

IMPORTANT NOTICE - - - at the top of the last newsletter to go out (they were posted on April 13th) there was a request that any member who felt there was an undue delay in the post should write to the Hon.Sec. and give details so that a complaint could be made. No complaints were received --- on the other hand a number wrote in and commented how quickly they had been delivered. THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE POSTED EITHER THE DAY IT IS DATED OR THE NEXT DAY; PLEASE REPORT ANY LONG DELAY IN THE POST. Furthermore, if you get this newsletter but did not get one in April, please report that fact to the Hon.Sec. for investigation.

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Wyecroft,
23 Broomy Hill,
Hereford.

(Phone 2094)

6th June, 1968.

Dear Member,

This newsletter has been eagerly awaited by many, no doubt, for the news as to who is now President, following the sad death of the Rev. D.J.Lane Griffiths. It is with great pleasure that I announce to all those who have not already heard - that it is no less than the Editor of Kilvert's Diary - Dr William Plomer, C.B.E. D.Litt. Someone well known to all who attend the Annual Service; the Aldeburgh Festival, and many other functions. The account of the A.G.M. at which Dr Plomer was elected President will be found on an inner page.

All members are, of course, aware that this year's ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE is being held at NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE in Radnorshire on SUNDAY the 23rd of JUNE - it is to be at 3 o'clock.

Further details are as follows:

The Service will be conducted by the Revd. A.G.THOMAS, B.A. who is Vicar of Newbridge-on-Wye; and the ADDRESS will be given by the Revd. T.J.LEWIS, B.A. the Vicar of Clyro and Rural Dean of Hay. He is a Vice-President of the Kilvert Society.

The lessons will be read by Brig. Sir Michael Venables-Llewelyn Bt. M.V.O. who is a Vice-President of the Kilvert Society; and by Dr William Plomer C.B.E., D.Litt. the President of the Kilvert Society.

After the service all are invited to proceed to Llysadinam (by kind invitation of Sir Michael Venables-Llewelyn) where TEA and ADMITTANCE TO THE GARDEN can be obtained for an inclusive charge of 5/- ... the proceeds are to go for the ORGAN RENOVATION FUND at ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE --- as is the Collection at the Service.

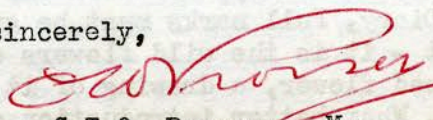
Newbridge is the church for Llysadinam; it was built and endowed by the Venables family and is full of family memorials.

Some notes about this and about Kilverts connections with Newbridge and with Llysadinam can be found in the following pages; together with other notes on the district, etc., etc.;

THERE ARE ALSO IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT A MOTOR-COACH FROM HEREFORD and ABOUT CAR PARKING AT NEWBRIDGE and something about the competition for the children of the local school and their prizes. THESE CAN BE FOUND OVERLEAF.

Members who have not yet paid their current subscriptions are asked to remit them without delay to our Hon. Treasurer, Mr.J.D.Worsey at 1, Harold Street, Hereford - or to me at the above address.

Yours sincerely,


C.T.O. Prosser...Mr.

Hon.Sec. The Kilvert Society.

Please particularly note the alteration of date of the SPECIAL OCTOBER SERVICE at HARDENHUISH (Wiltshire) --- this, and some details of the service will be found on an inner page.

ORGANIST AT NEWBRIDGE

At the organ on June 23rd will be Mr H.R.Evans of Clyro (the Clyro church organist) ---the Vicar of Newbridge (the Rev.A.G.Thomas) requested this, as since theirs retired in November - after many years - they have no regular organist. Both Mr & Mrs.Evans are members of the Kilvert Society; Mr Evans is, of course, Head of Clyro C.P.School.

MOTORCOACH FROM HEREFORD to NEWBRIDGE-ON-WYE on SUNDAY 23rd JUNE 1968 - this will leave from near the Town Hall in St.Owen Street, Hereford at 12-45 p.m. (PROMPT). It will be a Yeomans or a Yeomans-Corvedale. The fare will be 7/6d each (including gratuities). Seats for the coach can be booked either at Wyeval Ltd. Photographic Dealers, Bridge Street, Hereford, or with the Hon.Sec. at 23, Broomy Hill, Hereford. It will be greatly appreciated if payment is made at time of booking.

The route will be via Whitecross, Staunton-on-Wye, Clyro, Hay-on-Wye, and Builth Wells (making it nearly 50 miles each way). This is a most beautiful run, much of the way in sight of the Wye. About midway between Hay and Builth the Rocks of Aberedw come into prominence, across the Wye and overhanging it (on the right). Return journey by the same route, so that members can be picked up and set down en route, providing notice of this is given when the seats are booked.

PARKING AT NEWBRIDGE

There is very ample parking space within a short distance of the church. Many cars can be accommodated on what was once the village green; opposite the New Inn,Hotel; this is on the right in the centre of the village. The yard of the former railway station (now dis-used) will hold even more, the turn into this is a little further on down the main road, and is on the left: the Golden Lion Inn marks the turning into the old railway yard. CARS AND COACH SHOULD BE PARKED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY CAN BE EASILY GOT OUT WHEN THE SERVICE IS OVER - FOR IT IS ALMOST A MILE (UPHILL) TO LLYSDINAM.

