

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wyecroft,
23 Broomy Hill,
HEREFORD.

(Phone 2094.)

18th April, 1963.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL EVENING

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting and Social Evening will be held on

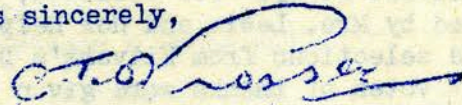
FRIDAY, the 3rd MAY, at 7 p.m.

in Eignbrook Church Hall, as usual. But this time it is almost certain that it will be in the larger of the two halls at the rear of Eignbrook Church - the one not previously available. This is good news, as an increasing number come - to enjoy this evening - each year.

The business meeting will be followed by light refreshments, again so generously provided by our President (Mrs. Wright) and the remainder of the evening will be given over to talks by some of our Vice-Presidents, tape recordings, and showing of film or slides. As time permits. It is good to know that the Dean of Hereford (The Very Rev. R. P. Price) is able to come, and we shall very much look forward to this. Mr. William Plomer has kindly given permission for us to play over a tape recording of the recital of his own poems that he made when with us last July.

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 another page giving details of this year's KILVERT COMMEMORATION SERVICE.

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Sec. The Kilvert Society.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1962

The Annual Meeting was held in Eignbrook Church Hall on Friday, 18th May, and the large numbers of members present filled the Hall to capacity. The President (Mrs. Wright) welcomed the company, and Mr. H. W. Butcher then took the Chair. Mrs. Wright was re-elected President, to the obvious satisfaction of everyone present. The Vice-Presidents, Officials, and Committee were all re-elected and to the list of Vice-Presidents was added the Dean of Hereford (The Very Rev. R. P. Price) and Mrs. E. M. Victor of Hereford (see under "Notes and

P.T.O.

News" re Mrs. Victor's connections with the Kilvert family). Mrs. E. Peters was appointed Assistant Hon. Treasurer. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J. D. Worsey) then spoke briefly on the continued healthy state of the Society's finances, with subscriptions coming in well. The Vicar of Clyro (Rev. T. J. Lewis) then gave an account of the repairs and re-decoration that was in progress at his church, and of the large sum it was costing; and then of the arrangements that were being made for our visit to Clyro church in July. Our Hay committee-man, Mr. F. W. Stokoe, spoke briefly on events in his district and then Mr. G. Hoyland of Painswick (Glos.) told of how the little cross on the grave of "Little Davie" had been found, broken and part-buried, in Bredwardine churchyard and appealed for donations from members towards restoring it as a memorial to Kilvert's love for little children. This was agreed on, and many subscribed right away. The refreshments which our President (Mrs. Wright) had again so generously provided, were then enjoyed by all present; and the remainder of the evening was given over to shewings of lantern slides of the 1961 service (Bryngwyn) and of scenes in the "Kilvert Country" and then the Kilvert film; for these a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Godfrey Davies and the evening ended with thanks and applause to Mrs. Wright and her helpers.

The Annual Service was held on Sunday, the 15th July, at CLYRO (Rads) by kind invitation of the Rev. T. J. Lewis (Vicar of Clyro with Bettws). There was a very large congregation; many came long distances - as is usual for these services - and from widely scattered places. Numerous chairs had to be brought in from the Church Hall, and packed into every empty spot; even so, many had to stand and the porch was also full. Undoubtedly the largest numbers at any of our services since 1950 at Clyro, when the Kilvert Memorial was unveiled and dedicated. The Lessons were read by Mr. William Plomer, D.Litt., and by the Rev. T. Wigley (Minister of Eignbrook Congregational Church in Hereford). They had accompanied the President (Mrs. Wright). The Address should have been given by Prof. The Rev. Moelwyn Merchant of Exeter University, but he was rushed to hospital only two days previously. The consternation that caused was relieved when 'phone calls to Clyro and to Llowes brought the good news that the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths (Vicar of Llowes) had agreed to preach at such short notice: the fine address he gave to the attentive congregation told of his love and knowledge of Kilvert and of the Kilvert story. Tea followed, in the Church Hall, provided by parishioners and served by Mrs. Lewis and her helpers, and greatly appreciated. Mr. Plomer then read selections from Kilvert's Diary - a rare treat for the large company present. Votes of thanks were given by Mrs. Wright, by Ald. Tudor Watkins (M.P. for Brecon & Radnor), by Mr. J. D. Worsey and by Miss Adnams of Derby. The two coach loads from Hereford returned via Hay and Bredwardine, where a short stay enabled members to view the restoration of the memorials to the Rev. Kilvert and to "Little Davie". So ended another most successful "Kilvert Sunday".

