

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wyecroft,  
23, Broomy Hill,  
HEREFORD

(Phone 2094)

April 21st, 1960.

ANNUAL MEETING and SOCIAL EVENING

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting and Social Evening will be, as usual in EIGNBROOK CHURCH HALL, HEREFORD on

TUESDAY, the 3rd May, at 7 p.m.

It is to be hoped that as many members and friends as possible will come and so help to make yet another enjoyable evening.

After the business meeting there will be a Social Evening, during which we shall be again invited to partake of light refreshments so generously provided by our President (Mrs. Wright). Arrangements are proceeding for several Vice Presidents and other Members to give short talks on matters of interest. It is hoped that one of these will be about an old lady who lived at Bredwardine during Kilvert's years there and whose memories add something to what we read in the pages of the Diary. Other features not yet finally settled should all go to make up a very interesting evening.

For the convenience of those who cannot attend, I append a copy of the ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET, and a notice will be found on pages 4/5 giving details of this year's KILVERT COMMEMORATION SERVICE.

Members are invited to send in suggestions for Summer activities, or, preferably, to make them at the A.G.M.

Yours sincerely,

*C. T. O. Rosen*

Hon. Sec. The Kilvert Society

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1959

The Annual Meeting was held in Eignbrook Church Hall on April 30th and was very well attended. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. H. W. Butcher the Chair was taken by Mr. W.H. Ellis, and Mrs. Wright welcomed all present. Mrs. Wright was re-elected as

P.T.O.



President, to the obvious satisfaction of all, and the Vice-Presidents and officials were all re-elected with the addition of 2 names to the list of Vice Presidents - that of Mrs. Pitcairn, the widow of Capt. Pitcairn, R.N. (who was a nephew of Kilvert) and Mr. E.R.W. Newman of Mainstone, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, a keen member for many years.

It was decided to send a letter to Mr. William Plomer (Editor of the Diary) congratulating him on the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature conferred by Durham University. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J. D. Worsey) commented on how well subscriptions had come in, so that after allowing for the £10 donated to Clyro Church Repair Fund the balance in hand was still satisfactory. The invitation of Mrs. Williams (a great-niece of Kilvert) to visit her Cotswold cottage in August was gratefully accepted, and arrangements were made for visits to Worcester Cathedral and other suggestions were considered. An announcement was made re the forthcoming re-issue of the 3 volume edition of the Diary by Messrs. Jonathan Cape Ltd. Refreshments (again so very kindly provided by our President, Mrs. Wright) were then enjoyed. This was followed by a talk by the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths (Vicar of Llowes and a Vice President) on the parties he gets at Llowes through its Kilvert associations, and after talks by one or two other members the evening was concluded by a shewing by Mr. Godfrey Davies of a display of coloured slides (which he had taken) of scenes in the "Kilvert Country", accompanied by the recorded voice of the Rev. Thorpe of St. Martin's Church, Hereford, giving readings from the Diary. Votes of thanks to Mrs. Wright and to Mr. Davies ended another pleasant A.G.M. and Social Evening.

On Sunday, July 12th, the Annual Service was held at LLANIGON, by kind invitation of the Rev. T.E. Williams, the Vicar of Llanigon with Capel-y-Effin, (who conducted the service). The Lessons were read by Ald. Tudor Watkins, M.P. and by the Rev. B.B. Humphreys of Lincoln, and an Act of Remembrance was read by the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths. The old Church of St. Eigon was quite full to hear an inspiring address by the LORD BISHOP OF SWANSEA and BRECON (Dr. J. Thomas, D.D.). Tea was provided in the nearby schoolroom by the local ladies and they were thanked for this great kindness by Mrs. Wright and by Ald. Tudor Watkins, M.P. The Rev. B.B. Humphreys of Lincoln also spoke of his pleasure in visiting the Kilvert Country, and in particular in coming to take part in the Llanigon service. Many members had come very considerable distances to be present, including some from Coventry and district and several of our London members were also there. The two coach loads from Hereford returned via Tregoyd, Glasbury and Llowes to Clyro where a halt was made to view the village and the Church and for some to climb the "Bron" to enjoy Kilvert's favourite view across to the Black Mountains - a nice day with splendid visibility added to the joy of another very successful "Kilvert Sunday".



