kilvert memorabilia. Lunch (members to make their own arrangements)
	2.00 p.m.	Visit to Abbey Cwm-Hir Hall and Gardens. Abbey Cwm-Hir can be found off the A483, turn left two miles north of Crossgates (the turn is signposted). If travelling from Hereford on the A44 turn right at Crossgates Island and follow the signs.
Sunday 28 September	1.00 p.m.	Visit to Llwynbarried Hall. (This is an additional visit; note starting time) Meet at Nantmel School Car Park on the A44 half-way between Crossgates and Rhayader.
	3.00 p.m.	Eucharist at Ysfa Church. (OS map ref. SN991644) Followed by tea at the Halt café, Doldowlod – £5 per head.

February 2009

It is hoped to visit Worcester Cathedral and Deanery.
(See September *Journal* for details)

WINTER EVENT: A VISIT TO CHIPPENHAM

20 FEBRUARY 2008

By Richard Vine (Warminster)

I was foddering near the line... I looked up and thought there was a storm coming down from Christian Malford ... Well, the roaring came nigher and nigher, then the train shot along and the dust did flee up, so said William Ferris (12 January 1875) of the first train to come down the Great Western Railway. So read our leader, the ever-enthusiastic John Day, as we met at Brunel's Chippenham Railway Station, little changed since Kilvert's day. Here was the start (and end) of so many of RFK's adventures, to London, Clyro or Cornwall. However, he always seems to have been glad to return to the *soft sweet air* of his native Wiltshire.

It was a misty, cool but dry day as John led his little flock of 31 Kilvertians from the warmth of the station buffet (one of the few improvements since RFK's day!) to Cocklebury Lane, apparently so called after the fossilised sea shells found there. There were two ways of reaching Langley Burrell from the station, by horse and trap up past the Little George or on foot along Cocklebury Lane, the latter, as one can imagine, used more regularly by RFK. Here, Kilvert reported in December 1872, a cow had been crushed to death when an elm fell in a great storm the previous night.

Chippenham is John Day's boyhood home and with the help of local members Sue Rose and Jim Hall, we were treated to the usual fascinating snippets of information while we walked into Monkton Park, along the banks of the surprisingly jade-coloured and gently-flowing Avon. We stopped to look at the imposing Monkton House, home of the West Awdrys. Now here was a Wiltshire name to conjure with. There were Awdry families and friends of Kilvert at Monkton, Kington Langley, Notton and Seagry. Then, and to this day, the Awdry family have been powers in the County. Chippenham has an Awdry firm of solicitors dating back to the mid-1700s and Daniel Awdry (still with us) was, until not long ago, an MP. Indeed I was sent by my headmaster to see an Awdry solicitor in Devizes (possibly Daniel) who persuaded me that I should take up a career in the law!

John Day ('I am a shepherd not a sheepdog' as the party straggled a little!) led us across a new footbridge over the Avon, of which I am sure, RFK would have approved, into the charming St Mary Street and thence into the peaceful churchyard of St Andrew's. We then went into the church itself, all abuzz with activity. Children painting, ladies serving coffee and selling produce. A charmingly spacious and bright church – 'quite impressive, and at first acceptably medieval', (Pevsner in that rather snippy style of his). We were given a brief but comprehensive history of the church, in the Lady Chapel, by a charming Friend of the church.

After allowing us to scatter for lunch, John Day collected his flock outside the north aisle of the church. The foundations for this were being dug in 1874 and *Draper Wharry's assistant at the Chemist's shop* rather gruesomely told RFK that when the *graves were necessarily interfered with ... things were not managed nicely... and that he himself had seen a hedgehog tearing at the arm of a body which still had flesh upon it.* (24 July 1874)

Glad we had all had lunch – we walked into the Market Square and looked at various buildings referred to in the *Diary*, including the *Angel Hotel*, famous for its elections both in RFK's time and when Chippenham was a Rotten Borough. Here, Kilvert also heard the news of the death of the exiled Napoleon III (9 January 1873) an event which put *poor Syddy Ashe* (the Squire's daughter) *in agonies of grief*. Poor Syddy was obviously easily upset, for, on another occasion, *Dora said Syddy Ashe is fairly mad with disappointment at not having seen the 13th Hussars when they passed through Langley... it would have been a happiness to see one soldier, but to have missed the chance of seeing them all!* (28 September 1873). (Echoes of the younger Bennett sisters when the soldiers came to Meryton in *Pride and Prejudice*?).



John Day (centre) and the group in Monkton Park
Photo: Val Dixon

We then peered across a busy road at *The Ivy*, a large house and home of the Rooke family, often visited by RFK. Do you remember him dancing with *dear little Francie Rooke of the Ivy* at a jolly party at Notton House (7 January 1873) *madder and madder screamed the flying fiddle bows...oh, it was such fun and Francie Rooke was brilliant. When shall I have another such partner as Francie Rooke?*

We then walked past the Temperance Hall, which is now, to RFK's considerable disgust no doubt, an amusement arcade. Then on under Brunel's mighty railway viaduct, on the other side of which was the site of the *Western* public house. Here John Day amusingly recalled William Hulbert, the carter, *looking dazed and stupefied and it was thought he had called in at the Western... and had something comfortable!* It turned out the poor chap had just had seven teeth (*snags*) and three tumours in his head (*knubs*) pulled and had brought them home in his pocket! *It made I sweat, he said.* (28 May 1874)

The outer parts of Chippenham are blighted by a noisy ring road but John pointed out to us St Paul's Church, built in Victorian days. *The evening star blazed in the west. The air was filled with the tolling and chiming of bells from St Paul's and Chippenham old church.* (12 January 1873)

Here we saw the site of the dreadful Langley versus Chippenham faction fight in which two men were killed. *It was the fault of Chippenham. They began it,* says the Langley Kilvert. (4 February 1873)

John then led us back over the railway line reading of poor RFK's contretemps on the railway, when he inadvertently caught *The Flying Dutchman* in Bath and flew through Chippenham to Swindon, only to be faced with an officious ticket collector suitably named Ironsides, who tried to insist that he paid the full fare from London. *I know the gentleman and I see it is a mistake. But I cannot take the ticket* (5 June 1876). All was eventually solved by the stationmaster, Hornblower.

So ended another happy and successful Kilvert Winter Event. Our most grateful thanks must go to John Day, who had put an enormous amount of work into this visit, Chippenham being a rich seam in the *Diary*. Thanks must also go to our ever-friendly secretary, Alan Brimson, for his smooth organisation.

THE AGM WEEKEND 2008

By Marjorie Elvins (Steeple Claydon)

Friday 25 April

The AGM weekend began, as always, in the beautiful surroundings of the Bishop's Palace. After the usual business of minutes and reports our Chairman, Michael Sharp, reported that, although some new people had joined the Society this year, giving us a slight net gain in membership, recruitment is still a priority. A more worrying feature was the fact that key members of the Committee intended to retire and, as yet, no one had been found to replace them.

This rather sombre beginning to the evening was followed by the interval where we all enjoyed another excellent buffet provided by Sue Rose. This, in turn, was followed by a most thought-provoking talk by John Toman on mesmerism in Victorian times and its possible influence on Kilvert and his writing. The Victorians had a great interest in the workings of the brain and in altered states of mind. This interest manifested itself in poetry, fiction, art and science and varied from Variety Hall acts to genuine medical and scientific research.

Saturday 26 April, at the Radnorshire Arms, Presteigne.

It is always a pleasure to visit the *Radnorshire Arms* and the building was looking delightful in the spring sunshine. Debra and Stuart have obviously been working hard to restore the hotel to its former glory and it was looking very clean and spruce. After coffee and biscuits we were given a most fascinating lecture by Heather Pegg of the Radnorshire Museum, Llandrindod Wells. She began by thanking us for the privilege of allowing the museum to be the guardians of the Kilvert memorabilia and the exhibition thereof and added that there had been a lot of interest shown by members of the public. She had, she said, been going to talk about the exhibits themselves but, as the Society was planning a visit to the museum in September, she had decided to indulge herself and talk about Kilvert the Diarist. We were very glad that she did so. There followed a most erudite lecture that established Kilvert very affectionately within the social, cultural, scientific, religious and political world of his time.

Heather began by quoting William Plomer on Kilvert's qualities which were 'good nature, good manners, vitality, love of children, practical sympathy with the unfortunate' and that 'one gets to know him as a friend.' The lecture ended with other quotations from V.S. Pritchett [that the *Diary* was] 'a deliberate work of art – of literature' and from our President, Ronald Blythe, [that it was] 'a gesture against oblivion.' This was a wonderful lecture that was both wide-ranging and very knowledgeable and left all of us stimulated and interested and looking forward to our visit to the Museum in the autumn.

After a short break, our own Wainwright, John Wilks, took us in the wake of Kilvert to the mountain of Cader Idris and the wonderful Snowdon countryside around. With the support of some spectacular slides John made us feel we had actually taken a train to Barmouth, spent the night in the



Our own Wainwright!

Photo: Ann Dean

Golden Lion and climbed with the guide up, and down, the treacherous paths of Cader. It made some of us remember visits of our own and the various walks and routes taken. It made others of us determined to get there at the earliest possible opportunity and experience the mountain and countryside for ourselves. John's illustrated talks are eagerly anticipated as they are always interesting and well presented.

The Annual Dinner

There were twenty-nine of us at the Dinner and it was a most enjoyable occasion. After our Chairman had said grace we had an excellent and well-served meal. The Dinner is always a most convivial affair and this one lived up to every expectation. It was very pleasant to see some new faces and to meet old friends and the evening soon became quite noisy and animated as conversations got under way. Although Kilvert himself



Some of the guests at the Dinner. Colin and Val Dixon and Kayla (foreground) Photo: Marjorie Elvins



Awaiting the ascent of Cader! Photo: Ann Dean

said that *a spirit of quiet and gentle melancholy is more congenial and akin to my own spirit than full life and gaiety and noise* I think Kilvert would be amazed and pleased to think that his diary is so well loved and remembered by so many people.

Towards the end of the evening Michael Sharp read one of my own favourite passages from Kilvert where he describes Pope's mortification at being re-confirmed, despite his own protestations, by the testy Bishop of Hereford.

Michael then closed the evening by thanking Alan and Jean Brimson for organising such a successful weekend and another delightful Kilvert event drew to an end.

THE KILVERT SOCIETY: CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1103815
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2007

INCOME	2007	2006
	£	£
Subscriptions	4,614.00	4,461.39
Donations	186.14	437.00
Gift Aid Refund	968.05	1,056.00
AGM Income	271.00	240.00
DVD & Publication Sales	1,218.06	369.00
Special Events	1,276.50	1,754.95
Legacies	150.40	
Interest & Bonus	692.69	288.01
TOTALS	9,376.84	8,606.35
EXPENDITURE		
Grants & Subscriptions	230.00	155.00
Kilvert Monuments	390.00	76.01
Committee Expenses	125.00	52.99
Postages/Stationery/Telephone	243.34	247.65
Publication Printing		3,296.00
DVD & Publication Sales Expenses	623.84	91.52
Journal Print & Post	4,084.64	4,072.29
Insurance	150.00	150.00
Refunds		52.00
Special Events	1,262.00	1,650.40
AGM Expenses	567.92	321.55
TOTALS	7,676.74	10,165.41
ASSETS		
Balance Lloyds, Hereford	2,084.88	803.55
Balance Nat West, Hay	161.88	1,435.80
Nationwide Building Society	10,094.81	8,402.12
Income over Expenditure		1,700.10
TOTALS	12,341.57	12,341.57

Compare this with the balance sheet on page 10.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As part of this special Diamond Jubilee edition of the *Journal* this extended archive section looks back over the early years of the Kilvert Society with a selection of items from past Newsletters.

The section begins, however, with some extracts from Peter Alexander's biography of William Plomer published by the Oxford University Press in 1990.

If you do not already know this work I recommend it to you. The particular interest for KS members is, of course, in the pages relating to Plomer's discovery and editing of the twenty-two notebooks and his relationship with the Society.

I am most grateful to the OUP for permission to quote from the biography.