Llysdimam can be seen from the churchyard at Newbridge, on the hillside across the Wye. The road to it turns off LEFT just beyond the Golden Lion Inn, and is signposted for BEULAH; the first right-handed turn beyond the Wye bridge leads up to it.

ALL ARE TO PARK IN THE YARD AT THE REAR OF THE HOUSE - TEA IS IN THE BRICK BUILDING BEYOND. Seats for some - please leave them for those most needing them.

A "LIFT" WANTED...from LLANTHONY to NEWBRIDGE

A London member who will be staying at Llanthony Abbey Hotel over the weekend of June 23rd would very much like to attend the Service at Newbridge-on-Wye. Would any other member, also travelling to the service on Sunday morning 23rd June, care to go via Llanthony Valley and Gospel Pass and pick her up? If this is possible please communicate with the member, Miss K.G.Goodwin of 36 Wateville Rd. Tottenham, London N.17. (Telephone 01.8084859) until 19th June, then at Llanthony Abbey Hotel, near Abergavenny, Mon.

LLYSDINAM GARDENS

Although the rhododendrons and the azaleas will be past their best, even if not quite finished, there will still be plenty of charm in the shrubs and flowers; the lawns, the trees and woodland generally. Perhaps most of all by the view; if it is anything like as clear as the day last week when some of us went to Newbridge to make final arrangements - and were shown around and about Llysdimam by Sir Michael and Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn - it will be realised what a splendid vista there is from the lawns and terraces of Llysdimam. Right down the valley of the Wye to the Black Mountains more than twenty miles away and to the left of that a sweep that takes in what seems to be half Radnorshire. If the day is fine on June 23rd it will be a job to get the folk away from Llysdimam!!!

THE CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

That same day we had a peep at some of the work that the children of Newbridge V.P. School are doing for the book-token prizes that the Society awards each year for an essay or some other type of work that connects up in one way or another with Kilverts Diary. Full marks must be given to Mr V.J.Hill (Headmaster) for selection of subject - it is the wild flowers of the Diary, on each page of a 24 page booklet is a pressed flower, a drawing of it and the lines from the Diary in which it is mentioned. What better introduction of children to the Diary than through the wild flowers mentioned in it? The entries (21 of them) are being judged by Mr.D.J.H.Lewis of Llandefalle School in Breconshire (Mr and Mrs Lewis are K.S.members) and if it can be arranged for the prizewinners to come to Llysdimam on June 23rd Dr Plomer will give out the prizes - after tea, will perhaps be the best time!

AROUND AND ABOUT NEWBRIDGE

No doubt some members will want to "make a day of it" and visit some of the places in the area that they have read about in the Diary. A few hints may therefore be welcomed. The old church at Disserth is less than two miles from Newbridge (take the Llandrindod road, but soon turn off right-handed and look for the church down by the Ithon, to your right as you cross it) this is a living that Mr Venables wanted Kilvert to take (see Vol.2 pp.278/9). It is also amusingly mentioned on page 376 of Vol.1. Apart from the Kilvert connection it is full of interest; not least being the old box pews.

YSFA (or Hysfa) where Kilvert attended the laying of the foundation stone of the chapel-of-ease, is some 4 miles along the Rhayader road from Newbridge and then a mile up the side road (right-handed), signposted for Nantmel, read the account again in Vol.1. pp.105-112 before going there. The plain little church is not much to see; but it is the thoughts of what went on there in April 1870 that bring back the memories and the chuckles!!! LLWYNBARRIED - where Kilvert spent the previous night, can be seen in just one place along the main road through Nantmel village, its dormer windows peeping through the trees a distance away from your road. ABBEY CWM HIR where they walked to the next day (p.113) is but a very few miles from Nantmel and well worth a visit; and beyond it but a few more miles to ST HARMON - full of Kilvert memories; and so back to Rhayader where Kilvert lived during his year as Vicar of St Harmon.

The road across from NEWBRIDGE TO BEULAH is a pretty one, tho' hilly and winding; at Beulah one is near to the church of Eglwys Oen Duw-where Kilvert once preached at the Harvest Festival, and just up the valley from it is the mansion known as Llwyn Madoc, long the home of some of the Thomas family. Back from Beulah towards Builth one soon comes to the lonely church of Llanleonfel on its hillock (right-handed), this is referred to on another page, and can be read of in Vol.2. pp.362-3. Then back to BULLTH - a place that Kilvert loved (p.168 in Vol.1.)

Just a few of the places around Newbridge that one reads of in Kilverts Diary; space does not permit mention of more. O.S.maps 128 and 141 greatly help in finding them. Perhaps mention should be made of LLECHRYD, this puzzles many readers of the Diary who look for a railway station of that name with no success; (see page 338 in Vol.1.pp.41 and 62 in Vol.2 - and a number of other references), the answer is that it is the old name for Builth Road, the station of that name still functions, almost two miles out of Builth - towards Newbridge.

A CONTRIBUTION FROM SURREY

Our member, Mrs Ruth Bidgood, who often writes for "Country Quest" and other magazines, sends the following - just right in view of the pending service at Newbridge-on-Wye. Although Mrs Bidgood lives in Surrey she knows much about Radnorshire, where I feel quite sure her roots are!! It is from J.J.Evans "Church Plate of Radnorshire" (1910); and is headed "Newbridge-on-Wye".

