

THE
Journal
OF
THE KILVERT SOCIETY



THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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

Registered Charity No. 1103815

www.thekilvertsociety.org.uk

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Chairman DAVID ELVINS

Sandalwood, North End Road, Steeple Clayton, Bucks
MK18 2PG.

Hon. Secretary ALAN BRIMSON

30 Bromley Heath Avenue, Downend, Bristol BS16 6JP.

Vice-Chairman MICHAEL SHARP

The Old Forge, Kinnersley, Herefordshire HR3 6QB.

Hon Treasurer RICHARD WESTON

35 Harold Street, Hereford HR1 2QU.

Hon Membership Secretary MRS SUE ROSE

Seend Park Farm, Semington, Trowbridge, Wiltshire
BA14 6LH.

Hon Publications Manager and Archivist COLIN DIXON

Tregothnan, Pentrosfa Crescent, Llandrindod Wells, Powys
LD1 5NW.

Hon Editor of the *Journal* CHARLES BOASE

Vauxhall House, Monmouth NP25 3AX. Tel: 01600 715 076.
email: charles.boase@gmail.com

Contributions are welcome for the Journal by post or email.

Deadlines are 11 January and 17 July each year

Website: www.thekilvertsociety.org.uk (for additions or corrections, please email the Editor of the *Journal*). If you have mislaid the password for the Archive section of the website, please email the Editor, who will send it to you.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 19 March

Visit to Dulwich Picture Gallery, London

Friday 25 April

AGM at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford. Speaker the Very Rev Michael Tavinor, Dean of Hereford.

Saturday 26 April

Radnorshire Arms Hotel, Presteigne.
Seminar 10.30am. John Toman will speak on 'Sermons in Stone: Kilvert and Geology'
Annual dinner 6.30 for 7pm.

Saturday 28 June

Visit to Clyro with pub lunch at the Baskerville Arms – (see leaflet enclosed with the *Journal*). Followed by walk around village. Meet at noon

Sunday 29 June

Commemorative Service at Clyro (preacher to be confirmed). 3pm

Saturday 27 September

Visit to Llanthony Priory. Picnic lunch. Meet at noon.

Sunday 28 September

Commemorative Service (preacher and venue to be confirmed in the June *Newsletter*)

Our Hon Treasurer is appealing to members who have yet to update their subscription standing orders after last year's rise please to do so. The rates are on the inside back cover.

PLEASE HELP THE SOCIETY CUT POSTAGE COSTS: The Society would like to send all relevant communications to members by email to reduce our postage costs. If you are on email, please tell the Secretary at jeanbrimson@hotmail.com. Otherwise mailings will be sent to you by post as usual. The *Journal* will continue to printed and posted.

Front Cover A post card of a view thought to date from about 1860 shows the 12th-century church of St Mary at Cusop and the village school. As John Wilks relates on page 268 the Rev Andrew Pope, who was to become a good friend to Francis Kilvert, started his long and popular ministry in the Marches by being appointed curate at St Mary's in 1868.

Back cover Hay-on-Wye station bustling in 1900. On page 260 Gordon Wood explains why trains could make Kilvert miserable.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our first event this year is in March to Dulwich Picture Gallery, London. Apart from the Kilvert connection there are a number of interesting and important paintings on display, including an exhibition of prints by David Hockney.

In June and September we visit Clyro and Llanthony Priory. We look forward to welcoming as many members as possible to these events.

The AGM weekend in April is at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, and the itinerary includes the business meeting and a talk. A cold buffet will be provided for a small charge. On Saturday at the Radnorshire Arms Hotel we have two more talks on Kilvert topics. The annual dinner is in the evening. This weekend is an opportunity to meet old friends and welcome members who may be attending for the first time.

Although Presteigne is a little way out of 'Kilvert Country' it has proved to be a good venue. Your Committee has again chosen this Hotel because of the service, ambiance, quality of food and reasonable cost. We understand that many members have additional travelling and accommodation costs to pay. Every year we consider alternative venues but as yet have failed to find a total package that compares favourably to that offered by the Radnorshire Arms. Members can be assured that these arrangements will continue to be monitored every year.

The AGM weekend is the main event in the calendar of the Society and I hope as many of you as possible will continue to support it.



FROM THE SECRETARY

NOTICE is hereby given for the Annual General Meeting of the Kilvert Society to be held at 7pm at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, on Friday 25 April 2014.

Any two members may nominate one or more members for election to the Committee. Such nominations and any items for any other business must be received by the Secretary by 26 March 2014.

As we enter another year of activities of the Society, it's an apt time to welcome our new members and we hope to see as many of you as possible at this year's events. On 19 March the Society will be visiting the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Francis Kilvert records his visits here in his Diary. We are most fortunate to have as our guide Xavier Bray, chief curator of the Gallery. Details have been circulated to members who have expressed an interest in this visit.

Plans are now well in advance for our AGM weekend. I always think the thought of an AGM is rather daunting, but for those of you who have yet to attend this annual event, it is one of the highlights of the Kilvert Society year. The business of the Friday evening is completed in good time for a sumptuous buffet supper, prepared by our Membership Secretary cum Catering Manager Sue Rose, along with husband Mike. After which the floor will be given over to our speaker, The Very Rev Michael Tavinor, Dean of Hereford. This all takes place in the wonderful surroundings of the Bishop's Palace, Hereford (7pm, Friday 25 April).

The following day we meet at The Radnorshire Arms Hotel, Presteigne, at 10.30am, where our morning session is to be addressed by our most eminent author and researcher of all things Kilvertian, Mr John Toman. The title of his talk is 'Sermons in Stone: Kilvert and Geology'. The afternoon is free. Might I suggest a visit to The Radnorshire Museum, Temple Street, in nearby Llandrindod Wells, to view the Kilvert Collection?

We reassemble at the hotel, 6.30 for 7pm, for our annual dinner. This is always a lively affair with a buzz about the dining room as old and new friends meet up once again. Each course of our meal is interspersed with readings from Kilvert's *Diary*, poetry and associated Victoriana.

All told it's a warm welcoming, convivial occasion, I do hope you will be part of it this year. Please return the enclosed booking form as early as possible.

Now to matters financial. Our Treasurer is in danger of suffering from *Alopecia areata* – in other words, he is tearing his hair out! Why? Because the subscription rates were increased from January 2013 and for the second year running some members are still, in 2014, paying at the old rate. Can I please remind members the subscription is now, still a very reasonable, £15 single or £18 for two at the same address. Please help to ease our Treasurer's embarrassment on his next visit to the barbers. If you are in default please clear your arrears and also amend your standing order if appropriate.

Enjoy your Kilvertian year.

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Inside Back Cover there is a list of Society publications for sale, as well as recommended titles that can be bought through bookshops

The Annual General Meeting of the Kilvert Society will be held in the Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, on Friday 25 April 2014 at 7pm.

Agenda

1. Welcome to Members
2. Secretary's Announcements
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of AGM of 26 April 2013
5. Matters Arising
6. Obituaries
7. Chairman's Remarks
8. Financial Report
9. Election of Officers

i) Existing Officers offering themselves for re-election

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

The following are ex-officio Officers

Hon Archivist	Mr C Dixon
Hon Minutes Secretary	Mr CJ Marshall
Hon Editor of the <i>Journal</i>	Mr C Boase

ii) Existing Committee (in addition to the above Officers)

Mrs VJ Dixon, Mrs M Oliver.

Mr EJ Hall, Mr MJ Reynolds, Mr P Beddall

The existing Committee offer themselves for re-election

iii) Nominations for members of The Committee

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

10. Any Other Business previously notified to The Secretary.

End of AGM

INTERVAL

Society publications on sale

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

The Dean of Hereford the Very Rev. Michael Tavinor will give a talk on the Saints and Sinners of the Marches

Vote of Thanks and Close of meeting

Alan Brimson
Hon Secretary

For information only

PRESIDENT

Dr Ronald Blythe FRSL

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Mrs S Hooper, Mr AL Le Quesne

HON LIFE MEMBERS

Miss MR Mumford, Mrs Hurlbutt,
Mrs T Williams, Mr J Palmer,

Dr W Mom Lockwood, Mr J Hughes-Hallett

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Charity Registration No: 1103815

Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31 December 2013

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Appeal Donations	£117.06	£286.24
Subscriptions	£4,472.00	£3,894.00
Donations	£182.50	£354.00
Gift Aid	£838.25	£919.95
AGM Income	£226.50	£270.00
Publication Sales	£1,743.00	£566.00
Events	£1,267.50	£1,518.20
Interest	£1.50	£1.79
Transfers	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Legacy		£254.00
	<u>£12,102.31</u>	<u>£10,810.18</u>

EXPENDITURE

Grants & Subscriptions	£685.00	£490.00
Monuments & Collections	£645.00	£1,235.00
Postage, Stationery, Phone	£338.43	£855.90
Printing	£3,606.80	£98.16
Journal Printing & Postage	£3,375.53	£2,915.84
Insurance	£152.00	£152.00
Events	£1,245.00	£1,783.20
AGM Expenses	£549.17	£895.25
Transfer	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Website	£226.31	£240.48
Refund	£22.50	-
	<u>£13,845.74</u>	<u>£11,665.83</u>

ASSETS

Balance Lloyds	£3,301.52	£508.16
Balance Lloyds Appeal Fund	£26.01	£1,564.14
Nationwide Building Society	<u>£11,916.77</u>	<u>£14,987.73</u>
	<u>£15,244.30</u>	<u>£16,987.73</u>
Excess Expenditure over Income		<u>£1,743.43</u> <u>£15,244.30</u>

Richard Weston,
Hon Treasurer

Auditor's Certificate

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

John Wilks,
Hon Auditor

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kilvert Society held at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, on Friday 26 April 2013 at 7pm

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, especially new members attending their first AGM.

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Margaret Burdett (Tunbridge Wells), Margaret and Colin Burgess (Rickmansworth), Dudley Green (Clitheroe), Jim Hall (Chippenham), Tony Laverick (Boston, Lincs), Olive Knight (Bromsgrove, Worcs), Sylvia Townsend (Bristol), Heather and Richard Vine (Hindon), Caroline and Jim Webber (Compton Bassett) and Maureen and Charles Weston (Thornton Le Dale)

Secretary's announcements Alan asked everyone to sign the attendance book which was being passed round. He said there would be the usual break after the meeting for refreshments, at a cost of £4.50 per head. Publications would be sold during the break which this year included the new book by John Toman on the recently purchased photo album. There would be a talk during the second half of the evening by Gordon Wood on 'Kilvert and the Railways'. He reminded members that there were two talks on Saturday morning at the Radnorshire Arms Hotel given by David Harrison on Napoleon III and the Zululand wars and the Princess Alice disaster on the Thames. The dinner would be at 6.30 for 7pm. Alan again asked if people could notify him of their email addresses so that reminders and information on events could be sent that way to avoid postage. He stressed that the *Journal* would continue to be sent in the normal way. He also reminded people to keep information up-to-date if they changed address or email provider.

Minutes The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2012, having been printed in the March *Journal*, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by M Tod, seconded by M Reynolds and carried.

Obituaries The secretary read out the names of those members whose deaths had been notified since last year's AGM (copy with minutes) and members stood in silence as a tribute to their memory.

Chairman's remarks The Chairman said he felt it had been another very successful year. In May the Bredwardine village Kilvert Festival was held. This was organised by the PCC and supported by the Society with a film show, walks and talks. £1,600 was raised towards improvements to the facilities at St Andrew's church. In June our Monnington event raised £906 for a similar cause at St Mary's Church. Our lunch at 'The Chase', the former rectory occupied by Kilvert's sister Thersie and her husband William Smith, was a great success. Our hosts Sarah Girling and Bill Sewell donated the cost of the food so that all proceeds went to the church restoration fund. As a registered charity it has to be evident that the Society provides a public benefit. This we do through talks, seminars and publications. The results of these two events also address this requirement and enhance our charitable status. The final event for 2012, in September, was the Society's visit to Clifford where, on a circular walk, we visited the church and looked down on the valley where Clifford Priory, the home of the Haigh Allens, once stood. Tea was provided by the ladies of St Mary's in the parish rooms at Hay. March saw our first event of 2013 with a most successful visit to Oxford and Wadham College. This was supported by well over 40 members. After a walk around the city our time at Wadham included a short service and a tour of the college grounds. Both conducted by the college chaplain, the Revd Dr Ben Williams.

David said Charles Boase had again produced two excellent and very professional *Journals* and felt sure he would wish to thank the members who had supported him by submitting articles for publication.

David said Charles also managed the Society's website. Again his professionalism shone through. The website was now our main means of spreading the Kilvert story and the ethos of the Society. It was also our principal means of recruitment with a good stream of

new members forthcoming.

John Toman's Book *The Lost Photograph Album, A Kilvert Family Story Revealed* had just been published by the Society after a very good response from members who had placed forward orders. John had produced a well-researched and very readable volume that revealed the fascinating lives of the members of the Kilvert family. The Chairman said he had read the book when it was in draft form and found it most interesting. He thanked John for all his hard work and Charles Boase for editing the book.

The Society was now in the process of restoring the memorial gravestone at Croft, Lincolnshire, of Adelaide Maria Heanley, young Addie Cholmeley. The original was found lying, broken in pieces, on the ground, when the Society visited in 2009. It was proving to be a very long process.

The Society continued its policy of maintaining the appropriate graves and monuments.

David said he wished to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work on behalf of the Society and mentioned several who were worthy of particular thanks.

Treasurer's report A report detailing the year's accounts was circulated to those present.

Income: Richard Weston pointed out donations to the Appeal Fund had dropped because we were no longer receiving the money from standing orders. He said subscriptions were roughly the same and donations were subject to change each year. He pointed out that gift aid was down slightly and asked any taxpayers to sign up to gift-aid if possible. He said he had been able to transfer £3,000 into the Building Society account.

Expenditure: Richard said the amount under Grants and Subscriptions had increased because more money had been given to the Kilvert churches. He advised that the amount under Monuments and Collections included the purchase of the photo album which was now in the new collection at Chippenham Museum. Increased postal charges had accounted for a large rise in expenditure and the making of the DVD of the 1948 film was included under printing costs. Costs for the AGM had gone up due to an increase in the hire of the room and equipment. The website was now up and running and therefore expenditure had gone down. Richard explained that there were one or two bills still to come in, but felt that we would cover any expenditure.

The assets held at 31 December 2012 were: Balance Lloyds £508.16; Balance Lloyds Appeal Fund £1,564.14; Nationwide Building Society £14,915.43. Total £16,987.73 He thanked John Wilks for auditing the accounts.

It was proposed by Dr W Lockwood and seconded by M Sharp that the accounts be accepted. The vote was carried.

Election of Officers Alan said the present officers were willing to stand for re-election. Election of the following officers was proposed by Elizabeth Rowe, seconded by Eva Morgan and carried unanimously.

Officers President: Dr R Blythe FRSL; Chairman: Mr D Elvins; Vice-Chairman: Mr M Sharp; Hon Secretary: Mr A. Brimson; Hon Treasurer: Mr R. Weston; Hon Subscriptions Treasurer: Mrs S. Rose; Hon. Publications Manager: Mr C. B. Dixon.

Ex Officio: Editor of the *Journal*: Mr C. Boase; Hon Publication Manager & Archivist: Mr CB Dixon; Hon. Minutes Secretary: Mrs VJ Dixon; Publicity Officer: Mr J Marshall. Committee (in addition to the Officers): Mr EJ Hall, Mr MJ Reynolds, Mr P Beddall, Mrs M. Oliver.

The chairman advised that Mrs Elizabeth Rowe had decided to stand down from the committee and grateful thanks were offered for her past support. There were no further nominations previously notified to the secretary. It was then proposed, seconded and carried that Mr John Wilks continue as the Society's Auditor.

There being no other business the meeting closed for refreshments.



Why missing the train to Hay was far from unusual

The early days of the railways brought a great liberation – millions were using trains within a few years – but they also brought their trials. The railway historian GORDON WOOD gave us new insights into the Diarist's difficulties in his talk after the 2013 annual meeting. This account is compiled from his notes

ON a number of occasions Kilvert mentions his walk through Hereford to catch connecting trains.

3 December 1870: *It was very cold travelling and I was very glad to walk through Hereford from Barrs Court to Moorfields.*

5 August 1872: *Left Langley and came to Clyro. Rain poured all day. I missed the mid-day train from Hereford to Hay as usual.*

13 January 1872: *Naturally I missed the 12.25 from Hereford to Hay and had to wait three dreary hours in pouring rain in that most wretched and dreary of towns. I felt fit to hang myself.*

Missing trains when needing to cross from one side of town to another, due to late running, particularly of trains from the Great Western routes, was a regular occurrence. Kilvert's complaint about Hereford can be appreciated from looking at conditions prevailing in the town during the mid-19th century.