In September 1937, on one of his Wednesday forays to Cape's, Plomer had found among the pile of waiting manuscripts a packet containing two bound Victorian notebooks filled with spiky sloping script, together with a letter explaining that this was part of the diary of a Victorian clergyman, Robert Francis Kilvert, and that Kilvert's nephew, T. Perceval Smith, wondered if Cape thought it worth publishing; if so, he would send more of the volumes, of which there were twenty-two. Hart-Davis was in the room when Plomer opened the first volume, and in later years remembered Plomer wrestling for a moment with the difficult handwriting, and then groaning in mock dismay, 'Oh Lord, I'll take this away and have a look at it.' The next Wednesday he was back full of excitement: 'I think it's marvellous, send for the other twenty!' he exclaimed. At the directors' meeting that followed he argued strongly and successfully that it should be published, and also asked to edit it himself, since he did not trust anyone else to do the job.

Abandoning his novel, he set to work on Kilvert's diary as soon as the other twenty volumes arrived in a cardboard suitcase. It was obvious that there was too much of the work to publish in its entirety, and Plomer determined to make a selection of about one-third of it. He began by reading the whole diary, which ran from January 1870 to March 1879, or at least as much of it as had survived, for there was an unexplained gap between September 1875 and March 1876. He found the handwriting almost illegible, but was prepared to struggle with it because the subject-matter was utterly absorbing. He had always been fascinated by the Victorian period in England, and this was a window on to that vanished world, one that offered some surprises. Kilvert's description of undressing and bathing naked on a crowded beach, for instance, modified some of the commonly accepted beliefs about the period more completely and convincingly than any scholarly book about Victorian morals could have done. In addition, much of the diary concerned the period when Francis Kilvert was curate of Clyro, in the part of the Welsh border country that Plomer had visited from Beechmont, and in which he had spent the winter of 1929 at Lingen. 'It's as good as the Caledonian Market,' he wrote enthusiastically to Bowen. 'It simply *creates* that really unknown and remote period. I showed a bit of it to Virginia [Woolf]: she was most excited. I have insisted on editing it myself ... But it's going to be a great deal of work, especially for some poor typist, who will probably be driven blind and mad.'

He settled down to work on the volumes, editing them by the apparently simple process of pencilling a line in the margin to mark passages he wanted the typist at Cape to copy for him. [...]

To familiarize himself with the countryside Kilvert knew so well, he visited Clyro in August 1938, staying at Crossway Farm just outside the village, and found himself in a world that seemed scarcely to have changed since the nineteenth century:

No car, no telephone, no bus, no newspaper, no wireless, no MSS. The conditions a trifle rougher than I anticipated. [...]

The first volume of the diary was published in 1938, and it was an enormous popular success, taking Cape and even Plomer by surprise. Reviewers praised the work as a classic, and recognized Kilvert as one of the greatest English diarists, comparing him with Pepys and Evelyn – and finding other aspects of his writing comparable to Proust and Gerard Manley Hopkins. The public, increasingly alarmed at the growing tension in Europe, found Kilvert's stable, peaceful world a delightful refuge from a terrifying present, and the book sold steadily. Encouraged by the success of the first volume, Plomer set to work almost at once to produce a second, which was published in 1939, and a third, which appeared in 1940. The appearance of each volume increased the critical and popular acclaim, and the wartime tension that brought about a revival of interest in the work of Trollope ensured a huge readership for Kilvert. A Kilvert cult rapidly sprang up, and a Kilvert Society was formed, with devotees holding public readings of the diary and journeying to Clyro and Bredwardine, the nearby parish in which Kilvert had died within months of writing his final diary entry. Kilvert's delightful personality and what he himself called his power to inspire love operated as strongly through his diary as they had done during his life, and the effect was not transient; the Kilvert Society has continued to thrive since the Second World War, and now, in 1987, has more members than ever. Plomer could not have foreseen this in 1938, but even then he was known as Kilvert's discoverer and editor, and was increasingly in demand as a speaker about the diary. [...]

Another regular oasis in his year, after the war, was what he liked to call 'the Kilvert Jamboree'. The Kilvert Society had its origins in a small, unorganized band of fans of *Kilvert's Diary* whose numbers continued to grow rapidly during 1946 and 1947. Each summer after 1946 they organized a memorial service for Kilvert in Hereford Cathedral, followed by various outings to places with Kilvert connections, combined with a dinner and a talk about some aspect of the diary. Plomer had had to miss the first of these 'jamborees' in 1946 because of his operation in June of that year, but thereafter he tried to go to all of them. He was naturally an honoured guest at these occasions, particularly after the society was established on more formal lines in July 1948, chiefly as the result of the enthusiasm of a Hereford man, Sid Wright, who became the first president of the society. Plomer wrote E.M. Forster a hilarious account of the 1948 celebrations to launch the society; there was a mayoral reception, attended by Lord Chesterfield,

'overbred and seemingly under-brained', followed by a giant tea-party and a public meeting, with the Dean of Hereford in the chair. On the following day, a Sunday, they went to Bredwardine, the parish in which Kilvert had died. The dean preached an emotional sermon to a congregation that included three MPs, likening Kilvert to St Francis of Assisi. He then dedicated a seat in the churchyard to Kilvert. This was to be the pattern of these Kilvert gatherings in future years. Plomer was much impressed by the general atmosphere of good feeling, as this was the first Christian service he had attended for many years. Gradually and very hesitantly he was to return to the faith of his mother, and these Kilvert gatherings were the curious route by which he made the approach. In later years he often delivered the Kilvert talk or gave an address during the memorial service.

© From pp. 216-218,256 of *William Plomer: A Biography* by Alexander, Peter F. (OUP 1990)

1946

The Clyro Commemoration Service The pre-Society Service

In 1946 the Vicar of Clyro the Rev James Lloyd decided to hold a service of Commemoration for the memory of the Rev Francis Kilvert whose diary had become a best-seller. Already numbers of visitors were coming to Clyro and making enquiries from the inhabitants most of whom had forgotten the name of Kilvert. One lady said she knew of Mr Venables the vicar but Kilvert was only the curate.

In July the service was duly held and to the surprise of most people the church was crowded to overflowing. Descendants of the various families mentioned in the diary were present and indeed some of the diarist's own family. These included the Rev R.W. Kilvert of St Bartholomew's, Portsmouth, a great-nephew who read one of the lessons. With him were Mrs Kilvert widow of Major Kilvert of East Preston, Sussex, and Lady Venables-Llewelyn of Llysdim, Newbridge-on-Wye whose father was the vicar of Clyro when Francis Kilvert was the curate between 1865 and 1872. Also present were Miss T.M. Kilvert of East Preston, Sussex. A letter had been received from Mr William Plomer who regretted his inability to attend owing to his being in a nursing home undergoing an operation. Miss M.A. Rowland of Eastbourne wrote saying that she had been a child bridesmaid at Kilvert's wedding at Woodstock in 1879 but was too unwell now to undertake the journey to Clyro. The surpliced clergy present were the vicar, the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon who preached, the Rev A.D. James, Headmaster of Christ College, Brecon and the Rev R.W. Kilvert.

The organist was Mr Stuart Batts and a full choir was in attendance. The Church bells were rung by a team of five led by Mr Charles Lewis aged 83.

Owing to the very large attendance extra seating had to be brought in. The Bishop took for his text Acts XI, 24. 'He was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and of Faith'. He spoke of the beauty of Kilvert's prose descriptions of the country around him and of the lives of the people among whom he laboured for seven years, recounting the joys and sorrows of the people in mid-Victorian days, an age of hope and faith, clouds might have been gathering for civilised society, but as yet, were not overhead.

The first lesson was read by Major the Hon. Oscar Guest. Tea was provided in the village hall and the ladies were heartily thanked by the Bishop and by Mr S.A. Wright of Hereford, who had done much to make the service known. Mr Wright presented the Bishop with a copy of his recently published book *Birth of a River* (the Wye).

The sermon has been printed in the KS publication *Looking Backwards*.*

It was this service that inspired Mr Sid Wright to do what he could to interest people in Kilvert and endeavour eventually to be able to form a society to further these aims.

During the following year Dean Hedley Burrows arrived at the Cathedral, he was already a keen student of Kilvert. He gave a lecture on *Kilvert's Diary* at the St Nicholas Church Room in Friar Street and after that it was only a matter of time before Mr Wright's dream was realised.

*This publication also contains a number of other pieces on the Society's inauguration, including William Plomer's lecture.

1948

The Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Cyril Franklin was likewise interested in Kilvert and on Saturday 17 July 1948 he invited all persons interested to an inaugural meeting in the Hereford Town Hall. More than one person who had actually known Francis Kilvert was present and William Plomer, editor of the Diary was also there. Mr Wright proposed the formation of the society and he was accordingly elected President.

Mr R. Nicholas was appointed secretary, Mr J.L.G. Atkinson Treasurer, and the committee included Mr C.T.O. Prosser who later became secretary, Harold Butcher who later became Chairman, and Fred Stokoe of Hay who had already publicised the cause in Hay-on-Wye and district. A number of vice-presidents were elected and these included such well-known names as Venables-

Llewelyn, Capt A.W.W. Pope descendant of Kilvert's friend who had been confirmed for the second time by Bishop Atlay, the Bishops of the dioceses of Hereford and of Swansea and Brecon.

The following day a service was held in Bredwardine Church and the preacher was the Dean who afterwards dedicated a seat which had been placed in the churchyard. The lettering on the seat had been done with great skill by Mr Wright who had originally been apprenticed to a stone-mason.[†] The church was packed to overflowing and public address equipment had been installed for the benefit of the people who were unable to get in. After an excellent tea in the village hall, Mr Plomer addressed a very large crowd. A vote of thanks to Mr Plomer and to the others who had taken part, was proposed by the Member of Parliament Mr J.P.L. Thomas (later Lord Cilcennin). It was indeed a wonderful day and great enthusiasm was shown.

It was agreed that the service of Commemoration the next year should be at Clyro.

[†]See back cover

**Godfrey Davies, sometime KS Archivist and proprietor of Wyeval Photographers in Hereford
recorded his impressions of Kilvert services 1948–1959**

Mr Sid Wright who was a wholesale and retail greengrocer was also a keen amateur archaeologist and was always keen on researching into old buildings and places of interest. In 1948 he had just published his book *Up the Claerwen* which was an account of the building of the great Claerwen dam. I had visited the district with him the previous year and taken a number of photographs for his book. He mentioned that he had been reading *Kilvert's Diary* and was particularly interested because he knew the Clyro and Bredwardine districts so well. The Rev H.T. Watts, who was the vicar of Bredwardine at the time, was also very interested and in conversation mentioned that people were already visiting his church and asking questions about the district. A commemoration service was held at Clyro in 1947 and the Rev R.W. Kilvert (later Canon)[†] was present as well as some other members of the family. Sid Wright was there and was full of enthusiasm and said that there ought to be a society of some sort to keep the name of Kilvert before the public. Dr Hedley Burrows the Dean of Hereford was already a keen Kilvert enthusiast and he gave a well-attended lecture on the subject in the St Nicholas meeting-room in Friar Street Hereford. Another man who was



Bredwardine 1948 – The 'overflow'



Group includes Muriel Kilvert (fourth left, back row), William Plomer (sitting, second left), the Revd R.W. Kilvert (sitting, fourth left) and Sid Wright (front).

a ciné film* of the places associated with the *Diary* so that people who later became interested would have some idea what these places were really like. I was able to film Llanthomas before it was demolished and some of the other places which have altered during the past thirty years. I went with Mr Wright to a number of Women's Institute and other meetings and showed the film and he usually gave a talk on jam making or similar topic followed of course by a chat about *Kilvert's Diary* and suggested that they should obtain a copy and read it.

very interested was Mr Scarborough, Headmaster of the Minster Grammar School in Leominster. He also gave a talk at the same place but Mr Wright was not very pleased with the tone and was not displeased when Mr Scarborough left the district shortly afterwards. I had done a good deal of film work for Mr Wright in connection with his business and had made a film showing the source of the various products which he sold. This included a visit to Brilley Mountain where Italian prisoners were harvesting potatoes during the war. Mr Wright was one of the founders of the Welsh seed potato organisation and his Mr Bob Nicholas took me to see some of the places connected with Kilvert, Llanthomas House being one of these. Mr Wright had some conversations with the Dean who did not at first see any need for a society but eventually agreed and became one of its greatest advocates. Long before the decision to form a society was made Mr Wright suggested that I made



Bredwardine, 1948

All photos from KS Archives

[†]A great-nephew of the Diarist

*A copy of this film on DVD is available from the secretary, price £15 including post and packing.

At the time I was President of the Herefordshire Photographic Society and we arranged a coach outing to Lacock Abbey to see Miss Fox Talbot whose grandfather was the real inventor of photography. We discovered that Langley Burrell, Hardenhuish, and some of these places were very near to Lacock so we invited Mr Wright and some of the friends who were interested in Kilvert to come with us. We had a wonderful day and I was able to film all the most important buildings around Langley.

It was generally agreed that the first Kilvert Commemoration Service was a great success and the great enthusiasm shown augured well for the future of the new society. The Dean of Hereford Dr. Hedley Burrows preached a fine sermon in which he showed what the Diary had revealed about village life in the previous century and how things had now changed not always for the better. After the service the choir and clergy processed to the churchyard where the Dean consecrated the seat which Mr. Wright had built and lettered. The congregation then moved to the Bredwardine Village Hall where the local ladies had provided a wonderful tea after which Mr. Plomer gave an address and told about the amount of work he had had to put into the editing of the Diary before its publication.

The 1949 service at Clyro was equally successful the larger church being just as crowded. Many members of families mentioned in the Diary were present including the Venables, Bevans, and others. Rev. Kilvert (*sic*) a great nephew of the diarist was again present and of course the central figure William Plomer who was in great form. The BBC broadcast a talk by Mr. Wright and one of their representatives was present at the service. The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon preached the sermon and a presentation of a litany desk was made to the church by the Kilvert Society.

There was a fine tea in the village hall and afterwards Mr. Plomer gave an address. Mr. Wright stood on the churchyard wall and announced the location for the next year's service and said that he hoped they would all come in even greater numbers and that he looked forward to seeing them all at St. Harmon.

But it was not to be. Before the next commemoration service Mr. Wright had died and his widow Becky had taken his place as President a position she held for many years. In one way the service became a memorial one for the late President and tributes were paid by speakers to his enthusiasm which had led to the formation of the society. Although St Harmon was farther away the service was well attended and most of the regular members and friends attended. Kilvert was not particularly happy when at St. Harmon and very little has been recorded about his short time there. One of our members was able to find an old man who lived in Rhayader and knew Francis when he was at the nearby parish of St. Harmon. He mentioned that Kilvert had actually lived in Rhayader and that he travelled by horse and cart. In fact he said that he had "druv" him there at times.



Group includes the Revd David Lockwood and Mrs Lockwood (left of doorway), Mona Morgan (front centre), Fred Grice and Oswin Prosser (rear) and Wynford Vaughan-Thomas (right).



Mr and Mrs Sid Wright, William Plomer (following).

In those days St. Harmon had a railway station and travelling was easier then than it is now even if trains were infrequent and untimely.

In 1951 another commemoration service was held at Bredwardine and loudspeakers were installed in the churchyard for the overflow congregation. The Bishop of Hereford preached the sermon and the usual tea was held in the village hall.

In 1952 following the flood disaster at Lynmouth the Society organised some film shows at the Hereford YMCA and raised £22.16.0 for the fund.

The Kilvert film was also shown to a meeting of the Friends of Hereford Cathedral in the College Hall. Dean Hedley Burrows presided and was able to tell the audience something about Kilvert and the Society.

The Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths Vicar of Llowes was a very keen member of the society and eventually became President. He used to show groups of people round the Kilvert country and also give talks and lectures on Kilvert.

In 1953 the commemoration service was held at Llowes and was well attended. Among those who attended was Mr. Partridge who had been baptised by Kilvert at Bredwardine. He was a delicate baby so had to be baptised at his home. When he attended the service at Llowes he was over ninety and nearly reached a century before he died. He regularly attended the Kilvert services as long as he was able to get there. Three Radnorshire girls contributed some songs which were much appreciated. They were grand-daughters of a former Vicar of Llowes the Rev. T. Madoc Jones. A former vicar of Llowes was a great personal friend of Kilvert's and frequently accompanied him on his walks.

A second meeting was held at Llowes in the same year to coincide with the annual Harvest Festival and after the service the vicar went with many of the visitors to the local inn for a sing-song. Many of his old parishioners had come from Mountain Ash in Wales for the meetings.

In June 1955 members of the society visited Langley Burrell and Hardenhuish and we were able to view and record many places of Kilvert interest in the district. In July of that year the service was held at the church in Hay. Hay had of course been very much

concerned with the Diary and the service was well attended. Dean Hedley Burrows preached the sermon and a very good tea was afterwards held in the Crown Hotel.

I tried recording the service for the first time but found very many difficulties and consequently I was not very successful. The Dean was always very amused by our recording efforts and made a number of amusing references to it at subsequent Annual Meetings.

In 1956 some of us decided to explore some of the places in the Bredwardine area including Snodhill castle and the sites of the various picnics so well described in the Diary. On another occasion we were able to visit Clyro Court which was now a school and were entertained by the Headmaster Mr. Knowles who was a native of Northern Scotland and of the small town where my first employer Mr. Donaldson came from. We were greatly impressed by the court and were told that documents recently found showed that more than £150,000 had been spent on its construction.

In 1957 I was invited by the wife of the Bishop of Hereford to show the Kilvert film to a gathering of the wives of the clergy of the diocese. There was a large attendance and at the end one of the ladies spoke and proposed a vote of thanks for my services. It was interesting to note that her mother had been one of the first to join the society when it was formed. She was Mrs. Money-Kyrle a member of the Much Marcle family and a descendant of the curate who was confirmed for a second time by Bishop Atlay in Whitney Church. Kilvert was afterwards the best man at his wedding.

The 1958 Annual Meeting was held at Eignbrook and Mr. Court one of our members gave an interesting talk about the old coaches used in previous centuries. The old coach at Llanthomas was an interesting one.

In 1959 the service was held at Llanigon and it gave us an opportunity of viewing what was left of the house where Kilvert had received his rebuff from Daisy's father. We saw her tomb in the churchyard nearby.

A complete record of Kilvert Services begins on page 13.

1949

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Formed to foster an interest in the Rev. Francis Kilvert,
his work, his Diary and the Countryside he loved.

Treasurer:
J. L. G. Atkinson,
Lloyds Bank,
Hereford.

President:
Sid Wright,
"Little Barton,"
Barton Road,
Hereford.

Hon. Secretary:
W. H. Ellis,
193, Hinton Road,
Hereford

Dear Sir/Madam,

THE KILVERT SOCIETY.

18th June 1949

The first Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in St. Nicholas House, Friar Street, Hereford at 7.0 p.m. on Friday, 1st. July. After the business of the meeting has been transacted, Mr. Plomer (who is broadcasting on the Midland Home Service on July 5th.) will speak on "Kilvert Critics". In response to many requests the film of the "Kilvert Country" will be shown. Members are invited to bring a friend to this meeting.

Arrangements are nearly complete for the Commemoration Service at Clyro on July 3rd., Professor Bartlett, M.A. of St. David's College, Lampeter, will preach, and the Rev. R.W. Kilvert, great-nephew of the Diarist will unveil the Memorial, which will be dedicated by the Bishop of Brecon and Swansea.

Cups of tea will be provided by the members of the Women's Institute in the Village Hall, but visitors must bring their own food - and own cups if possible.

After tea Mr. A. Watkins-Jones of the B.B.C. Welsh Region and Mr. Plomer will speak at a short meeting. The proceedings will be featured in the Welsh Region's programme the same evening at approx 10.30 p.m. Collections will be made at these meetings towards cost of Memorial.

A coach will leave the City Library, Hereford, for Clyro at 2.0 p.m. returning from Clyro about 7 p.m. On the return journey a visit will be made to Hay Castle by kind permission of Mr. Tuson under the guidance of Mr. F.W. Stokes. The return fare is 3/- and seats should be booked in advance. Write to the Secretary now!

Sincerely yours,

W.H. ELLIS.

1955

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING
31ST DECEMBER 1955**

RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward	£17.03.11
Subscriptions	£22.01.06
Collection at Annual Meeting	£ 1.01.07
Coach fares to Chippenham District including Tea	£28.00.00
Coach Fares to Hay – including Tea	£18.13.00

£87.00.00

John D Worsey
Hon. Treasurer

EXPENSES

Hire of 2 Coaches to Wiltshire and of transport home for 2 members	£24.05.00
Tea at Lacock	£ 6.00.00
Hire of 2 Coaches to Hay	£ 9.15.00
Tea at Hay	£12.05.00
Contribution towards repair of Bredwardine Church Tower	£10.00.00
Donation for Llowes Sunday School Treat	£ 1.00.00
Upkeep of Kilvert Graves	£ 1.00.00
Donation for use of room for Annual Meeting.	£ 1.00.00
Printing and Duplicating	£ 6.16.00
Postages, Stationery, and Telephone calls	£ 3.03.02
Balance in hand	£11.14.04
	<u>£87.00.00</u>

Audited and found correct
H Butcher. Hon. Auditor
16.03.56

1956

Extract from the March Newsletter:

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of two of our Vice-Presidents, Mr T.A .Matthews of Hereford and Lady Venables Llewellyn (*sic*) of Newbridge-on-Wye. Mr Matthews was a staunch supporter of the Society at all our functions, where his genial company was much appreciated. It will be remembered that Lady Venables Llewellyn was the daughter of Kilvert's Vicar at Clyro; and it was she who unveiled in 1950 the Litany Desk which is the Kilvert Memorial in the Church at St Harmon. Thus, one more of the few remaining direct links with Kilvert has been severed. We also much regret to have to record the death of Mrs Jones of 45 Newtown Road, Hereford. Mr and Mrs Jones had both been keen members for several years.

**WALK OVER THE BEGWYNS (*sic*) TO LLANDEWI FACH AND LLANBEDR
SUNDAY 16th September 1956**

(If wet that day all arrangements transferred to Sunday 23rd September)

**IF DOUBTFUL PLEASE RING HEREFORD 5276 BETWEEN 10 AND 11 A.M.
ON THE SUNDAY MORNING**

Rendezvous for cars is at 12 o'clock (NOON) at the spot on the CLYRO to PAINSCASTLE road marked with an arrow on map, a little over 2 miles from Clyro and the first place where the hedges end and there is an open place suitable for parking several cars. The road is uphill all the way from Clyro until a few hundred yards before this open spot is reached – in other words the rendezvous is over the brow and at the start of the downhill towards Painscastle.

PLEASE BRING PICNIC LUNCH AND PICNIC TEA (PACKED SEPARATELY SO THAT THE TEAS CAN GO ON IN A CAR TO NEAR LLANBEDR CHURCH). LUNCH WILL BE EATEN BEFORE WE START THE WALK.

WALK IS ACROSS THE BEGWYNS TO THE VIEWPOINT ON TOP (NOT STEEP) AND FROM THERE DOWN TO THE LITTLE SECLUDED CHURCH AT LLANDEWI FACH (on the way passing above Vrondee (wrongly called Bron Ddu in the Diary) which is the



Coach travel to Kilvert events was sometimes difficult. (KS Archives)

farm where Kilvert describes the girl tossed by the bull – see under Good Friday 29th March 1872) and after Llandewi Fach on across the Bachwey to the road again near Llanbedr Church.

After lunch a car or cars will go on to near Llanbedr Church and take the walkers tea baskets etc; the walk will be about 4 miles – probably a trifle less – but those who cannot walk so far can go by car to near Llanbedr Church, the church of the ‘solitary’ the Rev. John Price (he is buried in the churchyard there) who Kilvert visited in his ‘cabin’ at Cwm Ceilo as described under Wednesday 3rd July 1872. In our walk we shall to some extent go as Kilvert did over the Begwyns and towards Llanbedr as he did.

A small party has explored the region beyond Llanbedr Church and visited Cwm Ceilo and the Rocks of Pen Cwm which Kilvert saw after visiting the ‘Solitary’ it will doubtless be too far to go on to Cwm Ceilo after tea, but we can at least visit Llanbedr Church and see the tomb of the ‘Solitary’. A GOOD WALK AT SOME FUTURE DATE WOULD BE TO CWM CEILO, THE ROCKS OF PEN CWM, AND THEN UP ON TO THE TOP OF THE RIDGE TO THE GRAVE OF ‘TOM TOBACCO’ and maybe on over to ABEREDW in the Edw Valley, sending a car or cars round there to bring the party back. Maybe in 1957?

The use of capital letters in the above is characteristic of Oswin Prosser's communications (ed.).

1964

Bredwardine Church Was Too Small To House All At Kilvert Service

“Service at 3 o'clock. An overwhelming congregation. The church crowded and a number of people obliged to remain outside.” So wrote the Rev. Robert Francis Kilvert, vicar of Bredwardine, in his diary entry for September 26th, 1878, and the description fitted the Kilvert Society's annual commemoration service on Sunday at Bredwardine Church.

Perhaps the Bredwardine of today, with ultra-modern bungalows conspicuous on the hill overlooking the village, is not as Kilvert knew it. But, as the Rev. Bernard B. Humphreys, rector of Fiskerton, Lincolnshire, pointed out in his address, “people are still much the same.”

He also reminded members of the Kilvert Society that 1964 was a centenary year. “It was in Bristol Cathedral in 1864 that Kilvert was ordained as a priest, and thence he set out on his life work of helping ordinary average everyday souls to find their road to heaven, and to walk alongside them on the journey.”

After paying tribute to Kilvert's qualities as “a fisher of men” and as a priest in a country parish, Mr. Humphreys said of the Diary: “We have a wealth of information, lighting up the commonplace Victorian scene of the eighteen-seventies, and we see how an agreeable, friendly and earnest everyday parish priest of those times spent his life and managed the affairs of his parish.”

Priceless Treasure.

“His Diary is a priceless treasure, which interests and amuses more and more people every year. But it has more than this. It has inspired and encouraged folk. It speaks to rural priests in England and Wales and tells them that a most devoted and dedicated parish priest a hundred years ago met with much the same frustrations and difficulties as are found today.”

Mr. Humphreys said, “What one finds so refreshing about Kilvert's

writing is the continual lapsing into warm human affection — pure and sweet and good. When they placed on his gravestone those words from the Epistle to the Hebrews, ‘He being dead yet speaketh,’ they little knew how prophetic they were in his case.”

He added, “When the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol ordained him 100 years ago as a priest in the Church of God, he had no means of knowing that he was ordaining one who would not only turn out to be an outstandingly good parish priest, but also one who would produce from his labours perhaps the most interesting record of 19th century parish life that would ever be written.”

Kind of Door.

Mr. Humphreys, a founder member of the Kilvert Society, said that the Diary was “a kind of door” into Kilvert's life, and that the door had been made available by Mr. William Plomer, D.Litt., editor of Kilvert's Diary, who was present at the service and read a lesson.

Another lesson was read by the Rev. T. J. Lewis, vicar of Clyro with Bettws, and the act of remembrance was recited by the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths, vicar of Llowes and rural

dean of Hay. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Lloyd, rector of Moccas and priest-in-charge of Bredwardine, and the organist was Miss Ruby Walker. A collection was taken for the Bredwardine Church Repair Fund.

On behalf of the president, Mrs. L. R. K. Wright, and members of the Society, flowers were laid on Kilvert's grave at Bredwardine Churchyard.

Large Attendance.

Among those present were Mrs. Wright and members of her family; Mr. James Lees-Milne, of the National Trust; a Hampshire member accompanied by relatives from Canada; and members from London, Birmingham, Bristol, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Forest of Dean, Shropshire, Worcestershire and North and South Wales. A notable absentee was Ald. Tudor Watkins, M.P., a vice-president of the Society, who was unable to attend owing to a prior engagement.

After the service, which was attended by well over two hundred people, tea was supplied at Bredwardine Village Hall by the ladies of the parish.

Later there was a visit to the gardens of Brobury House, the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Praill, where there was a reading from Kilvert's Diary, with particular reference to the Bredwardine district, by Mr. Plomer. He was thanked by Mr. J. L. Fox, of Hereford.

Arrangements for the service had been made by Mr. C. T. O. Prosser, secretary of the Kilvert Society.

Reprinted from the “Brecon and Radnor Express and County Times,”
July 2nd, 1964.

With acknowledgement to the Brecon & Radnorshire Express & County Times

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Formed (in 1948) to foster an interest in the Rev. Francis Kilvert, his work, his diary, and the countryside he loved.

Hon. Treasurer:

J. D. Worsey,
Coghill,
1 Harold Street,
Hereford.
Phone 3833.

President:

Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, M.A.

Deputy President:

Frederick Grice, B.A.
91 Hallow Road, Worcester.

Asst. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. E. G. Peters,
18 Moor Farm Lane,
Hereford.
Phone 67375.

Hon. Secretary:

C. T. O. Frosser,
8 Prince Edward Rd.
Broonny Hill,
Hereford.
Phone 2094

DETAILS ABOUT THE SOCIETY -- ITS OBJECTS, MAIN EVENTS, SUBSCRIPTION, etc.

When the Kilvert Society was formed (in Hereford Town Hall in 1948) there were just ninety members. Now in 1977, there are considerably more than eight hundred — spread all over the U.K. with a number of overseas members.

Such is the interest in *Kilvert's Diary* and all that arises from it (an ever growing interest) that the membership could by now have been more like eight thousand had any attempt been made to canvass or in any way *seek* members, but the policy is to "sit tight" and let those interested find out about us and then apply for membership if they feel so inclined.

We ask members and friends *not* to make any efforts to get new members, for we have long realised that those who have been in any way induced into joining invariably turn out to be poor members who take little interest and do not even bother to pay their annual subscriptions, nor bother to resign, thus causing much unnecessary work and expense. [*]

We do, however, very much welcome the really interested, and the enthusiastic who from time to time come along and indicate that they wish to join the Society. Many of these make valuable contributions to our records, contribute to our newsletters and assist in various ways. But all types of members are equally appreciated so long as they pay their subscriptions regularly every year.

The objects of the Society are set out in the above heading. Each year the main events are:

1. **The A.G.M. and Social Evening** — held in Hereford, during the last week of April, it is always a happy and interesting evening, quite a social occasion, often with speakers of note. Attendance is usually about one hundred, many coming considerable distances to attend.
2. **The Annual Commemoration Service** — in late June or early July, in a Church of the "Kilvert Country" (Welsh borderland or Wiltshire areas). Hundreds come from far and near. Tea follows the service then talks and readings, making another happy afternoon.
3. **An Autumn Service** — early October, in a "Kilvert Church" too small for the large numbers who come to the summer service or in an area too dense with traffic and visitors in the summer. Usually a walk over the hills or elsewhere in "Kilvert Country" is arranged for the day previous to each Service, primarily for those who come to the area for the week-end or longer — a leisurely day out with picnics. In May each year, a motor-coach tour from Hereford is organised to an area with Kilvert interests, usually on a Saturday. Memorials to Francis Kilvert have been put up in a number of churches in the different areas connected with Kilvert and the Diary and in 1973, the little plaque which had been beside the front door at Ashbrook House in Clyro (Kilvert's "Lodgings" during his seven years there was replaced by a handsome sculptured head set between the windows of the house.
4. **The Annual Subscription** — this is "elastic" with a low *minimum* so that no-one interested needs to be excluded on financial grounds. We shall keep a low minimum for as long as possible, but with ever rising costs the minimum subscription is now fixed at £1.00. Many members have paid £1.00 per annum for years, and many others have made it more than this with some paying a really handsome annual sum. **Life Membership** — some years ago this was fixed at £10.00, but we now realise that this was *very much too low* and that life members must expect to be occasionally invited to make a contribution to an "increased cost fund". Will those who wish to pay by **Bankers Order** kindly note that the account is at Lloyds Bank Ltd., Hereford, in the name of **The Kilvert Society**, and that the Account Number is 0241904. Subscriptions are due during the anniversary of the month in which any particular member joined the Society. A Membership Card is issued to each person who joins giving these details. This has ample space for members to attach the annual receipt when it comes to them. **Receipts are usually held up and then sent out with newsletters unless a stamped envelope is sent with the remittance.** All subscriptions are dealt with by the Assistant Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. E. G. Peters, but if any member happens to be writing to the Hon. Secretary at the time their Subscription is due, it can be included and will then be handed over to Mrs. Peters. Any member who wishes to resign is earnestly requested to do so *without delay* and thus save unnecessary writing and postages.

*Not entirely my view! See *Editorial* in Journal No. 25.

A RECORD OF THE KS ANNUAL COMMEMORATION AND SPECIAL SERVICES

Year	Church	Address
1948	Bredwardine	The Dean of Hereford, the Very Reverend Hedley Burrows
1949	Clyro	The Revd Professor D D Bartlett. Dedication of tablet by the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon
1950	St Harmon	The Dean of Hereford. Dedication of litany desk.
1951	Bredwardine	The Bishop of Hereford, Dr T Longworth.
1952	Newchurch	The Revd W R Morris, New Radnor.
1953	Llowes	The Revd D J Lane Griffiths.
1954	St Harmon	The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, Dr Glyn Simon.
1955	Hay-on-Wye	The Dean of Hereford.
1956	Bredwardine	The Revd A K Goss (St Peter's, Hereford).
1957	Whitney-on-Wye	The Dean of Hereford.
1958	Clyro	The Revd Newnham Davis (Coventry).
1959	Llanigon	The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, Dr J J A Thomas.
1960	Llowes	The Revd A J K Goss (St. Peter's).
1961	Bryngwyn	Address by and farewell to the Dean of Hereford.
1962	Clyro	The Revd D J Lane Griffiths
1963	Clifford	The Dean of Hereford, the Very Revd R P Price.
1964	Bredwardine	The Revd B B Humphries (Fiskerton, Lincs).
1965	Clyro	The Rt Revd Newnham Davis, London.
1966	Langley Burrell	The Rev. D J Lane Griffiths. Dedication of tablet.
1966	Monnington	(October) Address by Mr John Worsey. KS Treasurer.
1967	Llanbedr Painscastle	The Rev Colin Cuttall (All Hallows by the Tower).
1967	Worcester Cathedral	(October) The Very Revd Hedley Burrows (Emeritus of Hereford Cathedral).
1968	Newbridge-on-Wye	The Revd T J Lewis (Clyro) Rural Dean.
1968	Hardenhuish	(October) Canon J S Leatherbarrow (Martley, Wores.)
1969	Hereford Cathedral	Dr William Plomer.
1969	Bredwardine	(October) The Revd David Lockwood.
1970	Clyro	The Dean of Hereford, the Very Revd N S Rathbone.
1971	Wootton by Woodstock	(August) The Revd J M Elphinstone-Fyffe, (BBC).
1971	Hay-on-Wye	The Revd Canon W E Jones, former Dean of Brecon.
1971	Moccas	(October) The Revd D T W Price, (Shrewsbury)
1972	Langley Burrell	Canon R W Kilvert.
1972	St. Harmon	(October) The Rev D Brian Jones, (Talybont-on-Usk).
1973	Brecon Cathedral	The Revd D T W Price, (Lampeter College).
1973	Llanigon	(October) The Revd J R Williams, (Puddleston).
1974	Llowes	The Revd T Madoc-Jones, (Brecon).
1974	Ilston in Gower	(October) The Revd R L Brown, (Glyncorrwg).
1975	Much Marcle	The Revd W L Paterson, (Madley).
1975	Newchurch	(October) The Revd D N Lockwood, (Hanley Castle, Worcester).
1976	Builth Wells	The Revd D T W Price, (Lampeter).
1976	Kington-St-Michael	(October) The Revd J J Harding, Leominster. Dedication by The Revd J E G Oswald of oak communion wafer box and cruets for wine and water given by the Society.
1977	Madley	The Revd A J K Goss, formerly of St Peter's, Hereford.
1977	Llyswen	(October) The Revd G P Davenport, formerly of Essex.
1978	Clyro	Memorial for Joyce and Oswin Prosser. Tribute by the Revd D T W Price
1978	Condover, Salop.	(October) The Revd D T W Price, Lampeter
1979	Langley Burrell	Centenary Year The Rt Revd O Tomkins, Bristol. Gift of visitors book and a set of <i>100 Hymns for Today</i> .
1979	Wootton by Woodstock	(August) The Revd D N Lockwood, (Hanley Castle).
1979	Bredwardine	Gift of money towards the purchase of 100 copies of <i>Hymns Ancient and Modern</i> .
1979	Clyro	(September) Celebrant the Revd D T W Price. Gift of a pair of gates. (September) The Rt Revd Charles Edwards. Gift of lectern Bible and hymn books.
1980	Eardisley	The Revd J R Williams, (Fenton, Staffs).
1981	Aberedw	Father Luff, (Llandovery).
1981	Llanbedr Painscastle	(September) Archdeacon of Brecon, The Ven. O W Jones.
1982	Glaschw	The Revd D T W Price, (Lampeter).
1982	Newbridge-on-Wye	(June) The Revd J E James.
1983	Bath	(July) Father Luff.
1983	Colva	(September) Mr David Bentley-Taylor.
1984	Hardwick	(June) The Revd D T W Price (Lampeter).
1984	Bryngwyn	(September) The Rev K Partington.
1985	Llowes	(July) The Revd J C Day.
1985	Kington-St-Michael	(September) The Revd B F Price.
1986	Clifford	(July) The Revd Basil Richards.
1986	Hay-on-Wye	(September) The Ven. O W Jones, Archdeacon of Brecon.
1987	Malmsbury Abbey	(July) The Rt Revd A Hall-Matthews, Bishop of Carpentaria.
1987	Aberedw	(September) The Revd J Williams.
1988	Bredwardine	(July) The Revd B F Price.
1988	Clyro	(September) The Revd D N Lockwood.
1989	Draycott Cerne	(June) The Revd B E Richards.
1989	Abbey Cwm-Hir	(September) The Revd D N Lockwood.
1990	Newbridge-on-Wye	(July) The Ven. Owain Jones.
1990	Whitney-on-Wye	(September) The Revd Carl Seaburg (USA).
1990	Hardenhuish	(2 December) (150th Anniversary of FK's birth on 3 December) The Revd Dr J N Rowe (Glasbury-on-Wye).

1991	Wadham College Chapel	(July) The Revd Canon I Jones (former Vicar of Leamington Spa).
1991	Cusop	(September) The Revd P B Barnes.
1992	Clyro Festival	(July) The Very Revd M Mayne, Dean of Westminster.
1992	Langley Burrell	(September) The Revd Peter Ralph-Bowman (late of Llanbedr).
1993	Eglwys Oen Duw	(June) The Revd Canon D T W Price.
1993	St Harmon	(September) The Rt Revd D M Bridges, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon.
1994	Fordington	(June) The Revd J C Day (Sturminster Newton).
1994	Staunton-on-Wye	(September) The Revd Clive Edmonds (Haslemere).
1995	Peterchurch	(June) The Rt Revd J Oliver, Bishop of Hereford.
1995	Glascwm	(September) The Revd P B Barnes (Bredwardine).
1996	Builth	(June) The Revd Canon N Hall.
1996	Langley Burrell	(September) The Revd D N Lockwood.
1996	Clyro	(Sept.) Restoration and Harvest Festival. The Revd M Reed and the Revd D N Lockwood.
1997	Kinnersley	(June) The Revd R Birt (Weobley).
1997	Presteigne	(September) The Revd Dr R W D Fenn.
1998	Bredwardine	(April) The Revd Peter Stutz. Golden Jubilee Year
1998	Brecon Cathedral	(June) The Rt Revd Bishop of Monmouth.
1998	Llowes	(September) Mrs Jackie Morris (Cusop group of parishes).
1999	Langley Burrell	(May) The Revd John Day.
1999	Llanigon	(September) The Revd John Jackson (Rhosgoch). Memorial Service for Edward West.
2000	Bredwardine	(April) The Revd David Lockwood.
2000	Disserseth	(June) Mrs Bronwyn Curnow.
2000	Condover	(September) The Revd Prebendary Frank Rumball.
2001	Hereford Cathedral	Choral Evensong: The Revd Canon John Tiller, Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral.
2001	Eardisley	(June) The Revd Dr Humphrey Fisher.
2001	Clyro	(September) The Revd Canon William Price.
2002	Langley Burrell	(June) The Revd John Day.
2002	Newchurch	(September) The Revd Dr Humphrey Fisher.
2003	Moccas	(June) The Revd Marian Morgan (Cusop).
2003	St Harmon	(September) The Revd Gaynor Tyler.
2004	Monnington-on-Wye	(June) The Revd Clive Edmonds.
2004	Bredwardine	(September) The Revd Roger James.
2005	Credenhill	(June) The Revd Clifford Knight.
2005	----	No September service – visit to Wootton, Oxford on previous day.
2006	Bredwardine	(June) The Revd Rana Davies-James.
2006	Langley Burrell	(September) The Rector, the Revd Simon Tinsdale.
2007	Colva	(June) The Revd Marian Morgan.
2007	Glascwm	(September) The Revd John Billam.

I am most grateful to the Society's Archivist, Colin Dixon, for the extensive research which he undertook in connection with the preparation of this feature. It is hoped to add a few more items in the September issue of the *Journal*, to conclude this Diamond Jubilee year.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDERS – A TRIBUTE

Memories of three VIPs of the Early Years

By Anne Mallinson (Ditchling)

Reviving memories of old friends is certainly a pleasurable experience and, happily, also provides healthy exercise for an ageing mind. And age, it seems, is relevant here! For, I understand, I am one of the few members left who knew, and remember, three of the Society's first Very Important Persons: William Plomer (elected Vice-president, the second, in 1948 and President in 1968, until his death in 1973); Hedley Burrows, Dean of Hereford (elected first Vice-president in 1948, until his death in 1983); and Oswin (C.T.O.) Prosser (Hon. Secretary from 1956 until his death in 1977). Over the first thirty years or so of the Society's life these three dedicated people had shared platforms, lecterns, pews and pulpits on countless Kilvert occasions in counties and country parishes associated with the Diarist, his life and writings. From Wales to Wiltshire and Worcester, Hereford, Hay and St Harmon.

I first met William Plomer in 1964 at Bredwardine and for the last time at St Harmon in 1972 – just a year before his untimely death. During the intervening years I was able to attend a number of Kilvert Commemorations and to listen to many fine addresses, including one in Hereford Cathedral, and at Bredwardine and Langley Burrell, to enjoy wonderful readings from the Diary which Dr Plomer gave us after we had enjoyed the usual excellent tea – and the evocative locations of these special, looked-forward-to commemorative occasions (see illustration). William Plomer and Francis Kilvert seemed to become as one then – at least to me – as I listened to the wonderful descriptive passages and images of a more peaceful, bygone age were captured in the mind's eye: *We played hide-and-seek in the wood and danced Sir Roger de Coverley under the oaks in the green glade near the keeper's lodge ...*



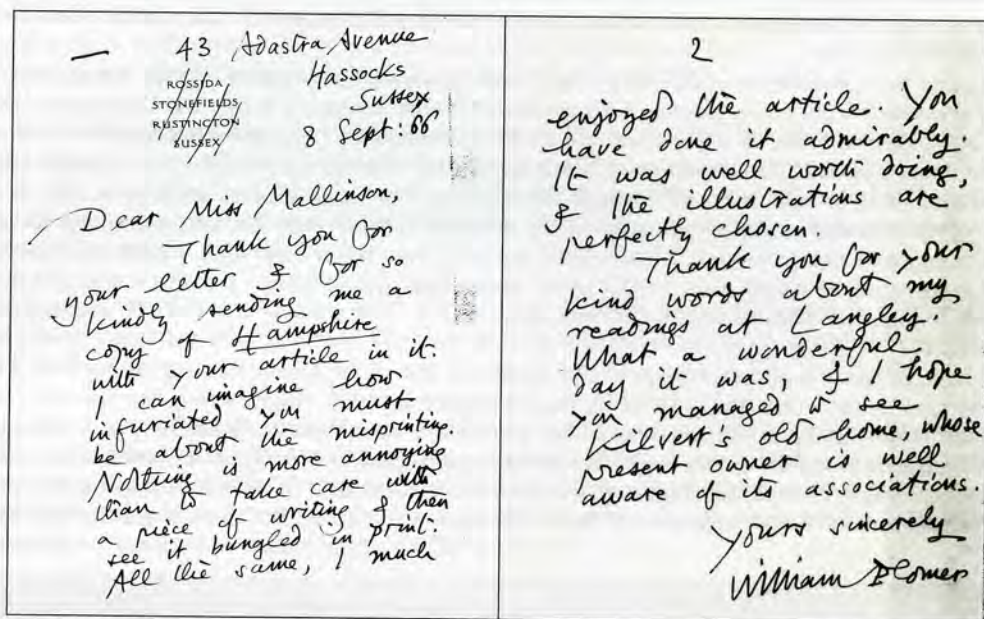
'When friends die, part of oneself seems torn away,' wrote William Plomer in *At Home*, his second book of memoirs published fifty years ago. This, inevitably,

William Plomer at an early Commemoration, Dean Burrows (right).

often seems to be true and, in my mind, too, so also is a further line ... 'And if they have had some power with the written word, then that is something specially personal to remember them by.' Well, William Plomer himself certainly deserves many special remembrances. I am quite sure I know which one will be uppermost in all our minds ... gratitude for giving us, and future generations, *Kilvert's Diary*.

For me too, there will also be the happy remembrance of the Society gatherings when William was present, and of standing with him, as I often did, when we talked at tea-times and took in something of the seemingly timeless scene, in a setting which could have come straight out of *Kilvert's Diary*.

I remember too, especially, the last occasion that we met – at St Harmon on 8 October 1972. For inside my copy of Vol. 1 of the *Diary*, which I had with me (part of the three-volume set given to me by Thermuthis Olivia, daughter of Kilvert's niece, 'The Monk', just before she died in 1961) William Plomer had written the place and date and inscribed his name. He had a fine and distinctive hand, described by C.V. Wedgwood in a perceptive obituary in *The Bookseller* (6 October 1973) ... 'like his letters, they (book reports) were always written in his fluent, legible and beautifully spaced hand.' I did not know then that I should never see William again. He died suddenly at his home in Sussex on 20 September 1973.



'A fine and distinctive hand'

In homage, the other day, in this sixtieth anniversary year of the foundation of our Society, I set out to find 43 Adastra Avenue in Hassocks, for I now live in West Sussex. I knew the address, because William had written to me from there in 1966 after I had sent him a copy of *Hampshire* magazine which contained my article on Kilvert's visits to the Isle of Wight.

Number 43 Adastra Avenue is still there: a bungalow with a view of the South Downs. The owner kindly allowed me to take a photograph. She said she and her late husband had not known that it had once been the home of a well-known writer.

I cherish this letter that I received from William, our President for those years in the 60s and 70s, as I do the more numerous ones I received at the same time from both Dean Hedley Burrows and Oswin Prosser. Over fifty letters from each I discovered on counting them up: from Winchester and the Wye.

My first letter from Hedley Burrows was prompted by a piece I wrote for the *Hampshire Chronicle*. I had heard that he was travelling to Worcester, at the age of 80, to give the address in the Cathedral at the special Kilvert Society service there on 15 October 1966, his birthday, and I felt the occasion deserved a mention, for Hedley Burrows had been Archdeacon of Winchester (1943-47) before being appointed Dean of Hereford. Obviously I was right: 'I don't think I have written yet to tell you how pleased the folk at Hereford are with what you persuaded the *Hampshire Chronicle* to put in about the Kilvert Society service at Worcester. Mr Prosser wrote back delighted with the slip from the paper which I sent him. I am glad it all turned out so well. The people took up the service splendidly. They all sang. I whispered to the Vice-Dean half-way through, 'This is going very well indeed' and he replied, "Most remarkable: it is indeed!"

It was to Oswin Prosser I owed my first meeting with Hedley Burrows, (via Canon Darlington, vicar of Selborne and a member of the Kilvert Society) in 1968. We met in Winchester (at a meeting of the Literary Society) where the Dean was giving his paper on Kilvert (originally read to the Civic Society in Hereford in 1948). Afterwards I again wrote up the event for the *Chronicle* and, in due course, I received another letter from the Dean. So, a delightful correspondence came into being and this charming, warm-hearted man became a very dear friend – as he was indeed too to our Society over the



William Plomer's last home

Photo: Ann Mallinson



The Very Reverend Hedley Burrows,
Dean of Hereford.

Photo: KS Archives

years, from his appointment as Dean of Hereford (1947-1961) until his death in Winchester in 1983. There were so many highlights in the fifteen years of our friendship, in our correspondence and in the several visits he made to Selborne, which always seemed to give him so much pleasure. He gave an address in St Mary's at a service for European Conservation Year in 1970 and came to my bookshop to launch the Penguin edition of *Kilvert's Diary* in 1977. It was an honour to me to welcome him, but in his generous way his 'thank you' after the event was typical of his kindly interest and encouragement of my life's dedication, and I will always remain deeply grateful to him for this.

