

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wyecroft,  
23 Broomy Hill,  
HEREFORD.

(Phone 2094)

15th April 1964.

*P.S. Affair in Chippenham  
account (quote from the  
Annual Register for 1922)*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SOCIAL EVENING

Dear Member,

Arrangements for this year's Annual General Meeting and Social Evening are somewhat different from previous years. It is in EIGNBROOK CHURCH HALL as usual - on THURSDAY, 30th APRIL 1964, but commencing at 6.15 p.m.

After the business meeting we hope that we shall hear from some of our Vice-Presidents and members, and then partake of refreshments, again kindly provided by our President (Mrs. Wright) assisted by ladies of the Committee.

At 8.15 p.m. we move into the nearby EIGNBROOK (CONGREGATIONAL) CHURCH for a SERVICE. This will be conducted by the MINISTER - the Rev. T. Wigley - who is also a member of the Kilvert Society. The ADDRESS will be given by the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths, Vicar of Llowes (Rads) and Rural Dean of Hay, and a Vice-President of the Kilvert Society.

This service has been arranged as a TRIBUTE to our PRESIDENT (Mrs. L. K. Wright) who has held office since 1950 -- at the CHURCH which she has regularly attended for so very many years.

We shall therefore hope to see a large congregation of Members and their friends, on this special occasion.

The 1964 Kilvert Commemoration Service is this year at Bredwardine on 28th June - a fuller note about it will be found in the following pages.

For the convenience of those who cannot attend the meeting, I append a copy of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Secretary The Kilvert Society

NOTE: The Service following the A.G.M. etc., should end about 9.20 so that members can catch buses etc. about 9.30 p.m.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1963

The Annual Meeting was held in Eignbrook Church Hall on Friday 3rd May, 1963 and for the first time in the larger Hall, not previously available for our meetings. About 100 members were present. The President (Mrs. Wright) welcomed the company and then asked the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths - a Vice-President of the



Society - to take the Chair. Mrs. Wright was re-elected as President being warmly acclaimed by everyone present. The Vice-Presidents, Officials and Committee were all re-elected and to the list of Vice-Presidents was added Sir Michael Venables-Llewellyn Bt. of Llysdyman, Lord Lieutenant of Radnorshire; and to the Committee was added Mr. F. R. C. Hermon of Hereford. The Hon. Treasurer spoke briefly on the Society's finances, which were satisfactory; but the suggestion that the minimum subscription should be raised from 2/6 to 5/- was adopted. The invitation to hold the 1964 service at Bredwardine was accepted, as was the invitation from Clyro to hold the 1965 service there. The Dean of Hereford (The Very Rev. R. P. Price) spoke to the company; he was attending his first A.G.M. We then heard - briefly - from Mr. F. W. Stokoe of Hay, the Rev. C. J. Hayes of Clifford, the Rev. Canon Leatherbarrow of Martley (Worcs.) the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths of Llowes and Mr. H. W. Butcher of Bournemouth. Refreshments followed, again very kindly provided by the President (Mrs. Wright). Following this we were entertained by Mr. Glen Butcher's tape recording of Mr. Plomer reading some of his own poems; this was made last year when Mr. Plomer came down for the Clyro service and the Committee gathered at the Hon. Sec's house to meet him. The evening ended with a shewing of coloured slides of the Kilvert Country (by Mr. G. C. Davies) with an accompaniment of recorded passages from the Diary, followed by votes of thanks to Mrs. Wright and her helpers, to the Rev. Lane Griffiths and to the officers of the Society.