The somewhat wet Summer prevented much being done in the way of walks or expeditions; several arrangements had to be abandoned. Details of what was accomplished will be found in "Notes and News".

The loss of several members has to be reported, with regret. The death of a Vice-President is something that all members lament. In the latter part of 1962 Mrs. T. A. Williams died at Uley (Glos): it will be remembered that she was a daughter of "the Monk" (as Kilvert had dubbed his little niece) -- and those

members who visited Major and Mrs. Williams at Uley in 1959 will always remember the kindly welcome and interesting time spent there, and be particularly sorry at this news of her passing. At about the same time as Mrs. Williams' death we also lost two other members... Mrs. C. Miles who lived at The Clyst, Hampton Park, Hereford - one of the many elderly folk who derived much pleasure from the Diary - and Mrs. V. G. Lewis of Bramley, Kent, one of a family with roots on the Hfds.- Mon. border, all keen and long-standing members. There is sad news from Denmark too. Miss Friis of Copenhagen died there last July. It was she, of course, who translated selections of "Kilvert's Diary" into Danish. Many will remember that she visited here in 1956 and came walking with us in the Black Mountains and then in 1959 was here again and was present at the service at Llanigon.

The growth of the Society continues, not only new local members but more from long distances away, too. National publicity always brings in a few new members (See "Notes and News"). The 250 mark has been passed and we are therefore now on the way towards a total of 300 members. One outstanding fact is the large number in the London area... now over 30, and the Birmingham area numbers are creeping up too. A few more Welsh members during the year increases the membership in Wales to a goodly number, as one would expect.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1962

<u>Receipts</u>				<u>Expenses</u>			
Balance brought forward from 1961	27	11	9	Donation for use of room for A.G.M.	2	10	0
Subscriptions	62	4	6	Hire of 2 Coaches to Clyro	15	10	0
Collection at A.G.M.	3	11	6	Upkeep of Kilvert graves	6	0	0
Coach Fares to Clyro	10	16	0	Checking & typing important records	12	0	0
				Printing & Advertising	15	10	4
				Duplicating	9	14	9
				Stationery	2	19	0
				Postages & Phone Calls	8	15	0
				Balance in Hand	31	4	8
	£ 104	3	9		£ 104	3	9

"Little Davie" Memorial at Bredwardine

Donations received to date	16	17	6	Cost of completed work	19	12	6
Amount outstanding *	2	15	0				
£ 19	12	6		£ 19	12	6	

* this outstanding balance will shortly be settled by the sale of Vol. 1 of Kilvert's Diary and by donations already promised.

John D. Worsey
Hon. Treasurer.
9/4/63.

In addition, contributions amounting to £4 were received for Clyro Church Restoration Fund and handed to the Vicar of Clyro.

P.T.O.

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE THIS YEAR AT CLIFFORD (Herefordshire) by kind invitation of the Rev. C. J. Hayes, the Vicar, who is a member of the Kilvert Society. He will conduct the Service. This will be on Sunday, 30th JUNE at 3.15 p.m. The special preacher will be the DEAN OF HEREFORD - The Very Rev. R. P. Price, M.A. He is a Vice-President of the Society. The usual detailed notice about this Clifford Service will be sent out (as always) about 12 days beforehand.

NOTES and NEWS

It is most interesting to learn of the different approach of members here and there to varying angles of the "Kilvert story". Members may be interested in extracts from various letters, as under.