During the summer members visited Worcester Cathedral where they saw Maria Kilvert's house and her tomb, and the pages of the Diary in which Kilvert so graphically described the scenes at her funeral were brought vividly to mind. At Worcester the party was met by the Dean of Worcester and by the Secretary of Worcester Historical Society. A party of members also visited Mrs. Williams at Uley (Glos.) and were shewn many things relating to the Kilvert family and in particular the notebook of Mrs. Williams' mother (the "Monk" of the Diary - as Kilvert called his little niece). Mrs. Williams has very kindly allowed the Society to have copies made of her mother's "Childhood Recollections" - a rambling but most interesting account of childhood days of the Kilvert family at Hardenhuish Rectory - and a copy is available for loan to any member making application for it. The last expedition of the summer was a September walk from Bryngwyn Church "over the hills to Colva" with picnic lunch and tea before and after the walk: this was much enjoyed by a large party on a glorious day, with wonderful views. The party traversed a portion only of Kilvert's walk to Colva (see the Diary for February 26th 1870) and it was again realised just how many miles the walks in full actually covered.

The deaths of several members have to be recorded, with much regret, and especially so as each had connections with what we read in the Diary. Early in 1959 we lost old Mrs. Thompson, for many years a familiar figure at each Annual Service and at the A.G.M. each year. She was the "dear little Lily Matthews" with whom Kilvert walked to Brobury on September 29th 1878. In August we lost another old member, Mr. C.E. Richards of Staunton-on-Wye. He was with us at the Llanigon service in the previous month and had attended most of the services of former years. He had family connections with the Hill family of Upper Noyadde, Llowes, a favourite calling place for Kilvert. A splendid account of one of his visits there can be read in the long diary entry for April 29th, 1876. And in March there died in Leominster old Mrs. Lewis (age 96), who had vivid recollections of her youth at Bredwardine when Kilvert was Vicar there. One of our members (a clergyman in the Leominster district) often visited her and we hope to hear at the A.G.M. some of the things that she told him as he read from the 3rd volume of the people and places around Bredwardine that she knew 80 years ago.

Despite our losses, the Society grows in numbers and the interest expands as the years go by. During the year a number of visitors from the U.S.A. have at different times been escorted round some part of the "Kilvert Country" by various members, and in particular by Mr. Stokoe of Hay and by the Chairman (Mr. Butcher), by the Treasurer (Mr. Worsey) and by the Secretary and Mrs. Prosser. Several of these have joined the Society and we have had new members from as far afield as Aberdeenshire.



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1959

RECEIPTS

EXPENSES

Balance brought forward    £16   17. 7

Subscriptions.....    42    7. 0

Collection at A.G.M.....    2    1. 8

Coach Fares to Llanigon..   13    3. 3

Hire of 2 Coaches to  
Llanigon .....   £10. 10. 0

Donation (for use of  
room for A.G.M.).....    2    2    0

Additions to film etc.    3   10    3

Typing of "Random  
Recollections" and  
binding files for  
same.....    5    5. 0

Printing and Adver-  
tising.....    12   19. 9

Duplicating.....    6    0. 0

Postages, Phone Calls  
and Sundries.....    4   12. 2

Cheque Book.....    4. 0

Balance in Hand    29   6. 4

£74    9. 6

74    9. 6

Audited and found correct  
H. Butcher 18.2.60.

John D. Worsey  
Hon. Treas. 15.2.60.

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE - This year we go again to LLOWES (by kind invitation of the Revd. D.J. Lane Griffiths, the Vicar, who is a Vice President of the Society and a great "Kilvertian": he will conduct the service. This will be on Sunday the 26th JUNE at 3 p.m. The special preacher will be the Rev. A.J. Goss of St. Peter's Church, Hereford. Members and friends will remember his inspiring sermon at



Bredwardine four years ago in which he shewed his keen knowledge of the Diary and of the "Kilvert Country". The Society will be indebted to him for accepting this second time, and will look forward to June 26th. The Radnorshire parish of LLOWES is nearly 2 miles beyond CLYRO and Kilvert was a frequent visitor to both Church and Vicarage there during his years as Curate of Clyro. In those days the Vicar there was Kilvert's great friend, the Rev. Tom Williams and the Diary contains a number of accounts of their walks together, the most notable being that to visit the "Solitary" of Llanbedr, Painscastle, on July 3rd, 1872. Llowes Church is delightfully situated, with magnificent views of the Black Mountains from the porch and churchyard. It will be remembered that in the churchyard is a sundial erected jointly by the people of Llowes and the Kilvert Society to commemorate Kilvert's close connection with Church and parish during the years 1865-1872. In the Church is the great stone that formerly stood in the churchyard, but whose story goes back to pagan days when it stood up on the hills above, and then became a centre of Christian worship and had its crosses inscribed on it as we see it today.