The parish was formed in 1882 from parts of Llanyre and Llanafan Fawr. The architect of All Saints Church was Stephen Williams of Rhayader; it was built and endowed by George Stovin Venables, Q.C., of Llysdimam. The eucharistic vessels, in memory of Catherine Lyon, were bought with money collected in £1 subscriptions by A.M.V. (Agnes Minna Venables) - she gave the alms-dish. The West window was from friends of George Venables in 1887. Three of the East windows were from Mrs Henry Venables in memory of her husband, and the other two in memory of Admiral Lord Lyons. Lord Lyons, Miss Lyons and Mrs Pearson were the uncle, aunt and mother of Mrs Lister Venables. One South window is in memory of the Venables infant only son, Henry George Lister Venables (on whose death Kilvert preached a comforting sermon). Two other windows commemorate the confirmation of Katherine Minna Venables and her sister Caroline Emily. The pulpit was from the Rev.Lister Venables, and the lectern from Mrs Henry Venables. The stall panels were carved by Mrs Lister Venables (readers will remember that Kilvert made two Llysdimam workmen save the bog-oak they dug up, as he knew Mrs Venables love of carving).

THE VENABLES OF LLYSDINAM

Mrs Bidgood has sent a further contribution, just in time for inclusion in this newsletter. It is from "Additional Notes to the County History of Radnorshire" by Edwin Davies, and reads ... The Venables family first became connected with Radnorshire through the third son of Lazarus Venables - Richard Venables, D.D., Archdeacon of Carmarthen, Chairman of Radnor Quarter Sessions for 25 years, and holder of many other public positions in the County. He married Sophia Lister in 1808, and their three sons were co-heirs to the Llysdimam Hall estate. The eldest was Kilvert's vicar, Richard Lister Venables, and Agnes Minna (nee Pearson) was his second wife - he had previously married a Russian widow. Mr and Mrs Venables daughter Katherine Minna, whose birth and its attendant rejoicings are recorded in Kilverts Diary, married in 1893 Charles Leyshon Dillwyn-Llewelyn, who by Royal licence added Venables to his name, and joined his wife at her home, Llysdimam. Col.Sir Charles Leyshon Dillwyn Venables-Llewelyn entered fully into

Radnorshire life - the story of his many activities can be found in the obituary notice in the Radnorshire Society Transactions for 1951.

Our Host at Llysdymanow today...Brig.Sir Michael Venables-Llewelyn, M.V.O. is, of course, the son of Col.Sir Charles Leyshon Dillwyn Venables-Llewelyn; and grandson of the Rev.R.L.Venables. He is the Lord Lieutenant of Radnorshire.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SOCIAL EVENING

This was held on Friday the 26th April in Eignbrook Church Hall (Hereford) as is usual. Despite a number of apologies from members away from home or unwell, the number present was a little higher even than for several years past. As usual some came from quite far away - Aberdovey, Bristol, Birmingham and other places and once more our Buckinghamshire members made the long journey to Hereford. The Chair was taken by the Committee Chairman - Mr F.R.C.Hermon, who welcomed the members. Tributes to our late President-Emeritus, Mrs.L.R.K.Wright; and to our late President the Rev.D.J.Lane Griffiths were paid by Mr J.D. Worsey, supported by Mr E.F.Jelfs (Birmingham) and the company stood in silence in their memory. It was decided that flowers, accompanied by a letter of sympathy from those present should be sent to Mrs Lane Griffiths.

The election of a new President followed; it was first announced that the unanimous recommendation of the Committee was that Dr William Plomer should be asked to accept the Presidency. Members present were then asked for other nominations. As there were none, it was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously that Dr Plomer be the new President.

The Vice-Presidents were all re-elected, with the addition of Mrs J.Feisenberger of London. When the time came for election of the Committee it was announced that there were two resignations; Mr W.H.Ellis, who after serving for nearly 20 years felt that he should make way for someone younger, but retained his interest and membership of the Society - and Mr F.W.Stokoe, whose letter of resignation from the Society told of his complete disagreement with all that its officials did!! At this from "the floor of the house" a member immediately proposed that "a special minute of complete confidence in the officials of the Society" be recorded; there was a prompt seconder and the motion was carried unanimously. Three members were then voted on to the Committee...Miss K.Powell and Miss M.Mantle (both of Clyro) and Mrs.W.M.Hermon of Hereford. All the other officials were unanimously re-elected. Mr.J.D.Worsey (Hon.Treasurer) spoke on the accounts and answered questions, and was congratulated on the healthy balance. Selections from Kilverts Diary, all connected with the Rev.Andrew Pope and the wedding of September 9th 1874 at Much Marcle, were then read by Mr.J.D.Worsey and after the break for refreshments (served by some of the lady members) bookings for the visit by coach to Homme House were taken by Mrs.E.G.Peters (Asst.Hon.Treas.) The last items were a shewing of slides of the photographs available as per the original list of same which has been distributed to members; Mr R.I.Morgan of Chalfont St Peter had very kindly brought these with him. Mr Godfrey Davies provided the projector and showed them - and then a further shewing of some of the slides made by Mr Davies were shown by him. The Hon.Sec. supplied the necessary details as each was seen. Many members thus saw for the first time many of the characters of the Diary; Kilvert's relatives and friends; and a number of the places that one reads of in the Diary. Mr C.B.Ottaway (Preston-on-Wye) proposed a vote of thanks to all concerned in another very successful evening, and brought this annual 'get-together' to a close.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

When Dr Plomer was notified that he had been unanimously elected President he was asked if he would like to send a message to the members via this newsletter.

