

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wyecroft,
23 Broomy Hill,
HEREFORD.

(Phone: 2094)

15th June, 1964.

Dear Member,

The ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE will this year be at BREDWARDINE (Herefordshire) on SUNDAY 28th JUNE at 3 o'clock.

It will be conducted by the Rev. W. Lloyd, B.A. (Rector of Moccas and Priest-in-Charge of Bredwardine) and the ADDRESS will be given by the Rev. B. B. HUMPHREYS - RECTOR of FISKERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE; he is a founder-member of the Kilvert Society.

It has been arranged that a "WYE VALLEY" MOTOR COACH (OR COACHES) will leave the City Library, Broad Street, HEREFORD, at 2 p.m. (PROMPT). Seats are 4/- each and may be booked with Mr. G. C. Davies WYEVAL LTD., Bridge Street, HEREFORD, or at the Hon. Secretary's business premises "CONS" in Widemarsh Street, HEREFORD. The latest time for booking must be WEDNESDAY, 24th June, but if all seats could be booked THIS WEEK it would be very helpful. If members would kindly pay for seats at the time of booking this would be greatly appreciated.

The route will be via Whitecross and Swainshill direct to Bredwardine, and the return journey will be by exactly the same route. Members can therefore be picked up and set down anywhere, providing that information is given when seats are booked. Coaches leave Bredwardine about 7.30 p.m.

Immediately after the Service a TEA is being provided (through the kindness of the Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd and the ladies of Bredwardine) in the HALL which is a short distance from the Church, a little way up the lane between the Inn and the nearby farm. This is splendid hospitality from a small scattered parish, and we are very grateful for it.

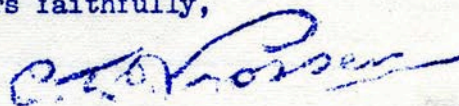
Mr. William Plomer is coming to join us in the Service, and will read a Lesson. We also hope to prevail on him to give a reading from Kilvert's Diary after tea.

A nice climax to the day can be enjoyed by all who visit BROBURY HOUSE GARDENS ---- just across Bredwardine bridge --- Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Praill are very kindly opening them during the afternoon in aid of Bredwardine Church Funds (admission 2/-) and are keeping open until 7.30 p.m. to enable us to visit them after tea. The special features of these gardens are large collections of Geraniums, Roses, Fuchsias, Begonias - and general landscape, together with a collection of approximately eighty aviaries containing Parakeets, Love-birds, Cockatoos and Parrots.

Please note the important postscript to this letter - regarding the PARKING ARRANGEMENTS at Bredwardine.

All those who have not paid their current subscription are asked to remit it to our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. D. Worsey at 1 Harold Street, Hereford (or to me at the above address) as soon as you conveniently can.

Yours faithfully,



Hon. Sec. The Kilvert Society.

No cars can be parked on the roadsides at Bredwardine, and space up the church approach is limited: arrangements have therefore been made to use the "Castle Green" as a car park (for this we have to thank Mr. G. H. Rea of the Town House, who farms the land) THERE IS AMPLE ROOM FOR VERY MANY CARS THERE. PLEASE PROCEED UP THE CHURCH APPROACH, AND THEN CARRY ON UP THE LANE TO THE RIGHT, AND SO INTO THE "CASTLE GREEN".

ALL THOSE VISITING BROBURY HOUSE GARDENS ARE SPECIALLY REQUESTED TO LEAVE THEIR CARS IN THIS CAR PARK, AND WALK THE SHORT DISTANCE TO THE GARDENS -- THERE IS NO ROOM FOR CARS AT BROBURY HOUSE.

Since the previous "Notes and News" went out (in mid-April) we have lost one of our Clyro members. For the funeral took place at Clyro on Whit-Monday of Mr. R. A. Anthony, who died at his home in Clyro village at the age of 82 years. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anthony who are frequently mentioned in Kilvert's Diary. He was an estate agent for Clyro Court for over 50 years; a staunch churchman - he had been Vicar's warden for over 35 years - a chorister since boyhood, bellringer, school manager, and active in many other village interests. A message of sympathy was sent to the family, from all of us of the Kilvert Society.

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The numbers of our members in the London area grow each year, and there are now around 40 living in London itself or within easy distance of it. During the past 2 years or so several have had thoughts of trying to arrange a "get-together" and this has now happened. On May 12th there was a gathering of 13 from the London area at the house of members living in Chelsea. I hear that they had a splendid evening, discussing Kilvert and many other things. They all signed a greetingscard, which was sent to me as a souvenir of the occasion - and I see that no less than 10 out of the 13 present are known to me, we having met at the Annual Service or when they were this way visiting the "Kilvert Country". They tell me that they hope to arrange another such meeting in October. Any member living in the London area and who feels interested in these "get-togethers" should get in touch with Mrs. Hawton at Burbank, Barnet Lane, Elstree, Herts.

I understand that the Birmingham area members are thinking of something similar: they may even have had their first meeting by now. I had hoped for further news from Birmingham and the address of the organiser before these notes were sent for duplicating, but none has come. I therefore suggest that Birmingham members get in touch with Mr. E. F. Jelfs at 8 Clarence Road, Birmingham 13 and ask for information on this matter.

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Mr. Plomer tells me that the abridged edition of "Kilvert's Diary" is soon to be published as a "paper-back" by Jonathan Cape Ltd. The price will be 13/6 and it is due to be published on 3rd September. Just right for members and their friends to buy as Christmas presents!!

Thinking of books reminds me of several that I have read lately that will undoubtedly appeal to many members --- in fact, some of them have in the first place been recommended to me by members. Two books by Dorothea Eastwood deal with the Usk valley and the surrounding areas; they are "River Diary" and "Valleys of Springs" and are perhaps best read in that order. Then there is "Peacocks in Paradise" by Elisabeth Inglis-Jones, the story of the Johnes family of Hafod in Cardiganshire, just over the Radnorshire border: quite a few members have visited the area after reading this book. Those who want to know more of Father Ignatius of Capel-y-Ffin can read "The Enthusiast" by Arthur Calder-Marshall: he quotes "Kilvert's Diary" and particularly recalls

Kilvert's visit to the Monastery on 5th April 1870, and again on 2nd September in the same year. Kilvert is now looked upon as the best source of information on the building of the Monastery, his eye-witness accounts are probably the only ones now existing.

Finally, still thinking of books, here are the titles of a few that I recommend to members who wish to read about the Welsh borderland, each of them touch on the "Kilvert Country" and the first-named has a chapter titled "Kilvert of Clyro" with photographs of both Francis Kilvert and his wife.

"The Southern Marches" by H. J. Massingham
"Welsh Border Country" by P. Thoresby Jones.
"Coming down the Wye" by Robert Gibbins.
"Roaming down the Wye" by W. H. Potts.
"Quietest under the Sun" by John Wood
and the two books by local authors
"Up the Claerwen" by Sid Wright.
"Radnorshire" by W. H. Howse.

There are no doubt many more, and I would be glad to be told of any that would be of interest to our members.

The number of "Country Life" dated May 21st contains an excellent article - illustrated - on John Clare, described as "the true poet of the countryside" born near Peterborough in Northamptonshire in 1793; he died in May 1864. Mr. William Plomer reminds me that one of our members is a direct descendant of John Clare..... Miss Clare Hills, who lives in Gloucestershire but works in London. She was one of the 13 at the recent "get-together" Mr. Plomer says that "John Clare had such a wonderful knowledge of country things and such a feeling for them that if Kilvert had ever read Clare he would have much admired him". The same number of "Country Life" reviews the new edition of "The Shepherds Calender" by John Clare, edited by Eric Robinson and Geoffrey Summerfield. Also reviewed is William Plomer's edited diary of Richard Rumbold - "A Message in Code" and refers to him as "a great diarist". I also see that the "Observer" uses the word "brilliant" and the "Times" speaks of "high-spirited gallantry" and of his "warm and engaging character".

Recently there have been some interesting letters from one of the Churchwardens of Southstoke (near Bath). He is doing a survey of that parish and sought information about a tomb in the churchyard at Southstoke. It is of Elizabeth Kilvert, wife of Francis Kilvert of Bath. She died in 1821 aged 87. Thus, she was born in 1734. I sent him a copy of the Genealogical Tree of the Rev. Francis Kilvert. The first Kilvert mentioned on that is Francis Kilvert of Condover (Shropshire) and later of Bath, born in 1757 and died in 1817. His wife was Anna Parsons who was born in 1764. Their son Robert was the father of the Diarist. Thus, the mystery of the Elizabeth Kilvert buried in Southstoke churchyard so far remains unsolved. Through this correspondence we have gained another member, for this gentleman from Southstoke has joined the K.S. and hopes before long to visit Bredwardine and Clyro etc.

He mentions the Francis Kilvert (brother of Robert Kilvert and therefore the "Uncle Frank" of the Diarist) who lived for a long time at Claverton Lodge, Bathwick Hill, and to whom there is a very handsome brass memorial on the west wall of St. Mary's. Bathwick near Bath. It was this same Rev. Francis Kilvert who wrote the "Life of Bishop Hurd of Worcester" and by doing this so offended Maria Kilvert that she left the bulk of her fortune to charity (see page 265 onwards of Vol. 1.)

Now, among the various photographs and drawings etc. that came from Uley was a sketchbook full of drawings, done in the early part of last century by the Rev. E. Kilvert (another uncle of the Diarist) who died in 1867 at the age of 60, without issue. There are also large books of drawings and paintings by the same Edward Kilvert, of scenes in Wales, in England, and overseas. But it is his small book of sketches that so interests folk around Bath - for the sketch of Southstoke Church shews it before the extensive restoration of 1845. Bath Municipal Library are making copies of a number of the sketches.

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Some notes on Bredwardine may be appreciated by members not very familiar with it and who may be going there on Sunday week. The memorial seat and the tomb of Francis Kilvert (now well restored by his niece - Mrs. Essex Hope) will be easily seen; and not far from the latter is the little white cross on the grave of "little Davie"; the shepherd's little boy who Kilvert buried on Christmas Day 1878, restored and with added base, by members in 1962. Mrs. Kilvert was buried in the far corner of the new burial ground - across the lane from the old churchyard. Similar crosses are on each grave. Notice the carving above the blocked up North doorway; page 348 of Vol. 3 tells us how Kilvert shewed his Father round the church and vicarage and how he admired the carving over the Devil's Door (the North door). Then, on page 393 we read of Miss Newton giving a new wire bird door for the main entrance - is this the one still there? Between the church and the bridge is the Old Court - the home of one of the churchwardens in Kilvert's time, Mr. Stokes. One of our members today, Mr. T. Stokes of Vowchurch, Hfds., is a direct descendant and will most likely be at Bredwardine on the 28th. We read on p. 429-450 of the Wye in flood and Mr. Stokes riding to see how the people in the toll-house were fareing: it is still there, very near to the bridge. Over the bridge we are in Brobury, and just ahead is Brobury House, where the beautiful gardens are to be opened for our visit. This house was not built until shortly after Kilvert's death, so we find no mention of it in the Diary. It was built for the Giles family. (Dr. Giles of nearby Staunton-on-Wye was Kilvert's family doctor). Among the papers of the K.S. is a letter written to Mr. Wright in 1949 by Miss G. Broome-Giles from Folkestone. In it are several tales and anecdotes from her family when they lived at Brobury House, the best perhaps being of how her Father could not get permission to bring water in pipes over the bridge from the hill to Brobury House, but got his men to dig all night and lay the pipes over the bridge: by morning all was finished and no more was heard of it!! Visitors to Bredwardine church often ask the whereabouts of Crafta Webb where Kilvert went so often to hold his "cottage lectures" - as he called his weekly service for the many people who then lived on Bredwardine Hill. Then there was a hamlet at Crafty Webb, today only one cottage and ruins of others. It is more than a mile up the lane which starts besides the "Red Lion", uphill all the way, much of it very steeply uphill. Up this same lane is the way to many other places

we read of Kilvert visiting ... Dolvach and Fine Street (both farms), Cae Perthy and the Old House and many others that are now no more, for the Hill up which Kilvert toiled so many times visiting his scattered flock now has but a fraction of the dwellings that were there in his day. Lastly - Brobury Church - a mile beyond Bredwardine bridge, now dis-used and forlorn, and beyond it the great red Scar Rocks above the Wye, leading to Monnington Walk - his route when walking over to his sister Thersie and her husband, the Rev. W. R. Smith, at Monnington Rectory.

I now hear that our latest member in the U.S.A. - the clergyman in California - has exchanged letters with our members Mr. and Mrs. E. Lloyd of Whitney-on-Wye. They are all keen botanists and our American member raised queries about the flowers in Kilvert's Diary that I could not answer. The obvious solution was to put him in touch with our Whitney members -- with satisfactory results.

The date of the 1965 Service -- at CLYRO -- can now be announced. It is fixed for Sunday afternoon, 27th June, and the special preacher is to be the Rt. Rev. N. W. Newnham Davis (an Assistant Bishop of London). He has been a member of the Kilvert Society for many years, and preached at Clyro in 1958, when he was Assistant Bishop of Coventry. Most members will realise that this will be a Centenary Service, for Kilvert first went to Clyro in 1865. Arrangements have been finalised this year so that the utmost notice can be given, for many members intend making their holiday arrangements etc. for next year such that they will be able to attend this special event. We shall undoubtedly see a very large gathering at Clyro in 1965.

A member living near Bristol has recently sent me a cutting out of a local newspaper. It is an advertisement of the auction sale (on July 8th - at the Kings Head, Chippenham) of The Old Rectory, Langley Burrell ... described as "An impressive stone built early Georgian house, set back from the Chippenham-Swindon road and standing in about 11 acres, of gardens and grounds, 7 bedrooms" And so Kilvert's old home in Wiltshire will pass out of the keeping of the Church just as his own home at Bredwardine did a few years ago. In 1955 a Hereford party (two coaches full) called there when we visited the Chippenham district and were most kindly received by the Rev. Bridger.

The Wyndowe family are closely linked with the Kilverts, for Walter Coleman (the Uncle of the Diarist - his mother's brother) had married Annie Wyndowe (in 1859), and six years later Emily Kilvert married her brother - Samuel Jardine Wyndowe, M.D. (these were the parents of "the Monk")

The furthest back that we know of the Wyndowe family is that they were of Nether Lypiatt near Stroud in Gloucestershire, and then of Chosen Hall, Churchdown (mid-way between Gloucester and Cheltenham). It seems that Chosen Hall was demolished long ago, but the old church of Churchdown is on top of Chosen Hill, and on its walls are several tablets to the Wyndowe family. Members who find themselves near Churchdown may like to climb the hill and get the excellent view and at the same time inspect the tablets of the Wyndowe family -- I intend doing this next time we visit friends in that area.