The Annual Service was held on Sunday, 30th June at CLIFFORD (Herefordshire) by kind invitation of the Rev. C. J. Hayes (Vicar of Clifford). Although the day was wet (the first really wet day for our Annual Service - and this was the 17th such service) the usual big congregation assembled; members and friends came from long distances, the usual party from London, our members from Birmingham and from Wolverhampton, several from South Wales and many from Herefordshire and the neighbouring counties. Loud speakers were in position in the churchyard, for if it had been a fine day there would no doubt have been large numbers seated on old tombstones and on grassy banks; but on such a wet day all had to be packed into the church. Seats were put in every square foot available, benches brought into the ringing chamber and the big doors from it thrown open so that it became an extension of the nave and over 50 were seated there: the porch seats were full and the remainder stood, squeezed in everywhere. Some 300 or so were thus packed into a church that normally seats about half that number. The Lessons were read by Mr. E. W. R. Newman of Bishops Castle, Shropshire, one of our Vice-Presidents and a founder-member of the K.S. and by the Rev. W. Lloyd, who is Rector of Moccas and Priest-in-Charge of Bredwardine, and the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths (Vicar of Llowes and Rural Dean of Hay) gave his "Act of Remembrance", without which no Kilvert Service would now be right. The Address was given by the Very Rev. R. P. Price, M.A., DEAN OF HEREFORD, and from it we soon realised that he had closely read the Diary and was fully appreciative of the beauty of the "Kilvert Country". The hymn singing was excellent, and caused many remarks from those who had come from far away and were not used to the hearty singing one always gets in this borderland. The ladies of Clifford parish had provided a splendid tea in the nearby Church Hall: had it been fine we were all to have had tea on the large lawn at the rear of Clifford Vicarage with its usual grand views of the surrounding hills and it was a great disappointment to the Vicar and to Mrs. Hayes that a wet day prevented this. Full justice was done to the spread in the Church Hall and as we came out the rain ceased and visibility improved greatly so that visitors could see enough of the Black Mountains and Radnorshire Hills etc to realise what it would look



like on a fine day. After votes of thanks to all concerned the two coach loads from Hereford started the return journey - via Hay and Clyro, and the 90 or so cars that were parked in every odd corner went their different ways. Another "Kilvert Sunday" was over, despite the wet day, quite up to the usual standard.

The death has to be reported, with regret, of our member, Miss E. Parsons of Credenhill, Nr. Hereford, a few weeks ago after being confined to the house for several years. Prior to that she was a regular attender at our annual events and loved to visit the "Kilvert Country". A message of sympathy was sent from the Society to the relatives and a note in reply received "from one of her sixteen nieces and nephews, to whom she was very much the head of the family".

This seems to be the only loss we have sustained this year. If there are any others which have not been noted the relatives must please accept an apology now. It would be appreciated if the Hon. Sec. could be notified of the death of any member.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963

| <u>Receipts</u>                                              |             |          |          | <u>Payments</u>                                                     |             |          |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Balance brought forward from 1962                            | 31          | 4        | 8        | Donation for use of Room for A.G.M.                                 | 3           | 3        | 0        |
| Subscriptions                                                | 84          | 10       | 2        | Hire of 2 Coaches to Clifford                                       | 14          | 10       | 0        |
| Collection at A.G.M.                                         | 3           | 3        | 0        | Hire of Taxi to Clifford                                            | 2           | 7        | 0        |
| Coach Fares to Clifford                                      | 14          | 2        | 6        | Upkeep of Kilvert Graves                                            | 6           | 0        | 0        |
| From Sale of Mrs. Mallinson's booklet, "A Kilvert Kinswoman" | 8           | 0        | 0        | Thyme Underfoot for Mrs. Kilvert's Grave                            | 1           | 0        | 0        |
|                                                              |             |          |          | Subscriptions to Herefordshire & Radnorshire Nature Trust           | 1           | 1        | 0        |
|                                                              |             |          |          | Wyeval Ltd. - P.A. equipment for Clifford service & recording tapes | 6           | 12       | 6        |
|                                                              |             |          |          | Printing "A Kilvert Kinswoman"                                      | 9           | 0        | 0        |
|                                                              |             |          |          | Printing and Advertising                                            | 17          | 1        | 10       |
|                                                              |             |          |          | Duplicating                                                         | 12          | 18       | 0        |
|                                                              |             |          |          | Stationery                                                          | 3           | 2        | 3        |
|                                                              |             |          |          | Postages & 'Phone Calls                                             | 8           | 8        | 6        |
|                                                              |             |          |          | Cheque Book (5/- less unused cheques 4d)                            |             | 4        | 8        |
|                                                              |             |          |          | <u>Balance in Hand</u>                                              | 55          | 11       | 7        |
|                                                              | <u>£141</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> |                                                                     | <u>£141</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> |

John D. Worsey  
Hon. Treasurer

As this goes for duplicating the Hon. Sec. reports that he has nearly 100 copies of "A Kilvert Kinswoman" and 25/- cash in hand so it is obvious that the production of this booklet will ultimately shew a good profit.