Here it is:-

I am honoured and pleased that my friends of the Kilvert Society have thought fit to elect me President. The qualities of my predecessors and the varied distinctions of our vice-presidents add to my feeling of responsibility. At least I can call myself a veteran. I suppose I can claim a longer acquaintance with the Diary than anybody now living; this year is the thirtieth anniversary of the publication of Volume One; and I was one of those who helped to inaugurate our Society.

Thanks largely to the energy and enthusiasm of our honorary Secretary, the Society is flourishing, and as time passes I hope there will be an intake of younger members to keep it so.

The "CHURCH OPERAS"

The April newsletter mentioned that Dr Plomer had been working on the libretto of the third of Benjamin Britten's "church operas" and that it is to be first performed in Orford Church, Suffolk, on 10th June as part of Aldeburgh Festival. It is now known that all three (including the new one, The Prodigal Son) for which Dr Plomer has written the librettos are being given in July in St Paul's Cathedral, as part of the City of London Festival; and all three in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, later as part of the Edinburgh Festival.

THE AUTUMN SERVICE & THE KILVERT MEMORIAL AT HARDENHUISH.....CHANGE OF DATE
The April newsletter (page 7) gave the news that there is to be a special service in October at HARDENHUISH (Wiltshire) - the birthplace of Francis Kilvert; and that a MEMORIAL TABLET is to be put in St Nicholas Church at Hardenhuish and a plaque on his birthplace (The Rectory) opposite the church.

PLEASE PARTICULARLY NOTE THAT THE DATE HAS NOW BEEN CHANGED - AND IT IS TO BE ON
SUNDAY AFTERNOON the TWENTIETH of OCTOBER (October 20th)

The preacher will be CANON J.S.LEATHERBARROW M.A. a Vice-President of the Kilvert Society. He is RECTOR and RURAL DEAN of MARTLEY in Worcestershire. The idea of this memorial sprang from a suggestion made by Canon Leatherbarrow at an A.G.M. several years ago, after he had visited Hardenhuish.

FULL DETAILS IN THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER.

THE FUND TO DEFRAY THE COST OF THE TABLET AND THE PLAQUE INCREASES SLOWLY AND MRS PETERS REPORTS THAT IT IS NOW ABOUT £25. Much more will be needed.

Please send your donation (however small it might be) either to Mrs Peters at 18 Moor Farm Lane, Hereford or to the Rev.J.K.Gardiner, Hardenhuish Rectory, Chippenham, Wilts.

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PLEASE, AS THE BIGGER THE TOTAL THE BETTER THE MEMORIALS CAN BE

LLANLEONFEL CHURCH

Reference to this church is made on another page - under "Around and About Newbridge". This further item by Mrs Ruth Bidgood has therefore come to hand just at the right moment. She writes:-

Readers of the Diary (Vol.2.362) will remember that on the 6th August 1873 Kilvert accompanied Mr & Mrs Venables and Mary Bevan to Garth in Breconshire, to attend a Sports & Flower Show, at which Mr Welby was holding a bazaar for the benefit of "poor old Llanleonfel Church now in ruins - but which they hope to get restored". In their aim they succeeded - the restoration, a pleasant one, cost £900, and today Llanleonfel Church, though still "lone upon a hill", and with its tombstones still "deep in long coarse grass" and with "white and purple flowers nodding over them in their season", is a living building, and not a tottering and desolate ruin as when Kilvert wandered over the meadows to visit it.

Kilvert gives a fine imaginative description of the old church, with its frameless windows and "tall rickety pulpit" and the white owls that "floated silently under the crazy Rood loft". He seems to have felt very keenly the evocative power of ruined buildings -like "poor Whitehall" with its wearily swinging door and solitary bee humming (Vol.1.121.)

Garth House, where Kilvert had tea, and which was at that time the home of the Maitland family, was formerly the "opulent mansion" of one branch of the celebrated Gwynnes, and it was at Llanleonfel Church that in April 1739 Sarah Gwynne was married to Charles Wesley by his brother John.

The chaplain of the household - not by any means as favourable to the Wesleys as was Marmaduke Gwynne - was Theophilus Evans, whose grandson Theophilus Jones, in his great "History of Brecknockshire", tells us something of what the decaying Church was like over 60 years before Kilvert saw it. After the departure of the Gwynnes, the little tile-shingle roofed church, that used to be "a pattern for imitation", was increasingly neglected. He says, in 1809 "the ceiling is falling, some of the flagstones and tiles are broken, and the windows are out of repair". Jones feared that coats of arms and epitaphs might be effaced or lime-washed" should an attentive and beautifying churchwarden be appointed!" As we know from Kilvert, the church sank further into ruin and decay, and as often happened in ruinous churches "weddings were celebrated in it after it was dis-used for other services! At last it became a place for owls to dwell in and for satyrs to dance in!"

From the churchyard at Llanleonfel one can still look across fields and see, on the hillside opposite, Garth House, with the serpentine castellated wall that reminded Kilvert of a German Schloss. Theophilus Jones tells an amusing story of the servants in the mansion. When they were sent to Llanwrtyd (some miles away) to bring back water from its medicinal springs, they would go instead to a similar though weaker spring in the field below Llanleonfel Church, and having spent a pleasant hour or two loitering in the meadows, would return with the substitute water and "make a merit of their expedition".

Note.... Llanleonfel Church was visited by a large party of K.S.members one Saturday in May 1966, during the coach tour of the Builth Wells area; Disserth and Newbridge-on-Wye were also visited; there is a long account of all this in the newsletter of June 1966.

A KILVERT EVENING IN HAMPSHIRE

Dean Hedley Burrows speaks to the Winchester Literary Society

This is the heading that our Hampshire member - Mrs Anne Mallinson - put to her contribution to this newsletter on the above. How nice to think of our dear Dean "spreading the news" about Kilvert in the city near which he now lives. Perhaps our existing half-dozen Hampshire members will be augmented following this talk at Winchester?

Dean Burrows said that he was always delighted to have an opportunity to speak on Kilvert and he was particularly pleased to talk about him in Winchester. For it was here while he was Archdeacon of Winchester (1943-47) and reading Parson Woodforde's diary that he had himself been introduced to Kilvert by the Dean of Winchester, the late Dean Selwyn. And it was, he disclosed, whilst in the middle of reading the second volume of Kilvert's Diary and "thrilled with it" that he received the invitation from Clement Atlee, then Prime Minister, if he might submit his name to the King to be Dean of Hereford.

By the time he reached Hereford he was "mad on Kilvert" said the Dean laughingly, referring to the late Mr Sid Wright's weekly notes that kept everyone up to date with everything in Hereford... "By the way the new Dean of Hereford is mad on Kilvert" was his introduction, he said, to be followed by the latest news on potato prices in the town!

Dean Burrows went on to tell his audience that in January 1948 he had spoken to the Civic Society in St. Nicholas Hall, Hereford, and now he proposed to read this paper to the members of the Winchester Literary Society.

Outside it was raining: the April evening drew damply in around the comfortable home of one of the lady members of the Literary Society, where their monthly gathering was taking place. Inside twenty members of the Society listened intently as Dean Burrows introduced Kilvert to them - where in the same city he had himself been told "You really ought to read Francis Kilvert's Diary" by the Dean over twenty years before.

And, if on this evening Kilvert's name was new to many, one had a feeling that his Diary would not remain unknown to them now for very long. Or, one hoped, to some others as well after hearing a lady recount - after the Dean's talk was over - an experience that she had had in a bookshop! ... Recently introduced to the Diary by an elderly aunt of hers she had wished right away to purchase "Kilvert's Diary" for herself. But on enquiring she had been informed "No, madam, we have Collins and Letts diaries but I'm afraid we don't stock Kilvert's." !!

Well, as Dean Burrows said, he had Helen Dews copies - and wonderful it was to see them too: these well-worn and cherished volumes, now in the hands of this "Kilvertian" clergyman who had himself taken Miss Dew's funeral at Whitney. And as feeling - no doubt as Kilvert had ministered at funerals in that same countryside a century ago.

On Saturday 27th April 1968, it may have been raining in Winchester but a century of winters and summers slipped unperceptibly by as Dean Burrows read from the Diary to the members of the Winchester Literary Society Kilvert's entry for Friday 29th April 1870... "Last night the stars glittered and sparkled with frost till the sky was all ablaze with them, and the night was strangely light, almost as bright as if there had been a moon. There seemed to be something that we did not know of giving light".

Earlier Dean Burrows had delighted the audience by reciting Kilvert's poem "Snow"; as one felt he must have delighted his Hereford audience twenty years before. In replying to the vote of thanks, Dean Burrows said that the Winchester Literary Society had given him great pleasure. There is no doubt that he had certainly given it to them. He had also kindled their interest, for before the evening was out a further meeting had been arranged - when informal readings from the Diary will provide yet another Kilvert evening in Hampshire.

Accompanying the above was a cutting from the "Hampshire Chronicle" for 4th May - an excellent account of the meeting that Mrs Mallinson reports for us as above. I am also informed that a further meeting of Winchester Literary Society has now been fixed for Saturday 6th July - in another members house - Mrs Mallinson will take the chair, there will be informal readings from the Diary, and any Kilvert Society members in the Winchester area will be welcomed. Please write to Mrs Mallinson at Flat 1, The Wakes, Selborne, Alton, Hants, for further details.

KILVERTS BOOK OF VERSE

The mention in the item above of Kilvert's poem "Snow" reminds me that in the April Newsletter I stated that the newest booklet produced by the Society - of Kilvert's poems, titled "Collected Verse" will be on sale by the time of the Newbridge Service. I am sorry to say that there has been a 'technical hitch' and they cannot possibly be ready by June 23rd: however they will be out during the SUMMER and the price will be not more than about 8/6d. Members are invited to write in (to me) and place their orders now.

BADGES, LIST OF MEMBERS, CHRISTMAS CARDS & THE NEW LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

All these items were mentioned in the last newsletter; and the report on them now is as follows:-

Generally speaking the response from members was so small in relation to the size of the membership that it is difficult to form an opinion as to "yes" or "no" about any of them. The whole matter - concerning all of them - should therefore just "lie on the table"; and hope for more replies between now and the October newsletter.

In the meantime, I will investigate the cost of badges such as several have suggested, for even if a whole section of members vote for them it will be in vain if the cost is prohibitive. Re the LIST OF MEMBERS this must most certainly await more support, and more suggestions as to how to do it, if it is to be done at all. Alphabetically? By counties? One list and then additions in each subsequent newsletter so that members can add to or amend their lists? Or how? The LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS is more straightforward and is only a matter of when I get time to complete it and get it duplicated.

Finally, re CHRISTMAS CARDS we must start with one design only, Clyro or Bredwardine church; and then perhaps by another year have more, including Langley Burrell church, Hardenhuish, Bredwardine Vicarage. Some of these anyway. There is still time to get them for Christmas 1968, cost would be 9d each. Would members care to write in and indicate how many of them they would take? But hurry, please !!

OBITUARY

The deaths of four members have to be reported, with regret:

Mrs Callard of 29 Kings Acre Rd. Hereford - on April 15th, after a long illness. She was a founder-member (as Mrs Shaw) and until recent years was a regular attender (with the late Mr Callard) at all our meetings. The funeral service was at Eignbrook Congregational Church. A prior engagement prevented me going but my wife went and represented me; Mr J.D.Worsey and a number of other members were also present.

Somewhere about the same time we lost Mr H. Atkins of Treturret near Abergavenny (but I have only very recently heard of his death). Poor health had prevented him being an active member for a good many years, but he was intensely interested in the Diary and all that went with it; as he was with so many other things connected with the countryside. An authority on the Black Mountains he was closely associated with Mr John Hando in the preparation of his books on Monmouthshire - the "Pleasant Land of Gwent" etc.

Also, in March, we lost a member of many years standing.... Mr E.C. Pattison, of Bishops Stortford (Herts) when he joined but afterwards in Warwickshire, near Shipston-on-Stour. He often came over to the AGM and to the Annual Service, staying the night in Hereford.

Just as these notes were being prepared a letter arrived from the U.S.A. with news of the death on Monday March 25th 1968 of one of our two members in Oklahoma - Mrs. G.M. Martin; she and a friend both joined the Society after a visit to the "Kilvert Country" around Hay-on-Wye etc. in 1965.

WALKING TO LONDON

Hannah Whitney told Kilvert (Vol.2 p.78) that "when she lived by Whitney's brook three Cardiganshire women used to pass by the house every March, walking to London to weed gardens".

P.G. Hughes in "Wales and the Drovers" mentions that the drovers were often instrumental in finding Welsh girls jobs in and around London, working in spring and summer in gardens and parks.

WHITNEY'S BROOK

Readers of Kilvert's Diary are apt to think of Hannah Whitney solely as a Clyro woman; but on page 246 in Volume 1, Kilvert records her telling him of how she lived when a little girl with her grandparents "in the Bryngwyn"; elsewhere, as we know, she talked of "when she lived by Whitneys brook". To this day the stream coming out of Rhosgoch bog is known as Whitney's brook, especially near the house where some of the Whitney family lived until not so many years ago. All is in Bryngwyn parish, for Rhosgoch is but a hamlet in that parish.

THE RESPIRATOR

Maria Kilvert used to come to the Cathedral (Worcester) services in a "respirator". Kilvert's sister Emmie (Mrs Wyndowe) in her "Rambling Recollections" refers to having worn one of these as a weak-chested little girl (and at the same time walking in the sunshine round the church of St Nicholas at Hardenhuish). It was a type of mouth-mask used as a breathing aid by bronchial sufferers.

THE VISIT TO HOMME HOUSE, MUCH MARCLE

This took place on Saturday afternoon, May 11th as arranged; and was a great success; despite a poor weather forecast the day was fine and often sunny, if a little cool for almost mid-May. The coach from Hereford - almost full - went out via Woolhope and Marcle Hill, giving fine views to the Malverns and the Cotswolds and all around. It was joined at Homme House by a number of cars which had brought members from Bristol, Birmingham, Kidderminster and from Buckinghamshire, as well as those from Leominster and Ross and from Ledbury, there were also some Radnorshire members from Clyro. Two of our members from the Cardiff area joined the coach at Hereford. We were met at Homme House by Commander and Mrs Kyrle Pope, who welcomed us there and then acted as our guides. The panelling and chimney pieces in the beautiful rooms were specially admired, as was the handsome curved flying staircase in the hall. Of special interest were the oil paintings of the Rev. Andrew Pope and Mrs Pope (Commander Pope's parents). We were so many that two parties were formed one going round the house whilst the other half visited the garden, where they specially admired the octagonal stone summer house, with stairs and look-out; it is of c.1670. The house is in two parts, that with the tower being of c.1500 whilst that with the porch - with its two pairs of Tuscan columns, fronted by the steps on which the wedding party of September 9th 1874 was photographed (Francis Kilvert - the best man - modestly sitting low down on the extreme right) is late Georgian. In the entrance hall a panel of heraldic glass is dated 1623. The house well inspected, all then drove through the Park to Much Marcle Church ($\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile or thereabouts) where the Vicar (the Revd. Graham Holley) was waiting to welcome us to his fine Church. Here we were given a history of the church and its monuments by Commander Matthew Hale of Much Marcle; the tomb of Sir John Kyrle a particularly fine one. Great interest was taken in the Marriage Register, which the Vicar produced specially for us - open to the entry for the marriage of September 9th 1874; one of the witnesses signatures being that of Robert Francis Kilvert.