His last visit to Selborne was in 1979, when he was almost 92, and it was the centenary year of Kilvert's death. I had arranged a weekend programme of events and the occasion brought together both the Dean and Canon R.W. Kilvert, then vicar of Catherington, at St Mary's Church for a Harvest Festival Service in which they both took part. It was a most memorable evening.

To end my appreciation of this very dear Founder I would like to quote a letter, not in fact from the Dean but about him, for I think it gives such a charming picture of *his* particular charm. Written to me by the Chairman of the Selborne Society after Dean Burrows had spoken to them on Kilvert and his *Diary* in November 1972, the letter is from Constance, wife of Selborne's one-time poet Anthony Rye and I think it will particularly delight our President, Dr Blythe, for he stayed with the Ryes for a day in the 1960s (sadly before I was in Selborne) and wrote to me recalling this visit with joy, some years later. Constance had written: 'Thank you for a most memorable evening – not only for the delightful supper-party but for introducing us to the adorable Dean. I don't know when I've enjoyed a talk so much. Kilvert could not have been better dealt with. I think we'll all be back, re-reading the *Diary* again with greater enjoyment than ever. I don't know what magic you employ – perhaps it was just the warmth of the Dean's personality but the Village Hall seemed to be positively cosy.'

I have so many happy memories of that occasion, and of the Dean. Reading through his letters again after thirty years one is still warmed by his words and grateful for his generous friendship. Sadly, during the last two years of his long life I myself was ill, and then in hospital, and did not hear of his death until many months later. But, as I drove past his old home the other day, from Winchester along the Itchen valley road and through Martyr Worthy, it seemed that his spirit was still there in that small country church where he took the 8 o'clock Communion service until he was well into his nineties and until his family, and the Rector, insisted that he did not officiate any more. He wrote to me in 1979: 'There is one further thing to say, on Sept 30 (the day he was to

KILVERT SOCIETY MEMBERS HONOUR THEIR SECRETARY



MEMBERS of the Kilvert Society—some from as far afield as London, Cardiff and Swansea, and the North—gathered at Eignbrook Church Ha'l in Hereford on Saturday to express the appreciation of the services to the Society of Mr. C. T. O. Prosser, who has been Honorary Secretary for the past 10 years. During the evening, when refreshments and a film of Herefordshire's black and white buildings were enjoyed by the members, Mr. Prosser and his wife were presented with gifts of a typewriter, brief case, and cheque. Mr. Prosser (centre) is seen receiving

the brief case from committee member Mr. Godfrey Davies. Looking on are (left to right) Mrs. J. M. Feisenberger, a leader of the London group of members, who presented the typewriter; Mrs. Prosser; and Chairman Mr. F. R. C. Hermon, who is holding the illuminated address which accompanied the gifts and had been presented to Mr. Prosser by the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths (a Vice-President of the Society); it is the work of a Hay-on-Wye member, Mr. Geoffrey L. Fairs, and reads . . . "The members of the Kilvert Society in many parts of the world have, for

a long time, realised the debt of gratitude owed to Mr. C. T. O. Prosser, honorary secretary since 1956; also to Mrs. Prosser and other members of the family for the zeal, research and effort that they have expended in pursuit of the Kilvert Story for the edification and pleasure of some three hundred subscribers. They hope that the debt will be repaid in some measure in the acceptance of this address and other gifts with the members' kindest wishes and grateful thanks for their labours so freely given." 8th October, 1966.

Presentation to Mr C.T.O. Prosser and his wife after 10 years' service. (It is thought that this was 8 October 1966 – ed.) The source of the article is not known.

read a lesson at Selborne) I shall be one fortnight from my 92nd birthday: the Rector and my family don't wish me now to celebrate the Communion at 8.00 a.m. However I'm not an invalid yet.' Such was his dedication.

Oswin Prosser too, indomitable Hon. Secretary of the Kilvert Society, was also a dedicated man, and a stoic: The Society's Newsletter for October 1977 began, 'As you see above, my name is crossed off as Hon. Secretary, temporarily I hope ... This Newsletter is being drafted out in early September and tomorrow I go into hospital for a long or a short stay ... we shall see.' Oswin Prosser died 'suddenly and unexpectedly'.* I had known him, mainly through our correspondence – which was considerable – for fifteen years, from 1962, when I was working on my memoir of Kilvert's niece, 'The Monk'. We met in 1963 at the Society's Commemoration Service in Clifford church. I wrote about my visit afterwards, which seemed to please him, and he later printed the piece in one of his Newsletters. I feel honoured, too, that my memoir of 'The Monk' was one of the pieces Mr Prosser chose for inclusion in the Society's *Miscellany Two* which was subsequently, and with due respect, published as *The Oswin Prosser Memorial Booklet* in time for the special Service of Thanksgiving for Oswin and Joyce 'devoted and missed servants of the Society' at Clyro in April 1978.

On being elected Hon. Secretary of the Kilvert Society in the early 1950s Charles Tracey Oswin Prosser took completely to heart the listed aims of the Society: 'To foster all aspects of Kilvert's life, work and Diary and the countryside he loved.'. His entire correspondence over the long period of his secretaryship must have been simply prodigious and, with the combination of Newsletters, Notes and News, and arrangements for meetings and Commemorative Services he must have been permanently involved in matters relating to Kilvert and his *Diary*.

Oswin's enthusiasm and energy were boundless. He had an encyclopaedic memory and his knowledge of the *Diary* and of the families and places mentioned was astonishing, a quiz compiler's dream! The two files of his letters to me alone would seem to give anyone a helpful head start for one.

Oswin – or Charles, as he sometimes signed himself – although for well over the first ten years of our correspondence it was always C.T.O. Prosser, and when I spoke to him it remained to the end as 'Mr Prosser'. Oswin's letters were, I think, unique. Newsy, rambling, yet informative, even though – on occasions – one had to negotiate one's way through a maze of exclamation marks, dots and dashes, and digressions! But I sense that he enjoyed it all, and he was *always* helpful. Nothing was too much trouble for him or for Joyce. No two people could have been more dedicated, to both Kilvert and the Society.

Oswin, I think, treated all members as friends, and the numbers grew steadily over the years. He seemed to be able to identify each one of us and had pigeonholes in his mind, our own individual interests in Kilvert and his writing and our connections, if any, with the *Diary*. He was pleased with my own particular link because I had been brought up by a member of the Diarist's family. I was also a country-book lover and a book-seller and on occasions was able to promote the Kilvert Society. He would try sometimes to persuade me to be present at more events so that I could 'write them up' for him and his Newsletter.

However, it is now a great pleasure to have the opportunity to show my appreciation of his friendship and of Dr Plomer's and Dean Burrows' and to pay my tribute to them, Friends and Founders, **and to the Society in this, its special anniversary year.**

**It was at this point that C.T.O. Prosser was succeeded as Hon. Sec. by another much-loved and scholarly Kilvertian, Edward West (below).*

Those members who are unaware of Edward's contribution to the Society are referred to *All My Days*, the KS booklet dedicated to his memory.

Two more eminent Kilvertians



Frederick Grice, Deputy President, very much a Society driving force in the 70s and early 80s and author of Francis Kilvert and his World.



Edward West drafts a letter in his inimitable, neat (yet difficult to read!) handwriting.

HEADACHE, FACE-ACHE AND NEURALGIA

The neurological case of the Reverend Francis Kilvert

By Dr Andrew Larner (Liverpool)

Headache disorders are ubiquitous. Rare is the life which does not suffer at least one headache. Most headaches are borne without soliciting professional medical assistance, but nevertheless at least 20-25% of the outpatient workload of a hospital specialist in neurology is made up of patients with headache. Since headache is not currently believed to be a unitary disorder, there being many different forms of headache which may have differing underlying causes and treatments (the current internationally accepted classification of headache disorders runs to 160 pages), this is a challenging area of clinical neurological practice.

As a practising clinical neurologist, historical and literary accounts of headache and facial pain fascinate me. It has been suggested that historical references to headache date back over 6000 years.¹ Famous historical figures suggested to have suffered from headache disorders include St Paul, Julius Caesar, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, and Sigmund Freud.² Other accounts of headache may be found in novels (e.g. Jane Austen mentions headache in five of her six major novels),³ letters (e.g. the author Arthur Ransome)⁴ and diaries. The *Diary of Francis Kilvert* provides one such account.⁵

In the selections which make up the three volumes edited by William Plomer published between 1938 and 1940, I found 23 references by Kilvert to his headache (7), face-ache or facial pain (11) and neuralgia (5). The full text of the *Diary* perhaps only one-third of which was published and the original typescript of which was destroyed, may of course have included additional references. Only ten of 23 references survive the cut for Plomer's 1944 selection from his original selections. Of these ailments, the index appended to the 1961 reprint of the *Diary* includes only face-ache (6 references). These symptoms occur in six of the nine years of the *Diary* for which any substantial amount of material remains.

The character of Kilvert's symptoms was severe. Adjectives he used to describe the headaches include *raging*, *splitting*, *crushing*, *racking*, and *bursting* (but never throbbing or pulsing, terms often used by migraineurs). Clearly, these were not 'normal headaches'. Likewise, face-ache caused Kilvert to be *knocked all to pieces*, *miserable*, *stiff*, *sick*, *shattered*, *crazy*, and it was described as *gnawing*. Neuralgia sometimes rendered him prostrate, but sometimes it was just a twinge. All of these symptoms caused sleep disturbance, often keeping Kilvert up all night, hence symptoms might last many hours. Another symptom mentioned both in association with face-ache and in relative isolation was nervous restlessness, of note since it is in marked contrast with the situation in migraine where sufferers generally prefer to keep still, since even modest physical activity exacerbates the pain of migraine.

The periodicity of Kilvert's symptoms is of particular note. Specifically there seems to be clustering of attacks: three times in five days in late February-early March 1871; four times in seven days in December 1871; four times in four days in July 1872; twice in two days in October 1874; and *very troublesome all week* in April 1878. This periodicity may be no more than an artefact of Plomer's selections, but might also reflect on the cause of the symptoms. Periodicity, severe episodic head and face pain, with associated restlessness would all be typical of a form of headache called cluster headache. This seems to me, with the limited information available from the published *Kilvert's Diary*, to be the most likely diagnosis.⁵ Although headaches, as surely as the poor, have always been with us, Kilvert's would be an early account of cluster headache, specifically from a sufferer rather than a clinician.

No specific treatment was available to Kilvert. On one occasion he felt better after four glasses of port, and treatment with laudanum and sal volatile are both mentioned on single occasions. Professional medical intervention was not sought, even when Kilvert saw Dr Clouston in town on the same day that he was suffering in December 1871. On another occasion, in July 1872, Kilvert was sufficiently desperate to write Clouston a note, and after a sleepless night of pain changed its wording *begging the doctor to come as soon as possible* only for the pain to resolve as he gave the note to the postboy and so it was not sent.

Some previous writers on Kilvert have mentioned his headaches. Le Quesne suggested that 'the pain in his eyes that frequently troubled him' may have been migraine.⁶ However, my reading of the *Diary* finds no mention of pain in the eyes, although to be sure there are several mentions of problems with eyesight, especially when trying to read services in dim church interiors. Grice⁷ cited a letter of Lois Lang-Sims which states: '[Kilvert] was occasionally overwhelmed by psychic invasions. Evidently he suffered from a severe form of migraine, a common accompaniment of psychic sensitivity'. As previously mentioned, the symptoms reported are not typical of migraine. Lockwood⁸ suggested that if Kilvert had a squint this would account for his attacks of neuralgia and headaches, stemming from the strain of trying to overcome the deficiency in his vision. Again this would be difficult to reconcile with the periodicity of the symptoms. Generally, refractive eye problems are a rare cause of headache, though often sought. Toman⁹ mentioned Kilvert's headaches and face-ache only in passing, to illustrate the burdens placed on him during Mr Venables' absence, even when his curate was in ill-health.

No less than seven other individuals in the *Diary* are mentioned with symptoms similar to Kilvert's: Mrs Crichton *upstairs with neuralgia*; old Jones *in bed who complained of a headache*; Baskerville who *rode down with neuralgia*; Dora who *had a headache*; his father suffering from severe cold and face ache; Emma Griffiths suffering from face-ache; and Mrs Lewis *ill with neuralgia*. A further example is to be found in an extract from one of the extant notebooks not selected for inclusion in the published *Diary* by Plomer: on an outing to Merbach Hill, *Helen had a sad headache from the fierce glare of the sun!* It is perhaps possible that Kilvert's own sufferings may have made him more acutely aware of others with similar problems, an awareness of things around him which certainly contributes to the richness of his *Diary*.