A new member now living in the Ledbury (Herefordshire) area but not long come there from Dulwich writes as to how she often went into the Picture Gallery there and looked at the pictures that Kilvert admired on each of his visits to Dulwich. (Vol. 2, page 108 and Vol. 3, page 335 -- where he writes of "sweet green Dulwich").

Another new member, this time one from Swansea, writes to say that he is about to visit churches of the Gower peninsula, in an effort to find any in which Kilvert preached during his holidays in Gower. (Vol. 2, page 183 onwards, and Vol. 3, pages 427-8.

A lady member in Bristol writes to say that the houses in Great George Street (where Kilvert visited Janet Vaughan of Newchurch at the Clergy Daughters School) have now been demolished (Vol. 3, pages 31-32.) but her postcard shews the Suspension Bridge and the Zig-Zag (Vol. 3, page 201) and indicates the way to his sister Emmie's house.

A member living in Hertfordshire (but of a Herefordshire family members of which figure in the Diary) has not only found much of interest on the tombstones and church memorials around Chippenham, but has also copied out a number of Kilvert's poems from old copies of the "Hereford Times" in Hereford Public Library; one of the most pleasing of these is about the house called "Paradise" at Clyro. This member gives us food for thought by asking "has anyone else commented on Kilvert's skill as an artist? The pen and ink sketches at the beginning of Vol. 2, 'The Nutting in Seagry Woods' seems to be masterly."

Another new member (living near Winchester) has written a very interesting "Appreciation" of Mrs. Phillips of Uley-Kilvert's niece who he always referred to as "the Monk". For many years Mrs. Phillips devotedly cared for children of parents who were overseas, and our Hampshire member was one of these. This little work is to be published shortly and will be available to members at a modest charge. It should be ready by the time of the Kilvert Service at Clifford on 30th June.

From time to time walks and expeditions into the "Kilvert Country" are arranged, starting from Hereford with a rendezvous at Painscastle or Bryngwyn, Llanigon or Clyro where others from perhaps Birmingham way or from Shropshire meet: cars are parked and a day's walking - with picnic meals - is enjoyed. Many of

the places visited by Kilvert in his walks have been visited or noted in passing. But last summer's weather cancelled or made impossible such events, with a few exceptions. The outstanding "day out" of 1962 took place in early October, when some 20 or so met at Clyro and went walking on the hills; passing the Upper Noyadde, where Kilvert's calls are recorded in Vol. 3 on pages 272 onwards and again on pages 283 onwards; and then walking up "the Cwm" to the Homme, passing Sunny Bank and New Barn on the way, such familiar names and such a delightful walk. To Llowes by teatime, where we were the guests of the good Vicar and of Mrs. Lane Griffiths to tea in the village schoolroom, there joining some 30 or so others who had come by motor-coach from Mountain Ash (Glam) where they have not forgotten that the Rev. Lane Griffiths had been their Curate for some time, in a period before the last war, and had made the journey to Llowes to join in the Harvest Festival service. So some 60 people sat down to a splendid tea and then across to the parish church for the Harvest Festival. A full church, a good sermon, and some fine singing. The evening ended by a visit to a nearby house to sing the harvest hymns to a bedridden woman before all departed from Llowes for their various homes.

One prominent member of the Society has recently left Hereford for Bournemouth, where he and his wife and family are now living. None other than our Chairman, Mr. Harold Butcher. He will be greatly missed at committee meetings, the general meeting, the service, and on summer expeditions, but we are glad to know that he intends coming to join in sometimes. Mr. Butcher came across some most interesting papers among his late father's belongings. They throw some light on certain Diary characters of which little is otherwise known. On Saturday 7th September, 1878 (P.420 in Vol. 3.) Kilvert records that "after tea Lucien and Alfred Savournin with their beautiful little sister Eveline came down to the Vicarage to fetch school prizes". We realise that they were French children, and not a few have wondered why they were at school at Bredwardine. It appears that Mr. Butcher (senior) got to know of some of the Savournin family through certain interests in CYCLING, and in his file there is a letter (of 26th February 1942) from L. F. Savournin who tells that his Uncle Lucien died in 1908 and that his Aunt Eveline died in 1940, and that Alfred was then 71 and very frail. He suggests that they were sent to school at Bredwardine because the London school was too boisterous for them, having only arrived from Switzerland a short while before we read of them in the Diary. There was some connection with Herefordshire of which he was not aware, for the younger brother of the children that Kilvert knew was apprenticed to a chemist in the area.

The only other "day out" to record took place in the late summer. The "Sunday Times" decided to feature something of Kilvert in its COLOUR SUPPLEMENT. Accordingly it was arranged that one of their photographers (a very likeable young man of Greek extraction ... Christopher Angleoglou ... spent a weekend in Hereford and accompanied a party of members first to Bredwardine, where they were photographed visiting the churchyard and Kilvert's grave, and then to Clyro - the party proceeding up the "Bron" and across the hill to Birds Nest Lane. Many photographs were taken of the party wending their way, at first with Clyro village below and then with the Black Mountains beyond. But so far the feature has not yet appeared: no doubt it will in due course.

On 20th September last year many members attended a Recital of Poetry and Music in the Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace in Hereford --- in aid of Three Choir Festival Funds --- and heard Mr. William Plomer, D.Litt. give readings of Poetry and Prose of Henry Vaughan, Thomas Treharne and Francis Kilvert, and selections of his own poetry, and a musical programme by Dr. Melville Cook, the Cathedral organist - a splendid evening. There is to be a somewhat similar event on May 2nd.

No doubt many members saw the T/V programme on Diarists that was first put over before Christmas, and then repeated (in the London area anyway) in February of this year. It was very short, as in just half an hour almost a dozen Diarists were dealt with. Kilvert's photograph was reproduced in the "Radio Times" along with Queen Victoria, Samuel Pepys, Capt. Scott and Fanny Burney. Several photographs of Bredwardine and Clyro were shown, out of the dozen supplied from here to the B.B.C. From it we have got at least two new members, both enthusiasts. Each wrote to the B.B.C. asking for the source of the Kilvert photograph and so were given the address of the Hon. Sec. and they then joined the Society - a lady in Cornwall and a gentleman in Surrey, both keen "Kilvertians" for many years but not previously knowing of the existence of the Kilvert Society. Both write that they are visiting Clyro and Bredwardine etc. this coming summer and at least one of them is likely to be at the Clifford service on 30th June. A radio programme featuring Kilvert is now running on each Monday afternoon at 4.30, by Carleton Hobbs.

The many members who have heard the former Dean of Hereford (The Very Rev. Hedley Burrows) preach at different Kilvert Commemoration Services over the years will no doubt like to have news of him. In reply to a letter sent to him around Christmas time enquiring about his health (following an accident in Winchester in which he was involved with a motor cyclist) he says in a letter dated 15th January that "it has all healed up well but the left leg not quite right yet, but good enough to crunch through the snow to post the letter." He will see this note in due course, and it is certain that all who know him will want to wish him well.

Railways are closing down all over the country, but those lines that we read of in the Diary were all closed down on December 29th, 1962. All the little stations that Kilvert knew and used are closed. Kinnersley and Whitney, Hay and Three Cocks, Builth Town and Builth Road (called Llechrhyd in his day); Newbridge-on-Wye and Rhayader, and the "little by-station at St. Harmons", as he called it, where the fog signals were put on the line after the wedding at which he went back to officiate.

In January and February many places no doubt had deep snow and were cut off for a while --- when snow comes Radnorshire usually gets its share!! This time many of the villages that we read of in the Diary were completely isolated for a spell. Painscastle and Bryngwyn, Newchurch, Colva and Glascwm. One story of the snow that found its way into the press was that of the daughter from a farm up in the hills between Painscastle and Bryngwyn, who needed hospital treatment but no ambulance could get nearer than Clyro (six miles away) so a team of men pulled a big sledge there and brought her back on it to Clyro where the ambulance was waiting to take her to Builth Hospital. The sledge party started soon after mid-day and got back to Clyro very late at night. What a story for the Diary would this have provided for Kilvert!!