The Kilvert Commemoration Service for 1964 is to be at BREDWARDINE on Sunday afternoon, 28th June. It will be conducted by the Rev. W. Lloyd, Rector of Moccas, who is Priest-in-Charge of Bredwardine, and the ADDRESS will be given by the Rev. B. B. Humphreys of Fiskerton Rectory, Lincolnshire. Mr. Humphreys is a founder-member of the Kilvert Society, for he was present at the inaugural meeting in Hereford Town Hall in 1948. He read one of the Lessons at the Llanigon service of 1959 and we have tried to fit it in several times since that he shall give the Address, but Lincolnshire is a long distance from the Kilvert Country and he has his own parish duties. We are therefore very pleased that it has been possible to fit it in this year. Mr. Humphreys is no stranger to these parts, for he has walked in the Black Mountains and the Radnorshire Hills and loves this border country.

Adequate arrangements have been made for the parking of cars at Bredwardine on 28th June and to end the evening all who wish can visit the lovely gardens of Brobury House (at the other end of Bredwardine bridge) where there are also very fine aviaries of valuable birds. The small fee charged will go to Bredwardine Church Funds.

Mr. William Plomer is very hopeful that he will get to the Bredwardine service, and we shall be delighted if he manages it. This year is a very busy one for him; he is associated with Festivals at Aldeburgh and at Kings Lynn, with the City of London Festival and with one in Holland. At all these the new work of Benjamin Britten is being done, and Mr. Plomer has close associations with this work, as with previous works of Benjamin Britten. It will be remembered that Mr. Plomer wrote the libretto for Britten's work for Coronation year - "Gloriana". In September Mr. Plomer again comes to Hereford, to take part in another such recital as so many enjoyed in 1962 in the Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace: this visit will be during the Three Choirs Festival. Further news of Mr. Plomer is that he will shortly be giving a talk on the Third Programme: this will be about the three diaries that he has edited. The third does not appear until next month: it is titled "A MESSAGE IN CODE - THE DIARY OF RICHARD RUMBOLD 1932-60)" - publishers are Weidenfeld and Nicolson. Mr. Plomer warns us that this is totally unlike Kilvert's Diary!!

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In a previous "Notes and News" an item dealt with the correspondence from the Savournin family that Mr. Harold Butcher found among his late father's papers. Many readers of "Kilvert's Diary" have been puzzled as to why the children of a French family living in London should have been at school at Bredwardine (see p. 420 of Vol. 3). A letter written to Mr. Butcher in 1942 from a nephew of Alfred Savournin tells us much. He quotes from a letter from his Uncle Alfred, as follows "re our schooling at Bredwardine - this is how we went there. Mr. Bates, the Headmaster at this school married a great friend of my Mother; as he was allowed to take a few boy boarders we were sent there from London. Lucien and I were there for 3 or 4 years. Eveline and Mother came down for the holidays. I well remember going to the Vicarage several times and having a good time there. I was then 8 or 9 years of age. Later on when I returned to London we boys were all sent to Algy Bates farm at Preston-on-Wye for our holidays. He was the eldest son of the Bredwardine schoolmaster; took up farming and later on went



to New Zealand. It was on the farm there that Lucien became interested in cattle etc and became a Veterinary Student when old enough. This has brought back to me many happy days spent in Herefordshire". Lucien Savournin became very interested in cycling and was associated with the Stanley Cycling Club; later on becoming interested in motor cars. His poetry on both subjects was published in book form by the Committee of the Stanley Cycling Club (after his death) and a copy was found among the late Mr. Butcher's possessions.

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An item in the STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS that comes with these papers shews £1 expended on the purchase of THYME UNDERFOOT for Mrs. Kilvert's grave. The idea was to plant this there and so prevent weeds growing again, for this sweet smelling thyme should have before long carpeted the space inside the kerbing and looked well without any further efforts. But it has not been successful; some has died and what has lived is straggly. But we are going to try again, with a slightly different plant next time.