All then moved on through the village to the Walwyn Arms, to partake of an excellent tea, the party of almost 70 completely filling the room. Commander and Mrs Kyrle Pope and the Rev and Mrs Graham Holley came to tea with us. The Hon. Secretary of the Society proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Pope and to all others who had helped to make the afternoon so enjoyable; this was very ably seconded by Mr E.F. Jelfs (Birmingham) and the whole party then set off for Ledbury, with Commander and Mrs Kyrle Pope waving us off from the forecourt of the Walwyn Arms; after a half-four stay in Ledbury (when we all walked up the cobbled Church Lane between the houses of black & white to see the nice old church) the journey to Hereford was resumed and Hereford reached just as the first rain of an otherwise dry day started to fall. All agreed that this visit to Homme House will be remembered as something very worth-while.

Note... Copies of the wedding party photograph on the steps of Homme House after the marriage of the Rev. Andrew Pope to Miss Money Kyrle in 1874 are available in the series on sale by the Society - at 1/- each.

THE 1968 ABBEYDORE FESTIVAL

Quite a number of Kilvert Society members attend Abbeydore Festival each year, maybe a few more each year than in the previous one. For as the years pass by it seems to grow in popularity. This year the Festival is somewhat earlier than it has ever been before...from the 12th to the 15th of September. Mr. Donald Gowing has let me know a little about it for these notes.

That the great Russian cellist ROSPROPOVICH will be there, together with the English Chamber Orchestra - also his wife, who is the Prima Donna of the Bolshoi Theatre. A Flower Festival will be held in conjunction with the events in the abbey. Much else besides.

A full programme can be obtained from Hereford Community Council at 21, Broad Street, Hereford (S.A.E. please) - where seats can be booked.

ANOTHER DEAN LEAVING HEREFORD

Dean Hedley Burrows was followed in 1961 by the Very Rev. R.P. Price, and Dean Price lost no time in joining the Kilvert Society. He has attended a number of the Annual General Meetings of the Society and has often spoken at them. In 1963 he preached in Clifford Church when the Kilvert Commemoration Service was held there, taking for his text that used by Francis Kilvert when he preached at the Harvest Festival at Clifford more than 90 years previously; and now Dean Price is retiring from Hereford and returning to Worthing where he was Vicar many years ago. We shall be sorry to see him go and will miss his familiar figure around Hereford - and the kindly greeting one gets from him. Shall we be fortunate again and have a third Dean as a member and Vice-President of the Kilvert Society? We hope so.

THE ST.DAVID'S DIOCESAN GAZETTE

Our Carmarthen member (Miss Phyllis Howell) has contributed further articles about Kilvert and the Diary to the October and to the January issues of this magazine. Its Editor has given Miss Howell generous space, and she has made full use of it - quoting the Diary where it refers to events in Clyro, in Bredwardine, and in Wiltshire. Indeed, all three of these articles by Miss Howell have given such an insight into Kilvert's Diary to those folk who even yet do not know it that many must have been inspired to read it right through. The January article is said to be the final one; but it would not be at all surprising if there are more of them just now.

Kilvert wrote a lot about his visit to St.David's (p.61 and onwards in Vol.2) and what he has to say should be especially read by those who think that Kilvert was not very interested in Cathedrals because he has so very little to say about the one at Hereford.

RE-ISSUE OF THE THREE VOLUMES OF THE DIARY

So many members have written to me (and many others have asked me when we have met) as to what is happening about the re-issue of the THREE VOLUMES OF THE DIARY - that I thought it best to send a letter to Jonathan Cape asking them for an authoritative statement for this newsletter. Their reply has just arrived, and I will now quote it:

"Jonathan Cape say that they plan to re-issue the three-volume edition of KILVERT'S DIARY but that they are not yet able to state when it will be available as they are awaiting an order from an American publisher. Cape, however, point out that the abridged edition is available in paperback at 15s.

It would do no harm if all those who either have the three volumes actually on order or who are waiting to buy them as soon as they appear would write to Jonathan Cape Ltd. at 30, Bedford Square, London W.C.1. and tell them of this. It may well be that they would welcome this information. I sometimes wonder if Cape are fully aware of just how many there are who want to buy the three volumes.

"THE OLD WITCH"

Among the contributions towards the tablet etc. that is to be erected at Hardenhuish is one from a Radnorshire member who writes..."How right it is to have a memorial at Hardenhuish - his birthplace."

His letter is dated April 29th and it goes on to say..."98 years tomorrow - May Eve - will you be putting up the witts to keep the witch out?"