At Barrs Court (near the present Hereford station) passengers would have arrived at a station close to marshland infested with mosquitoes and the sights and smells from nearby canal wharves. Smells would have filled the air when passing the gas works, skin yards and slaughterhouse. Before reaching the town the County Gaol and Union Workhouse would have to be passed. Sanitation was poor with outbreaks of typhoid fever not uncommon. There were 27 deaths in five years. With over 100 ale houses serving a population estimated to be around 15,000, there were often letters of complaint in the press about drunkenness, prostitution,

and fornication in the streets. Many buildings were reported to be in a poor state of repair. The condition of All Saints Church was mentioned regularly, often with a recommendation that it should be demolished and made way for an entrance into a site for a central railway station. 'Are not the state and the church safe from the clutches of the railway companies?' one correspondent wrote despairingly.

On 28 May 1870, returning to Clyro from Langley Burrell, Kilvert wrote: *Galloped through Hereford in a fly with a white horse and just caught the Hay train at Moorfields.*

It did not always go so smoothly in the city. The diary entry for 14 August 1872 says that Mrs Dew *was nearly driven over and killed by an omnibus in Broad Street. The omnibus came suddenly round a corner and she holloed at the driver and the driver holloed at her, the end of it being that she was nearly knocked down by the pole.*

While her son and Mrs Dew were arguing a cab came round the corner and nearly knocked the old lady down again.

Hereford was not the safest of places to walk around. The local papers were full of letters from correspondents complaining about the erratic driving of omnibuses and flies particularly on the route between Barrs Court and Moorfields. But on another occasion, 16 May 1870, travelling home to Langley Burrell, Kilvert records: *Morrell drove down and picked me and my luggage up at 7.30 and drove me to the station. He had put the Brahma cock*



A Hereford to Worcester passenger train waits for the photographer at Withington station. The footplate crew are wearing a bleached white fustian uniform typical of that worn in the 1860s

*Picture: The Ballard Collection
(Courtesy of Hereford Record Office)*

Hereford railway engineers of the firm Brassey & Ballard in 1861. Robert Ballard (who built the Crumlin viaduct) is third from left and his brother Stephen is fifth from left. Local boys, from Colwall, the Ballards were responsible for both of the tunnels on the Hereford – Malvern line

Picture: The Ballard Collection (Courtesy of Hereford Record Office)



into a poultry crate.... The Brahma cock travelling in state through Hereford in his tall crate with a brown holland screen round him inside the wickerwork, on the top of an omnibus created a great sensation, and people in the streets turned round to stare after him.

Kilvert was fortunate and had probably heeded earlier incidents and warnings. It had been reported in the local press that 'a lady arriving at Moorfields station gave two carpet bags, one containing a goose, the other two rabbits to one of the numerous gangs of boys who infest our railway stations to carry them for her into Eign Street. The boy however disappeared and has not been discovered since nor have the bags been found.'

At Hereford it had been reported that 'no less than six cases of pocket picking have occurred recently at our railway stations. There is no doubt that professionals frequent the platforms and travel from place to place.

'Miss Gordon of Ivy Cottage, Malvern, while travelling from Foregate Street to Shrub Hill on Wednesday last had the pocket of her dress picked of a £5 Worcester note and 2 shillings in silver. Another lady was also robbed in a railway carriage near that city'.

Kilvert would have sympathised. Writing on 28 October 1872, staying at Langley Burrell, he says: *Met my mother at the station. She had just had her pocket picked on the platform at Bath and had lost her handkerchief, purse and 10/-.*

You needed to have your wits about you when travelling, and not just for the ne'er-do-wells. On 17 March 1870 Kilvert was at Aber Edw station: *In [the station master's] office was hanging an 'Eardisley (Magazine) Almanac' and while I was looking at it the train came up, Dix [the station master] having signalled it to stop, a needful precaution as it does not always stop here.*

Having to signal at trains for them to stop at minor stations was not an uncommon feature on the early railway system. Moorhampton and Westmoor stations were located on the Davenport Foxley estate. Moorhampton served the village and the estate's goods traffic and Westmoor served as a private station for the Davenport family and a hotel alongside. Westmoor was the only brick built station on the line between Hereford and Three Cocks. It later became referred to as a 'flag station'. When a train was required to stop at Westmoor the stationmaster hung



close blazing with lamps into the station (pictured above) where it stopped half a minute and was off again to Hay in spite of Henry Dew's running and hooting. So I walked home.

If I am interpreting this correctly it was an amazing confession to make. Not only were they trespassing, with the possibility of a fine of 40 shillings, but more seriously the number of deaths recorded due to people walking along railway lines was very high. People were using the more direct route a railway line offered as a short cut home.

On 17 June 1872 a further reference is made to Eardisley: *Went to Bockleton Vicarage. Baskerville went by the same train to play a cricket match at Eardisley.*

In June 1863 the Hereford, Hay & Brecon opened the line as far as Eardisley. The first train consisted of nine carriages hauled by engine 'Alexandria'.

Garlands of flowers were hung from various parts of the engine with flags lining the sides of the boiler. Stations along the line were decorated with flowers and some had arches of evergreen across the track.

On a trial run made prior to the official opening the main topic of conversation amongst the invited guests was not the pleasure of

travelling by train but the quality of the champagne served at Eardisley station.

Two matters on the journey between Hereford and Leominster come to mind.

Railway carriages were not the safest of places for female passengers. Some ladies were so nervous in tunnels that they often took the most extraordinary precautions to protect themselves. For example, it was not unknown for ladies to place hat pins or safety pins in their mouths when entering a tunnel.

A report from the *Hereford Times* describes how 'two middle aged ladies had a gentleman as a companion. A lady asked shortly after leaving Hereford whether the train was not approaching a tunnel. She was informed it was, a match was struck and a bull's eye lantern was turned full into the gentleman's face by one lady



Moorfields sidings in 1920. In the background is the Midland Railway engine shed and a rake of cattle wagons ready for moving livestock from the cattle market

whilst the other brandished a knife. As soon as the train emerged from the tunnel one of the ladies apologised on finding that the gentleman was a clergyman and told him that probably he was not what he seemed to be but there are a great many wolves in sheep's clothing and therefore they found it necessary to protect themselves. Credit for lamps being available in carriages must go to the Herefordshire MP Sir Herbert Croft who, through his efforts in Parliament, had a law passed making it mandatory for railway companies to provide a lantern whenever there was a tunnel along a route.

The other matter is that a well-known feature for anyone travelling along the Shrewsbury & Hereford line was the sighting of Adam and Eve. These were the names given to two very old oak trees that stood each side of the line at Moreton-on-Lugg, just to the north of Hereford.

'Adam' was hollow, and at first it was used as a lamp and porter's room, with the top covered with wood. When an exist-

ing temporary station was being replaced by a more permanent structure the wooden top was replaced with thatch and used as a temporary booking office and waiting room. Six people could sit inside comfortably.

The rebuilding of the station involved raising the surrounding ground levels by two feet. Water then drained into the trunk and it rotted away. It was eventually felled; 'Eve' was blown down.

Carriages were nowhere near as big or comfortable as they are today. First class were normally upholstered and had window glass. Second class normally had wooden seating with window glass. Third class carriages were often no more than open wagons with a roof. Third class was not available on many of the services. They were often restricted to the first and last train of the day and referred to as parliamentary trains because by Act of Parliament the railway companies could not charge more than a penny a mile.

At first carriages were unlit and, when they were, it was feebly. Stations had little or no lighting and there are numerous reports of passengers alighting from trains where the carriage was not opposite a platform.

Ladies' dress and small carriages didn't mix, especially when the fashion icon of the day was the crinoline. The local press reported on the case of a lady who 'had around her a super abundance of crinoline, who making her exit from a first class carriage, on her return from an excursion to Malvern, caught the end of one of the seats and she was divested of the whole, much to her consternation and the amusement of her fellow passengers'.

On 20 April 1872 Kilvert was returning to Clyro from South Wales when, *As I was taking my ticket Hughes, Rector of Bryngwyn, clapped me on the back. He was going to Hay so out of politeness I was obliged to go third class with him though I had paid for a second class ticket.*

14 August 1872: *At Whitney station Henry Dew and his mother old Mrs Dew got into the train to go to Hereford. They wanted to go second class but one carriage was full of farmers and another was full*

of smoke generated by two Captains so they went first class and paid the difference.

Stations had little or no lighting and there are numerous reports of passengers alighting from trains where the carriage was not opposite a platform.

There were no toilet facilities on trains. However on some routes trains were held at primary stations for convenience stops. A passenger who was caught short at one of the small local stations was arrested and fined for causing a nuisance against a lamp post, 'opposite to a first class carriage where there were several ladies'.

In his defence it was stated that he 'had his back to the train at the time'. Fined £1 with £1.1s.6d costs.

At the other end of the scale from third class, the Diarist records returning from Llysdinam on 8 August 1873 with Mr Venables and Mary Brown: *We travelled in great state from Newbridge to Hay in a magnificent*



Westmoor 'flag station' on the Davenport Foxley estate, looking towards Hereford

saloon carriage, in which Lady Baily had come down from London yesterday and which was on its way home.

Saloons, as Kilvert remarks, were something special. Royal coaches were classified as saloons as well as directors' and engineers' private saloons. The one Kilvert travelled in was probably a directors' saloon. For anyone who has watched the film *The Railway Children*, during the final scenes you see the Gentleman travelling in what appears to be a directors' saloon.

19 February 1873: *At 2 o'clock came up to London third class with a foot warmer to stay till next Tuesday with the Venables at 35 Eaton Square.* Until the 1890s and beyond few passenger carriages had an effective heating system. Passengers had to rely on foot warmers, a metal container filled with hot water and available for a small charge from station platform staff. I am aware that those at Great Malvern station were flat and made of brass. In 1905 the Midland Railway had 27,000 foot warmers in circulation.

One behavioural trait amongst the men who built the railways was poaching. The local papers were never short of stories about navvies appearing in front of magistrates. A Chairman of the Magistrates in Hereford sentenced a couple of navvies to 21 days hard labour for trespassing on his estate for the purpose of poaching. How unlike the 27 November 1871 Clyro Petty Sessions rabbit poaching case at Wye Cliff when *Mr Venables would not hear the case and retired from the Bench while it was being heard.*

Along branch lines such as the Hereford, Hay & Brecon where timings for local pick-up goods trains were generous drivers were able to make unscheduled stops, often for a bit of poaching or other dubious activities. I know of a driver along this route concealing a shotgun on the footplate and of another driver who would stop, allowing the fireman to take a bucket of coal to a cottage near the line and coming back with eggs and other produce. During the season for wild mushrooms fields were never passed; cooked on the shovel they were considered a luxury.

Then as now lost luggage was upsetting. Returning to Clyro



*Barton station
in the late 1860s
or early 1870s*

from Langley Burrell on 13 January 1872, Kilvert laments: *At Gloucester missed my hatbox which probably was not taken out at Swindon and went on to London. Had it telegraphed for at the Gloucester Cloak Room.*

Then, on 20 January 1872: *Writing to the Station Master at Gloucester and Paddington about my lost hat box.... Two Chippenham porters remember my hat box being labelled. One labelled it and the other saw it done. So I hope I may get compensation.*

Passengers' luggage was placed in a luggage van positioned at the rear of the train. At each station stop the guard and a porter would remove the passengers' appropriate luggage from the van. Lost, mislaid and unclaimed luggage was a common feature of early railway travel.

Lost and left luggage was sold by the railway companies at special auctions and often sold for more than their value. One auction sale in Hereford included a crinoline and a number of bamboo hoops.

Talking of luggage I cannot pass without telling one of my father's favourite experiences. Between Barrs Court station and the bus station a 'gentleman' who drank meths used to offer to take passengers' luggage between the two stations. My father was a city magistrate and first case before him one morning was our 'gentleman' charged with being drunk in charge of a horse and cart. Not only did he plead not guilty but he represented himself. Everyone in the court room knew he was always high on meths, but father asked him to state his case. Whereupon the 'gentleman' invited the young constable to join him outside and he would show him the difference between a horse and a mare.' Those present had difficulty in controlling laughter. Father let him off on a technicality.

An echo of the passing era can be heard in the entry for 27 January 1872: *Then the Radnorshire postman coming from Llowes blew his horn.*

During the early days of railway promotion scathing letters appeared in the local press objecting to railways. Responses to these were themselves often forthright. As one correspondent wrote: 'It is one of the weaknesses of small towns to question the existence of great facts and to discuss the propriety of principles long after they have become truisms to the rest of the world. When it was first proposed to send a mail coach to Hereford the worthy and enlightened citizens sent three petitions to

Government representing the bright bugle and the gold band of the guard to be as dangerous as the bright sword and trimmings of an invader, although for seven years the glittering danger had been travelling the great roads of the nation.'

The Archdeacon of Hereford, the Lord Saye and Sele, was a very prominent figure in championing railways in Herefordshire. He was the leading light in the promotion of the Hereford, Ross & Gloucester line. To promote the line he went as far as to make arrangements for a full size display of a recently developed railway system to be exhibited.

Reading the *Diary* I was struck by how few are the occasions that Kilvert pens a complaint or indeed anything bad about anyone. Correspondents to the local press felt no such inhibitions. Letters of complaint between 1869 and 1874 said of Moorfields station that the unmade access lane leading to the station was 'disgraceful and so close to the railway sidings that horses are apt to be frightened'; 'it is very dark and disagreeable at night to grope your way there and keep from under the cab wheels'; 'you are subject to the splashes of dancing and erratic cab horses'; 'through this lane passengers have to walk in slush over their boots'; 'when flies and omnibuses go past the risk to life is so great with pedestrians being lucky not to have fallen under a cab's wheels'; 'the approach is one of the narrowest and muddiest of lanes, and a lane wide enough for two fat Welsh farmers to pass down it without room for oscillation.'

The station and its environment did not fare any better. 'I could not remain at that abominable of stations where the open platform seems to have been constructed with a special eye to rheumatism and toothache and where the waiting room is a hot bed of typhoid fever'; 'I can hardly speak of the station without losing my temper. It is lighted by dim oil lamps which only make the darkness visible'; 'a shed dignified by that name (station), and the less I say about it the better'; 'a wooden hut'; 'a shed used as a passenger station with no accommodation'; 'a wretched wooden shed that passes as a waiting room. When the wind blows it feels as if a small hurricane was whirling through it. Hurricane lamps provide a dim light, and if ladies enter gentlemen are expected to leave and stand outside in the open.'

No wonder, having to *wait three dreary hours in pouring rain in that most wretched and dreary of towns I felt fit to hang myself.*



Barrs Court sidings in 1910. In the foreground are hop poles and, left, limed cattle wagons

Making connexions, Hereford style

This account, compiled mostly from Gordon Wood's definitive 'Railways of Hereford' (right), helps to explain the Diarist's frustrations traversing the city

TRAVELLING through Hereford by train was enough to reduce Francis Kilvert to a state of misery. And he was not alone in this. The press was full of criticism of the railway companies for disregarding the convenience of the travelling public as they bickered for decades over where to site a central station.

By the time Kilvert was taking trains Britain's basic railway network was complete and branch lines were pushing out into the countryside. Towns like Hereford, where several small players were approaching from all directions, suffered from not having a dominant main line operator who had established the definitive terminus. In fact, over a period of time, there were ten stations in all in the city.

Coming from Wiltshire, Kilvert would have taken the Hereford, Ross & Gloucester Railway, from 1862 part of the Great Western Railway. Arriving at Barrs Court station (a little to the west of the present Hereford station and named after the ancestral seat near by of the de la Barre family) he would then have had to cross a most insalubrious part of the city on foot or by fly to Moorfields or Barton stations (Barton being a little south of Eign Street, where it now becomes Whitecross Road, the A438, roughly where Sainsbury's is now, and Moorfields being to the north of Eign Street) to make his connection with the train to Hay. This line, the Hereford, Hay & Brecon (HH&B), opened to goods traffic to Moorhampton (about half way to Hay) in 1862 and reached Hay on 11 July 1864.

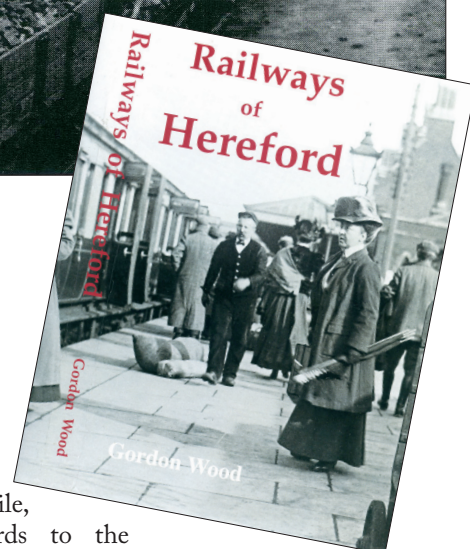
The line from the south was the Newport, Abergavenny & Hereford Railway (incorporated in 1846; it was to become part of the GWR in 1863). It used Barton station. A short link,

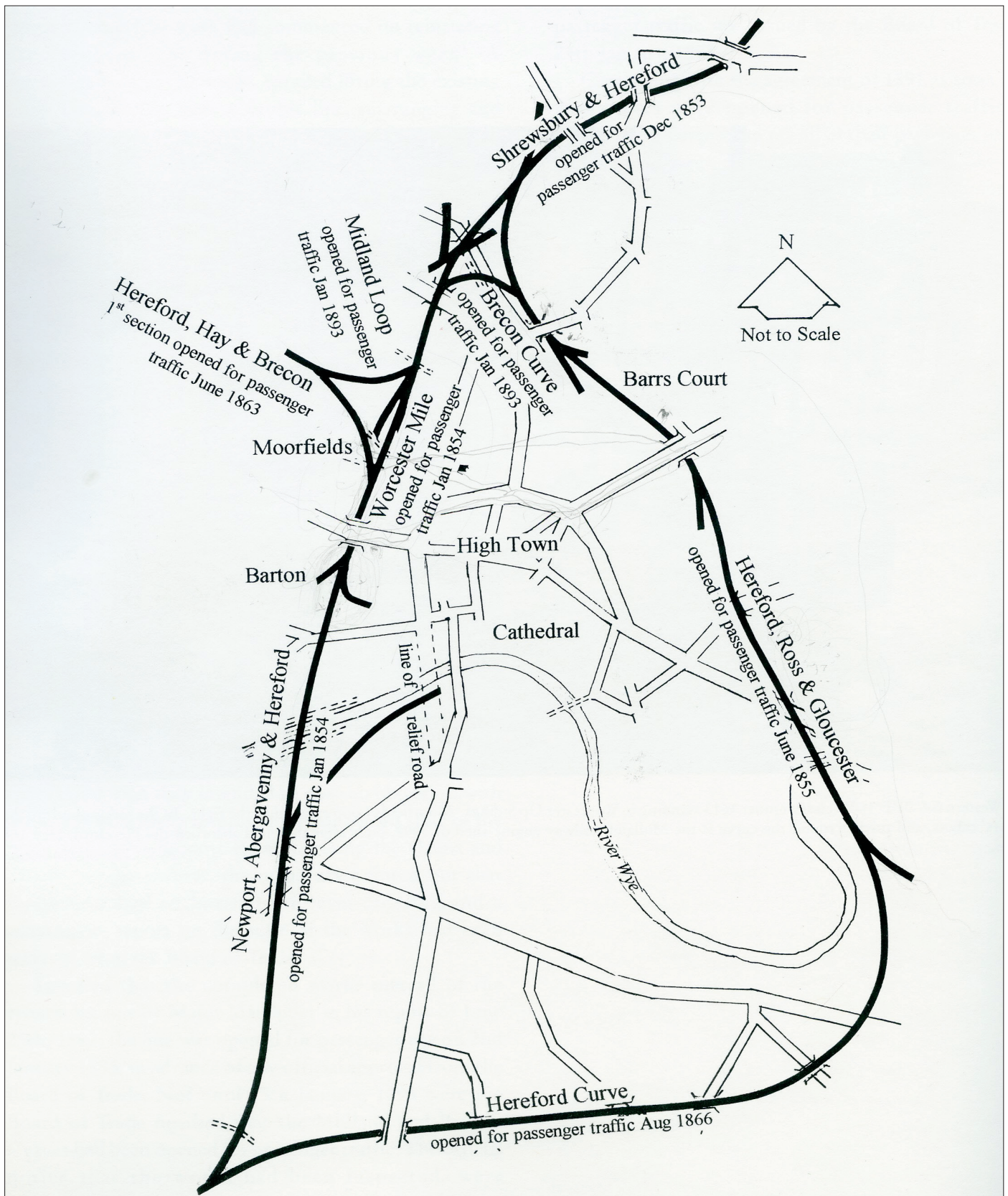
the Worcester Mile, continued northwards to the Shrewsbury & Hereford line (also incorporated in 1846) at Barrs Court junction, which was opened to great fanfare at a railway festival in 1853 reportedly attended by 60,000 people. In 1862, the Shrewsbury & Hereford became half GWR and half London & North Western (LNWR).

A further complication was the line coming in from Worcester (the Worcester & Hereford Railway). This became part of the West Midland Railway in 1861 and then joined the GWR empire in 1863.

As early as 1852 disputes over the absence of a meaningful junction of all the railways entering Hereford ended up in hearings before the House of Lords. What is interesting in this is that Brunel behaved appallingly, contrary to his public image and the reputation history has conferred on him. As Gordon Wood writes: 'Brunel gave the impression in public that he would be responsive to compromise and receptive to alternative solutions. His actions at Hereford were the complete opposite. He was obstinate, refusing to accept opposing ideas or respond to public opinion, believing that only his opinions and proposals should be considered.... He was arrogant and illustrated little of the foresight and imagination for which he was renowned.'

A joint station committee recommended that the general managers of GWR and the LNWR should instruct their resident engineers to prepare plans and estimates 'of the best mode of effecting a junction between Barton and Barrs Court'. The outcome was not what the residents of Hereford anticipated. In-





stead of the expected northern loop, the engineers had chosen and agreed the line to the south (a decision that favoured the GWR). Construction began during the spring of 1865.

Letters in the press referred to the route (known as the Hereford Curve) as an 'extravagant and perfectly needless loop of nearly two miles that would create nothing but delays and inconvenience to the public.' Nicknamed the GWR – 'the Great Way Round' – it transferred all passenger traffic except the HH&B's to Barrs Court.

The HH&B's attempts to make junctions with other lines in the city and their attempts to gain access into Barton and Barrs Court stations, was probably the most argued and fought over sections of railways in Hereford. Here was a railway company that at the time of the passing of their authorising Act of 1859 was recognised by the public to be a truly independent line. Lacking financial support from any of the major railway companies and devoid of investment from major landowners, it was heavily subscribed by local businessmen and tradesmen.



The Eign Bridge of 1865 over the Wye to the east of the city, which brought the line from Gloucester as well as the 'Great Way Round' from the south in to the east of Hereford

(It can be confusing to those who do not know Hereford that there is an Eign Street in the west of the city and an Eign Road over in the east. The area called over-Eign is in the west)

Hereford City Museum and Art Gallery

The plan was to form a junction with the Shrewsbury & Hereford and reverse trains in or out of Barrs Court or Barton. Going back to Parliament in 1860, they obtained powers to construct a deviation line that abandoned the junction with the Shrewsbury & Hereford and formed a new junction with the Newport, Abergavenny & Hereford at Barton station. No specific reasons were given for such a sudden but necessary change of alignment. However, during this period the HH&B had agreed a working arrangement with companies that had obtained powers to amalgamate and form the West Midland Railway. An alternative working arrangement was then made between the HH&B and the West Midland, under which all traffic was to have direct access to Barton. The West Midland would commence working the line as soon as 20 miles of the HH&B had been completed.

The railway inspectorate passed the first section of the HH&B line for public use in 1863 but rejected its junction with the West Midland. Consisting of a single line junction running into a double line of rails, it was condemned by the Board of Trade as dangerous and almost impossible to work. The rejection of the junction design meant they had to terminate their line short of Barton between their line and the Worcester Mile, and the announcement that the West Midland was amalgamating with the Great Western, forced the HH&B to look closely at their future strategy.

The HH&B were forced to construct a temporary platform and ticket shed at Moorfields, an action that was to cause great concern in the city. For pedestrians and horse-drawn vehicles, the only access to the platform was from a narrow unmade lane that ran from the bridge at the above-Eign. For a city the size of Hereford to have three stations serving five lines was generally acknowledged by railway travellers to be highly inconvenient and against public interests. Not for the first time the local press were calling on company directors to arrange a meeting of able engineers to resolve the situation.

The problem was resolved in November 1863 when the Great

Western – which had become aware of the opportunity for a substantial amount of traffic – suggested an alternative junction between the two companies' lines. If a seldom-used line running from the back of the island platform at Barton, but independent of the Great Western's main line was extended to join the HH&B at Moorfields, a practicable junction could be formed that did not interfere with flows on the Great Western's lines. The HH&B found this an acceptable and the arrangement gave it the right to run trains into Barton. The first train ran into Barton from Moorfields on 1 October 1864.

An agreement between the GWR and HH&B made provision for the construction of a new and alternative junction that gave access into Barton from 1 October 1864.

From August 1865 the Brecon & Merthyr took over the working of the HH&B from contractor Thomas Savin who had worked the line from its opening.

The Mid-Wales Railway, which was on good terms with the GWR, ran in to Barton for one year. Time tables indicate that all passenger trains stopped at the Moorfields platform before continuing in to Barton. However, passengers were not permitted to alight.

The HH&B had a Bill going through Parliament that would effectively have given it access to a junction with the Shrewsbury & Hereford close to Barrs Court junction. At the same time the Bill for the Hereford Curve was proceeding, a Bill which the HH&B was petitioning against. By an agreement of 1 July 1864 both parties withdrew their Bills and the LNWR and GWR agreed that, at their expense, they would make a curve of double narrow gauge lines from near the bridge in Newtown Road to a junction with the Shrewsbury & Hereford near Barrs Court – the so-called Brecon Curve. The HH&B were also to be granted powers to run their trains over the curve and into Barrs Court station. They were to make the Widemarsh Loop, a line running from their existing main line at Moorfields to a junction with the Worcester Mile (the stretch of line running due north from Bar-

ton linked – but not permanently until 1893 – to Barrs Court by the Brecon Curve. Work proceeded slowly on the Brecon Curve until it was realised that the legal powers would expire on 5 July 1870. In the nick of time a train was run over some lines and then, with little prospect of the work being completed, the Great Western lifted sections of the track at the curve's junction with the Shrewsbury & Hereford.

One clause in the agreement that was to give trouble said the powers and privileges of the HH&B could be transferred to the Brecon & Merthyr.

The HH&B commenced work on with the Widemarsh Curve before discovering that it had been left out of the London and North Western's Additional Powers Bill. The Great Western obtained powers for the Brecon Curve in 1865.

When the HH&B amalgamated with the Brecon & Merthyr in 1865 work stopped on the Widemarsh Loop.

The Brecon & Merthyr were experiencing a number of financial problems. In an effort to reduce costs they gave notice to the GWR that from June 1867 they would no longer run traffic into Barton. In future they proposed to terminate their traffic at Moorfields, enabling them to make a saving of £620 a year.

The HH&B broke their disastrous partnership with the Brecon & Merthyr in 1868 (The Brecon & Merthyr as a company expired in September 1868) and reached a 12-month agreement with the Mid-Wales Railway. By an 1869 Act the HH&B was granted powers to raise additional finance as well as granting compulsory purchase powers to improve station facilities at Moorfields and to construct the 'Hereford Junction', also referred to as the Widemarsh Loop, Moorfields Loop Midland Loop or Midland Curve.

In 1869, the Midland Railway, the arch rivals of the GWR, and later to become the LMS and third largest operator on the UK network, wanting to gain access to the growing markets of South Wales, obtained exclusive running powers over the HH&B line. But on the first occasion the Midland attempted to enter Barton, they discovered that the Great Western had blocked the access with a locomotive and three wagons. The instant reaction was to instigate parliamentary and legal proceedings in the name of the HH&B. A Bill was laid to allow the amalgamation of the HH&B and the Midland and to promote a junction with the Great Western on the Worcester Mile. The Bill was rejected in its entirety.

In a separate action, the Midland, acting in the name of the HH&B took the Great Western to court and legal arguments flowed to and fro for about five years. The Midland were granted their injunction and awarded costs but the Great Western were granted leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Soon after the judgement the Great Western removed the blockade. (The Midland did not close Moorfields and concentrate all their trains on Barton until 1 April 1874.) Spurred on by success the Midland promoted a Bill in which they gave an undertaking to make an arrangement with the LNWR and the GWR to complete the Hereford Junction and use the Brecon Curve. When the Bill was passed it removed the point of the GWR's appeal.

The official opening of the Hereford Curve and activities associated with the use of Moorfields and Barton stations between 1866 and 1869 by the HH&B and its allies the Brecon & Merthyr, Mid Wales and Midland raised the tempo of the common station debate.

From 1 August 1866 most of the passenger trains to and from Shrewsbury, Newport and Worcester arrived and departed from Barrs Court. On weekdays and Saturdays, a pilot train conveyed passengers for the HH&B line between Barrs Court and Barton.

From October 1868 to September 1869 the Mid-Wales reached an agreement with the GWR to run trains in and out of Barton. But when the Midland took over operations in September 1869, the GWR forced them to use Moorfields. For the convenience of passengers an alternative platform was constructed and a wooden station building erected close to the booking hut that had been used by the Brecon & Merthyr.

As for the pilot engine between Barrs Court and Barton, the service was withdrawn when the Brecon & Merthyr left Barton and reverted to the temporary station at Moorfields. It was reintroduced when the Mid-Wales reached an agreement with the GWR to abandon Moorfields and return to Barton, and withdrawn again when the Midland were denied access into Barton.

The Board of Trade was petitioned to send down an inspector to sort out the city's difficulties over a central station, but the petition was rejected because it referred only to 'inconvenience'. After it was resubmitted with references to danger, Col Rich RE (who appears in many papers to do with railways, but apparently never with a first name or initial) produced a report in 1872.

At Moorfields, he considered the entrance, exit and access road alongside the railway lines to be dangerous and could only be considered temporary. Dangers at Barrs Court included the constant shunting of broad gauge and narrow gauge passenger and goods trains within the confines of the station. (An inspector in 1874 spoke of the 'unnecessary danger as a consequence of the very inadequate accommodation at Barrs Court station, which is a one-sided station and totally unfit for the size of accommodation for the traffic which is brought through it'.)

Concern was also expressed about the possibility of Barrs Court being selected as the main passenger station and the effect that would have on the future of the HH&B, who could not enter as they had insufficient capital to undertake such works, and of the Midland, who had no legal powers to enter Barrs Court.

Rich believed the LNWR preferred Barton, but were more prepared to spend money on Barrs Court. For the GWR, they were not so committed. Their difficulty was deciding which of Barrs Court or Barton was most suitable for their purposes. They had prepared plans to enlarge Barrs Court but preferred Barton.

Col Rich recommended Barton as the most appropriate location for the main passenger station.

Unfortunately the matter still was not resolved and the Colonel was asked to submit a further report in 1879. Again he supported Barton, but by then the GWR had finally become set on Barrs Court. The station was the most convenient for the line from Gloucester – which was closed in 1964. Meanwhile the line from South Wales in use today has to take the Great Way Round to the east of Hereford and back into the city centre, daily paying the price of the 19th-century bickering. The Barton line – running nicely north-south – itself was closed to passengers in the 1960s. Now, where that route remains, it is a 'green' way through the city, passing over Hunderton Bridge, which is upstream of the rowing club boathouse when looking from the Wye road bridge.

'Brunel gave the impression in public that he would be responsive to compromise and receptive to alternative solutions. His actions at Hereford were the complete opposite'



Three cheers for Andrew Pope!

The man who is sometimes said to have been Francis Kilvert's best friend is still warmly remembered in the Borderlink parishes on which he lavished his care. Here, JOHN WILKS adapts and updates biographical notes by Edward West in the Newsletter in 1983-84 and has added some topographical photographs

IT IS more commonplace of human nature that worthy people are often remembered more for moments of weakness than for their years of accomplishment. One has only to think of King Alfred's lapse in attending to cakes! Similarly it would seem that Andrew Pope is chiefly remembered for his 'double confirmation' and for mistaking the day on which he should have officiated at the Savings Bank – the first reference to him in *Kilvert's Diary*. Yet from the remaining score or so of references there emerges a figure who was certainly congenial to Kilvert and who was to have Kilvert as his best man two years after the departure from Clyro. When Kilvert visited Monnington, Pope and his wife came to lunch; in 1878 Kilvert and Dora stayed with the Popes at Preston-on-Wye.

Unlike Kilvert, Pope lived to a good old age, dying at Ross-on-Wye in 1924 at the age of 80. His life is well worth recording; at every one of his parishes there remains evidence of his good works and generosity. He came of a well-known Bristol family, and his great grandfather Andrew Pope had been Sheriff and Lord Mayor of the city. His grandfather Andrew Pope II (1774-1832) of Cotham, Bristol, established, with two partners Samuel Worrall and John Edmunds, the Tolzey Bank in 1808; the three men were popularly known as 'The Pope, The Devil and The Pretender'. The Bank failed in 1819, and in *Annals of Bristol* (J. Latimer 1899) we read 'great consternation was caused in the city and the neighbourhood' by the failure. Though of recent origin the bank had issued a great number of notes for 20 shillings and 30 shillings each, and the disaster hit all classes in the locality and caused a run on some of the other banks, then eleven in number. (An interesting name in the list of subscribers to *Annals of Bristol* is that of Rev. Andrew Pope of

Upton Bishop, Hereford; and the name of another subscriber, John Noble Coleman Pope of 11 The Paragon, Clifton, raises a most interesting query. 'Coleman' was a surname in Kilvert's mother's family – could Kilvert and Pope have been connected by marriage?).



An undated picture of the arch in the 12th-century church of St Mary at Cusop. The church underwent a restoration in 1857 by JP St Aubyn (of the St Michael's Mount family – he restored that too). Below, 3 Oxford Road, Hay-on-Wye, where Andrew Pope lived with two servants. He was appointed curate of Cusop in 1868



Andrew Pope III (1799-1888) married Frances Waring of Ford, Salop, and our Andrew Pope was born in 1844. Whatever happened after the failure of the bank, there was still the Cotham property in the family (it was at Hampton Road, near Highbury Clifton; the present site of Cotham Comprehensive School). It would seem that about 1840 housing development had encircled the estate, and probably the family would have sold off part of the land and yet retained an

annual ground rent on every house built. That our Andrew Pope had private means is indisputable, as we will see from later paragraphs.

Pope graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1866, having rowed for his college. The following year he was ordained deacon in the diocese of Worcester, and in 1868 was appointed curate at Cusop. Thus Kilvert, four years his senior, had already served three years at Clyro when they met. Pope lived at 3 Oxford Road,

Hay-on-Wye – with two servants – some 1½ miles from Kilvert. Both men would have shared the common interests of their profession, and Kilvert's diary records them as having accompanied each other while "visiting" in their respective parishes, and their participation at events in local country houses such as Clifford Priory, Oakfield, Cae Mawr, Hay Castle and Llanthomas. Both men enjoyed walking; they did the long walk from Abergavenny to Hay together; and they shared in the enchantment of *the dark blue mountains which were thickly ribbed white with snow.*



Pope became vicar of St Leonard's, Blakemere, left, and St Laurence's, Preston-on-Wye in 1873. St Laurence's had recently been restored, but St Leonard's had 'walls dreadfully out of upright, a sagging roof, the plaster rotten with damp, the stonework mildewed and the floor decayed'

Pope *had never seen the mountains look so grand before* (Vol I, p91). It is also possible that they shared mutual acquaintances in Chippenham area as will be seen later when Pope's fiancée is referred to.

What of Pope's five and a half years as curate in charge of Cusop? The *Hereford Times* for 9 August 1873, gives a very long account of the presentation made to him on his departure. The churchwarden's speech includes the following: 'By the urbanity and kindness of his disposition and the generous devotion to the duties of his sacred office, he has won the esteem of not only all classes of churchgoers but also those who belong to the differing dissenting congregations; while he has decidedly raised the tone and condition of the cottage population by the establishment

of Sunday and day schools'. The speaker goes on to remark on Pope's 'unostentatious kindness and liberal charity in mitigating the wants of the poor'.

Pope, at this presentation, entertained the whole village, at his own expense, the 'schoolchildren having a bountiful supply of buns and cakes, the cottagers' wives a comfortable tea and the cottagers themselves a supper of beef and beer'. He arranged sports for the children, donated prizes for the winners. They, in their turn, presented him with a 'beautiful inkstand' and an illuminated address, while the parishioners gave him a 'beautiful skeleton clock'.

He preached his last sermons on the morning and in the afternoon of 3 August. 'His text', we read in the account, 'was

The house Andrew Pope built midway between his parishes of Preston-on-Wye and Blakemere

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record website carries an excerpt from an unpublished typescript by Michael R. Speak (2001) on Parsonage Houses in Herefordshire c1900/1910. It says: 'The diocesan Architect, Thomas Nicholson was asked to design a parsonage house for [Pope] situated between the two villages. This new building, a substantial gabled brick house with tiled roof and lead finials, is quite plain apart from the entrance front which perhaps owes something to Andrew Pope. Roundels with the date of construction and a crest decorate a two-storey porch with pyramid roof, and narrow slit windows to the first floor; adjacent to the porch is a broad gable containing three large windows which light the staircase within. The impression is powerful, but rather sinister.'





The Homme at Much Marcle, home of Andrew Pope's bride Miss Harriet Money Kyrle. Above, Francis Kilvert with Elizabeth, said to have been taken at Pope's wedding, where Kilvert was best man

Ephesians IV, part of the 15th verse'. The population of the parish is 208 but at least 350 were at these farewell services. He ended, as he had ever done, preaching plain, practical, earnest, heart searching truth'. Also worth recording is a paragraph contributed by 'A local resident'. 'Tribute must be paid for his (Pope's) running a mission service in the summer months in a remote part of his parish, where, at the foot of the Black Mountains in a rude cartshed, he held every other Sunday evening a service for the dwellers in that sequestered locality, although he had two full services each Sunday.

And as for the venue for the sports and entertainment, it was a field at Llydyadyway, owned by Mr Lilwall, who 'though a member of the Society of Friends was delighted that he could contribute to the presentations made to so deserving a curate and gentleman'. Surely Cusop and Clyro were very fortunate in possessing such curates!

Whatever Bishop Atlay may have thought of the Witney confirmation on 31 March 1870 (Vol I, p73-4), he installed Pope as Vicar of Preston-on-Wye and Blakemere in 1873. The church at Preston had been recently restored, but that at Blakemere, according to the *Hereford Times*, had 'the walls dreadfully out of upright, a sagging roof, the plaster rotten with



St Peter's, Diddlebury. Pope was vicar for 10 years from 1881. Below, the school, enlarged in 1887, and the vicarage



damp, the stonework mildewed and the floor decayed'. Pope, engaged to be married, first built a vicarage, on rising ground, roughly midway between the two churches. It stands today, a fine brick building with the initials "A.P" inset above the main door, and now known as 'Pope Place'.

Next Pope undertook the restoration of Blakemere church. Though there were public subscriptions, much of the cost was borne by him.

On 16 August 1877, morning service was held in the newly restored church. Bishop Atlay was present, as were several clerical colleagues – Powell of Dorstone, Houseman of Bredwardine, Trumper of Clifford, Sir George Cornwall of Moccas and Chatfield of Much Marcle. The account in the *Hereford Times* praises the taste of the restoration and the re-use of original materials. The lectern in the church bears the inscription 'Presented to the Rev. A Pope, M.A, vicar of Blakemere, for the kindness shown in the discharge of his ministerial duties'. Prior to the restoration of Blakemere, on 9 September 1874 Pope had married. His bride was Miss Harriet Money Kyrle, eldest daughter of Col Money Kyrle of The Homme, Much Marcle, a village roughly equidistant from Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury. Pope's uncle, Archdeacon Waring, officiated and Kilvert acted as best man. Waring was then the Archdeacon of Salop, but the *Hereford Times* records that he

had had connections with Ledbury and was a friend of the Money Kyrle family. It would seem probable that Pope met his bride-to-be through his uncle. She, in her turn, had been a frequent visitor to her uncle at Whethan near Calne, and this gentleman is recorded as dining – in company with Kilvert – at Langley House (30 January 1875). Thus it would seem that yet further links bound Pope and Kilvert in friendship.

When Pope returned from his honeymoon, he had been vicar for only one year, but the account of his return (in the *Hereford Times*) would suggest that he had made a great impact on his parishioners. As he entered the parish via Moccas Bridge (now no more), church bells were rung and guns fired 'suggestive of a considerable consumption of powder'.

The account continues with descriptions of archways erected in evergreen, flowers, berries, rosettes and flags, bearing messages of welcome and good wishes. At Preston the schoolchildren sang, 'See he comes, our vicar comes, young and old

ST. MARY'S, CUSOP.

A Special Service

WILL BE HELD IN THE

PARISH CHURCH,

ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th, 1888,

AT 3 P.M.,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

DEDICATION OF AN ORGAN.

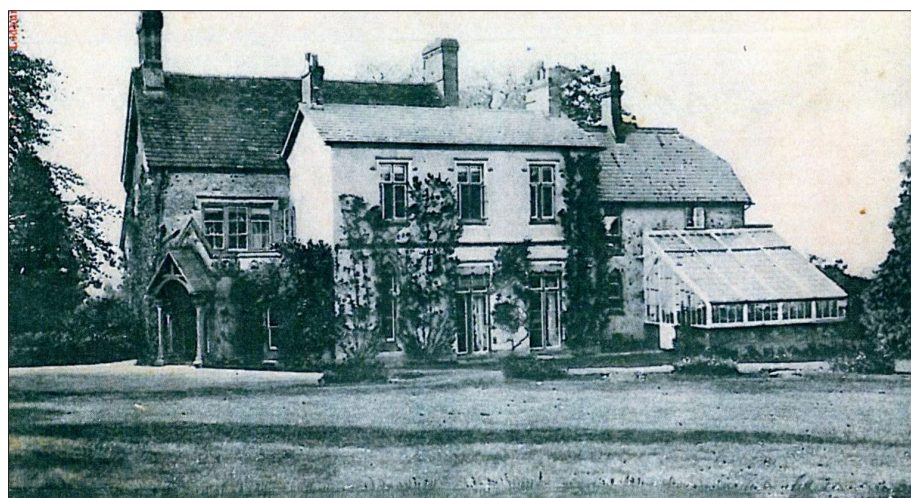
A SERMON will be preached by the

REV. ANDREW POPE,

VICAR OF DIDDLEBURY.

At the close of the Service there will be a
SELECTION of SACRED MUSIC.

*The Offertory will be given towards the expenses of
providing the Organ, and various Renovations in the Church.*



Above, Upton Bishop vicarage as it was in Andrew Pope's time, and below, as it is today. The parish was adjacent to his wife's home, a few miles north of Ross-on-Wye

come forth to sing. Stripling blithe and maiden gay, Hail our rural holiday, Greet our vicar and his bride, Welcome, welcome, welcome home'.

As the couple moved on to Blakemere, sixteen more arches greeted them. The new vicarage not being ready, the couple had temporary residence at Blakemere Court, and here, 'from three to four hundred parishioners greeted them'. Tea was provided (at Pope's expense), a number of presentations made, and following three cheers lustily given for Mr and Mrs Pope, the children sang. The *Hereford Times* reports that in thanking those present 'the Rev Andrew Pope was much affected'.

Eight years later, in 1881, he was made vicar of the larger living of Diddlebury (a few miles beyond Ludlow) in the north of

the diocese of Hereford. Here he stayed for ten years.

His memory at Cusop had not faded, for when a new organ was dedicated at that church he was invited to preach, and did so to a packed church. The then vicarage at Diddlebury was little more than a cottage and was over a mile from the village, so Pope built a new one in a central position. Pope also did work on the church; the re-seating of the church, the converting of the Cornwall pew into an organ chamber and sacristy, raising the chancel floor, throwing a screen across the chancel and fitting it with oak stalls and choir seats and also building a new porch. The money was raised by subscription, and Pope gave two donations of £50, as well as presenting the church with a pulpit and lectern.

The school, built 1872, was adjacent to the vicarage, but during Pope's incumbency it became overcrowded – over 100 children on the roll – and it was probably on his recommendation that an extra classroom was added in 1887. He was a Manager and Correspondent of the school. A frequent visitor, he instructed the classes in Religious Knowledge and the Catechism, and stepped in to help when staff were ill. Mrs Pope also took an interest; for example she visited the school to inspect the needlework and in especially bad weather provided the children with soup dinners.

In 1890 Pope became vicar of Upton Bishop, some 4 miles north-east of Ross-on-Wye, and the parish adjacent to that of his wife's home, Much Marcle. Here he was to spend 20 years, and here again he built a vicarage. It still stands though much altered. The headmaster of the school at Diddlebury wrote in the school logbook: 'Rev. A. Pope and family have now finally left the parish. Their

continued on page 274



Rad. XXXIII. S.E.

3° 6'

LONG. 3° 7' W.



Herefordshire
Northern or Leominster Division
CLIFFORD
XXXVII. N.W.

Herefordshire
Northern or Leominster Division
CLIFFORD
LAT. 52° 6'

XXXI. N.W.

LAT. 52° 5'

CLIFFORD
CLIFFORD

CLIFFORD
CLIFFORD

S.E.

3° 5'

3° 6'

LONG. 3° 7' W.

0 5280 Feet
1 Mile

Price 1s.

10 Chains 5 0
40 Perches 20 0

Scale Six Inches to One Statute Mile or 880 Feet to One Inch = $\frac{1}{10560}$

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
120 160 200 240 280 320 Perches 1 Mile

From 2500 Plans and Published at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton.

1888

Proximate Mean Water at Liverpool, those indicated thus (B.M. 54.7) refer to Marks made on Buildings, Walls, &c.

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Here Sheet XXX.
Breck Sheet XVII.
Rad Sheet XXXVI.

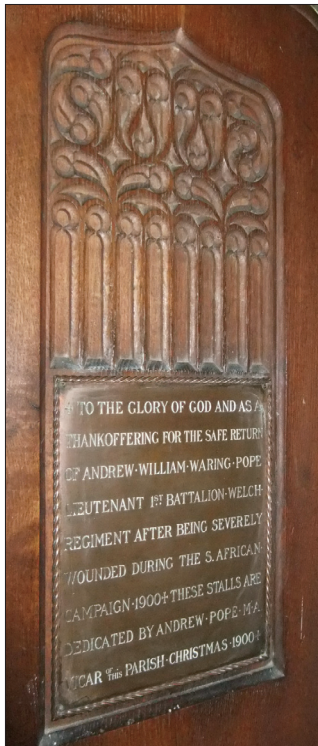
N.W.	N.E.
S.W.	S.E.

Radnorshire
Brecknockshire
Herefordshire
Northern or Leominster Division
CLIFFORD
CLIFFORD
XXX. S.E.

continued from page 271

loss will be irreparable to the school, the church, the reading room and in fact everything connected with the parish. They not only took a lively interest in everything connected with the place, but heartily supported and promoted everything that they took an interest in.

'As School Manager, Mr Pope was more than could be desired; while in his office as Minister he never neglected anything which could tend to improve their spiritual necessities. We, as teachers, have lost a firm friend, a kind adviser and a most liberal supporter in our work. The poor will miss him greatly,



The plaque on a choir stall in thanksgiving for the safe return of Pope's younger son, wounded in the 1900 S African campaign

while the schoolchildren, in whom he took a keen interest, will lose a friend whom they could not only reverence but also trust and love.'

Pope found the village school at Upton Bishop in a sad state, and being unable to procure funds for its restoration, he collected the necessary amount by seeking donations from the wealthier parishioners and from his friends. His own donation was the largest on the subscription list.

His greatest efforts at Upton Bishop concern the Parish Room, and the benefits his parishioners received therefrom. The Room was built at a cost of £300, more than two thirds of the amount being donated by him. Andrew Pope's portrait still hung in the Room and the bookcase that was his gift was still there when Edward West visited in 1983.

The Room is now abandoned for a very modern 'Millennium' hall built with Lottery money.



Above, Upton Bishop Church of St John the Baptist. Below, the old school at Upton Bishop, now a house, and the former Parish Room. Andrew Pope's portrait still hung there when Edward West visited the Parish Room in 1983





Kilvert's 'gap year' before Oxford

A passing reference in the Diary is the clue that Francis Kilvert had a spell teaching in a prep school before going up to Oxford.

JOHN TOMAN builds on research by Stanley Ball and Michael Sharp to unravel the network of interdependence among Evangelicals that took the Diarist to St Leonards in Sussex

O Boys, Christ invites you to Himself from first years ...

But yet that you may acknowledge Christ your Lord,

O boys, learn arts.

This duty is agreeable to Him, He rejoices in this honour,

He desires to become more known by mouth of infants.

(*Come to Christ*, a poem of October 1845
by Kilvert's uncle Francis)

KILVERT'S DIARY is an iceberg: the surviving portion is the one third above the surface, the other two thirds remaining hidden below it. It is nevertheless possible, through a study of Kilvert's background, period, reading, and clues that appear in the *Diary*, to bring submerged parts to the surface. We can be grateful for the survival of (often) tiny entries testifying to aspects of Kilvert's life and personality which otherwise would have remained unknown. One such fragment is the 6 November 1871 entry in which he recorded seeing Lady Hereford's carriage containing 'De Bohun Devereux (my old St Leonard's pupil at Thatch Cottage)'.¹ From this we learn that Kilvert spent some time early in his life as a teacher.

This fact was communicated in a Kilvert Society newsletter article ('Francis Kilvert, Schoolmaster', February 1985) by Sidney Ball on the basis of research done by Michael Sharp. Ball contented himself with confirming that there was a private school in St Leonards called 'Thatch Cottage' conducted by the Rev Charles Anthony Oak, a graduate of St John's College, Cambridge. Additional information unearthed by Sharp was not included by Ball so that only the merest outline of this episode in Kilvert's life has been made public.² In order to understand the episode we need to know its context. Kilvert went up to Wadham College, Oxford, in autumn 1859 and went down at the end of the autumn term 1862. He was enrolled BA in December 1862, ordained deacon in 1863 and priest in late 1864. These facts are some guide in ascertaining why and when he became a teacher. Unable to be ordained before the age of twenty-four, he needed to occupy himself for roughly two years – the period after graduation until summer/autumn 1864.³ Working against this conjecture is the fact that Henry Devereux, his Thatch Cottage pupil, was born 10 October 1848 and would have been fourteen years old by late 1862/early 1863, unusually old to be a boarder at a prep school. Only one of Oak's pupils was aged fourteen at the time of the 1851 and 1861 Censuses.⁴ Furthermore, Devereux is not among the eight pupils listed at Oak's school in the March 1861 census return, as he logically would have been if Kilvert taught him in 1862. The most likely period in which he would have been Kilvert's pupil is 1858-9 (ie when he was ten to eleven). Kilvert was only seventeen in 1858 but that was not too young to be an assistant master in a school. His uncle Francis worked at that age and in that role at Bath

Grammar School before he went up to Oxford.

For Kilvert to become a teacher fitted in well with what we know of his background. Teaching would not have been regarded as a mere diversion. It was an activity of central importance in the Kilvert family, firstly because after the collapse of the family business it was the means by which additional income was secured by Kilvert's uncle Francis. In addition, Kilvert's father, Robert, became a private tutor to Bath's gentry sons. This brings us to the second main reason for the Kilvert involvement in teaching – it was a means of spreading the Word of Christ. The lines from uncle Francis's poem that precede this article indicate that teaching and learning were seen by him as a form of devotion. The identification of teaching with devotion is also evident from advertisements that appeared in the *Record*, the Evangelical newspaper taken by the Kilverts. For example, a resident tutor 'of superior character and gentlemanly manners and temperate habits and decidedly Protestant and Evangelical principles' was required by a lady in Worthing (2 July 1858). Similarly, a schoolmaster was needed to teach 'Classical, mathematical and general education based upon the Protestant principles of the Church of England' to boys aged 9 to 13 in a Reigate school run by a clergyman (2 August 1858).

It is conceivable that Kilvert responded to an advertisement of this latter kind and that was how he ended up at Mr Oak's school. The advertisement columns of the *Record* were one means by which Evangelicals supported each other. Another was the informal but efficient grapevine that enabled them to further their friendships and interests. There are good reasons for believing that it was the grapevine that secured Kilvert's place in St Leonards. The particular branch of it that could have led him to St Leonards began in early October 1833 when his father took a

temporary curacy in Alton Barnes (Wilts) as deputy for the Rev Augustus Hare, whose health was so bad that he went to live in Rome. He died there early in 1834 but his widow, remembering Robert Kilvert's piety, sent her adoptive son Augustus (nephew to the other Augustus) to Robert's Hardenhuish (Wilts) school in July 1843.

It is important to get a picture of this woman who became godmother to the Kilvert children because it helps us to understand what kind of clergyman Oak was. She was Maria Leicester, daughter of the Rev Oswald Leicester. The 'ultra-evangelical divinity' that Augustus Hare junior saw as Robert's chief trait was shared by Maria. She was obsessed by her own sinfulness, recalling in a letter of 13 January 1835 that from childhood she was aware of 'the striving of God's Spirit against my own evil will'. Her journal entry for September 1834 noted that Quakerism and Unitarianism possessed a 'germ' of truth but both failed to take account of 'the corruption of the outward

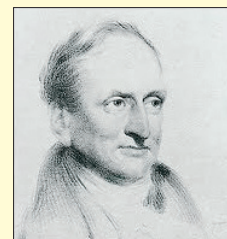
*There are
good reasons
for believing
that it was the
Evangelicals'
grapevine
that secured
Kilvert's place
in St Leonards*



world' and the 'corruption of the heart', which must be 'rooted out'. She rejected the idea that it was 'uncharitable' to suppose that only 'decided malefactors will not enter heaven', which suggested that 'the way to heaven was wide', whereas Christ said it was narrow. Correspondence between her and Robert in the period early 1834 to late 1839, recorded in Hare's *Memorials of a Quiet Life*, which Kilvert was reading on 21 July 1873, reveals their close spiritual affinity.

While living in Rome, Maria became very friendly with Frances (later Baroness) Bunsen, who was born Frances Waddington. She had met and married Christian Carl Bunsen in Rome in 1817.⁵ Together they were the centre of a brilliant and fashionable (and largely Evangelical) circle in Rome, which received important visitors from Britain and Europe.⁶ One visitor in 1827 was the Rev Walter Augustus Shirley, afterwards Bishop of Sodor and Man (one of the few Evangelical bishops), who had married Maria Waddington, Frances Bunsen's first cousin. He was the father of Kilvert's Wadham tutor, Walter Waddington Shirley (1828-66).⁷ This is Frances Bunsen's valuation of her Rome coterie: 'Good and sensible and well-principled people [who] are often alike in the serious business of life'.⁸ Fervent religious views brought her and Mrs Augustus Hare close together. The former wrote to her husband on 7 April 1834: 'Yesterday I had a visit ... from Mrs Augustus Hare, whose conversation transported me into another world – a world of soothing and edifying contemplation'. Frances's interest in education is signified by the visit she made in spring 1846 to a service at St Mark's College Church, Chelsea, attached to the teacher-training college. She deplored the service's Romish quality, more suited to the Sistine

These pictures convey something of the grand vision James Burton, right, had for his new town by the sea, writes Charles Boase. He was a successful London architect who had laid out and built houses in Bloomsbury and Regent's Park. He knew how to turn a grand scheme into reality in the little bosky valleys running down to the sea just west of Hastings. There were public buildings for entertainment and parks to be enjoyed by subscription. Villas were sited picturesquely in dells and rises. Over to the east was a more intensively developed area for the labour needed to run this privileged enclave. James died in 1837, his grave marked by an impressive pyramid in the town's churchyard, and was succeeded in his ambitions by Decimus Burton – his tenth child, as the name implies. Decimus had been a protégé of John Nash, possibly as part of a deal after James Burton rescued Nash's



Chapel and the 'aesthetical religion' practised there, in contrast to the Gospel-based service she approved, 'addressed to the heart, the poor and needy, and the spiritually destitute' (letter of 2 April 1846 to her friend Abeken). In a letter of 5 December 1846 to him, she contrasted 'the spirit of the Papacy with the evangelical true Protestant spirit'.

Frances's husband died on 28 November 1860 and just over a year later she went to live in St Leonards, a move that brought



ST LEONARDS ON THE SEA.

SUSSEX

Printed by C. Hallamand.

Published & Sold by C.E. Southall, Book & Print-seller to their Royal Highnesses
The Duchess of Kent and Prince's Victoria

1. The Church
2. Victoria House, the Residence of Their Royal Highnesses The Duchess of Kent and Prince's Victoria in the Years 1834 and 1835
3. Southall's Library and the Baths
4. Chamberlin's Victoria Hotel

5. Assembly Rooms
6. North Entrance
7. Allegria
8. Gloucester Lodge the Residence of the Prince's Sophia Matilda in the Year 1831
9. The Victoria Archery Ground



floundering Regent's Street scheme. Decimus, left, was brought up in St Leonards and died there in 1881. Evidence of his skills with the classical orders is widely to be seen, from *The Athenaeum* to Fleetwood, the Lancashire resort that is a new-town creation like St Leonards. It is ironic, considering its pedigree of style and elevated ambitions, that by

the turn of the century St Leonards was to become a byword for poverty and the exploitation of workers. The socialist polemic, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, was written around 1900 about St Leonards – renamed Mugsborough for the purpose. As well as lampooning oppressive employers, corrupt councillors and the police, it contains savage criticism of the apparent hypocrisy of wealthy clergymen. Robert Tressell, its author, lived in the town, as did Alf Cobb, his mentor, who was prominent in the nascent socialist movement.



St Leonards Subscription Gardens rise behind the imposing sea-front buildings

Print courtesy of the Hastings Press Bookshop

In winter 1861, Hare recorded that 'our faithful old friend the Baroness von Bunsen' was living in St Leonards so that they were able to visit her.¹⁰ Thus, Hare was not only living very near to Mr Oak but, since the latter was an Evangelical (see later), would have been likely to know of him through the grapevine. It is also very possible that in the small community of St Leonards Oak knew Baroness Bunsen. Hare and the Kilverts seem to have kept in touch with each other by letter¹¹ so that he could have learned that Kilvert was seeking a place in a private school and consequently put him in touch with Oak.

Furthermore, as Kilvert's godmother, Maria would have made the placing of him in a private school, known to and

her near to Augustus Hare and his 'mother', Mrs Augustus Hare (Maria), who were then living at Ore, on the north-eastern edge of Hastings (St Leonards, then part of Hastings, is two miles away on its western edge). They had had to leave their Herstmonceux home and took up residence at Ore on 8 October 1860.⁹ The 1851 Census shows that Oak's home of Park House, formerly known as Thatched Cottage (and also known as Thatched House), was in the Ore district of St Leonards.

approved by her, a particular duty, just as she had placed her 'son' in the school belonging to Kilvert's father. She had had opportunities to acquaint herself earlier with St Leonards. For example, her letter of 3 September 1838 stated that she and Priscilla Maurice took a house there for a month, chiefly to be near the church of the Rev Dr Fearon, Rector of Ore who, she noted approvingly, was mentioned in William Jowett's *Memoir of the Rev Cornelius Neale* (1835).¹² Fearon was also a subscriber, along with the staunchly Evangelical friends of the Kilvert family, the Rev Henry Moule and Sir Robert Inglis, to the 1836 edition of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* (1563), published by Seeley of London, a work affirming the Reformation and attacking Romish 'superstition'. In 1852, Maria spent more time in St Leonards. She also referred to visits in the 1860s to 'our old friend' Dr Hale of St Leonards, a homeopathic physician.¹³

The pattern of Oak's life reveals many of the elements to be found in the life of the Kilvert family. Born in 1818 in Westminster, Oak had a similar middle-class, mercantile background to that of the Kilverts: his father was a London perfumier. The school he attended, Merchant Taylors', was originally an old grammar school on its way then to becoming a public school. Its first headmaster was the famous Elizabethan educationist, Richard Mulcaster,¹⁴ who believed in Lutheran ideas, and advocated that children should study the countryside and the world of Nature. Oak's fellow pupils in the 1830s proceeded generally to careers in business, law, medicine, the Church, the army, and colonial service.¹⁵ The headmaster in Oak's day was the Rev James Bellamy, of Huguenot stock, a student at Cambridge when it was dominated by the great Evangelical clergyman, Charles Simeon, who inspired generations of young ordinands. The Merchant Taylors' Company was founded in honour of St John the Baptist and its school had a tradition of sending pupils to St John's College, Cambridge. Oak was an undergraduate at the latter 1836-40.

Oak had gone to live in Carlisle after graduating in 1840 and was ordained deacon there on 21 September 1841. The 1841 Census shows him in the Stanwix district of Carlisle; his occupation is given as 'teacher'. He was living in a house adjoining that of William Bayly, a clergyman, born in 1806, who had graduated from Oxford with a degree in law, but was running a private school with thirty-nine pupils in 1841. His wife, born Maria Rigby, their five children, and six servants, lived with him. Living there too was Maria's solicitor brother, Joseph, and his wife. Oak's name in the census is followed by those of four more pupils, indicating perhaps that they were his particular responsibility with their fees payable to him. (The name of Bayly's 'Assistant Teacher' appears before the list of *his* pupils.)

Oak was there only a short time. He became curate at St John's-in-the-Vale, near Keswick in 1841. Knowledge that Wordsworth had attended (1787-91) St John's College, Cambridge, as he had,

may have been one factor in his move to the Lake District.¹⁶ The parish of St John's-in-the-Vale is less than twenty miles from the poet's Rydal Mount home. However, more important and more compelling reasons can be adduced to explain why he relocated so far from Cambridge and his London home.

The network of Evangelical churchmen and their wives living in Carlisle provides the clearest illustration of the grapevine which was shown earlier to have taken Kilvert from Wiltshire to Sussex. The Rev William Bayly, who played host to Oak after he left Oxford, was the son of William Bayly (1778-1838), educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, of which he later became a Fellow. He became Doctor of Divinity in 1816, and was appointed Vicar of Hartbury, Gloucs, in 1823 by Henry Ryder, Bishop of Gloucester, the first Evangelical bishop in England. Bayly later became Headmaster of Midhurst Grammar School in Sussex, a post he held for twenty-two years.¹⁷ Ryder was chairman at the inaugural meeting in December 1817 of the Bath branch of the Church Missionary Society (CMS), of which Kilvert's father was a member.¹⁸

The wife of William Bayly senior was Louisa Mary Goodenough, daughter of Edmund Goodenough (1785-1845), Headmaster of Westminster School. Edmund was the youngest son of Samuel Goodenough (1743-1827), Bishop of Carlisle. Not only was Edmund a prebendary (1826-45) of Carlisle Cathedral (ie a member of its management committee), as was his elder brother Samuel (1810-58), but their cousin William was Archdeacon of Carlisle (1827-54). Since Oak was born and brought up in Westminster, and William Bayly junior was married there in 1832 to Maria Rigby, whose family were Westminster solicitors, it seems that that was the specific link which resulted in Oak having Bayly as his patron in Stanwix, Carlisle. The home of Bayly, who was related to so many powerful Carlisle churchmen, past and present, was obviously a good

starting point for Oak's clerical career. It would be surprising if their influence did not help him to obtain his two Cumberland appointments.

Having been ordained priest on 25 September 1842, Oak served as curate of St Cuthbert's, Carlisle, from 1843 to 1845. There were, however, opportunities for advancement in East Sussex. When he started his school in 1846, St Leonards was a new town, the creation of James Burton, who had bought the land in 1828. He intended it to be superior socially,¹⁹ which suggests a reason (as well as its congenial climate) for Oak's decision to move there: a private school would attract wealthy clients and it had no competition. There was also the challenge of being a pioneer, an influence, in a new place.

That was the motive of St Leonards' founder, James Burton (1761-1837), a native of Tweeddale, Roxburghshire: 'When James Burton set out to found a new town ... it was an adventure ... He set out to found a high-class watering-place by the sea on the best lines for the best people' in what was 'a very charming

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private school would
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clients and it had no
competition*

tree-clad valley'.²⁰ Oak chose to establish himself there, not as a clergyman, but as a teacher, as though he saw that as his primary (and most profitable) calling. Watering places attracted Evangelicals, as he no doubt knew; there would be children of the faithful to teach.

The site of the new town could have seemed to him as a fragment of Lakeland transported to Sussex. At the town's beginning, the local newspaper spoke of the 'beautifully rich, romantic country' in which it was situated.²¹ Burton himself, in a talk at the opening of the St Leonards Hotel in October 1829, stated that he was drawn to the place by 'the beauty of the picturesque scenery'. Royal visitors had supplied the seal of approval: the Duchess of Kent and her fifteen-year-old daughter Victoria wintered there in 1834. A railway link had arrived by 1846, the year Oak arrived. The London, Brighton & South Coast Railway had reached Hastings in 1845, although the station later named St Leonards (Warrior Square), was only opened in 1852.

White's Topographical Dictionary (1848) pictures St Leonards in exactly the period when Oak established himself there. It was 'a fashionable watering place' whose features—'mildness of air, equability of temperature, and the influence of a marine atmosphere'—made it 'especially suitable for invalids affected with pulmonary disease'. There was a marina, 'in a simple style of Grecian architecture, extending for nearly three quarters of a mile, with a sea wall and fine esplanade in front'. In the centre of the esplanade was 'an elegant building containing the Royal Baths, a library with a reading and news room, a post office, and a bank'. The Royal Victoria and St Leonards Hotel also contained hot and cold baths, 'with every accommodation for families'. Residents and visitors could enjoy the town's 'numerous pleasing villas' and 'the subscription gardens abounding with shrubs and plants of luxurious vegetation'. Between the gardens and the hotel were the assembly rooms, 'a handsome structure, with a ballroom 70 feet in length, and attached to it are card and billiard rooms'. There was also an archery society, 'the Queen's St Leonards Archers'.

The family from which Oak chose his wife, Robinetta Maria, was a mercantile one like his own. Her father, John Slater, born in Manchester, was a merchant and cotton manufacturer (and a JP), who had married Robinetta Maria Bedwell in London in 1824. The Bedwells were a well-to-do Bloomsbury family: Francis Bedwell, Robinetta Maria's father, had a position in the Registrar's Office of the High Court of Chancery. Oak's wife was born in Bloomsbury in 1826, presumably in the home of her mother's family. The Slater home in Carlisle was equally well-to-do: five servants looked after Robinetta, the eldest child, her five sisters and three brothers, and their parents at the time of the 1851 census. All of Robinetta's siblings were born in Carlisle. She may have met Oak there or in London; they married in Carlisle in the June quarter of 1847.

Assuming that Kilvert spent 1858-9 in Oak's Thatched Cottage home on Quarry Hill, one of the town's most desirable areas, he would have encountered a household consisting of Oak (40), Robinetta (36), Charles (10), Robinetta (9), and Frances (4). Two more children—Edith and Lucy—had been born by 1861. In addition, there were eight pupils and four servants. Two of Oak's neighbours were landholders, one was a doctor, another was described (1861 census) as 'Wife of a Gentleman on the [Stock] Exchange'.

One insight into the religious ethos of the Oak household is reflected in the 14 April 1877 report in the *Hastings and St*

Leonards Observer of the wedding of Robinetta, his eldest daughter, aged twenty-seven. She married the Rev Edward William Oak, incumbent of Glenalla, Co. Donegal (perhaps her cousin; he has not been traced). Her father performed the ceremony in his church, St Matthew's, and afterwards a party of twenty sat down to 'an elegant dinner' at Park House. One wedding gift was 'a handsomely bound Bible from the teachers of the St Matthew's Sunday School, of which the bride was superintendent, and a photographic group of members of the Young Men's Bible Class'. It is possible that Kilvert attended the wedding but since the New Year's Day diary entry is the only one from 1877 to survive, we shall never know. Some of Oak's unmarried daughters were living in 1890 at 5 Upper Maze Hill, near Park House, which they left shortly after their mother's death in 1887.

During the time Kilvert was with Oak, the latter suffered a severe financial setback. It resulted from the failure of a bank presided over by Oak's elder brother, Edward Tufton Oak, born 1814. A report, headed 'Oak and Snow: the Blandford Bank', in the *London Daily News* (24 November 1858) gave details of a dividend meeting before Mr Commissioner Holroyd. The

Blandford (Dorset) Bank had been founded in 1787. Its assets were acquired in 1849 by William Coventry Oak and Charles Hastings Snow. Under their watch it failed, the immediate cause being the collapse of Messrs Barnes, woolstaplers, who owed the Bank £8,000. Total debts at the time of the 1858 hearing were £39,000.²² The Blandford Savings Bank, of which Edward Oak was treasurer, owed £800 when it closed. He had paid £300 out of his own funds, his brother Charles paid the remaining £500, a huge amount equivalent to £25,000 today. It was the kind of misfortune that was common in mid-Victorian times among middle-class families: the Bath bank containing the Kilvert family fortune failed in 1794.

The presumption of Evangelical sympathies in Oak is strengthened by these considerations: Robert Devereux, father of Kilvert's Thatch House pupil, first attended Oxford University in 1828 but shortly afterwards transferred to Cambridge, presumably to become one of Simeon's ordinands; having become an Evangelical clergyman himself (Rector of Little Hereford, near

Oak suffered a severe financial setback from the failure of a bank presided over by his brother. It was the kind of misfortune that was common in mid-Victorian times among middle-class families: the Bath bank containing the Kilvert family fortune failed in 1794.

Ludlow, 1833-44), he would naturally have sought to place his son in a school run by another Evangelical clergyman; when Oak died on 17 June 1883, his death was noted in the Evangelical *Christian Guardian*, the newspaper taken by Kilvert's uncle Francis; and finally, when Oak gave up his school in 1869, he became Rector of St Matthew's Church, Silverhill, St Leonards, a church which had been Evangelical (its living held by the Simeon Trust)²³ from its beginning in 1860.

Oak retired from the living of St Matthew's in 1878. On the 17 June 1883, he died at St Leonards, leaving an estate of £11,177, equivalent to £0.5m today. One of his executors was John Bedwell Slater, one of Robinetta's brothers.

Patterns of contacts and of shared concerns were responsible for the appearance of Oak in Carlisle. Similar patterns lay behind the migration of both Oak and Kilvert to St Leonards and in these migrations Sussex contacts played a key role. In Oak's case, the Bayly family's links to that county were significant. It has been noted that William Bayly senior was Headmaster of Midhurst Grammar School, West Sussex, for over twenty years (1815-37). His family's ties to the county were consolidated when his son followed him into that position: in 1851, William junior was Headmaster of the School and Vicar of St Denis's Church, Midhurst. The Bayly churchmen in Sussex would have known the Rev Julius Hare, who was Archdeacon of Lewes from 1840-1855. Lewes is roughly equidistant between Midhurst and St Leonards in East Sussex. Julius's home of Herstmonceux lies between Lewes and St Leonards, where Mrs Hare, his sister-in-law and the Kilvert children's godmother, lived.

Among the very small group of gentry in Midhurst in 1851, when William Bayly junior lived there, was Charles Shirley of the family that produced Kilvert's Wadham tutor, Walter Waddington Shirley.²⁴ Thus, we have another Sussex link

relevant to Kilvert's gap year. We may sum up the pattern of the Bayly, Oak, Shirley, Hare, and Kilvert links in this way: William Bayly senior of Carlisle originally knew Oak in Westminster; Oak moved to Carlisle; the Bayly men lived later in Sussex; Oak moved to Sussex; Bayly junior knew a Shirley family member in Sussex; Walter Shirley was Kilvert's Oxford tutor; Bayly junior knew Julius Hare in Sussex; Mrs Hare knew Walter Shirley and the Kilvert family, and recommended Oak's household as a suitable one for the diarist's gap year. It would be tempting to add that Julius Hare would have known Oak because, as Archdeacon of Lewes, he would have been in touch with Sussex clergy. However, Oak did not have a parish until the 1860s and Hare died in 1855. Nevertheless, given the nature of the Evangelical grapevine, Oak could easily have come to the notice of Julius via Mrs Hare.

The story of Kilvert's gap year is so much a story of the grapevine through which religious people sought to promulgate their principles and practice wherever they had influence, whether it was the placing of 'serious' young men in livings or in schools. Mrs Hare had placed her son in the school of Kilvert's father, alongside his own children, confident that he would be subject to influences of which she approved. The story of Kilvert's gap year reflects the interdependence of Evangelicals while simultaneously illuminating both the society of St Leonards and the society in which the Kilverts moved.

The writer would like to express his thanks to Cathy Walling, Museum Curator, Hastings Museum, for the images of St Leonards, and for giving permission for their use; and he is greatly indebted to Julie Hudson Gidlow, of Hastings Library, for much help with information about and maps of St Leonards, including a guided tour.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Henry De Bohun Devereux was younger brother of the 16th Lord Hereford.
- 2 I am indebted to Michael Sharp for some of the details in my account of it.
- 3 He might have gone to St Leonards in autumn 1862 but it seems more likely that he would seek a teaching post after graduating. In late 1864/early 1865 he was in charge of the Kington St Michael parish belonging to his friend the Rev Edward Awdry (F Grice, *Francis Kilvert and his World*, Horsham, Caliban Books, 1982, pp34-5).
- 4 Boys bound for public schools had usually left their prep schools by the age of 13. Thatch Cottage pupils ranged in age from 8 to 13 in 1851 and 1861. It is not known whether Devereux went to a public school. The background of pupils that it has been possible to trace is some guide to Oak's clientele. One third of the 1851 and 1861 pupils (25 in total) were from London, seven were from Kent, one from Sydney, Australia. One 1851 pupil, son of a baronet, became vicar of St James, Camberwell. Four were sons of clergymen. One went on to Marlborough (the public school for clergy sons), one to Rugby, none to Eton.
- 5 He was assistant to Niebuhr, Prussian Ambassador in Rome. Bunsen was later Ambassador in London.
- 6 For example, Dr Arnold, Sir Walter Scott, Connop Thirlwall (later Bishop of St Davids and Kilvert's Bishop when he was in Clyro).
- 7 The Rev RL Venables, Kilvert's Clyro vicar, obtained a reference from Shirley (then a canon of Christ Church College, Oxford) on Kilvert when the latter applied for the Clyro curacy.
- 8 A.J.C. Hare, *The Life and Letters of Frances Baroness Bunsen*, London, George Allen, 1879, vol I, p413.
- 9 A.J.C. Hare, *The Story of My Life*, London, George Allen, 1900, vol II, p242.
- 10 *Ibid*, p293.
- 11 See *Kilvert's Diary*, vol I, p258.

- 12 Neale's father, James Neale, was one of the founders of the London Missionary Society. William Jowett was a CMS missionary, later a clergyman in Clapham.
- 13 Hale was consulted also by the Evangelical writer George Macdonald, who lived in Hastings from 1857 to 1859, as Kilvert probably knew. He was reading novels by Macdonald in January-February 1878.
- 14 He wrote two books on education: *The Positions* (1581) and *The Elementarie* (1582).
- 15 F.W.M. Draper, *Four Centuries of Merchant Taylors' School 1561-1961*, OUP, 1962, p131.
- 16 Wordsworth's school, Hawkshead Grammar, had traditional links with St John's College.
- 17 *Gentleman's Magazine*, April 1838
- 18 See J. Toman, *Kilvert's World of Wonders: growing up in mid-Victorian England*, pp222-3. Robert Kilvert's Widcombe patron Thomas Clutterbuck and his wife were also members.
- 19 *Guardian Unlimited* website: David Mckie, 'Ghosts of St Leonards,' in *The Guardian*, 2 February 2006. Mckie called the town 'a gilded resort for Victorian gentlefolk'.
- 20 J. Manwaring Baines, *Burton's St Leonard*, Hastings, Hastings Museum, 1990, p9.
- 21 *Sussex Advertiser*, 25 February 1828
- 22 Creditors received only 3s in the pound. One creditor was the Hon Sidney Godolphin Osborne (1808-89), Vicar of Durweston, Dorset. He was an outspoken champion of the agricultural labourer and brother-in-law of Charles Kingsley.
- 23 Simeon set up the Trust in 1817 to ensure that Evangelical clergymen followed each other into livings. St Matthew's has always had an Evangelical tradition.
- 24 There was a long tradition of evangelical clergymen in the Shirley family. The great-grandson of Walter (also Walter, 1725-86) was a notable Calvinistic Methodist and friend of John Wesley.



‘Concerning Francis Kilvert and his Diaries’

PATRICK GARLAND, the theatre director, writer and actor, who died last year, collaborated with William Plomer in staging the Diaries. This article he wrote throws an interesting light on the discussion about Plomer’s approach to editing them

THE Rev Francis Kilvert is buried in the country churchyard of Bredwardine, and on either side of the stone wall which runs about the property the hedges and cornfields of Radnorshire (sic) press about in careless disarray. His clean, neat, headstone, with its tended flowers is surrounded by the untidy countryside of the Welsh Borders which, in his day as an incumbent, he relished. It all seems appropriate. So many writers’ homes are at odds with the vitality of their imagination, or the evocation of youth which they have left us, but there are some which genuinely heighten one’s appreciation and understanding of their work. Thomas Hardy’s cottage at Brockhampton comes easily to mind, and of course, in a different way so does the rather bleak vicarage of the Brontës at Haworth. Francis Kilvert’s Vicarage and Parish Church at Bredwardine, bordered by the River Wye at the foot of the Black Mountains falls into the same category. It is not for nothing that the little corner of the Welsh Borders, bounded by Clyro, Brecon and Hay-on-Wye, is beginning to be familiarly known as ‘Kilvert’s Country’.

Nobody could have contributed more, nor with such modesty, than his first Editor, William Plomer. I do not think it true to suggest that without William Plomer’s intervention, we would not have Kilvert’s Diaries at all (although such an eventuality is possible), but certainly, without his sensitive concern and total dedication to the cause of this unknown diarist, the Kilvert we do have would have been greatly different.

I would occasionally visit William Plomer in his plain unfurnished office, and there for the first time I saw his own copy of the Diary, one of the 22 original notebooks in which the Rev Francis Kilvert kept such a remarkable account of village life in the country parish of Radnorshire and Wiltshire from 1870 until 1879, when he died. What has become of the other notebooks is the subject of an unfortunate but not uninteresting story. Plomer and I collaborated together in 1973 on a dramatic presentation of selected extracts from the Diary. The intention was that William should read from a prepared script his own comments about Kilvert’s life interspersed with selections from the Diary, while sepia photographs of rural Wales were shown on the screen. As an evening’s recital it proved so popular it was repeated twice. There would have been more but William died that year. While preparing the second of these performances, I asked William, understandably, if I could see what the original 22 volumes looked like. He explained this was impossible, the Diaries were in nobody’s possession. They had been destroyed. Accidentally, I assumed; the original 3-volume edition appeared in the War years, and greatly assisted during the Blitz the morale of those who found refuge in the peace of the Welsh Borders. But it was not Hitler’s bombs which destroyed the originals but, I think, the spiteful action of the relative who possessed them.

Francis Kilvert died quite suddenly of peritonitis aged only 38, and his young widow lived for another 30 years doing good works in her father’s parish in Oxford. Some time after her husband died, the widow Kilvert must have come across these diaries, and cut out the pages which referred to her relationship with him. The account of this courtship is a great loss to us. Even more of a loss is the description of Kilvert’s impassioned love affair with the handsome Wiltshire girl Ettie Meredith Brown.

Like so many Victorian matches it foundered because of a lack of money, and the wealthy father gave Kilvert short shrift on his mediocre curate’s pay. After a long period when these journals had been forgotten Mrs Kilvert died, and they were found among her possessions, and similarly regarded as of no account. In their original condition these 22 notebooks, closely written in a conventional hand, with no margins, perhaps for economy’s sake, reached William Plomer in 1937, sent by one Percy Smith, the son of Kilvert’s sister, a gentleman of artistic tastes, sensitive, and according to Wm Plomer, something of an oddity. Mr Plomer’s selection of the material to be used was made with care and he rejected only what he considered unimportant. His fastidiousness in literary matters was above reproach. There is another assumption which is one well advised to crush immediately. Because of Parson Kilvert’s well known predilection for young girls a suspicion has grown up that Wm Plomer himself censored some of the material. I asked Wm Plomer is this were so, if the Diary revealed any sensuous fantasies or Victorian repressions, and he assured me this was not the case. There was not the slightest evidence of a secret or double life.

Were the manuscript readily available, the purpose of this short essay would be a wasted one, but they are not, having been destroyed 20 years ago by Kilvert’s descendant (Percy Smith’s sister) – Mrs Essex Hope, who died in 1964.

As the original carbon copies made from the notebooks, from which Wm Plomer made his 3 volume edition, were mislaid, or more likely destroyed in air-raid damage on Jonathan Cape’s during the War, the vandalism of the actual 20 diaries does seem an act of spite. To be fair there appeared to be a family tradition that the journals were private, and should not have been publicly exposed.

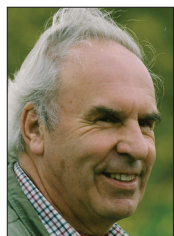
It is hard to understand why Kilvert’s niece, having seen the contents published and admired, should calculatingly choose to destroy the harmless original. In any case the notebooks (apart from two) have gone forever; one of them, formerly in the hands of Wm Plomer, is now in the Library of Durham University, and the other was given to Jeremy Sandford, the playwright.

When one turns the pages of Kilvert, it is the simple love of his neighbour which springs out with such charm and simplicity. The same love, I think, which innocently (or perhaps not so innocently) flickered out for young girls, alongside his genuine love of his parishioners. Of course he followed the accepted conventions, and approved of the prevailing social code, but within that he rejected nobody, and spent most of his time ‘villaging’ as he called it, not so much comforting the sick as talking to them, bringing food, gossiping, and reminiscing. He knew, as well as loved, his neighbour, and for all its plainness, no finer epitaph could be placed above his grave than his simple name, date of birth and death, and this unassuming description: ‘Rector of this parish’!

It is not known where this article first appeared, but it reached us thanks to Lyndall Hancock. At the end of it was a note addressed to Lyndall by Evelyn Madigan, saying ‘I took this from a Magazine Mrs [Dorothy] Ballantyne [her neighbour in Dunedin and a distinguished New Zealand children’s librarian and academic] once lent me and I think I took it all and this is what I have copied.’



Lacock Abbey provides a magnificent backdrop for a breather on the Society's perambulation of the National Trust village last September



‘A bright cheerful and happy day’

After the purchase by the Society of the Kilvert family photograph album, our visit to Lacock Abbey – the home of modern photography – could not have been more appropriate. And, as MICHAEL TOD reports, there were the added yearnings for ‘dear’ Ettie Meredith Brown

SOME two dozen Society members met outside the Red Lion pub in the Wiltshire village of Lacock at 2pm after ‘doing their own thing’ during the morning, be it exploring the picture postcard village, visiting the renowned Fox Talbot Museum of Photography or the magnificent Lacock Abbey.

At first the weather was a little dull but soon we had the sunshine we have come to rely on for such walks. We headed off along the Calne road with a fine view of the Abbey across landscaped grounds on our left hand side and then climbed over a stone stile and crossed a field to the bank of the River Avon. Our leader, the hard-working secretary of the society, Alan Brimson, told us the history of photography and the part played in this by the one-time owner of Lacock Abbey, Henry Fox Talbot 1800-1877 (Alan writes about this at the end of this report.)

Then for a reading from the Diaries.

Friday, St Valentine's Day 1873 (vol II, p322)

Dined at Monkton with Fanny. A beautiful night. Met the Frederick Awdrys, Richard Woods, and Mr Linton, the Vicar of Corsham. Took Mrs F. Awdry down to dinner. George Awdry told the story of Mr Charles Talbot of Laycock Abbey. Coming home from the Spy Park Ball, Mr Talbot's carriage was announced. Bang went the carriage door and the coachman drove on. But when the carriage reached the Abbey and the footman opened the door there was no one inside, Mr. Talbot not having got in. The coachman had driven home an

empty carriage, believing that his master was inside.

(This Mr. Talbot was Charles Henry, 1842-1916 the son of the famous William Henry Fox Talbot, the pioneer photographer.)

Our route took us across grassy fields bordering the river and across a causeway where the river would flood in heavy rains. Soon it was time for another reading.

Monday, 21 March 1876 (vol III, p245,247)

(Kilvert had visited Nonsuch for luncheon with much thought for Ettie Meredith Brown (1849-1910), his lost love.) *I did not go into the garden and left the house about four o'clock. As I crossed the first meadow the tower clock at Spy Park was striking four. At the end of the meadow I turned and looked back at the dear old picturesque Manor house, Ettie's sweet home.*

Having paused in the churchyard at Chittoe listening to an



organ practice, Kilvert walked on and from Bowden Hill his record continues –

The noble view was darkening in the dusk as I descended the fine open hill, passing in the twilight the beautiful Church of St Anne on Bowden Hill which I had never seen before. Lacock Abbey was sitting grey, silent and solitary by the river among its great elms and rich meadows. It has been a bright cheerful and happy day and much happier than I could have expected. (Thoughts of Ettie?)

We ambled on across lush meadows bordering the river until it was time for another gem from the Diaries.

Wednesday, 29 March 1876 (vol III p249-50)

Visited William Pinnock, the old blind man, and took him from my mother a basin of Mid-Lent frumenty. He said he had only tasted it once in his life. He used when he was a ploughboy on a farm in Melksham Forest to be sent every Mothering Sunday with a jug of frumenty from Melksham Forest to a house in Lacock Village nearly opposite the old Vicarage where an old Mr Beaver lived. The old gentleman used to sit in a beehive chair with his hands crossed and leaning on the head of his staff like Jacob, and his chin resting upon his hands. When the blind man's wife died in Melksham a good Quaker, Mr Samuel Jefferies, who had often visited them, came to the cottage not knowing that she was dead. Pinnock asked him to go up and see her body. The Quaker went up alone and when he returned Pinnock asked him if he saw any change in her. 'Such a change', said the Quaker solemnly and sweetly, 'as I could wish had come to me and to thee and then I would not grudge the world anything.' She had died very happily. (Frumenty is a dish of hulled wheat boiled in milk and seasoned with cinnamon, sugar, etc.)

Over the Avon by a road bridge to Reybridge, a cluster of picturesque cottages, one of which had a box of apples outside with an honestly box and another had a beautifully restored old Austin



A beautifully restored Austin 7 parked outside a chocolate-box thatched cottage earned a closer peek from Eric Ball

parked on the drive. The river here was lined with huge reeds and populated by busy ducks. More fields and a busy road to cross before we arrived at the Garden Centre where our tea was waiting. Superb cream scones and cakes – but no savouries. I yearned

for a marmite butt! Afterwards the fittest members walked back to Lacock to their cars whilst the old crocks (including myself) cadged lifts.

And so ended another enjoyable walk, a pleasurable mix of good company, interesting countryside and good food, all in the literary company of our beloved Francis Kilvert.

Just 30 years from Fox Talbot's breakthrough at Lacock to the Kilvert family album

THE earliest attempts at photography by chemical means around 1793 were by two French brothers, Joseph Nicéphore Niépce and Claude Niépce. At the same time, Thomas Wedgwood, son of potter Josiah Wedgwood and amateur scientist, independently hit on the same idea, writes Alan Brimson.

This was to record images on copper plate and required very long exposures of some eight hours or more. The first successful photograph was taken by Nicéphore Niépce on a pewter plate in 1826 showing a view from his workshop window.

In 1829 Niépce signed a partnership agreement with Louis Daguerre who further developed the process, bringing the exposure time from at least 8 hours to twenty to thirty minutes. Daguerre named his process Daguerreotype but these were still produced on silvered copper plate.



Henry Fox Talbot, pictured left, further enhanced earlier discoveries by, amongst others, the astronomer (and lens maker) William Herschel, and was able to produce photographs on paper and so is rightly regarded as the 'Father of Modern Photography' which again developed further through various processes to film and prints from negatives and now, of course, digital imaging.

Fox Talbot's first photograph on paper was a view from a window at Lacock Abbey in August 1835.

From this early start photography developed at a great rate and by the 1860s, Milsom Street in Bath alone had a half a dozen photographic studios. Having one's photograph taken became all the rage with *cartes de visite* being extremely popular as we have seen from the Kilvert family photographic album of 1865 purchased by the Society in 2012.



Evelyn's Diary

Like a biennial arctic tern, EVELYN MADIGAN, left, was a regular at Kilvert Society outings for a decade in the 1980s, making a round trip of 23,000-odd miles. Her diary and photos, edited by Jeff Marshall, form a delightful historical vignette of the Society's activities

DISTANCE was no obstacle to Evelyn Madigan's enthusiasm for matters Kilvertian. A New Zealander, she visited Britain every other year between 1981 and 1991 with an extra special effort to be present in Hereford in 1998 for the Society's jubilee celebrations.

After Evelyn died in 2010 at the age of 95 another of our New Zealand members, her friend Lyndall Hancock, sent us a large package of her diaries, photographs and ephemera to do with her membership of the Society. As Jeff Marshall recounted in *Journal* 34 the collection's principal interest lies in two loose-leaf files which contain accounts of her visits to 'Kilvert Country', interspersed with many fascinating photographs of people and places.

Jeff here continues the account in *Journal* 34 of Evelyn's diary – edited for length but with a sensitive feeling for the original and its occasional factual inaccuracies – for her first visit in 1981, when everything about 'Kilvert Country' was new for her and filled her with a delight that shines through her writing (witness the thicket of exclamation marks in the original!). She writes:

Mr [Edward] West [the Society's secretary] helped with bus timetables and accommodation and I duly arrived in Hay-on-Wye after an adventurous journey. A stop of an hour, as the train's engine had broken down and we awaited replacement. I had viewed from the train the canal at Reading, seen the tall spires of Oxford, and on waking after a short snooze found myself looking at an ad for Lea & Perrins Sauce, so I knew it must be Worcester. On a second train I viewed with pleasure the Malvern Hills – as they were 'proper hills' and not a rise in the ground.

The driver on the bus from Hereford to Hay-on-Wye did not know [York House] Guest House *below*, which I even-



tually found and was very happy there. I looked from my window at Cusop Hill, which is in England – not in Wales.

Next morning, 26th June, I was up and away as I wished to visit Clyro. I had a wander around the small town of Hay-on-Wye. The River Wye flows quietly by and just over the Bridge, on my way to Clyro, I found a very interesting Milestone, saying that Clyro was 1 mile and 75 yards distant.

A lady motorist, thinking I was someone else, offered me a



lift to Clyro – so there I was, on the spot.

I looked first at the Baskerville Arms as I was to meet Kilvert members there the next day. Practically next door is Ashbrook House, gay with roses, and it was here Rev Francis Kilvert lived. It is a well kept home just across the road from the church. I bought some post cards of Kilvert 'places' not because I liked them, but it seemed to be all that was offering. Then up the path through the Churchyard where I met a lady who told me she had been Mr Kilvert's 'housekeeper' in the film [the 1970s Kilvert series shown on television].

I went in to the large church. There is a plaque for Rev Kilvert. It was of interest to see a plaque for Rev and Mrs Venables who both lived until they were 84 years of age.

I was able to see 'Cae Mawr' (*below*) where the television series was for the most part filmed. The School, I am told, is a new one, and the school used for the film was up in the



hills. I walked back to Hay on the road – happy with my outing.

Next day I was called for by Mr & Mrs [Reg and Mona] Morgan as this was the day of the Kilvert Walk. We met at the Baskerville Arms Car Park. The morning was not the best, and about 20 people of all ages turned up. I met Mr West, our Secretary, who was larger and younger than I had expected. I have noted he is 'given to quoting', which is after my own heart. Mr West was then, and still is, a very helpful Secretary. I was able to meet some of the Kilvert members and so we then set off for the Glasnant area.

Before luncheon, a short walk, starting from 'the waste' just north of Bryngwyn Church, around the Glasnant (lower and upper) farms. A steep descent took us down to the lower Glasnant which is picturesquely situated on the Glasnant Brook about a mile above the confluence of the latter with the River Arrow. About half a mile below the Lower Glasnant, opposite the beautiful Vyallt Wood on one side of the Valley, we climbed over the brow of a hill and down to

the upper Glasnant, where the brook was crossed on stepping stones. The old farmhouse here, a building dating from mediæval times, has completely disappeared and been replaced by a modern dwelling. A further climb brought us up to the road which circles Bryngwyn Hill and back to the cars for luncheon.

Some climbed to the highest of the many Mawn Pools situated in the Radnorshire Hills, but less active members were content to walk right around Bryngwyn Hill – a distance of about 4 miles. On the walk around the hill Mr West pointed out to me where the Solitary had lived. It was very interesting to meet the kindly lady, named 'the Major', on the walk, who insisted I join the Victory Club in London for cheaper accommodation, and that I immediately enquire the cost of my present accommodation. About 3.30pm we set off for Hay and to Mr and Mrs R Morgan's for tea. This is a lovely home, built in the Castle kitchen garden. It has a high brick wall and there is a beautiful garden. A very pleasant place to visit.

Sunday June 28th. Once again I was kindly called for by Mr and Mrs Morgan, and we set off for Hereford. On the way we passed through Bredwardine, and I had a tiny glimpse through the trees of the Vicarage, the Church with the River Wye below.

We were to go by coach to Langley Burrell Church in Wiltshire. It was a happy coach load who assembled and we set off thru Gloster, part of the Cotwolds, skirted Cirencester, and had our lunch at Malmesbury, which I had previously seen from Chippenham. The foxgloves were still out in profusion and this would have pleased Mr Kilvert.

Langley Burrell Church is a very pleasant one, with the Ashe family's Langley House behind it. It seemed to be a stone-flint church, mellow inside, and very old. It was an inspiring service. Our vicar had one black eye from an encounter with a lady motorist. The service was in very good taste – both the hymns and the Address. I see I have written in my Diary 'There was an atmosphere in the Church at this Service, and no one felt alone'. The Kilvert Society gave a gift of money to help with the reroofing of the Church, the new Headstone for the grave of Rev Kilvert's parents, who worshipped and worked there. They are buried in the churchyard.

A pleasant afternoon tea was served in the Marquee.

After tea, members of the Kilvert Society had a Meeting in the Church when Mr F Grice spoke, and also read an entry from the



Diary concerning thanksgiving, and the giving of the 3d buns to the children. I was welcomed, and replied to this. After a happy time, many being shown the garden, we left Langley House and Mrs Scott Ashe & the Squire, to return to Hereford.

On our way home we passed Hardenhuish Rectory – the birthplace of Rev F Kilvert, and St Nicholas Church across the road, which he attended and later worked at. We also came home through the Wye Valley, which was a great joy to me, and I was able to see again Tintern Abbey, with its cool beauty standing quietly there.

We left the coach at Hereford, and Mr and Mrs Morgan came again past Bredwardine. By now it was at least 9pm. However, we got out of the car and thru the Drive of trees to the Church gate. Mrs Morgan told me the 'Drive in' is gay with daffodils in Springtime, and this I can imagine. We saw the 'new gate' given by the Kilvert Society. Under a large tree, nearby the gate, is a concrete seat 'In Memory Of Rev Francis Kilvert' (*above*). This was made by Mr Sid Wright, who, in 1948, worked hard to form the Kilvert Society. In his younger days he had been apprenticed to a stone mason and the Seat in Bredwardine Churchyard was made and lettered entirely by him.

Though it was late, I looked at the Grave, and was happy to see it. Though darkish, and without flash, I took a photo. The Church was locked.

Back to Hay-on-Wye, and the end of a wonderful day. How lucky I am!

[Evelyn's visit concluded with a day in the Llanthony Valley and a day relaxing in Cusop.]



Edward West, left, with Reg Morgan in the car park of the Baskerville Arms, Clyro



Catching sightings of Kilvert

TERESA WILLIAMS has spent many hours scanning old newspapers and library collections to find mentions of Francis Kilvert beyond his Diary. These 'sightings' (more years will be covered in future editions of the Journal) will surely prove invaluable to future researchers into his life and times

THE following is a list of 'sightings' between 1862 and 1866 of the Diarist which I have found, published in newspapers and in various printed records etc. Those marked with an * indicate that a Photostat of the report, or BMD notice, has been obtained.

1862

**The Record*: Fri 5 Dec: BA Degree conferred at Oxford on FK on Thurs 4 Dec.

1863

**Wiltshire Ind*: Thurs 19 March: Royal Marriage celebrated at Lly Bll; Trees planted 10 Mar.

**Bath Jnl & Bath Chron*: Death Notices & Obits for (Antiquary) Rev FK on 16 Sept.

**Bristol Daily Post*: Mon 21 Dec: FK Ordained Deacon at Bristol Cathedral on Sun 20 Dec.

**Wiltshire Ind*: Thur 31 Dec: FK licensed to Curacy of Lly Bll by Bp of Glos & Br in Dec.

1864

Langley Burrell registers: FK Read banns at Lly Bll on Sun 28 Feb - (once only).

St Paul's, Chip'ham registers: burial by FK at St Paul's of Sarah Davidson on Tues 8 March.

Langley Bll registers: FK conducts Baptism at Lly Bll, as 'Curate' on 3 Apr.

Langley Bll registers: FK officiates at marr of Chas. Grant & Sarah Matthews on Apr 12.

Langley Bll registers: FK conducts baptism Sun 1 May.

Retrospective FK *Diary* entry, Vol.3/20: FK walked to Bath and back on Mon 16 May.

Langley Bll registers: FK conducted three baptisms on Sun 5 June.

St Paul's, Chip'ham: FK called marriage banns on 12, 19 & 26 June.

St Paul's, Chip'ham: Burial by FK of Elizabeth Neate on Tues 21 June.

St Paul's, Chip'nham registers: 4 Baptisms at St Paul's by FK on 3 July as 'Off. Min.'

**Devizes & Wilts Gaz*: Thur 11 Aug: FK at Wilts Friendly Socy mtg & dinner, Chip'ham: 4 Aug.

**Ecclesiastical Gaz*: Wed 13 Sept: Advt for Curate at Wye Vil-

lage from Jan 65. Apply C. Hay, Hereford.

Langley Bll registers: Aug. Sept & Oct: 2 baptisms on 7 Aug, 2 on 4 Sept & 2 on 2 Oct.

*Diary of Rev JJ Daniel, Vic. Kgtn Lly: FK at Thanksgiving Service at Kgtn Lly Thurs 6 Oct.

Kington St Michael registers 1864: marr, burial & baptism by FK at KStM on 3, 4 & 6 Nov.

Diary of Rev. R L Venables 1864: 'Mr Kilvert came' [to Clyro] Tues 8 Nov. Curacy vacancy

Venables Collection (Nat Lib Wales): Letter 10 Nov (RLV to GSV re accepting FK as curate).

Diary of Rev R L Venables 1864: 'Mr Kilvert went' [from Clyro on Fri 11 Nov back home].

*Diary of Rev J J Daniel, Kgtn Lly: FK deputised at Kgtn Lly for Rev JJ D on Sun 13 Nov.

