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12th June, 1973.

Dear Member,

The fact that the 1973 KILVERT COMMEMORATION SERVICE is to be in BRECON CATHEDRAL on 24th June was announced in the newsletter of June last year, then during the service at Langley Burrell later on in that month; again in the church at St. Harmon in October, and mentioned in each newsletter since it was first announced. Posters have been sent for display over a very wide area (and many more with these newsletters) - so there will no doubt be a large congregation in BRECON CATHEDRAL on SUNDAY THE 24TH OF JUNE AT 3 O'CLOCK please particularly note the time, and pass this on to any friends that intend coming, for it has been wrongly stated (later) on some leaflets that were widely distributed a little while ago.

The service will be conducted by the DEAN OF BRECON (the Very Rev. W.U. Jacob, M.A.) assisted by the Rev. Norman Lea, B.A., and the Rev. David Walters, M.A. (Minor Canons). The LESSONS will be read by Dr. William Plomer, C.B.E., D.Litt. (President of the Kilvert Society) and by the Rev. D.E. Rees, B.A. (Vicar of Clyro).

The ADDRESS will be given by the REV. D.T.W. PRICE M.A., of the University College of Wales, Lampeter - a Vice-President of the Kilvert Society. The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon will be present and will give the BLESSING.

This Service will take the form of Choral Evensong, and is part of the celebrations marking the Jubilee of the formation of the diocese of Swansea and Brecon, when Brecon Priory Church became the Cathedral of the new diocese, with its first Bishop, the Right Reverend Edward Latham Bevan (Kilvert's friend "Teddy" Bevan of Hay).

The Cathedral Choir will be under the direction of David Gedge, and Hazel Davies will play the organ. The main 'Hill' Organ of 1886 which was rebuilt this year by Percy Daniel & Co. Ltd., will be used for the service, but the organ voluntaries will be played on the 'Bevington' Chamber Organ of 1789. Hymns, anthem, and music generally have all been carefully chosen for their connections with the Rev. Francis Kilvert and others of whom we read in Kilvert's Diary; there are notes about all these, and about Brecon Cathedral elsewhere in this newsletter, (under "Notes and News").

After the Service AFTERNOON TEA will be available; in TWO DIFFERENT PLACES. There is an IMPORTANT NOTE about this overleaf, and members and their friends are EARNESTLY REQUESTED to pay full attention to this note OR THEY MAY GET NO TEA!!!

As the hall where tea is being provided is not suitable for our usual "hour after tea" the Dean of Brecon has very kindly consented for us to go back into the Cathedral at 5.30 p.m. - for a programme by Dr. Plomer and others; full details of what will no doubt be an extremely interesting hour are overleaf.

A MOTOR COACH (perhaps two coaches on this outstanding occasion) will run from Hereford PLEASE BOOK EARLY FULL DETAILS OVERLEAF.

Some of these newsletters will be accompanied by a POSTER (or posters), if there are any with yours will you please do your utmost to get them displayed as prominently as possible in your town or village? Not only do posters advertise this Brecon Cathedral Service but they also let people know that there is a Kilvert Society, and may even excite the curiosity of some who have not yet heard of KILVERT'S DIARY to find out about it - and read it.

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed leaflet re THE FRIENDS OF BRECON CATHEDRAL.

Yours sincerely,

(C.T.O. Prosser, Hon. Secretary.)

NOTES AND NEWS - by the Hon. Secretary, with contributions from members

MOTOR-COACH FROM HEREFORD

Will start from HEREFORD TOWN HALL at 11 a.m. (PROMPT) and travel via White Cross, Staunton-on-Wye, Clyro and Hay. Members (and their friends) can be picked up and set down anywhere on this route, if a request is made when seats are booked. The fare will be 50p, please book at Wyeval Ltd., Photographic Dealers, Bridge Street, Hereford - or with the Hon. Secretary. Tea tickets 25p, see next item. Each person should bring their PICNIC LUNCH with them, a nice spot has been chosen where this can be eaten. Outward and inward journeys will be the same between Hereford and Hay, but between Hay and Brecon varying routes may be taken if time, weather and other circumstances permit. We shall not be back into Hereford before 8.30 p.m. - maybe later, especially if a nice sunny evening. PLEASE BOOK EARLY - TO ALLOW A SECOND COACH TO BE ORDERED, IF NEEDED.

TEA - AFTER THE SERVICE

A HOME-MADE TEA IS VERY KINDLY BEING PROVIDED AND SERVED BY MRS. MELVILLE THOMAS AND HER BAND OF HELPERS: AND 150 PEOPLE ARE BEING CATERED FOR.... IN THE REFECTORY, QUITE CLOSE TO THE CATHEDRAL (take the path leading straight across the graveyard from the main door to the Cathedral, cross the road, and you are there... it is an old CHURCH SCHOOL). ADMISSION WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY, AND THE TICKETS WILL BE NUMBERED. It is suggested that those booking seats on the coach from Hereford should buy a tea ticket when booking, and others, who come by car etc., should send to 23 Broomy Hill Hereford, for a TEA TICKET. They are 25p. IT IS TO BE A BUFFET TEA, and as there are not many seats in the Refectory everyone is asked to allow those in most need of a seat to have what chairs etc. are available. PROCEEDS (AFTER CERTAIN EXPENSES DEDUCTED) FOR THE BEVINGTON ORGAN FUND.

Arrangements have also been made with the CASTLE OF BRECON HOTEL for them to cater for 100 for AFTERNOON TEA; ALSO AT 25p PER PERSON. This Hotel is only a few hundred yards from the Cathedral, go downhill from the entrance gateway, take the first right-hand turn, along a narrow street, at the end of it turn back slightly uphill (to your right) and you are there in a few yards. NO TICKETS REQUIRED, PAY AT THE HOTEL.

THE "HOUR AFTER TEA" - IN THE CATHEDRAL

As mentioned overleaf, we are allowed to go back into the Cathedral at 5.30 p.m. for a programme starting with Dr. William Plomer reading from one of the 3 only surviving of Francis Kilvert's 22 notebooks - from which the Diary was compiled. It will consist mainly of an account of a visit by Kilvert to Brecon, something not in the three volumes. Dr. Plomer is always a delight on these occasions and now we are to hear something from him that will be quite new to most. This will be followed by a selection of HYMNS and SACRED SONGS - by a member of the Kilvert Society from the other side of the world ... Mrs. Hurlbutt; she and Dr. Hurlbutt have arranged their European holiday this year so that they can be in Brecon over the weekend of June 23rd/24th. They leave their home in Honolulu (Hawaii) on June 16th. The point of greatest interest about Mrs. Hurlbutt is that she is a grand-daughter of Mary Ann Powell of Brobury one of Kilvert's parishioners when he was Vicar of Bredwardine. At her parents home in Pennsylvania they treasure the letter which Francis Kilvert wrote to Mary Ann Powell when she first left home to go out into the world - in 1879. