

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wyecroft,
23 Broomy Hill,
Hereford.

(Phone: 2094.)

12th June, 1967.

Dear Member,

The first item of this newsletter must be about the resignation of our President (Mrs. L.R.K. Wright) and the appointment of her successor (the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths) ---- further details will be found under "Annual General Meeting & Social Evening" on a following page.

Now the details of the ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE.

This year it is to be at LLANBEDR-PAINSCASTLE in RADNORSHIRE. This is the CHURCH of the Rev. John Price (the "Solitary" of Llanbedr, about whom there are several references in the pages that follow.) It will be on SUNDAY the 25th of JUNE, at 3-15 p.m. and will be conducted by the Rev. Brian James, B.A., F.C.A., the Vicar of Llanbedr-Painscastle. He is a member of the Kilvert Society.

The ADDRESS will be given by the Rev. Colin Cuttall, who is Vicar of All-Hallows-by-the-Tower (the Toc.H. Church). He is one of our London members.

The lessons will be read by Ald. Tudor Watkins, the Member of Parliament for the Brecon & Radnor Division; he is a founder-member and a Vice-President of the Society and by Mr. H.T. Lloyd, who is a direct descendant of the Lloyds of Wernewydd (see notes on page 4); he is also a founder-member of the Society and serves on the Committee.

The Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths will also take part in the SERVICE---with an Act of Remembrance.

A motor-coach (Yeomans Motors) - or two coaches if necessary - will leave from near Hereford Town Hall in St. Owen Street at 1.30 p.m. (PROMPT).

The fare will be 6/- each; booking is at Wyeval Ltd., Photographic Dealers, Bridge Street, Hereford, or by post with the Hon. Secretary.

The latest date for booking must be Tuesday the 20th June, but if members would book during the previous week this would be very helpful, AS WOULD PAYMENT AT THE TIME OF BOOKING.

The route will be direct to Clyro via Whitecross, Letton and Whitney-on-Wye and then over to Painscastle (about 26 miles from Hereford to Llanbedr Church). The return will either be by exactly the same route or back via Hay and Bredwardine, according to weather and circumstances - about the same distance either way.

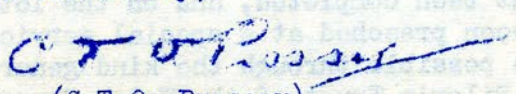
TEA IS BEING PROVIDED - THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF LOCAL PEOPLE - IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SERVICE. ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR THIS TO BE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE CHURCH. ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE DAY WILL GIVE FURTHER DETAILS.

THERE IS AMPLE PARKING SPACE NEAR LLANBEDR CHURCH - AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR EXTRA SPACE. NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE NOTICES RE PARKING.

A large congregation is expected, and there will be the usual microphones and loudspeakers for any overflow congregation. THE CHURCH WILL HOLD A LARGE NUMBER OF EXTRA CHAIRS TO AUGMENT THE SEATING which is normally a little less than 200.

Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions are reminded that they are now due, and are asked to remit them without delay to our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J.D. Worsey at 1 Harold Street, Hereford. AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SUBSCRIPTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS IS ENCLOSED. BY SENDING ONE OF THESE TO EVERY MEMBER WE HOPE TO CLARIFY SEVERAL POINTS.

Yours faithfully,


(C.T.O. Prosser)

Hon. Sec. The Kilvert Society.

Some details re Llanbedr-Painscastle and routes to it are on the next page.

Painscastle can be approached from several directions --- from Hay and also from Hereford and South Herefordshire via Clyro; from the Kington, Presteigne and Knighton areas through Newchurch (Rads); from the Builth Wells area and from around Brecon via Erwood; from Leominster and most of North Herefordshire through Kington etc. or via Clyro.

Roads in that corner of Radnorshire which were so narrow and with such bad corners have in the last few years been widened and straightened to such an extent that it is not easy to remember them as they used to be.

Llanbedr Church is beautifully situated, and away behind it is Llanbedr Hill below which is the site of the "Cabin" of the "Solitary" where Francis Kilvert and his friend the Rev. Thomas Williams found him that day in 1872 (see Vol. 2, pages 223-231). Further over are the Rocks of Pen Cwm, or Blaen Cwm, today often referred to as the Rocks of Pen Bedw, for the house of Pen Cwm - in which the "Solitary" formerly lived, has long since sunk into a heap of stones and a few beams, and the nearest habitation to the Rocks is the farm of Pen Bedw. Not far away is the lake known as Llanbychllyn; and just above Llanbedr Church is the Coed y Garth (a wooded hill). ALL THESE PLACES FIGURE IN KILVERT'S DIARY, AND IT IS HOPEFUL THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE (WEATHER PERMITTING) AFTER TEA TO TAKE SOME SMALL PARTIES BY CAR OR ON FOOT TO SEE SOME OF THEM.

WE ARE ALSO HOPEFUL THAT Dr. WILLIAM PLOMER WILL BE ABLE TO GET AWAY FROM ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL (SUFFOLK) IN TIME TO BE WITH US AT LLANBEDR. He participates in it each year. Benjamin Britten's new work is being performed there this time. Most members surely know that Dr. Plomer writes the librettos for him. Aldeburgh Festival does not end until June 23rd, so we can but be hopeful. PERHAPS WE SHALL BE TREATED TO ANOTHER READING FROM THE DIARY BY Dr. PLOMER AT LLANBEDR? HE WILL BE WITH US ON JUNE 25th IF POSSIBLE, OF THAT I FEEL SURE.

The following has been prepared for this newsletter by the Vicar of Llanbedr-Painscastle - the Rev. Brian James, B.A., F.C.A. - he has titled it "An introduction and guide to Llanbedr Church, Painscastle". It will be found to be most interesting and very helpful:

The village of Painscastle, a little over four miles from Clyro, nestles in the centre of the Radnorshire hills of Llanbedr, Bryngwyn, the Begwns and Clyro. Francis Kilvert, when he was Curate of Clyro often walked to Painscastle - and further - and visited the Vicar of Llanbedr and the Parish Church of the Painscastle District.

To find Llanbedr Church from the village of Painscastle ----- take the road sign-posted "Erwood", pass the old school, and down the delightful valley of the Bach Howey or Bachwy (meaning "Little Wye"). Llanbedr Hill on the right hand is the first of the many red hills of Radnorshire. On the left are the hills of Llandewi-Fach and the Begwns. Both are favourite spots in season with mushroom and winberry pickers. It is hard to believe as one travels down the wide road that most of the parishioners well remember the days, little more than twenty years ago, when such roads were very rough tracks and only three or four private cars were in the district, with a twice weekly bus service to Hay. The Bach Howey rises partly in Rhosgoch (Red Bog) and partly in the hills to the north-west of it; the two streams joining near the old Rhosgoch Mill. It flows due west through the parish to the Wye below Craig Pwll Du waterfall. Two miles from the village, at the end of the straight road, there is the large farm of Llandevirion and the right turn up the short hill will bring us to the Church, with Llanbedr Hall on the right. The Churchyard is almost circular in shape, with no burials on the north side of the Church, a very old custom in Radnorshire. The grave of the Reverend John Price is facing the top of the path before one turns right into the Church. He was buried on the 23rd of March 1895 at the age of 85 years, having been thirty-six years Vicar of Llanbedr-Painscastle. Those who officiated at his funeral were the Reverend Thomas Williams, Rural Dean, and the Reverend John Ricketts, and Adolphus Hackman. The Church, which is dedicated to St. Peter (Llan=Church; Bedr=Peter.) is largely 13th Century with a 15th Century Chancel; probably founded as part of the Norman conquest. The font is Norman and the water stoup at the entrance is 13th Century. The whole Church was well restored, retaining its pre-restoration characteristics, in 1885, by the kind generosity of the Mynors family of Aberedw and Evancoyd, and parishioners. A further major restoration has just been completed, and on the 16th April this year the Lord Bishop of Swansea & Brecon preached at a special service of thanksgiving for its renovation. This was made possible through the kind generosity of the Radnorshire County Council, the Pilgrim Trust of the Welsh Churches Committee and the wonderful efforts of the parishioners to raise a large sum of money in a parish where the total population is under two hundred. Francis Kilvert suggests that the Reverend

John Price could be regarded as an early Christian saint who had come into the scene 1500 years after his due time. There are still several people in the parish who have personal recollections of him in their childhood days. A wonderful couple, both nearly 95, Mr. and Mrs Price of Llanbach Hovey, living not far from the church, can vividly recollect the Reverend John Price as of small stature, a perfect gentleman, and of a very kindly disposition.

"NOTES and NEWS"--by the Hon. Secretary-----June 1967.

The long-promised booklet on the Reverend John Price, M.A. (the "Solitary" of Llanbedr) is right now in the last stages of production, and if nothing goes wrong at the last moment, will be available in quantity by the time that June 25th comes round. It will be bigger than at first anticipated, as it will also have in it "Radnorshire Legends and Superstitions" compiled by Kilvert's niece Essex Smith (Mrs. Hope) from some writings of her uncle; this she did in 1921. There is also a small extract from one of the original notebooks of Francis Kilvert hitherto unpublished. This concerns a walk to the waterfall Craig Pwll Du; and is quite a contrast to the earlier visit to the same fall that is part of "Legends and Superstitions". This far bigger booklet will, of course, cost more than was envisaged for the smaller one; the exact price has not yet been worked out, but it will not exceed 5/-. If all goes well they will be available to members and friends during the evening of June 25th at Llanbedr.

Among the 100 and more photographs of people, places, and scenes that link up with Kilvert's Diary and which are all available from 23 Broome Hill, Hereford, are photographs of Llanbedr Church; of the memorial cross on the grave of the Rev. John Price; of the Rocks of Pen Cwm; of the long demolished house of Pen Cwm - once the abode of "the Solitary"; and of a party of K.S. members at the site of his "cabin". The range of these photographs covers much of what we read in the Diary that concerns Radnorshire, Herefordshire and Wiltshire, and is being added to all the time. Lists are available - please write for one. These photographs would make excellent Christmas cards and thought is being given to this idea (for which we have to thank Dr. Plomer.) Would those who would take some please write to me and give an indication of how many they might require: price would probably have to be 2/- each but it might be possible to get this down to about 1/6. Results can be given in the October newsletter, with further details if the idea is adopted.

The Service at Llanbedr-Paincastle on the 25th of this month will be exactly SIX YEARS after that memorable service at Bryngwyn. For it was on the 25th of June 1961 that the Very Rev. Hedley Burrows preached there just before he retired from being Dean of Hereford, and, after the service - in bright sunshine on that lovely summer's day - received from the President of the Society (Mrs. Wright), on the green just outside the churchyard walls, the album of coloured photographs of the "Kilvert Country" for which members had subscribed as a little parting gift. Many who were at Bryngwyn that day will be at Llanbedr this year and will vividly remember that scene.

The Rev. Brian James - who conducts the SERVICE at Llanbedr on June 25th - has FOUR churches in his care..... Bryngwyn, Newchurch and Llanbedr-Paincastle and the little church of Llandewi-Fach, tucked away under the Begyns, only a mile from Llanbedr "as the crow flies", but a hill between and a long long way round by road. The Rectory is at Rhosgoch, about as centrally situated for all four as can be.

It is nice to have two founder-members reading the lessons at Llanbedr-Paincastle. Mr. Tudor Watkins has attended (with Mrs Watkins) so very many of these Annual Commemoration Services - on both sides of the border, and read a lesson on several occasions. They live in Brecon, and their names are often in the local newspaper in connection with the Baptist Church there. Last month in my "Daily Telegraph" I noticed that a news item about him ended with a description of the varied nature of the two counties he represents in Parliament and the words "where he is warmly regarded by members of all parties - as he is at Westminster". He is, of course, an Alderman of Breconshire County Council and is greatly interested in the Brecon Beacons Mountain Centre, opened only a year ago and already has had over 100,000 people visit it. Beautifully situated a few miles out of Brecon with wonderful views and much information and interest I can recommend it as a "must" to all on holiday in the district and also to we who live in Herefordshire and neighbouring counties.

Mr. H.T. Lloyd - who reads the other lesson - is a Lloyd of Wernewydd; a direct descendant of Kilvert's "dear Mrs Lloyd of Wernewydd", as he refers to her on page 334 of the second volume of the Diary when he called there on March 10th 1873 and stayed to tea. He had called there several times previously, one occasion being on March 26th 1872 (page 160 in the second volume) when he also records a kindly welcome and having tea. The Lloyd family have not been at Wernewydd for a good many years, but members of it are farming in Painscastle today. Mr. H.T. Lloyd lives a few miles out of Hereford, and we could think of no-one more fitting to take part in the Kilvert Commemoration Service at Llanbedr-Painscastle.

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PAINSCASTLE and THE DROVERS ROADS

Visitors to the little village of Painscastle - and those who merely pass through it - and who know nothing of the days of the drovers roads will find it hard to believe that Painscastle was once a place of importance and the focal point of drovers roads in that area and that it had a number of inns and several shoeing forges. All this persisted right through the 18th century and for much of the 19th century too. For it was not until the railways spread into and across the Welsh borderland that the use of the drovers roads declined, and at first the railways merely curtailed the length of the journeys that cattle were driven, so that instead of then being driven all the way to London (and other places) they were only driven to Kington, or to Hereford, and put on the railway there. The drovers roads were special roads for the use of cattle in the main, but no doubt other animals too. They went over the hills and away from the highways and thus avoided the many toll gates and the traffic of those highways. Many of those old drovers roads can be traced today, some have been turned into roads in use now, as, for instance, that leading from Painscastle in an easterly direction, down over the Bach Howey and then uphill past the turning into Wern Fawr and on across the hills and eventually down to the old Rhydspence Inn (one of the old inns used by the drovers in days of old). Kilvert tells us something of this road on page 122 of Volume 1; he has looked in at ruined Whitchall where (he writes) the Quarterly Dances were held and he speculates as to how when the young folk were dancing or making love behind the door their elders were across the way at the "Black Ox" with pipe and mug of beer or cider; and he also speculates on the probable site of that old inn on the drovers road across Clyro Hill "which was the house of call for the drovers of the great herds of black cattle from Shire Carmarthen and Cardigan on their way to England."

There are books to be read on the subject of these drovers and the drovers roads, and it is a fascinating subject. A somewhat light-hearted approach to it can be got by reading "The Drovers Highway" by Roy Saunders (Oldbourne); this is fiction but there is very much hard fact behind the fiction; and it deals with the very part of the country that I am now writing about. Much of my scanty knowledge of the subject has been gleaned from the two lectures on drovers roads that I have heard, given by Professor E.G. Bowen of Aberystwyth University. He really makes his subject "live" and rivets the attention of his listeners. The Welsh black cattle were driven sometimes to London, and sometimes to Northamptonshire to be fattened up before being slaughtered - it can now be seen how Northampton became a centre of the boot and shoe trade. The drovers were not the rough types that most folk today associate with cattle drovers; they were men of substance and integrity - dealers as well as drovers. People living in Wales who wanted to send money to London would send it by these drovers, for their numbers were to a great extent a protection against highwaymen, and they would also bring money on their return journey. Out of this came some of the first banks in West Wales, for a Carmarthenshire drover thought how foolish it was to carry money in both directions and set up the "Black Ox Bank" in Llandilo and in Llandovery; he prospered and in due course became High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire. Eventually these banks (they spread beyond these two towns) became absorbed by Lloyds, but for many years a black ox appeared on the cheques of Lloyds Bank in those towns and this persisted until fairly recent times. The premises of Lloyds Bank in Llandovery are still those of the original Black Ox Bank. Professor Bowen in his lectures not only deals seriously with the subject of drovers and drovers roads but also paints a picture of the drovers returning from London to Wales with the news of the battle of Trafalgar and the death of Nelson and such like events, or with the patterns of the latest fashions and the drover's wife setting the village dressmaker to work so that when she attended chapel the following Sunday she would be the envy of all eyes!!! If walls could speak Painscastle could surely tell some tales!!!

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ASHBROOK STILL UNSOLD

In the April newsletter I drew members' attention to the fact that ASHBROOK in CLYRO (Kilvert's "lodgings") was up for sale; and pointed out that we very much hoped that someone would buy it who would allow the Society to rent one room - at a modest rental - in which we could establish a "Kilvert Museum". I understand that it is as yet unsold; all enquiries should be made to Mr. J.B. Jones, Ashbrook, Clyro, via Hereford.

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING--and SOCIAL EVENING.

This was held on Friday the 21st April, in Hereford as usual, with getting on for 100 members present. A number of these had come considerable distances, the furthest being from beyond Bristol, and a member from Buckinghamshire; others were from Birmingham and from Worcester--beside the many from Herefordshire and beyond its borders. The main part of the business section of the evening was the election of a new President. Mrs. Wright's letter of resignation was read and received with much regret and at the same time understanding and sympathy with her infirmities was expressed, and it was agreed that a message of deep thanks should be sent to her. She has been President since the death of her husband...Mr. Sid Wright...in 1950. There was only one nomination for a successor to Mrs Wright, and the Rev. D. J. Lane Griffiths was unanimously elected President. The proposition that Mrs Wright should be made President Emeritus was made by the Dean of Hereford (the Very Rev. R.P. Price) and was warmly received and carried unanimously. To the list of Vice-Presidents the names of Commander Kyrle Pope, R.N. of Horne House, Much Marcle, Herefordshire and of Mr E.F. Jelfs of Birmingham were added; Mr. Jelfs is a most enthusiastic member of the Society, has made many journeys to this area to attend many varied functions of the Society (he rarely misses anything) and is the organiser of the gatherings of the Birmingham and District members. Commander Kyrle Pope is a son of Kilvert's friend the Rev. Andrew Pope, who was Curate of Cusop at the same time that Kilvert was Curate of Clyro. Kilvert was best man at the wedding of Mr Pope to Miss Money Kyrle (see pages 77-78 in the third volume for an excellent account of the wedding) and we have copies of the wedding party on the steps of Horne House. The Pope's first home was the Vicarage at Preston-on-Wye, and after other incumbencies in the Hereford Diocese the Rev. Andrew Pope became Rector of Langley Burrell, where he remained for a considerable time and then retired to Ross-on-Wye. The newly elected President read extracts from Kilvert's Diary relating to walks to Llanthony and Capel-y-Ffin and it was decided to visit these places during May. Other speakers were the Rev. C.G. Challenger of Almeley (Hfds.) and Mrs Shetliffe of Hereford, who read what Commander Kyrle-Pope (her cousin) would have told us had a prior engagement not prevented him attending. We were all most pleased to see the Dean of Hereford amongst us again and to be addressed by him. Refreshments - served by a band of lady members - were partaken of mid-way through the evening and the final item was the film "Border County" kindly shown by committee-member Mr Godfrey Davies, a medley of local scenes with commentary by Harry Soan. So ended the 19th A.G.M. and Social Evening.

LLANTHONY and CAPEL-Y-FFIN

It is several years since the idea of a visit to these places was first considered but our enthusiasm was damped then by a refusal of the coach proprietors to go up the valley beyond Llanthony. Following this year's A.G.M. they were again approached; for in the interval there has been certain improvements to some sections of the road, but with the same result. Another firm accepted the booking, subject to our agreeing to have an older and narrower coach. This we did, and a coachload set off from Hereford, accompanied by several cars, on Thursday afternoon the 18th of May. At Llanthony Abbey more members joined the party, those who had come over the Gospel Pass from Hay, Clyro and Glasbury - among them two London members who were staying in Clyro. After an inspection of the Abbey ruins, the parish church, and a walk to the site of the house of Walter Savage Landor there was tea (in two sittings) at the Abbey Hotel - not in the "upper room" in which Kilvert and his friends had a meal on June 25th 1870 (Vol. 1, p.80) but in the fine old dining room of the Hotel. The slow journey on up the valley for some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Capel-y-Ffin was then started and we were most fortunate that we met nothing on that stretch of very narrow road with hedges brushing the coach on either side. In the churchyard of the tiny church at Capel-y-Ffin (chapel on the boundary - for here Monmouthshire and Breconshire meet, with Herefordshire but a mile away at the top of the eastern ridge of the Black Mountains) the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths read extracts from the Diary, as he did at the Monastery later on - and had done at Llanthony earlier. Kilvert's description of the little church "squatting like a stout grey owl among its seven black yews" fits it as well today as in 1870, and across the way is the farmhouse by the Honddu stream where his eye was taken by the "comely girl with fair hair, washing at a tub in the sunshine, up to the elbows in soapsuds". Presently the party moved on up to the Monastery where we were met by Mr. W.I. Davies, the Secretary of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust and we soon saw how much has been done: the grave of Father Ignatius is clear of rubble (as is most of the floor of the Monastery Church) and much of the unsafe upper parts of the walls have been removed. Here the whole party gathered round the tomb of Father Ignatius and - led by the President - sang "The Lord's my shepherd", before proceeding into the Monastery itself - here Mr Davies (he and his family live there) had a most interesting display of relics, relating to Father Ignatius and the Monastery in its

heyday, laid out for our inspection. This "afternoon out" in the Black Mountains was voted by everyone as a most enjoyable one. The fact that we were favoured with the most perfect weather - bright sunshine and excellent visibility - contributed very much towards the success of the expedition, and even on the homeward run, quite late in the evening, these good conditions persisted and the distant view of the mountains as we neared Hereford was quite remarkable.

Here are the Diary references for anyone who likes to look them up. Kilvert's account of the building of the Monastery at Capel-y-Ffin is now looked on as the only eye-witness account of this that we have today.

In the abridged edition: Pages 20 to 23, 47 & 48, 71, 78. (Llanthony.)

21, 54, 69 to 73 (Capel-y-Ffin)

In the three volumes (covering both places) 51 to 54, 76 to 82, 165, 166, 176, 219 to 225, 234 .. in Vol. 1. 235 to 237 in Vol. 2 and in Vol. 3 pages 235 and 343.

"The Enthusiast" by Arthur Calder Marshall (Faber) is also well worth reading.

RHOSGOCH SCHOOL - CHILDREN'S ESSAY COMPETITION.

This will be the third year of the Annual Essay Competition for the schoolchildren of the village in which the Kilvert Commemoration Service is being held. Llanbedr-Paincastle now has no school, for Paincastle school was closed, as were several others in the neighbourhood when the new Rhosgoch County Primary School was opened a few years ago, to serve the area of the closed schools. It is about a mile and a half from Paincastle village, modern buildings near the old Rhosgoch Mill. The Headmaster (Mr. T. Murray) set the children on to writing little essays which were to have a bearing on Kilvert's Diary. I believe the children mostly wrote about Llanbedr Church and the Rev. John Price. At the present moment they are being judged by Mr. D.J.H. Lewis, the Headmaster of Llandefalle Primary School - in Breconshire. There will be book-tokens prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, and we hope that it will be possible for the winners to come along to Llanbedr after the service on June 25th - after tea to be precise - and we will ask Dr William Plomer to give them their prizes... for since starting these notes I have heard that he IS coming, and will give a reading.

We must congratulate Mr D.J.H. Lewis of Llandefalle School --- he lives in Llyswn, a pretty village on the banks of the Wye which has now won the "Best Kept Village in Breconshire Competition" for the third year in succession, and a seat has recently been presented to the village to commemorate their success. A number of distinguished guests were present and the event was voted as a memorable occasion in the history of Llyswn. Mr Lewis is Chairman of Llyswn Parish Meeting. Both he and Mrs. Lewis have been members of the Kilvert Society for a number of years and are among those who have at different times made the journey from Llyswn to attend functions of the Society.

Congratulations to another member of the Kilvert Society, too - this time to Mr James Evans of Killay, Swansea. He is a well known grocer in that district and has just been appointed President of the Swansea Grocers Association. Mr Evans' home town is Hay-on-Wye, where he went to school before moving on to Hampton Grammar School at Glasbury. Mr and Mrs Evans are among those who have made some of the longest journeys to attend meetings and services arranged by the Kilvert Society. We shall hope to see them at Llanbedr-Paincastle on the 25th.

LLANIGON CHURCH. Many members will vividly remember the Kilvert Commemoration Service of July 12th 1959 at St. Eigon's Church at Llanigon in Breconshire---when the Lord Bishop of Swansea & Brecon (the Rt. Rev. J.J.A. Thomas, D.D.) preached and the lessons were read by the Member of Parliament (Alderman Tudor Watkins) and by the Rev. B.B. Humphreys of Lincoln (both founder-members of the Society). This was the church of the Thomas family of Llanthomas, for the site of Llanthomas is not far from the church, and most of that family lie in the churchyard - just beyond the east window. Not all who read the Diary realise that "Mr Thomas" was actually the Rev. W. Jones Thomas, and that he was Vicar of Llanigon.

We have recently been approached by the present Vicar of Llanigon (Canon K.V. Evans) regarding the urgent appeal that is now being made for £1,500 to save the church by re-roofing it. He says "failure to raise the money must result in its closure" and that "examination has revealed that it is now in a perilous condition". The Society is sending a £5 cheque immediately, and I have promised that these details shall be published in this newsletter so that any member who wishes to subscribe shall know where to send their donation. The address is - Canon K.V. Evans, The Vicarage, LLANIGON, via HEREFORD. Would any who decide to send a donation please indicate that they are members of the Kilvert Society?

OBITUARY

There was a whole page of these last time -- and now I have two more losses to announce. These I have only quite recently heard of, although they took place much earlier in the year.

Mrs E. Garlick of Leamington Spa - died very suddenly on February 21st; she had an illness a year or two ago and seemed to be making a slow but steady recovery. I had a very cheerful letter from her only a few months before her death; in this she had hopes of another visit to the "Kilvert Country" later on this year, but it was not to be. I am sorry that I never met her in person.

Mrs Margaret Hills of Rodborough Common, Stroud, Glos.

In the report of the talk given to the Cotteswold Field Club by the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths in last April's newsletter I mentioned that their President (Dr Hills) was unable to be present owing to the serious illness of Mrs Hills. It was not until someone sent me a copy of the Stroud newspaper for March 16th (and this was only very recently) did I know that Mrs Hills died just a week after that talk was given. I will quote a little of the long obituary notice in that paper. It says "Memories of the great days of the suffragette campaigns and the struggle for women's rights are recalled by the death on Sunday of Mrs Margaret Hills, wife of Dr H.W. Hills. She was 85 at the time of her death."...."Older Stroud readers will recall that in 1928 Mrs Hills became Stroud's first woman urban district councillor, emerging at the top of a list of 18 candidates for a single-list poll". It goes on to tell of her work for HOUSING and for SCHOOLS. The paper also tells of their golden wedding in 1964 and of how they were married at Hampstead (to which place Mrs Hills belonged) just two days after the outbreak of the war of 1914. The same evening Dr Hills reported to Aldershot and within a short time was in France with the first ambulance to be landed. There is much more - of his capture, and exchange for a German doctor. In 1922 they came to Stroud where Dr Hills was in practice for many years, retiring in 1958. Of Mrs Hills earlier days the paper says "she obtained a first class degree in English at Somerville College Oxford and in the early 1900's taught at a girls' school near Nottingham. Later she became a full time organiser for the women's suffrage movement and was a well known speaker in public in this role. Years later it was said of her that the emancipation of women was the golden key to a life of spice, variety and influence. Dr and Mrs Hills and Miss Clare Hills are all on the list of members of the Kilvert Society."

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One of the deaths announced in the April newsletter was of 93 year old Mrs M.J. Palmer of Leominster, Herefordshire, a founder member of the Society. A note was then made that she once lived at Whitehall on Clyro Hill and that she was married at Hardwick Church near Hay. This is not quite correct. Mr and Mrs T.A. Palmer of Ludlow (they have just joined the Society) now tell me that Mrs Palmer was married at Clifford Church, and that it is her parents who are buried in the churchyard at Hardwick, which she visited after the Brodwardine Kilvert Service of 1956. But the most interesting thing that Mr Palmer told me about his mother is that she was born at Cwmpelved (Cwmbyllfa on the ordnance maps of Clyro Hill) and that her parents were married by Kilvert at Clyro Church on July 5th 1871. We can read of Kilvert's visit to the young married couple (Mr and Mrs Edward Morgan) on page 379 of Volume 1. How interesting, but how I wish I had known all this years ago when Mrs Palmer could perhaps have told me much more.

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COMMENTS FROM CARMARTHEN

Last year our first Carmarthenshire member joined the Society (we now have members in most Welsh counties-many in some of them)... this lady lives not far out of Carmarthen town and from time to time she writes articles for the St. David's Diocesan Gazette. She has been so impressed with Kilvert's Diary that in a recent number she has almost a page and a half about it. This article indicates that our member has read the Diary with care, and that she enjoyed it; she dwells on several different aspects of Kilvert's writings and particularly on his power of conveying the physical qualities of everything he describes, for example "a group of people were sitting among the graves, and one woman was dressing a green grave with scarlet and white flowers near one of the vast black yews". After several such examples she ends them with a very down-to-earth story of Kilvert's which came out of his efforts to teach Scripture to the children of Clyro school. The article concludes with the hope that readers of it will wish to know more, and that from it the Society will get more members from West Wales. It is likely that future numbers of the St. David's Diocesan Gazette will have further articles on Kilvert's Diary from the pen of our Carmarthen member.

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A CONTRIBUTION FROM WILTSHIRE.....THE OLD MANSOLEUM.

A little while after last July's service at Langley Burrell the total of the Chippenham district membership was increased to 23 by the joining of two residents of Kington Langley. There has been some most interesting correspondence from them and it is obvious that they are real Kilvert enthusiasts. The splendid article that follows has come from them, following a request from me for a contribution; it is good to get such interesting "news from Wiltshire". It could be very helpful to a member visiting the area.

When we came to Kington Langley on our marriage in 1931 Francis Kilvert was of course unknown to literature, and the appearance of his father's name as one of the executors of Walter Coleman's will in our title deeds meant little to us. As we were wondering what to call the house we noticed that local material arriving for the builders was always addressed "Old Chapel Field". This showed that the official name of the plot on the schedule, Chapel Ground, embodied a still living tradition, so we decided to perpetuate it in the name of the house, though no-one could tell us more than we already knew - that one of the old squires had been buried there. A few courses of complete length of wall, from coign to coign, still borders the property on the south side.

When Kilvert's Diary appeared we bought it volume by volume and read it greedily and with delight. What was our excitement to find the references to the "old mansoleum" 1874) and "the site of the old chapel and burying place where my great grandfather was laid to rest" (1876). "Mansoleum"- "site" ?; had the chapel been demolished between 1874 and 1876 ? More than ever we wish we had access to the unpublished part of the diary which to Wiltshire ears seemed to have proportionately too much to say about Clyro! As we know, it is now too late, and despite extensive research all we have been able to establish with certainty so far is that the tithe map of 1842 shows the small chapel standing in the midst of its plantation and walled enclosure at the corner, facing what Kilvert calls the "Happy Valley". Kilvert almost invariably refers to Kington Langley as Langley Fitzurse, calling his own parish of Langley Burrell simply "Langley". His visits to Langley Fitzurse were mainly to the Colemans, his mother's brother Walter (the squire) and Willie and sisters Sarah and Annie, at the Manor, the Georgian building to the left of the road coming from Langley Burrell. But the family formerly lived in the older and handsomer house opposite (now a Cheshire Home) where Kilvert's great-grandmother was shot at through the window. For a time the house was let to a farmer, and finally Uncle Walter sold it. It was on the green between these two houses that Kilvert saw in the October dusk that ghostly game of football watched by the very great-grandfather, then dead nearly a hundred years, who was buried in the old mansoleum.

Kilvert could reach Kington St. Michael-the church, or the Awdry's home there - in one of three ways. Taking the trap, he would sometimes drive past Langley Burrell pound and school (where his mother had started her education but had not been allowed to mix with the children!) past Langley House and Church, along Jackson's Lane to the Malmesbury road, turning left at the Plough Inn, where in his day stood the smithy where the coaching horses were shod. - Or he would drive along the Swindon road as far as the Colemans' and then through Langley Fitzurse from end to end, and through the Plough gate, no doubt opened for him then as it still was in the early 1930's by small boys who scrambled for pennies. Past the new church (1855) and the pound, opposite Stocks Tree he would see the house with shutters and crown glass windows whence two Quakers rode pillion to their Meeting in Calne. The start of the old green lane can still be seen beside the Colemans' earlier home, but the way to Calne is lost. And close to Stocks Tree (maimed by storms but still standing) stands the old vicarage, the home of the Rev. Charlie Clarke, who must have been about Kilvert's age. He is still remembered in the village by those to whom he gave his watercolours of their cottages. He was moreover a musician, and my father, also a violinist, occasionally joined him for chamber music. I myself remember Mrs Clarke, old and frail, in widow's weeds. At the old vicarage the road forks, the right fork being the continuation of the "Church Path" to the old parish church of Kington St. Michael, it leads past the sawmills, working till 1939, where Collins the timber merchant, "a stout man" was struck by hail. He was my husband's grandfather, and this is our only record of his personal appearance!

A little further along the main village road the hedge opens to the view at Kilvert's favourite "Poets Gate". I do not know whether the present iron gate, probably made by the local smith, was the one where he used to lean, thinking romantically of his Ettie - it is less characteristic of the period and of the district than the beautifully proportioned traditional five barred oak gate. This we intend to substitute, with a suitable inscription; for in 1948, when the last of the last Squire Coleman's estate was sold, we bought the field to save it from "development". Today although a line of pylons runs between Poet's Gate and

"the sea of rich bright green foliage, the far blue hills and chalk downs", the vista is otherwise still of beautiful unspoilt country.

Then the road turns the corner of the old mansoleum's enclosure wall and comes face to face with the old stone house with its double roof and chimneys, little changed since Kilvert last saw it, save that its poplars have gone. This was the home of Ettie Meredith Brown, the Ridge. Exactly here the road begins to plunge downhill towards Kington St. Michael.

Going either way by road from Langley Burrell to Kington St Michael one must follow two sides of a square. The quickest route, and I am sure Kilvert's favourite, was on foot, direct from his Happy Valley up Morrell Lane, now badly overgrown and negotiable only in dry weather, but shown in old maps as a wide green road, important both as a parish boundary and as a thoroughfare. At the top he might make a little detour to linger awhile at the Poet's Gate, or he might climb the stile (now gone) on the opposite side of the lane, into the long green meadow to look at Ettie's house from the back, its humbler but more attractive aspect, southfacing to the sun and the view. Here until quite recently one could still find, sure enough, the very briar with "not the pale pink or white flowers, but roses of a deep rich red fit to twine round Ettie's lovely brow or wreath in her dark clustering curls". Now it has gone. No; although Kilvert said "I always feel at home among these people in the village of my forefathers" few as yet know him, and perhaps we deserve no more of the Diary than the pages allotted to it.

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THE MOCCAS SHOOTING PARTY

On page 350 of the third volume of Kilvert's Diary we can read the following under the entry for Friday 4th January 1878..... "Sir George Cornwall has been shooting at Moccas today and for some time the rattle of the guns was almost incessant" Kilvert was, no doubt, at home at Bredwardine Vicarage - only a mile or so upstream from Moccas Court (for both are on the right bank of the Wye) and with the Moccas Estate all round him.

No wonder he says that the rattle of the guns was incessant, for one of our London members who is related to the present owners of the Moccas Court Estate has sent me the following extract from the Moccas Court game book, meticulously kept from the 1850's till recent years. It records that on the 4th January 1878 Sir George Cornwall and his friends were shooting the "Hone Beat" and that the "guns" were General Devereux, J.H. Arkwright, H.F. Lewis, D.P. Peploe, T. Pryor, F. Blisset and Sir George himself, and that they shot 267 pheasants, 33 hares, 82 partridges, 11 woodcock, 2 snipe, and 5 "various". Our London member adds the comment "Not one of the biggest slaughters there of those days, but quite respectable!" He ends his letter with these words "Alas, the entire contents of Moccas Court were sold after the last war and, although the house still stands, a lot of relics of Kilvert's time, and of its earlier associations with Handel, must have been dispersed then."

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KILVERT ON TELEVISION

In the April newsletter I dealt with the fears of a number of members that the proposed dramatisation of Kilvert's Diary by Alan Bennett might be in very bad taste and would very much sadden the thousands of folk who have derived so much pleasure from reading the Diary - this fear being sponsored by what various members had seen and heard in Bennett's programme "On the Margin" on BBC.2. I took up one member's suggestion that the best way to combat the "muck" that all too frequently is put over the air these days is to link up with the "Clean up T/V" campaign that is now being put forward by the National Viewers and Listeners Association (Secretary: Mrs. Mary Whitehouse) and I obtained a package of the leaflets of that body, enough to put one in most of the envelopes that went out to members in April. I thought that I had read the leaflet carefully before deciding to do this, and what I liked about it was the fact that they seek to see that a Council is set up comprised of such a wide section of people of all sorts. I also liked the list of patrons, and since last April when these leaflets went out I see by the report of the second annual convention of the National V.A.L.A. that the Bishop of Hereford now has support from someone who I would have expected to see in opposition perhaps, for he seems to love controversy. I refer to Mr Malcolm Muggeridge. I have had a number of letters in support of the aims of V.A.L.A. and several against, one suggesting that I am unfair to Alan Bennett in assuming that any programme he did on Kilvert would be as frivolous as his "On the Margin", but, frankly, I am afraid: it is so easy to put all sorts of constructions on much of what Kilvert wrote. Victorian sentimentality so lends itself to be turned into goodness knows what, and, let's face it WHAT INTERESTS SUCH AS US OF THE KILVERT SOCIETY AND WHAT APPEALS TO US HAS NO GREAT POPULAR APPEAL - AND THAT IS WHAT MATTERS ON T/V AND WHAT BRINGS THE MONEY IN. I would welcome further opinions on this matter, especially as Alan Bennett's programmes have just started on BBC.2. and thus many more can form opinions on them.

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THE DEATH OF UNCLE FRANCIS.....by Dr William Ploner.

A generous member of the Kilvert Society has lately given me a copy of Remains in Verse and Prose of the Rev. Francis Kilvert, M.A. This was not the diarist but his uncle, and the book was printed by subscription and issued in Bath in 1866, three years after his death. Together with this book I have come into possession of a number of Kilvert family letters and papers.

The diarist's Uncle Francis died on 16 September 1863, aged 70, at Claverton Lodge, Bath, a good-sized house with grounds of more than four acres, which he had maintained by keeping a school. He was survived by his wife, born Adélaïde de Chièvre, who came of a French refugee family, and by three daughters, one of whom had married Major Montagu Cholmeley of the Indian Army. After his death the house had to be sold. A brief account of the funeral is given in a letter written by a friend of the dead man. This was Henry Skrine, who lived at Warleigh Manor, Bath, but was writing from Bournemouth on 25 September to James Heywood Markland, D.C.L., F.R.S. Markland had also been a friend of Francis Kilvert and was soon to write the long obituary notice of him which appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine. Uncle Francis was buried in Widcombe Old Church. Skrine wrote:- "I fancy he wished to be buried in Claverton Churchyard - as his heart was much with its recollections & associations & two of his aunts lie buried there - but it could not be arranged as there was no walled grave there for him & Mr Tate very kindly placed his own new Tomb at his disposal in Widcombe Old Church...Mr Robert Kilvert and one nephew were there, I do not know more than that - A Mr Powell from Herefordshire walked with me & he seems to have known him (i.e. Uncle Francis) for 50 years intimately! Tate read the service in Church".

It seems uncommonly polite of Mr Tate, evidently the incumbent, to have given up his own prospective burial-place for the dead man. "Mr Robert Kilvert" is of course the brother of Uncle Francis (he was one of the executors) and the father of the diarist, who was most probably the "one nephew" referred to, and would have come over from Langley Burrell with his father. No further light is shed upon the nice old Mr Powell from Herefordshire.

Uncle Francis was a classical scholar of literary inclinations and highly thought of by like-minded friends of his own generation in Bath and elsewhere. His prose is correct, his verse is without force or originality, conventional, pious, and somewhat old-fashioned for its time. Everything suggests that he was a good man in his way, and generally liked, but we know from the Diary that this opinion was not unanimous. It will be remembered how, after Maria Kilvert died at Worcester in November 1870, the diarist recorded that she had made

"a most iniquitous will, not a shilling was left to any of the Francis Kilverts, the old grudge and malice against Uncle Francis for writing Bishop Hurd's life ruling strong in death".

The book which had provoked her to resentment was Uncle Francis's Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the Right Rev. Richard Hurd, D.D. Lord Bishop of Worcester which had been published in 1860.

I have looked through a quantity of letters written by the widow of Uncle Francis after his death. In mid-Victorian times, as everybody knows, the cult of mourning was generally elaborate and often, where means allowed, ostentatious. There need be no question about the reality of the widow's grief, but in those days bereavement does appear to have been made the most of. Her letters, tending, under the stress of emotion, towards the illegible, seem to be those of a loyal, warm-hearted, & conventionally pious woman. Quite the most interesting of them was apparently written on 7 November, 1863, when she was still living at Claverton Lodge. It was addressed to Markland, who was proving himself a dutiful friend, and of all these letters of hers it appears the most incoherent & emotionally scribbled. It shows that Adélaïde (she always carefully accented her first name, and included her second, Sophia, in her signature) was anxious to bring about a relaxation of Maria Kilvert's resentment against her late husband. As a widow with three daughters and left only moderately well off, she might reasonably have had in mind a wish, if no well-based expectation, that they might in due course be found to have been usefully named in Maria Kilvert's will. From this letter it appears that Adélaïde had sent Maria a photograph of her late husband, a copy of the bill of sale of Claverton Lodge, a lithograph, and thanks "for her handsome donation to me to present a Communion Plate to Mr Tate for his Christian courtesy in giving up his grave to me, and mine!"

But, she says, "a most extraordinary note came to me from M.K. at Worcester which if I could put my hand on I would". The letter, it seems, ignored the photograph, the bill of sale, and the lithograph; and as for the handsome donation:-

"She wishes me to know it was for his sake not the departed she did this act of generous consideration - I think I do not mistake - and then she enters into a lively history of a mutual friend's daughter

of ours being for 7 days in a Sand drift and then on the Rail road overtaken by the sudden rising of the Nile which nearly overtook the Steam power - Will you oblige me by forwarding to Miss K the obituary as you kindly suggested - she may think me too bold I have found a MS which I will thank you to read & then burn, as you will see how anxious I was to regain her good feelings."

There is no indication of the precise nature of this MS. Perhaps it had some bearing on Maria's grievance about the Life of Bishop Hurd. What does appear is that the dutiful Markland at once did what he had been asked and sent a copy of the obituary notice to Maria Kilvert. In this she would have read, and possibly would have been far from pleased to read, that the Life of Bishop Hurd "was generally deemed to have been executed with singularly good taste and judgment", that "the present age and posterity must feel a debt of gratitude to Mr Kilvert for this volume", and that its author was a charming and almost saintly character.

We know that Maria received the obituary notice because we have her reply, dated from College Green on 10 November. It is in an elegant, formal handwriting which appears like that of one whose mind is made up. She makes no allusion to the quality of the obituary notice or to the character of her deceased relation. This is what she wrote, and it is perhaps the last we shall ever hear of Maria:-

"Miss Kilvert presents her respectful compliments & thanks to Mr. Markland for the favour she has received this morning- A few weeks since, Mr Wood suffered a severe fall, his horse starting away at the moment he was rising to the saddle, but I am happy to add he is now quite recovered. The message shall be sent immediately- Mr Markland's obliged and obedient servant.

Francis Maria Kilvert."

Signed.. William Plomer.

Dr Plomer's fine contribution to these "Notes & News" comes just at the right time, with the Special Autumn Service in Worcester Cathedral (on October 15th) only a few months ahead. For it was the account--one of the best of the many splendid descriptions of events and scenes in Kilvert's Diary--of the funeral of Miss Maria Kilvert that gave the Very Rev. Hedley Burrows the idea of such a service. The arrangements for this service are well advanced, and I have a feeling that we shall see a very large congregation there when that October Sunday afternoon comes round.

This October visit to Worcester Cathedral will be of especial and nostalgic interest to our committee member, Mr F.W. Stokoe of Hay-on-Wye (he is a founder member, too) who when a boy spent four years in the choir of this lovely and historic building. He was a boarder at the Cathedral Choir School in College Green under Precentor and Minor Canon Herbert Hall Woodward, (headmaster), Mr (later Sir) Ivor Atkins, (organist and master of choristers) and Mr C.B. Shuttleworth and sang in several Three Choirs Festivals.

Rev. Woodward, a musician whose anthems and services are well known in churches throughout the country, lies buried in the cloisters a few feet away from the Kilvert grave and his effigy in stone in the wall of the Old Choir House stands as a memorial. His school, which held only twenty boys who formed the choir, was absorbed some years ago into the adjacent King's School in College Green from which establishment the Cathedral now draws its choir.

It is interesting to note Mr Stokoe's connection with Kilvert's Diary in the following way..... in several places in the Diary we read of Kilvert calling at Hadleys shop in Hay (it was there that he first heard of the misfortune that befell the Curate of Cusop at the Whitney-on-Wye confirmation)---now the full name of that shop was HADLEY and STOKOE, for our Mr Stokoe's father was Hadley's partner (and took over the business on Hadley's death) Nowhere in the Diary as we know it is the name STOKOE mentioned; but I have seen one of the 22 original notebooks and in it read of Kilvert going to Stokoe's shop and getting a cheque changed. Mr Stokoe remembers old Mr Southgate, the druggist that Kilvert mentions in the Diary, for he later became an assistant to Mr Stokoe's father and his memory is of a venerable old figure with a long white beard. It is of interest that on page 352 of Volume 1 - the entry for June 12th 1871 - Kilvert writes "last Friday evening Southgate, the druggist at Hay, was in Birmingham and saw snow fall for an hour. That was the 9th of June."

KILVERT'S ASSOCIATIONS WITH GOWER.

One of our Swansea members (Mr H. Gregory of Morriston) has sent in this most informative contribution. Mr Gregory is an ardent "Kilvertian", knows the Diary very thoroughly, and (as is obvious) knows very much of Glamorgan and the areas surrounding it. Mr Gregory's history of the Llewellyn family comes just at the right time, inasmuch as we have just accepted the invitation of the Vicar of Newbridge-on-Wye (Radnorshire) to hold the 1968 Kilvert Commemoration Service in his church (he is the Rev. A.G. Thomas)---and it is to a considerable extent thanks to Sir Michael Venables Llewellyn that this invitation has been extended to us. It is, of course, very fitting that such a service should be held at Newbridge-on-Wye, for it is the church for Llysdyman which is only just the other side of the Wye from it. Sir Michael is, of course, the grandson of the Rev. R. Lister Venables of Clyro and later of Llysdyman and he is a Vice-President of the Kilvert Society. I am delighted to announce that Sir Michael will invite all who attend the Kilvert Service at New-bridge-on-Wye next June to visit the grounds and gardens of Llysdyman after the service.

Gower, in the modern sense, is the peninsula in the Bristol Channel projecting between Swansea Bay and Carmarthen Bay. It is about 18 miles long & is about 5 miles average breadth. Its rock bound coast is very similar to that of Cornwall or of Pembrokeshire, but in between the headlands are some of the finest sandy beaches in Britain. The smooth beach from Worm's Head to Bury-Holm is three miles long, & from Oxwich to Caswell there is an endless sweep of a series of such beaches. The true boundaries of Gower however, are not confined to the peninsula. It was known variously in the old days as "Gwyr", "Gohir", "Guhir" etc. & it embraced not only the peninsula, but also the territory extending back between the Loughor & the Swansea Tawe, to the Twrch. It thus reached back to the border of Breconshire.

In this area the main town is Swansea,

PENLLERGAER is about 5 miles north of Swansea & is of interest to Kilvert readers, in that Miss Minna Venables, the birth of whom is recounted in vol 1 pp 46 married a son of Sir John Talbot Dillwyn Llewellyn, & that Mrs Crichton of Wye Cliffe was also of this same Llewellyn family. The Dillwyns were derived from Sir John Dillwyn of Dillwyn in Herefordshire. They later settled at Llangorse (Breconshire), and in 1699 William Dillwyn emigrated to Philadelphia. His grandson William Dillwyn returned to England & lived at Higham Lodge near Walthamstow. Lewis Weston Dillwyn J.P. & D.L. for Glamorgan in 1818, was M.P. for Swansea 1835-37. He married Mary, the daughter of John Llewellyn of Penllergaer. The Llewellyns were of Ynys-y-Gerwyn, near Cadoxton Neath, but the Penllergaer estate was left to them by a cousin, Griffith Price, who was a barrister-at-law, & for many years was King's Attorney in the Oxford Circuit.

Lewis Weston Dillwyn was an F.R.S., a keen naturalist, & had been Mayor of Swansea. He died in 1855. In 1801 he held a controlling interest in the famous Swansea pottery. This interest he maintained until his son took over in 1830. Lewis Llewellyn Dillwyn, this son, married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Henry de la Beche C.B. the eminent geologist, & lived at Hendrefoilan, on the Gower side of Swansea. John, another son, married Emma Thomasina daughter of Thomas Mansel Talbot of Margam Abbey. Their son, later Sir John T.D. Llewellyn, lived first at Ynys-y-Gerwyn, and then - on the death of his father - at Penllergaer. His son, Sir Charles Laysdon Dillwyn-Venables-Llewellyn added Venables to his name when he married the daughter of Kilvert's Clyro vicar, the Reverend Lister Venables of Llysdyman.

Penllergaer House is alas! no more. It has been taken down, & now the estate boundary walls, on one side, are being removed.

ILSTON. The other place in Gower associated with Kilvert is Ilston. There are four references:- In vol 2 p. 118 on Wed Jan 17th 1872 Kilvert states "Dined at the Vicarage at 7. At 8-45 the carriage went up to Cae Mawr to fetch Mrs Morrell, & then picked us three up. Mrs Venables did not go. On Saturday her little niece Mabel Westhorp died at Ilston."

On Mon Apl 15th of the same year, Kilvert visited Ilston Rectory, & left again on Sat. Apl 20th. On this visit he refers to "the admirable Sheldon, she is a capital girl, housemaid, parlourmaid, butler, footman, valet, and mainstay of the family. Sheldon was from Llowes. In vol 3 p.275 Sat Apl 29th 1876 he says "At Mrs Sheldon's I found the good nice daughter Louisa, whom I remember as a parlourmaid at Ilston Rectory, & who was the staff & support of that now sad & broken household." On Wed Oct 16th 1878 Kilvert was again at Ilston, and stayed until Saturday Oct 19th. Ilston is one of the most delightful & sequestered of the Gower hamlets. The two approaches consist of narrow lanes which defeat heavy motor traffic, so that it has preserved its old world charm.

The church nestles beneath a hill, which is crowned by the rectory, with its portico. It is no longer church property however. The stream flows around the churchyard,

access to which is gained over a bridge. The church is dedicated to St Illtyd. The tower stands on the south side, is battlemented, and contains three bells; it is Early English in style & has a chancel, nave, & a porch on the south side. There is a large octagonal font, & an ancient stoup in the porch. The north wall has a round arched, sepulchral recess which may contain the tomb of the founder. Behind the east window is that part of the churchyard in which the later incumbents are buried, and here Westhorp lies. The memorial lines are a bit difficult to read; they were of embossed brass, and most of this has disappeared. The wording is:-
REV. STANLEY BINON WESTHORPE B.A. FOR 15 YEARS RECTOR OF THIS PARISH.
BORN JAN 4th 1830. DIED NOVEMBER 1st 1885.

There appears to be no reference to his daughter Mabel, previously referred to. Alongside lies his successor, who was rector until 1925.

Not far away in the Ilston valley are the remains of the first Baptist church in Wales, to which a plaque has been fixed..... "To commemorate the foundation in this valley, of the First Baptist Church in Wales. 1649-1660, and to honour the memory of its founder John Myles". It was unveiled by David Lloyd George on June 18th 1928.

John Myles was the son of Walter Myles of Newton, Herefordshire, and was born in 1621. He attended the University of Oxford, and later was rector of Ilston. At the Restoration, Myles & his family left for New England, and founded a Baptist Church at Swansea, Massachusetts in 1663.

We shall look forward to more from Mr. Gregory's pen. Our Wiltshire members will no doubt note the connections; for the Talbotts of Margam Abbey that are mentioned are, of course, the same family as those of Lacock.

MORE ABOUT GOWER. Another Swansea member (Mr R.L. Brown) sent me--some time ago--some notes that link up with Kilvert's visits to Gower; they have been crowded out of previous "Notes & News" but now is the opportunity to use them--following on from Mr Gregory's paper.

They deal with Kilvert's visit to Ilston Rectory in April 1872, when on Tuesday 16th April the Diary tells us that "after breakfast we set out to drive to Llanmadoc, over high commons, then through pretty lanes, catching glimpses of the Carmarthenhire coast and the smoke of Llanelli across the sands and blue water of the Burry river. A sharp pull up the steep hill brought us to Llanmadoc - on the brow of a windy hill. The Westhorps went into the bare unfinished ugly barrack of a Rectory, while I minded Bob and the wagonette." Presently they came out with the Vicar, Mr Davies, who looked like a Roman priest, close shaven and shorn, dressed in seedy black, a long coat, and broad shovel hat". Later they all went in and had luncheon, and Kilvert records that "the rigging of a boat stood in the hall, for the Vicar is a great sailor and sails Carmarthen Bay in a boat built by himself. A quantity of pretty wood fretwork and carved work stood about in the hall and the rooms-----made by himself and sold for Cheriton Church Restoration Fund. He is very clever and can turn his hand to anything. Besides which he seemed to me an uncommonly kind good fellow, a truly simple-minded, single-hearted man. He showed us what he called his newest toy - a machine almost like a sewing machine - for sawing out the pattern in his wood carving. We came back by another road from Cheriton, round the southern side of Cefn Bryn, past Penrice Castle and beautiful views of the coast, the sea and cliffs and Oxwich Bay with the old ruins of Penrice Castle standing up grandly in the foreground."

Mr Brown gives some interesting notes about Mr Davies, the Vicar of Llanmadoc with Cheriton, and encloses photographs of him and of the altar and communion rails in Cheriton Church, hand carved by the Rev. J.D. Davies. A note tells us that he was responsible for wood carving at other Gower churches; Llanmadoc, Llanrhidian and Llangennith; another of his hobbies was antiquarian research. He published many works on the history of Gower. It appears that Mr Davies was known through the Diocese of St Davids for his High Church practices. The photograph shows him in a biretta and is dated around 1880; Mr Brown says he has seen an earlier photograph of him in a shovel hat as Kilvert saw him. When time permits Mr Brown hopes to do more work on this subject and publish same.

Now but a few weeks back I was in Gower, a few of us of the Woolhope Club (this is Herefordshire's archaeological etc etc etc club, established 1851) spent most of a long day there making all the arrangements for a visit of a large party of club members later on in June. Cheriton church is one that we are visiting and we therefore stopped there to look around. A plaque on the gatepost to the memory of a former Rector - the Rev. J.D. Davies, died 1911 - was an instant reminder to me of the visit of Kilvert to Gower, and inside the church my eye went straight to the altar and rails, and my thoughts to the photographs that Mr Brown had sent me some time ago. Time does not permit of a visit to Ilston but I intend going there as soon as possible--with a camera.

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Some Bedfordshire members visit Wiltshire - their impressions of three places that Kilvert knew so well.

Draycot

We knew that the mansion had been demolished; but we were unprepared for the air of utter desolation and melancholy of the site. True, the damp autumnal chill of the morning, the light mist, felt rather than seen, among the groups of trees, and the nutmeg smell of the fallen leaves, all added to the atmosphere. Two swans drifted mournfully to and fro on the lake under the little stone bridge. Weeds engulfed masses of dismantled masonry like waves dragging a drowning man down. Here and there a fragment of stone protruded from a clump of dying nettles. We remembered Kilvert's descriptions of the stately house which once stood here, its size, its splendour and the carefree benevolent pride of its inhabitants. Here in the park skating parties had been held; there had been dancing on the ice by the light of torches and Chinese lanterns while the music of a quadrille band rang across the ice. Laughter, music, gaiety, the flash of skates - now just silence and the stillness of a place given back to nature. Nearby the little church stands with the dark yews pressing round it. Neat, lovingly kept; interesting monuments and pictures on the vestry walls--but here was none of the poignancy of the surroundings. Here the passage of time seemed merely right, an inescapable fact of nature, and its pain was dulled and bearable.

Hardenhuish

Not for the Victorians the restraint, the classical elegance of a church like Hardenhuish, rising white and confident on its little hill beside the road. The interior is beautifully balanced, full of light, expressive of a worldly, rational, open-minded approach to religion. The Victorians seem to have felt as a rule that, as Christianity was old, it should be seen to be so and worship should take place in dim, heavily atmospheric surroundings, preferably Gothic. Not that they shirked the job, here at Hardenhuish, of paying all the attention they could to preserving the classical style of the building when, in the 19th century, it became necessary to enlarge it. The introduction of some irregularity was unavoidable, but it was carefully disguised and kept to a minimum. Hardenhuish is not a typically English church, and its aspect was made more Continental when we first saw it by the sombre black of a funeral procession winding its way towards the door in the brilliant afternoon sunlight. Meanwhile, on the white marble figures of the Ricardo monument beside the church shadows fell with a sharp blueness which had something distinctly Italian about it and seemed more in keeping with the Roman origin of the sculpture's design than with the Englishness of its surroundings.

Langley Burrell

The setting of Langley Burrell Church with its great House standing nearby, through the little gateway leading from the Churchyard, is like the peaceful setting of a Trollope novel. We first saw it on a bright September morning, the sunlight filtering through the trees by the churchyard gate. We made our way into the church, intrigued especially by the beautiful little "afterthought" of a porch. Here we paused to admire the commemorative plaque, fixed there only two months previously, through efforts of the Kilvert Society. Some time was spent in looking round the lovely, rather dim interior of the church - it was larger than we expected and appeared irregular in shape, somehow. There were the monuments to the Ashe family, Kilvert's maternal ancestors. I remember noticing especially that one bore the unusual Ashe name of Thermuthis. Does anyone christen his daughter Thermuthis nowadays, I wonder?

Coming out into the sunlight once more we followed the little path through the churchyard noticing beside it, near the gate leading to Langley House, the stone which marks the grave of Kilvert's parents.

Langley Burrell Church seems to belong to the spirit of the Kilvert story much more than the church at Hardenhuish, classical and elegant as it is and much as the Diarist appears to have loved it. Langley Burrell is the kind of old village church, a mixture of styles which blend together so harmoniously, the kind of church which the Victorians loved and understood and thought fitting.

THE JANE AUSTEN COMMEMORATION

In the April newsletter mention was made of the above, which is to take place at Chawton, near Alton in Hampshire between the 14th and the 18th July (a five day programme of events). Our Hampshire member Mrs Anne Mallinson is the Hon. Secretary of the Commemoration Committee (as well as being the originator of the idea). A brief note from her just as these notes are being compiled tells me that she is "absolutely submerged" at the moment and that it seems as if it will be a very popular event. Busy as she is I expect she will still find time to send details to anyone who writes for them. The address is Flat 1. The Wakes, Selborne, Alton, Hants.

ABBEYDORE FESTIVAL

Some advance details of this highly successful annual event were given in the April newsletter. The dates are Wednesday 27th September to Sunday the 1st of October (inclusive--five days this year). Our member Mr Donald Gowing (who is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Festival) had hoped to send me a batch of brochures, so that one could go out in every envelope with these newsletters and they may still arrive before posting day. However that is you can get one from him at 16 Ogle Street, New Cavendish Street, LONDON, W.1. or from the Booking Office (now open) at Dulas Court, Pontrilas, near Hereford.

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Kilvert and Hereford Railway Stations.

For many years, Hereford has had but one railway station----Barra Court Station. But in Kilvert's times there was another, known as Barton Station and among the trains running into it were those off the Hay & Brecon lines. The Gloucester trains (and it was via Gloucester that Kilvert would travel to Chippenham) used Barra Court Station. They were on opposite sides of Hereford, about a mile apart and this is why (as on page 143 of Volume 1.) he had to have a horse & carriage to cross Hereford----though he sometimes walked across. Recently there have been suggestions from British Railways that a new station may be built at Barton to take all passenger traffic (it has been just a goods yard since the original station was demolished, many years ago) and there have been articles in local newspapers about this; and a photograph of the old Barton Station that Kilvert used. Actually this photograph was probably taken a few years before Kilvert came to Clyro and first used the old Barton Station--judging by the train that is standing at the platform. Copies of this photograph can be obtained from me; it will be on the new list of photographs available to members - ready shortly. For the sake of accuracy it must be mentioned that for a few years there were no less than three Hereford railway stations, and this explains why Kilvert at one time refers to Moorfields Station (on page 143 of Vol. 1 he had come up from Chippenham by the early express and then "galloped through Hereford in a fly with a white horse and just caught the Hay train at Moorfields"), The explanation is that at first the Hay & Brecon railway were allowed to run their trains into Barton Station, but after a few years a dispute arose and this was then denied to them; hastily they built their own small station half a mile or so down the line from Barton (at Moorfields). After a while conditions changed and they were once more allowed into Barton Station. Thus Kilvert at different times used all three stations.

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Another photograph now available is one of Horden's shop in Hay, with Mr Horden standing at the door. For the loan of the original of this we are indebted to Mr John Grant of Hay-on-Wye; it is plain to see that what was Horden's shop is now Mr Grant's main shop. The Diary tells us of many visits to Horden's. On page 103 of Vol. 1 we read of Kilvert giving Hordens an order to print his poem "Honest Work" on cards, and ordered 100. On page 81 of Vol. 2 we are told that he bought a copy of Coleridge's poems for a birthday present for his brother; and it was Hordens who printed Kilvert's poem on Little Davie: this we can read on page 454 of Vol. 3.

At this same shop today very many people buy Kilvert's Diary, for Grant's sell amazing numbers of the abridged edition each year, and quite a few of the three volume sets too. I feel sure that in a little town the size of Hay (population about 1,320) sales of the Diary are far greater than in towns far bigger; perhaps even bigger than in Hereford, with a population of nearly 45,000.

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ROBBERY AT DULWICH. The robbery of pictures from Dulwich Art Gallery, some months ago now, has no doubt reminded many members of Kilvert's visits there; for quite a few have mentioned this when I have met them or had a letter from them. The Diary tells of two visits; on January 4th 1872 (page 108 in Vol. 3.) when he was "delighted with Rembrandt's pretty servant girl" and again on June 23rd 1876 (page 335 in Vol. 3) when he "walked to sweet green Dulwich and visited the picture gallery" and again commented on "Rembrandt's immortal servant girl, leaning on her round white arms a-smiling as she has leaned and smiled for three hundred years since that summer's day when her master drew her portrait and made her immortal, imperishable and ever young". Kilvert was then staying with his sister Emmie (Mrs Wyndowe) at 12 Victoria Road, Upper Norwood and that same afternoon took the children to a circus at the Crystal Palace. Next day was a Sunday and in the afternoon "by train to Victoria, train to Charing Cross, a steamboat to St Paul's Pier, and to Church there under the Dome." Tuesday saw him at Canterbury, describing the Cathedral.

How rich in such descriptions is the Diary and one can always find something fresh. How true were the words of Mr Lane Griffiths the other day when he told me of someone who had said to him "I have read the Diary"-----just as if it is something to be read once through and finished with. Whereas (as he said) one can read it over and over again and each time find many things that did not seem to have been there before.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

This newsletter is an extra long one---in order to include the contributions that were left out previously. All the items so kindly sent in by members have now been used. The next newsletter---out on or about October 1st, with details of the Worcester Cathedral Service will no doubt be a much shorter one, nevertheless contributions from members will be very much welcomed, and if they are worded so that any left over can be used in the newsletter of Spring 1968 this will be very much appreciated. Short items of interest - half page or a little more, are just as welcome as the longer articles.