*Diary of Rev J J Daniel, Kgtn Lly: FK at CMS mtg in Kgtn Lly Schoolr'm on Thurs 17 Nov.

Kington St Michael registers: baptism conducted by FK on Wed 23 Nov.

Venables Coll: Letter 24 Nov (RVL to GSV re FK & Canon Shirley reference).

**Bristol Daily Post*: Mon 19 Dec: FK's Ordination as Priest at Bristol Cathedral Sun 18 Dec.

1865

**Ecclesiastical Gaz*: Tue 10 Jan: FK's name in list of Priests ordained Bristol Sun 18 Dec.

Venables Coll: RLV to GSV on 16 Jan: 'FK my curate' to Clyro Fri 6 Jan.

Venables Coll: Feb: FK at Bettws & Great Snowstorm 29 Jan, RLV to GSV on Feb 4.

Clyro registers: FK takes 2 baptisms on Thurs 2 & Thurs 9 March.

**Hereford Times*: Sat 1 April: Brilley Ch re-opening services/ luncheon on Thurs 30 March

Clyro registers: FK takes burial on 7 April & 2 baptisms on 23 & 26 Apr.

**Hereford Times*: Sat 6 May: Hay Choral Society's Concert at Hay on Fri 29 Apr.

Clyro registers: FK takes a baptism on Sun 7 May at Clyro.

*Retrospective FK *Diary* entry, Vol 3/162: FK at Coed y Garth, nr Llanbedr Ch, met Sarah

Bryan 29 May.

*Retrospective FK *Diary* entry, Vol 3/168 FK's first visit to Builth, Rocks of Aberedw, etc. Mon May 29.

Hay registers: FK takes burial Tues 6 June; banns Sun 11 June at Hay.

**Hereford Times*: Sat 17 June: Eliz. Jones, RLV's servant killed, thrown riding 6am on Sun June 11

**Hereford Times*: Sat 17 June: Inquest on EJ Mon 12 Jun: Took horse: 'Accidental Death'.

Langley Bll registers: Burial by FK as 'Off.Min.' Sat 8 July of Elizabeth Knight.

**Wiltshire Ind*: Thur 3 Aug: FK officiates at Emily's Marriage at Lngly Bll on Tues 25 July.

Clyro registers: FK officiated at two burials - Fri 4 & Tues 29 Aug.

Hay registers: baptism by FK at Hay Church on Fri 29 Sept.

Clyro registers: FK at baptism on Sun 1 Oct & burial Mon 2 Oct.

Hereford Times: Sat 7 Oct: Mrs Maria Venables died Thur 5 Oct: RLV's first wife.

**Hereford Times*: Sat 14 Oct: FK at private Funeral of Mrs RLV on Mon 9 Oct.

Venables Coll: GSV's Journal on 9 Oct: 'L(ister) much distressed & unwell'.

Venables Coll: GSV's Jnl Tues 24 Oct: 'M, L & FK here' (at Llys-dinam).

Clyro registers: FK officiated at two baptisms on Sun 29 Oct at Clyro.

Venables Coll: GSV's Journal Sun 12 Nov: 'Met L. coming from Bettws Chpl. FK dined.'

Venables Coll: GSV's Journal: Tues Nov 14: 'FK again to dine'. Sun Nov 19: 'FK dined.'

1866

Revd R L Venables' Day Book: Mon 8 Jan - 'FK went home to Langley Bll.'

Revd R L Venables' Day Book: Sat 27 Jan: 'FK returned to Clyro from Lly Bll.'

**Hereford Times*: Sat 24 Feb: Nat Soc'y Lecture - Education for Poor at Hay Mon 19 Feb.

**Brecon Co Times*: Sat 19 May: Hay Choral Soc'y Concert, v.g. prog. on Friday 11 May.

**Hereford Times*: Sat 19 May: An-

other a/ct of Hay Choral Society Concert, Fri 11 May.

**The Record*: Fri 22 June: MA degree conferred at Oxford on FK on Thurs 21 June (and Registers of Wadham College).

Revd R L Venables' Day Book: Mon 30 July: 'FK went home' (to Lly Bll).

**The Times*: Thurs 16 Aug: Notice only, FK off.Min. Thersie's marr at Lly Bl on Tues 14 Aug.

Revd R L Venables' Day Book: Sat 25 Aug: 'FK returned' (to Clyro).

Hay registers: Tues 11 Sept: FK took burial at Hay.

Revd R L Venables' Day Book: 'FK dined at RLV's with Reginald Baskerville Tues 11 Sept.'

**Brecon Co Times*: Sat 22 Sept: JH Venables died Sat 15 Sept (brother of RLV & GSV).

Clyro registers: FK took funeral of Jo'ph Hy Venables Thur 20 Sept at Clyro.

Clyro registers: Oct 1866: FK conducted Burial at Clyro on Sat 6 Oct.

Retrospective Diary entry: Vol 1 pp 307-8: Jane Phillips, servant at WTM Baskerville, Clyro Ct, ran away on Sat 6 Oct and drowned herself in the River Wye.

**Hereford Times*: Sat 13 Oct: report on Jane Phillips.

Clyro registers: FK took 2 burials at Clyro on Sun 7 & Mon 8 Oct.

Revd R L Venables' Day Book: FK dined at RLV's with Allen and Bevan, Wed 24 Oct.

Revd R L Venables' Day Book: FK dined at RLV's with Baskerville on Mon 5 Nov.

Clyro registers: FK conducted burial at Clyro on Wed 21 Nov.

Clyro registers: FK conducted a baptism at Clyro on Thurs 29 Nov.

Clyro registers: FK conducts marriage & baptism at Clyro on Sun 16 Dec.

Clyro registers: FK conducts burial at Clyro on Tues 18 Dec.

Revd R L Venables' Day Book: 'Rode with FK to Bredwardine, Tues 18 Dec.

Clyro registers: Baptism conducted by FK at Clyro Sun 23 Dec.

Revd R L Venables' Day Book: 'FK went home.' (to Lly Bll), on Mon 24 Dec.

Read all about it – What The Papers Said

This new feature in the Journal has contemporary reports, transcribed by Teresa Williams, about characters in the Diary. The first recalls Mrs Herbert Prodgers, whose likeness in the east window at Kington St Michael (vol III. p150,152) gave rise to much amazement and hilarity at the time

The Wiltshire Gazette

THURSDAY 7 JULY 1910

KINGTON ST MICHAEL

Mr and Mrs Herbert Prodgers' Golden Wedding

Mr and Mrs Herbert Prodgers of Kington House have been the recipients of hearty congratulations and good wishes from their many friends on the attainment (on Sunday) of the 50th anniversary of their marriage.

Mrs Prodgers (née Miss Philpotts, a daughter of the late Canon Philpotts of Porth Gwidden, Cornwall) was married to Mr Prodgers on the 3rd of July 1860, and the greater part of their married life has been spent at Kington St Michael where they have enjoyed the esteem and goodwill of all classes. In the celebration of the happy event on Sunday last they were surrounded by all their children and their eldest grandchild but owing to the sudden death of one of their grandchildren it was Mr and Mrs Prodgers' wish that the occasion should be observed as quietly as possible. As the date had been largely unmentioned, the kind thoughts of so many was greatly appreciated.

On Saturday the village fife and drum band, in which Mr Prodgers has evinced great interest, and which he has supported entirely, visited the house and played on the lawn. The villagers were privileged to view the presents of which Mr and Mrs Prodgers were the recipients. These emblems of esteem included a rose-gold Bowl from the villagers with the inscription:

'PRESENTED TO MR AND MRS HERBERT PRODGERS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING, JULY 3RD 1910.'

Other presents received:

From the children at the Vicarage, a model:

The Master of Semphill, Plant in bowl:

The Hon Mrs Allfrey, a gold pin cushion:

Mr Cecil Prodgers a gold and diamond

Medallion with inscription '1860-1910';

Mr Ronald Prodgers, a large gilt rose bowl

and a blue butterfly, framed:

Mr Greville Prodgers, gilt flower vase:

The Indoor and Outdoor servants at Kington House, a rose bowl:

Lord and Lady Semphill (daughter and son-

in-law) lace bed spread and 4 plants in stands:

Mr and Mrs Gordon Lely (daughter and son-

in-law) two handsome golden vases:

The Reverend and Mrs Prodgers, photograph

in golden frame:

The Rev'd TGW Henslow, bowl of roses:

Sir Audley and the Hon Mrs Neeld, gold

vase:

Mrs EH Clutterbuck, a gold mounted scent

bottle:

Mr Herbert Prodgers, two paintings in gilt frames, etc:

Mrs Herbert Prodgers, musical gong and pipes for the members of the fife and drum band, and a gold match box:

The School teachers, a gold whistle:

Mrs Philpotts, a gold hat pin:

And from Mr Shepherd, Cypress Nursery, Dawlish, Devon, formerly Gardener at Kington House, Plants (*Hamanthus*, *Katherina* and *Netera Depressu*).

The Wiltshire Gazette,

THURSDAY 2ND MAY 1918

Death: Died on April 25th at Kington, Emily Sibella Prodgers, widow of the late Herbert Prodgers, Esq, in her 85th year.

The Funeral of Mrs Emily Sibella Prodgers

Mrs Prodgers had survived her husband about a year and it is only a few months ago that she was present at the dedication of the Lych Gate which she had had erected to his memory. By her beautiful, useful life she has set an example which cannot but have an influence for good for many years to come. She had an exceedingly generous nature, and no one was more ready to help her poorer neighbours. Her work in this direction was done quietly, and it was only those who were the recipients of her bounty who fully realised her great kindness and liberality.

The daughter of Canon Philpotts, a Cornish clergyman, she took an interest in everything connected with the Church; her devotion to it could not be exceeded. She was regular in her attendance at the services and her love and veneration was shown by the many beautiful and useful gifts she made. The Church is now the poorer for her absence, but there is the consolation that she has kept the faith, and that she has joined the blessed company of those who through faith and patience have inherited the promises.'

The funeral of Mrs Prodgers took place on Tuesday and the large numbers of villagers who attended in mourning attire testified to the esteem in which the deceased lady was held by those amongst whom she had lived the greater part of her long life. The class to which she belonged was also well respected and the late Bishop of Bristol (Dr Forrest Browne) attended as a tribute of respect for one whose friendship and support he had enjoyed during his episcopate in the West. Lord Semphill (son-in-law) was unfortunately kept away through illness and his son the Master of Semphill was absent through urgent military duties.

The principal mourners were Lady Semphill (daughter), the Reverend Charles Prodgers, Vicar of Elvaston (who is on military duty in Scotland where he has a large estate), Mr Ronald Prodgers, Mr Greville Prodgers (sons), and Sir Gordon Ley (son-in-law). Lady Ley was absent through illness. The heir to the Kington estate is Mr Greville Prodgers, who before the War was a planter in East Africa, and for the past three years he has been engaged in the successful campaign which has resulted in ousting the Germans from their last Colony in Africa. He returned to England on business and was at Kington House when his mother passed away.

The funeral procession was met at the Lych Gate entrance by the clergy and choir. The opening sentences were read by the Reverend A Pope. The Vicar was Rev'd MI Holme. Psalm XC was chanted, the lesson was read by the Archdeacon Stewart, and the hymns were *Thy way, not mine*, *O Lord, I could not do without Thee* and *On the Resurrection Morning*. At the close of the service the organist (Miss Gready) played the Dead March in *Saul*, the congregation standing.

Wreaths were received from:

'Your Son, Charlie'

'In loving memory, Greville'

'from three loving grandchildren, Betty, Peggy and "the Master" in memory of our lovely Granny'

A wreath of Auriculars, her favourite flower,

from her granddaughter, Eva P, 'for darling

Granny who was always so kind and good'

'From Marjory Dorothy Prodgers'

'With love from Gerald, Francis and Mary'

'In loving memory, Laura'

From her four sisters 'In loving memory', Mrs Arthur Tremayne, Mrs Herbert, Mrs R Williams and Mrs Hopkinson

'With deepest sympathy from Mrs J Wood-

man and the maids at Kington House'

'In Memory of a kind Friend' from the Scholars and Teachers of Kington St Michael Church of England Day School.

Many other beautiful wreaths were also sent.

On Sunday the Vicar gave a short sermon in which he referred to her love of children and the help she gave and the interest taken in both the Day and Sunday Schools. She was most generous and had done all she could to enrich God's House: during the past year she had presented us with a Litany desk, Altar cross, hymn books and the Lych Gate. The sermon ended when the Vicar said 'May the memory of her noble example inspire us all to fix our eyes – and to keep them fixed on Christ – and so to lay up treasure in Heaven, for where our Treasure is, there will our hearts be also.'

Notes, and welcome to new members

The Society warmly welcomes the following new members:

Mr Gregory Chambers and Mr James Jones,

Llanbedr, Powys

Mr Steve and Mrs Ann Delahaye, Newport, Gwent



One thing that is often very striking in old photographs of familiar scenes is how much the vegetation has sprung up since then.

This undated picture, *right*, of Snodhill Castle, near Dorstone in the Golden Valley, from the Society's archives (showing the Rt Rev Newnham Davis and Mrs Davis and Bernard and Connie Humphreys) is very much to the point. The site is unrecognisable from the jungle through which Peter Beddall had to spend days hacking a path for the Society's visit in 2011 (*see the photograph below*). Francis Kilvert and his friends would have been very hard pressed to find a spot clear enough to make a fire for their potatoes. And once we had succeeded in assailing the castle it was worrying to find the extent to which badger setts were undermining what remains of the castle walls.

But now, after decades of neglect, the castle – a scheduled ancient monument – is to be conserved.

The Vivat Trust, a national preservation charity based not far away at Peterchurch, has taken a 999-year lease and will soon make a start in association with English Heritage on emergency works to protect the masonry from further decay.

The *Hereford Times* reported that the Vivat Trust acquires properties on a leasehold basis to restore sites where the owners cannot or will not grant a freehold. It relies on grants from organisations such as English Heritage, the Architectural

Heritage Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Our thanks to Richard Weston for alerting us to this news.



Coincidentally with that last item, Peter Beddall has committed himself to giving a talk to his local history society on Snodhill. He would be glad to hear from any members who may have any old or recent photos or literature on Snodhill. The meeting is in August. His email address is peterbeddall@btinternet.com



The committee has been notified by our former chairman, the Rev DTW Price, that he is resigning as a vice-president of the

Society as he feels he cannot give the time to its proceedings that he would like. David Elvins, our chairman, has accepted his resignation with regret, but is pleased he will continue to be a member of the Society.



The closing of the British Library's Newspaper Library at Colindale and the transfer of the collection to Yorkshire has come as a blow to Teresa Williams, who has spent many happy hours there filling in the gaps in our knowledge about Francis Kilvert.

She was working flat out against the clock before it closed. 'The last day on 8th November was a very emotional day for staff and regular visitors alike,' Teresa wrote. 'The Colindale Collection of microfilms will not be available for use at St Pancras before late March 2014 and no volumes will be available for research or ordering from Boston Spa, Yorkshire, before November 2014. Volumes will be seen at St Pancras only if their



condition will warrant travelling.'

Teresa has accumulated 64 notebooks (in Pitman's shorthand) over 34 years of visiting Colindale. She has made some significant discoveries (one thinks of Major Valentine, among others) and we look forward to hearing of many more.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

List of Kilvert publications

Miscellany Two: The Oswin Prosser Memorial Booklet. Contents: The Solitary of Llanbedr by the Rev D Edmondson-Owen; Radnorshire Legends and Superstitions by Mrs Essex Hope; Honeymoon Journal by Dora Pitcairn; The Venables Diaries by L. Le Quesne; Memories of the Monk by Ann Malinson. £4.50.

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

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

The Books Kilvert Read, by John Toman. £2

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

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

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

Vicar of this Parish, by John Betjeman. £2

Children of the Rectory, by Essex Hope. £1.50

Newsletter/Journals. Back

numbers of some Newsletters and Journals. £2.50.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Toman's *Kilvert's Diary and Landscape*, £27.50, and *Kilvert's World of Wonders – Growing up in mid-Victorian England*, £25, both published by The Lutterworth Press, PO Box 60 Cambridge CB1

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

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

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

The Diary of Francis Kilvert, June-July 1870 edited by Dafydd Ifans. National Library of Wales, 1989. ISBN 0-9077158-02-1.

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

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

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

Remittances for publications (kept separate from subscriptions and donations etc) should be made payable to The Kilvert Society and accompany orders.

Overseas members kindly note most items can be sent by surface mail at printed paper rate for an additional charge of £6. For airmail rates please enquire from the Publications Manager.

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Cheques, payable to The Kilvert Society, should be sent to: Mrs Sue Rose, Seend Park Farm, Semington, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 6LH.