He is, of course, referring to the Diary entry for May Eve 1870 (pages 119-120 in Vol.1) where Kilvert writes "This evening being May Eve I ought to have put some birch and wittan (mountain ash) over the door to keep out 'the old witch'. But I was too lazy to go out and get it. Let us hope the old witch will not come in during the night. The young witches are welcome".

KILVERT IN CHICAGO!!!

In the Hon.Secretary's post a week or so ago was a letter with U.S.stamps and the Chicago postmark (addressed "The Kilvert Society, Hereford, Wales"!!!) It was signed by a lady and read : "One day in our library here I came across the Diary of the Rev. Kilvert, and have never read anything so lovely in my life; and my favourite reading is Diaries. He loved God, people, Children, and nature in the most full manner. I may come over in the fall and want to come to see the places he writes about. Have you a picture of the Rev.Kilvert? Has any more of the Diary been published after the first 3 volumes? I have read every word 5 times, and so long to read more".

Maybe yet another American member of the Society ?

CUTTING PEAT

When Kilvert visited the Rev.John Price in July 1872 he found the "Solitary" about to fetch "mawn" (peat) in a "gambo" (long 2-wheeled cart) provided by his landlord. Peat was for centuries the staple fuel of hilly counties like Radnorshire. It was cut from "turbaries" or "mawn pits" on the mountains (the name "Mawn Pool" is familiar to those with maps of mid-Wales). Parishes round Radnor Forest, for instance, were granted the right of turbarry on the highest point of the forest. "Mawn" is the Welsh word for peat or turf; in Breconshire it is pronounced in the Welsh way, but in Radnorshire it is anglicised. On some steep slopes the gambo is replaced by the sledge. An interesting article in "Country Quest" for November 1966 describes and illustrates such sledges and their use on the "peat paths" of Merionethshire.

KILVERT AND PRINCESS ALICE

Here and there in Kilvert's Diary one comes across a remark, or a whole entry sometimes, the meaning of which is not apparent at first, or at all. Some cryptic remark, the explanation of which we would dearly like to know - and in some cases will never know.

But it seems likely that one of our Buckinghamshire members has stumbled on a few words in the guide to the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore (Windsor) that throws light on the entry in the Diary for Saturday 14th December 1878 (page 437 in the third volume).

This reads "The frost continues, at 7 o'clock this morning a Child of England, Sweet Alice of England, entered into her rest at Hesse Darmstadt, a martyr to maternal love, kissed to death by her suffering children."

It is likely that quite a few have wondered just exactly what Kilvert implied by "kissed to death by her children". Our Buckinghamshire member says "what you read in the booklet may or may not throw light on this cryptic remark". Here is the extract from the booklet..."In the centre of the chapel is a monument by Boehm to Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse, second daughter of Queen Victoria, who died of diphtheria in 1878 shortly after one of her children had died of the same disease. She was the first of Queen Victoria's children to die, and by a curious turn of fate the date of her death, December 14th, was the same as that of her father."

Our member adds that the Royal Mausoleum at Windsor is open only once a year, on Queen Victoria's birthday, and that it is a magnificent place and worth a good deal of trouble to see. He says that the monument, which shows the Princess lying in bed clasping the child who died just before her, is a lovely piece of work.

THE OLD SOLDIER

One of the outstanding characters in Kilvert's Diary is "the old soldier" John Morgan of Clyro. He lived in a cottage at the Bronydd (or Bronith in its anglicised form). Not a trace of that cottage remains today, but its exact location is known to many members of the Society, and there is quite a good photograph of it (taken in 1944, not long before it was demolished) in the series available to members and friends. Those who wander among the old tombstones in the churchyard at Monnington-on-Wye will there find that of another old soldier, whose story is very similar to that of John Morgan - indeed, they may have known each other, here or under Wellington in Spain or elsewhere. For it reads..... "In memory of William Williams, late 44th Regiment. A native of this parish who served under the Duke of Wellington at the Storming of Badajoz, the battles of Salamanca and Vittoria. The surprise of Bergen op Zoom (where he was one of the forlorn hope) and the three days great battle of Waterloo. Escaping unhurt from all these dangers, and preserving all his faculties he died suddenly on the 11th June 1874 in the 87th year of his age. A fine old soldier."

Why, the record could be that of Kilvert's "old soldier" John Morgan.....see pages 85 and 382 in Volume 1 and 431 in Volume 2.

THE CAT AND THE STRAWBERRIES

One of our members in the Hay-on-Wye area sent in the following, taken from the LETTERS column in "Popular Gardening" (issue of 10th February 1968). It was sent in by a reader of that paper who lives near Rotherham in Yorkshire; and was headed, "The Cat and the Strawberries".

"In reading through Kilvert's Diary I came across some intriguing information. The Reverend Francis Kilvert says that at a picnic he had some very large strawberries named Rifleman, grown by his host, who had installed a small kennel on his strawberry bed, wherein was a white cat fastened by a light chain, which effectively kept the birds away. At the time Kilvert was living in Radnorshire, and the entry is dated 1870. Perhaps older readers could tell us what has become of the variety Rifleman - and if cats are still used to scare birds?"

It was at Clifford Priory that Kilvert had the Rifleman strawberries and saw the cat guarding them; there are several references in the Diary to these obviously very fine strawberries.

The site of Clifford Priory is about 2 miles from Hay-on-Wye; but is in Herefordshire.