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Several letters have come from the U.S.A. during the months since the last "Notes and News" went out, and one more U.S. member. He is the Rector of an Episcopal Church in California. The abridged edition was given him by a professor who told him that his sermons sounded much like Kilvert's writing. He has now bought the newest 3 volumes, has read them three times and keeps them by his bedside to dip into each night, saying to his wife "I wonder what Francis was doing today". With some of the dollars he sent in excess of his subscription maps of the "Kilvert Country" and various local literature have been bought (as requested) and posted to him. He would very much like to visit the area.

There has also been more correspondence from our member in New London, Connecticut. He was over here in 1959 and hopes to come again next year, and to be with us at the Centenary Service at Clyro. His forbears emigrated from Wales some 300 years or so ago, but he is sad that he has no record of from where they came. He has sent a copy of an entry in THE ANNUAL REGISTER for 1822 - The Chronicle under date Sept. 7th 1822, headed "AFFRAY AT CHIPPENHAM" and this tells the story of the fight between the villagers of Kington-Langley and some of the men of Chippenham in which at least one man was killed and over 30 wounded. Kilvert recounts this same story in Volume 2 (p. 317 onwards) the date being February 4th 1873. It was told to him by John and Hannah Hatherall.

There have been letters also from Mr. Corey Kilvert of New York. His fifth child - born just before Christmas - was a girl after all; if it had been a boy the name was to be Francis.

Some of the Morris family from Pennsylvania had arranged for a holiday over here this summer and would have joined us at the Bredwardine service on 28th June, but it is now very doubtful if they can come this year after all. They are descendants of the Powell family of Brobury, often mentioned by Kilvert in Vol.3. Clara on p. 373 and Jane and Marianne on p. 414.

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A keen member living in Kent has sent some cuttings out of "Country Life", a good photograph of Wadham College, Oxford, where Kilvert made the acquaintance of Lewis Carroll -- and another good photograph of Old Came Rectory near Dorchester, formerly the home of the Rev. William Barnes, the illustrious Dorset poet who



Kilvert visited on 30th April 1874; the thatched roof and verandah can be seen, just as Kilvert described it on p. 438-9 of Volume 2.

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We do not get much news from the Chippenham area, but during past months members in Bath and in Bristol have sent newspaper cuttings which tell of events in Langley Burrell, Hardenhuish, and Kington St. Michael. The Rectory at Kington St. Michael has been sold and the parish merged with Hardenhuish, so that Kilvert's birthplace - Hardenhuish Rectory - is the residence of the Rector of both parishes.

A cutting from a Wiltshire newspaper of September last tells of the retirement of the Rev. E. V. Bridger of Langley Burrell and the merger of that parish with St. Paul's Chippenham. A later cutting speaks of alterations and re-decoration of the church at Langley Burrell, of a young choir there and of good congregations.

These bits of news will interest members who were in the party (two motor coaches) visiting the Chippenham area in 1955 and calling at each place now mentioned.

We recall with pleasure the kindness of the Rev. E. V. Bridger who shewed us over the Rectory at Langley Burrell and the entries in the Register of Services from which we learned that Kilvert and his bride stayed several days there before they went home to Bredwardine, where he was to die so soon.

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Many members who were at the Kilvert Commemoration Service at CLIFFORD in June of last year bought a copy of the booklet titled "A Kilvert Kinswoman.. Memories of the Monk".. written by our Hampshire member Mrs. E. A. Mallinson - and a number have been posted to members who did not get to Clifford. Many appreciative letters have been received, for this booklet adds much to our knowledge of the latter years of Kilvert's niece Annie Francis Essex Wyndowe - better known to us as "the Monk". Mrs. Mallinson knew her as Mrs. Phillips, for she was one of the many children of parents who were overseas brought up by Mrs. Phillips at Uley in Gloucestershire. This was the first venture of the Kilvert Society, entered on with a little misgiving, but has paid for itself - with a number of copies in hand. We therefore contemplate bringing out from time to time booklets on similar lines, bearing on other aspects of the Diary. Many members are eager for any extra information - to those who have not yet had a copy of "A Kilvert Kinswoman" the advice is to order one now. Less than 100 are left and at 2/- each or 2/6 posted they will not last very long.

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We read in the booklet about "the Monk" of how she married a young officer of the Indian Army when she was 20 and went with him to India, where, in due course, twins were born - Thermutis Olivia and Lancelot. Some of us knew Olivia as our Vice-President Mrs. Olivia Williams of Uley: alas, she died in the Autumn of 1962. Her widower, Major Williams, and her brother Lance, live there now. Last year they very kindly invited some of us down for the purpose of receiving various photographs, drawings and paintings of great interest. These we brought back to Hereford and they are at the Hon. Sec's house, where many members have seen them; and other members visiting Hereford are invited to make an appointment to see them. There are photographs of Mrs. Phillips as a young woman, taken in India, of the twins with their ayah, of Col. and Mrs. Phillips, and of "Sam" Wyndowe (Kilvert's brother-in-law and the Monk's father). Many other photographs and many drawings



and paintings done by the Rev. E. Kilvert in the early part of the 19th Century. Soon Afterwards came further "relics" with Kilvert connections - this time from his niece Mrs. Essex Hope who has given up her home in Worthing and gone to live in a semi-nursing home. Mr. Harold Butcher went over from Bournemouth to see her and to collect the items she wished to come to Hereford, and soon afterwards brought them up here. More photographs, of Mrs. Hopes brothers and of various members of the Kilvert family. Some taken in Canada, linking up with what we read on P. 440 of Vol. 3, where Kilvert called at a house in Bredwardine and there met a son just home from Canada. He had lived in Hamilton, Ontario, and knew Francis Edwin Kilvert, Mayor and Member for Hamilton. (Incidentally, our New York member Mr. Corey Kilvert is of this same Hamilton, Ontario family). Another photograph of great interest that came with Mrs. Hope's collection was one of little Annie Wyndowe (the Monk) taken in 1872 at Weston-super-Mare. Now, the Diary tells us that on 3rd September 1872 (p. 259 in Vol. 2) Kilvert left Chippenham to join the rest of the party at Weston. There he joined his mother, Dora, and the children Katie and the Monk; and what fun they had, Kilvert says "the sea air seemed to make them wild". We wonder!! Undoubtedly that photograph was taken during that very visit to Weston, when "the Monk" was just  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years old. Other treasures too, came from Mrs. Hope. The paintings done by Sir George Cornwall and given to Mrs. Smith when she was leaving Monnington Rectory after the death of her husband, the Rev. W. R. Smith: they are of Monnington Church and of the Wye nearby. There are even printed copies of the obituary notices of the Rev. W. R. Smith and a host of other items of great interest.

There is now such a good collection of items connected with Kilvert that we hope to one day arrange a display in one of the street windows of Hereford Museum.

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Some time ago a lady member from Derby visited Nottingham Museum and there saw some old carriages, with a ticket on them stating that they had belonged to the Baskervilles of Clyro. This was brought to the notice of members in a previous "Notes and News". Quite recently a letter from some members living near Epsom in Surrey told how they had been to Nottingham and had visited the Museum in Nottingham Castle and had seen these same carriages; they quoted the ticket on them - "Travelling Carriage, about 1820 used by the Baskerville family of Clyro and given by Mrs. D. N. Baskerville of Clyro." The older carriage is of 1698 and is ticketed "Designed and built for Thomas Baskerville Esq., High Sheriff of Wiltshire".

It would be interesting to learn of the connections of the Baskerville family with Wiltshire

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Arrangements have commenced for the 1965 Service., at CLYRO - a CENTENARY SERVICE as it was in 1865 that Kilvert first went to Clyro. The Vicar of Clyro (Rev. T. J. Lewis) has given us choice of any Sunday in June or July and this has been passed on to the eminent churchman who will most likely be the Preacher on that occasion. Permission has also been given for us to send details to the B.B.C. WALES in CARDIFF: they may be interested in recording it for sound or for vision or for both. Exact details of date and preacher etc. will be given when the letter etc. re the 1964 service at Bredwardine is sent out in mid-June. The 1965 service at Clyro will, we hope, be a particularly outstanding one.

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