¹ Rose FC (1995) The history of migraine from Mesopotamian to medieval times. *Cephalalgia* **S15**: 1-3.

² Jones JM (1999) Great pains: famous people with headaches. *Cephalalgia* **19**: 627-630.

- ³ Larner AJ (2008a) 'A transcript of actual life': headache in the novels of Jane Austen. *Headache* 48: in press.
- ⁴ Larner AJ (2006) Arthur Ransome's headache disorder. *Mixed Moss* [The Journal of the Arthur Ransome Society] 3-9.
- ⁵ Larner AJ (2008b) Francis Kilvert (1840-1879): an early self-report of cluster headache? *Cephalalgia* 28: in press.
- ⁶ Le Quesne AL (1978) *After Kilvert*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- ⁷ Grice F (1983) *Francis Kilvert and his World* page 199. Horsham: Caliban Books.
- ⁸ Lockwood D (1990) *Francis Kilvert* pp 146-148. Bridgend: Seren Books.
- ⁹ Toman J (2001) *Kilvert: The Homeless Heart* pp 145 and 146. Almeley: Logaston Press.
- ¹⁰ Grice F Ibid p 153.

IN KILVERT'S FOOTSTEPS WITH MAP AND DIARY

By John Wilks (Cusop)

Reading *Kilvert's Diary* with an Ordnance Map beside you can often raise more questions than it answers. This was the case when I started to reread the *Diary* and reached 20 April 1870 and the account of Kilvert's visit to Llwynbarried.

Kilvert travelled by train to Rhayader where he was met by Mr Middleton Evans of Llwynbarried Hall. We are then told that he was driven in a double dog cart *four miles out along the Wye towards Montgomeryshire passing the vicarage of St Harmon's and that beyond the vicarage lay the pretty house of Glyn Gwy*. From this description it is clear that the journey was **north** along the A470 towards Llangurig where, just beyond the turn for St Harmon, Glyn Gwy still exists today. However the very next sentence reads: *Four miles along a good road ... we turned up a lane by a small ruinous farmhouse, across a corner of the Hysfa Common*. This had me baffled for a while until I found Ysfa Common on the 1910 edition of the OS one-inch map. This is four miles **south** of Rhayader and makes sense of the rest of the journey description. The fact that the dog cart must have been turned around and driven back through Rhayader is not mentioned leaving the reader, without the benefit of the map, to assume that the journey continued northwards. Did Kilvert leave this out or is it the result of editing by Plomer?

Reading on, I again became confused at the location of the 'Mission School/Chapel' where Kilvert attended the ceremony of laying the foundation stone. The sentence *after waiting some time for a train, various clergy arrived about 12 in all* led me to the assumption that the station was Rhayader and that therefore the Chapel must be within walking distance of Rhayader. It is only on reaching the third volume of the *Diary* 8 May 1876, that all is made clear by the comment *and passed the pretty little Ysfa Chapel (whose foundation stone I had seen laid just 6 years ago) standing lone upon its moor*. The station therefore at which the Clergy arrived must have been Doldowlod and not Rhayader.

The geography now much clearer in my mind I decided to visit. Taking the turn off the A470 just before where the old station used to be (now a public house, service station and shop) there are several areas of scrub land beside the road that must have formed Hysfa (Ysfa) Common and after barely a mile the *pretty little Ysfa Chapel* is reached. Alas, like so many churches, the door is locked and there is no indication of where a key can be found locally. However in searching for the location of a key I discovered an old news cutting* recording a visit by the Kilvert Society. This I borrowed without permission (the definition of stealing?) and took it to Rhayader where a kind lady in an estate agency provided me with a very fair photocopy. I then returned the cutting to its place on the Chapel notice board.

* *This cutting had, it seems, remained pinned on the church notice board since the time of the Society's visit in 1971, 37 years! This must be some sort of record! (Ed.)*

Kilvert followers make pilgrimage

Last weekend saw the annual pilgrimage of Kilvert devotees to Radnorshire for the commemoration festivities of the Diarist. This year the church service was held at St Harmon where Francis Kilvert was Vicar for a very brief period before his death.

Kilvert fans are everywhere, writes Cynric Mytton-Davies, and they come to this Radnorshire

the coach which brought 45 people made a detour to visit the tiny church of St Mark at Ysfa.

Its interest at the moment is the renovation and reframing of the 100-year-old certificate of the Bishop of St. Davids by the Kilvert Society. This is dated April 19th, 1871, and authorises the church for services of divine worship and the celebration of the sacraments.



St Mark's Church,
Ysfa

event from all over England and Wales. Hereford is the headquarters of the Kilvert Society and its president the Rev Dr Plomer, of Sussex, attended the festival.

At the commemoration service, the president asked the Vicar, the Rev C. J. Colebrook, to accept the gift of an alms box wall safe for the church.

On the way to the service,

On the Saturday, before the commemoration service, a walk over Betws and Bryngwyn Hill-Kilvert countryside was arranged.

The address at the service was given by the Rev D. Brian James, of Talybont-on-Usk, a Kilvert Society member. Canon Wilson of Durham, chairman of the Parson Woodforde Society, was also at the service.

My journey then continued along the lane towards Nantmel, but taking the turning before reaching the main A44 road and parking in the lane leading to Llwynbarried Hall. My map indicated a public footpath through the Hall grounds, though none was waymarked on the ground. Following the map I approached the hall and took some photographs from the public path; at the time I was unaware that the property is owned by Mr Boddy, a member of the Society for almost forty years. Had I known this I might have made my presence known and obtained some closer pictures.

Having seen the house I also stood under the *fine old oaks gnarled twisted weatherbeaten* where Kilvert tells us legend exists that Oliver Cromwell and his men breakfasted after having sacked the house. Returning the way I had come I then drove on along the narrow lane to Nantmel, again to be disappointed on finding the church locked.

The Thirlwall graves are prominent in the churchyard but no sign of one for Effie Thirlwall the six-year-old daughter of the vicar who found the task of laying the chapel foundation stone a little overwhelming.

The day following the laying of the foundation stone Kilvert walked over the hills to Abbey Cwm-Hir to visit *the great house belonging to Mr Phillips the Squire*. However, I returned home for dinner, postponing my own visit to *the great house* until the Society's September Weekend event when I also hope to see the inside of St Mark's Church at Ysfa.

ABBEY CWM-HIR

**The Abbey of the Long Valley
A foretaste of the Society's September visit.
By the Editor**

Abbey Cwm-Hir! Here again, just as with Craig-Pwll-Du (see *Journal* No. 24), one finds a Welsh place name variously divided, capitalised and hyphenated on maps, in topographical works, learned journals and elsewhere. In the *Diary* it appears as Abbey Cwmhir. After reflection and consultation I have decided now to opt for the version which appears in the title!

Abbey Cwm-Hir lies in the remote Radnorshire valley of the Clywedog in the north of the County. The ruins of this twelfth-century Cistercian abbey reputedly shelter the headless body of Llewelyn, the last native Prince of Wales and is one of a number of alleged last resting-places of the Prince. One wonders whether Glyndŵr would still have sacked the place in 1401 had he known this interesting fact!

Overlooking the ruins is Abbey Cwm-Hir Hall, now in the ownership of Paul and Victoria Humpherston who purchased the 52-room mansion and the estate at the end of 1997. They have spent the last eleven years and a large sum of money repairing the fabric and restoring the interior and the grounds to their former glory.

In the seventeenth century the Abbey estate had belonged to Sir William Fowler and in a reference to the absence of landed gentry in Radnorshire and to the general poverty of the County the following doggerel was current:

*There is neither a park nor a deer
To be seen in all Radnorshire
Nor a man with five hundred a year
Save Fowler of Abbey Cwmhir.*

The Grade-II listed Hall, in Gothic Revival style, was built for Thomas Wilson, a London lawyer,



The Abbey ruins

Photos: John Wilks



Abbey Cwm-Hir Hall

who, was ruined in part by its construction and departed for Australia where he rose again to become Mayor of Adelaide. The mansion was enlarged in 1869 by the Phillips family and indeed work was still going on there when Kilvert visited on 22 April 1870:

We rapidly descended the steep bank and got into the valley, making for the great house belonging to Mr Phillips the Squire where we hoped to get some luncheon. The masons were at work all round the great new house giving finishing touches to their work and the place was full of joiners and painters. Mr and Mrs Phillips were at luncheon in the servants' hall which they are using now as a dining room till the house is finished. They both came to the door and welcomed us most kindly ... Mr Phillips is an Eton and Christ Church man and a great sportsman. He was very pleasant and hospitable but seemed shy, reserved, very quiet in manner. Mrs Phillips young, lively, girlish and rather pretty. After luncheon they took us over the new part of the house which is handsome and comfortable, fitted a good deal with pitch pine which takes a beautiful polish and looks well ... The broad terrace includes a beautiful level lawn which would make an admirable croquet ground or bowling green. Then we went to see the pretty, new little church ... close by is the village inn with the sign of the Happy Union represented by a picture of a Welshman riding a goat ... Mrs Phillips [whose maiden name we learn was Prescott] walked a little way towards the Abbey ruins with us (Diary Vol. I pp 113-114. See also Sandford Notebook page 9.)

The Phillips family was also responsible for the restoration of the village church, visited by the Society for its autumn service in September 1989.

Just as the Hall was in need of repair and restoration when acquired by the Humphersons, so too were the gardens and the estate, 12 acres in all. The 1.5 acre walled garden, in particular, had suffered, the walls crumbling and the interior overgrown. The surrounding woodland had become almost impenetrable. The lawns and terraces, one of which Kilvert admired, had however apparently survived intact, still noted for their natural sweep and elegance.

A new ornamental garden has now been created within the walled area and an abundance of trees, plants and shrubs flourish there with, in season, wonderful displays of rhododendra and roses. Work continues clearing the woodland and pathways are being laid out therein.

Tours of all 52 rooms of the Hall are carried out by the Humphersons and last for two hours. They provide an opportunity to view the original features of the restored domestic and residential accommodation together with the various interesting collections (clocks, china, paintings, photographs, books and even vehicles etc.) which the family have put together. We look forward to our September visit.



Abbey Cwm-Hir church

REFLECTIONS ON THE NINTH ANNUAL KILVERT PILGRIMAGE

29 JULY 2007

By Christopher Dawson (Middlesex)

It had been an exceptionally wet summer ... so when we arrived from London, to a determined drizzle (that is, myself, Sara Butterfield and Sara's parents – Mike and Val), I felt certain that this year's walk might compare with the watery pilgrimage of 2005, when the rain obstinately accompanied us for much of the route. As Sara's parents had come over from France, to join us for the Pilgrimage, for the first time, encouraged by the wonderful experiences Sara and I had recounted over the years, we had both hoped for good visibility and a 'vintage' year, wanting them to see the scenery at its best.

Thus it was with some trepidation that I drew back the curtains on the actual day, Sunday 29 July 2007, (of my fifth pilgrimage and Sara's ninth) to find, to my delight, a dry day with some blue sky overhead and even a promise of sun!

Gathering at St Mary's Newchurch, at the outset of the walk, I recognised a number of familiar faces. We received a warm welcome from our fellow pilgrims, many of whom had arrived somewhat earlier to attend the 8 o'clock communion. Within the church, I noted, some carefully mounted information boards, with details of Kilvert's life and the churches he had walked between. These, I discovered, had been kindly prepared by members of the Kilvert Society [see p15 Journal No 25], some of whom were to be joining us on the walk. After coffee, we assembled around the graveside of Emmeline Vaughan and stood for a moment in silence. I joined my fellow pilgrims in placing a posy of wild flowers (just as Kilvert had done) on the ground, in the form of a cross.

The stillness was broken by the crisp, clear, sound of a trumpet calling out 'The Last Post'. The trumpeter, I later discovered, was Sam – a young musician – who had travelled to Newchurch, with his father, especially to play for the Pilgrimage.

As we set off on our walk to the second of the churches we would be visiting that day – St Michael's Bryngwyn, the sun suddenly burst forth, providing a glorious send-off! Walking at our own pace along the well worn path up into the hills – I noted how muddy it was under foot. Pilgrims were soon stretched out into a long ribbon over the hillside. Walking for a while with John Milsom, I was struck by his suddenly striding off purposefully – off the path – in another direction. 'That will do for my supper,' he exclaimed, as he held aloft triumphantly a large mushroom. After an hour or so, we arrived at Bryngwyn to a beautiful peal of bells.

Taking a pew, my spirits soared upon hearing the sound of a cello reverberating wonderfully within the space of the old church. Sonia Hammond's interpretation of Bach's *Cello Suite No 1* was heavenly! Her playing punctuated the service, enhancing the silences and heralding a series of poignant poetry readings. Some of my personal favourites were read: Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken*, Kipling's *The Way Through the Woods* and Christina Rossetti's *Uphill*. Words so appropriate to our journey.

After diving into our picnics and drinking a refreshing cup of tea – very kindly laid on by local helpers – we set off on the next, longest leg of the walk. Being one of the last to leave, I was slightly worried that I might not be able to find the route. There was, this year however, no need to fret, as our path had been very clearly laid out, in advance, with red arrows on the grass and hand-painted signs (marked with the word 'Pilgrims') tied to hedges, fence posts and trees. (On a previous Pilgrimage, I had been one of the pilgrims, deep in discussion, who accidentally took a 'lengthy detour', upon losing the route.) On this stretch of the walk, you journey along a path bordered by bracken, wild foxgloves and poppies, with breath-taking views in all directions. Having joined the Pilgrimage for several years running now, it never ceases to amaze me how different the landscape can look in different lights and weather conditions. This year, the light was draped over the hills, lending them an indescribable mystery. I wished I'd had a canvas and some paints in my rucksack, as I was itching to paint some of the scenery we were passing through.

We were joined for this section of the walk by two of Humphrey's granddaughters, Miriam (10) and Abigail (6). These were our youngest pilgrims. What an age spread, I thought! This walk can be enjoyed by anyone, from 6 to 80. In fact, one of the many things which I love about the Pilgrimage, is the opportunity to talk to so many interesting people en route. Walking, I find, is very conducive to sharing close personal thoughts and experiences. Falling into step with a number of my fellow pilgrims, I found myself discussing subjects as diverse as – the presence of Christianity in China, life working in a remote part of Namibia – and the best recipe for Welsh cakes!

This year, I think for the first time (in my memory at least), we all managed to gather 'together' at Ireland. Accompanied by Sam on the trumpet, we sang our hearts out, Mike and Val giving their all to the hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*. Surrounded by beautiful hills in all directions, our voices and spirits lifted up high into the air. For me a *special* moment.

En route again, we were soon weaving our way down through the undergrowth to our next stopping place – St Peter's Church at Llanbedr. Feeling hot and slightly weary, it was wonderful to be greeted by a most generous, home-made spread of delicious cakes and sandwiches, along with a hearty welcome and refreshing cup of tea. Soon revived, we continued on with the last leg of our journey to the delightful Llanddewi Fach – St David's Church – for Evensong. (The smallest and most tucked-away of the churches on the walk, Llanddewi Fach, I knew, was Sara's favourite, being the very *special* meeting place, where she originally met Humphrey and Helga.)



A six-year-old Pilgrim, Abigail, steps it out.

Photo: Christopher Dawson

Approaching the little church across a tranquil field, full of very curious sheep, I noticed that the sun was now very low in the sky, and the evening light radiant and golden. Drawn by the bell calling us to Evensong, I entered the church to find it full and candlelit. What followed, was a wonderful and moving service, everyone drawn together by the glorious time shared during the day. Llanddewi Fach has a peace all of its own, the perfect place, to end our journey. Putting everything we had into the hymns, we were accompanied by a small mechanical organ, perhaps similar to that which Kilvert may have experienced in his time. Following an address by the Revd Richard Birt of Hereford, prayers were said, one of the most memorable for me being a prayer by Mother Theresa's co-workers in Japan, where each line was read by a different pilgrim.

Coming to our 'Pilgrimage Prayer', we had reached the end of this particular journey. Leaving the church – with joyful spirits, we travelled back to Newchurch in the back of a helpful local's vehicle – the wind in our hair and huge smiles on our faces. Lifted by our walk through the rolling Radnorshire Hills and the camaraderie of fellow pilgrims, our thanks went out to Humphrey, Helga and all those who helped to make this year's pilgrimage an *unforgettable day*.

This year's Pilgrimage is on Sunday 27 July. Details from: The Revd Dr Humphrey Fisher (01544 370632), the Rector of Aberedw, the Revd Tim Williams (01982 560359) or Cdr Aylmer Alexander (01497 851295).

FROM RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

From John Kinross (Little Dewchurch)

How sad about the death of Frank Claybrooke. He was such a pleasant, very quiet person and nothing was too much trouble. I included two of his drawings of Welsh churches in my book *Discovering the Smallest Churches in Wales*, [See *Journal* No. 24] and have the Swansea, St Anne's church original, framed, in my study.

I wonder how far he got with his drawing Kilvert's churches and whether someone else could finish the work. It would make a good book.

From David Machin (Bath)

In the early 1960s my late father-in-law inherited the Moccas estate from his cousin, the last Cornwall baronet. Twenty years ago my brother-in-law, Richard Chester-Master (also 'late' alas), asked me to sort and write something based upon his family papers, including the Cornwalls', which were divided between himself and the Gloucester and Hereford Record Offices. It is a fascinating collection from the sixteenth century onwards, and I decided that I would reproduce the most interesting documents with a minimum of linking material, much of it drawn from relevant published material. The Masters (of Cirencester) and the Cornwalls intermarried in the nineteenth century, though the families knew each other some time before, both socially and through being west of England MPs at the same time.

Unfortunately I did not have time to finish the job. The Cornwall section ends in the 1870s – with relevant quotations from Kilvert in fact. (The Victorian social hierarchy being as it was, I think Kilvert was on easier terms with the curate at Moccas, Mr Bishop, than with the Reverend Sir George Cornwall, who was his ecclesiastical equal, but also the major local landowner and patron of Kilvert's brother-in-law's living at Monnington.) The Master section reaches the 1960s. As you may know, the core of the estate is still in Chester-Master ownership, and Moccas Court is being successfully run as a hotel* by Ben Chester-Master and his wife.

Recently what I did about the three families (the third is the Chesters of Bristol) has been completely retyped and copies have been accepted for deposit by both Hereford Archives and Gloucester Record Office. The point of this letter is to ask whether you think any of the Society's members might be interested to know this, presumably through a brief notice in the *Journal*. I shall fully understand if you think not, but perhaps our Hon. Archivist would like to know.

*** The hotel has been open now for two years and was recently nominated Best Historic House Hotel of the Year.**

TWM TOBACCO

I forgot to mention in connection with Peter Beddall's account of the visit to Twm Tobacco's grave in the March *Journal* that there is an interesting article (dated 1996) about Twm by Edward West in *All My Days*, the memorial booklet dedicated to Edward's memory. It is available from our publications manager. (ed)

OBITUARIES

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

Mr Frank Claybrooke of Swansea died on 2 March 2008*, aged 69. He had joined the Society in 2006. Frank died suddenly, but peacefully, in the presence of his wife, Beryl, and three daughters, Deborah, Sara and Fiona in the early hours of Sunday 2 March 2008. They had just spent a lovely weekend together, having a family celebration. The cause of death was severe coronary atheroma. He had had no symptoms, and appeared to be fit and healthy, attending a local gym three times a week, and leading a very full and active life.

Originally the family was all from Birmingham, but Frank came to Swansea in 1972 as the city's Chief Building Surveyor. He was the Urban Renewal Officer before he took early retirement in 1991 to set up on his own as a building surveyor/building regulations consultant. He also very much enjoyed lecturing on building regulations at the Swansea Institute and for private organisations. In 1997 he had the distinction of being the first person to be awarded the title of Government Approved Inspector.



Frank with some of his sketches

His interest in buildings throughout his career, and his early training in draughtsmanship obviously influenced him, but as an artist he was completely self taught. He took up sketching and water-colour painting seriously when he retired. He particularly liked to concentrate on meticulous detail, whether that was a botanical illustration or the intricate tracery on a church window. It was only during the past couple of years that he joined three local art groups and his painting started to take off. There is a tribute to him and a number of his works which can be seen on the following web site: www.swanseaartsociety.org.uk

Although he painted other subjects, churches were his passion. He was an avid church crawler and collected over 10,000 photographs of churches. In 2003 he became a member of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, which is part of the new charity the National Churches Trust, but remains as a designated fund in its own right. It is an independent body concerned with the protection and welfare of churches, chapels, meeting houses, etc. throughout Britain, and it was for this fund that donations have been collected in lieu of flowers in his memory.

In 2005 he produced a booklet containing twelve pen and ink sketches of churches in Gower and held his first art exhibition with 55 of his own works at St Hilary's Church Hall in Killay, Swansea, on Easter Monday 2006. All the proceeds of the exhibition went to the twelve churches concerned. He was always keen to try to raise funds for churches and he was also a member of the Ancient Monuments Society, in association with the Friends of Friendless Churches.

Frank had a life-long love of classical music, especially early church music, and enjoyed reading biographies and diaries. For many years he had had a battered copy of the paperback edition of Francis Kilvert's *Diary*, but it was only when other commitments and time allowed that we joined the Kilvert Society, whereupon he bought the three-volume edition and decided to research and sketch all of the churches associated with RFK. Plans were in hand for an exhibition of his sketches and paintings at Llandrindod Wells in September. This exhibition will still go ahead, with the twenty sketches and paintings he had done so far.

What most people will remember Frank for was his sense of humour and willingness to impart whatever knowledge he had to help people along.

www.nationalchurchestrust.org

www.ancientmonumentsociety.org.uk

www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

**I am indebted to Frank's wife, Beryl, for the above obituary and apologise to her and her daughters for the error about the date of his death, wrongly reported in the March Journal as 29 February. (Editor)*

Mrs Barbara Meredith of Oswestry died on 19 February, aged 80. She was a life member of the Society and had joined in 1981. Her daughter, Anne Longmate writes:

Mum was born in Richard's Castle and lived for most of her married life in Oswestry. She was a niece of Tom Palmer, who I believe was one of the founding members of the Kilvert Society and she very much enjoyed her own membership of the Society. She often spoke about her grandmother, Martha Jane Morgan, who was born in 1873 and who remembered as a child sitting on Kilvert's knee.

I have recently joined the Kilvert Society in her place and enjoy the *Journal* very much.

As we went to press we heard of the sudden death of **Mr Tony O'Brien** of Newchurch. He died on 6 May aged 78. He had been a member since 1987. A full obituary will appear in the September *Journal*.

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

WANTED

A copy of the Sandford Notebook (*The Diary of Francis Kilvert, April-June 1870* edited by Kathleen Hughes and Dafydd Ifans and published by The National Library of Wales). Please contact John Wilks – Tel: 01497 821401.

THE NEW CD OF KILVERT'S DIARY

This is available from: Griffin & Co Ltd, 24 Church Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 5JH.
Tel: 01622 812101. Their email is: sales@griffinrecords.co.uk.

NEWSLETTERS AND JOURNALS

Back numbers of the Society's Newsletters and *Journals* are available from the Publications Manager, priced at £2.50 each, including postage. Limited availability.

Members are reminded that ALL e-mail communications with the Society or its officers should be made via the dedicated website: www.communigate.co.uk/here/kilvertsociety.

Contributions for the September 2008 edition of the *Journal* should reach the editor **not later than 11 July 2008**. It would be helpful if contributors having access to a computer could put their article on disc (in Word for Windows) and send it to Val Dixon (same address as the Publications Manager on the inside cover) and at the same time send a paper copy direct to the editor, thank you. **It would also help if any photographs included could be placed in a separate file on the disc.**

Digital Images

Please note that digital images submitted for publication should be in JPEG or TIFF format and have a resolution of no less than 300dpi, with a minimum width of 15cm.

The copyright of an article in the *Journal* rests with the contributor.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Kilvert Society or of the editor of the *Journal*.

The current ordinary subscription is £12.00 (Joint membership £15.00) and is due on 1 January of each year. Cheques payable to The Kilvert Society should be sent to: Mrs Sue Rose 18 York Close, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 0QB.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998. The names and addresses of members are held on a computerised list exclusively for the distribution of the *Journal* and other information about the Society, to its members. If you object to this, please contact the Hon Secretary. It has been decided that if any member objected, that member would have to **provide stamped addressed** envelopes for the dispatch of their *Journals*.

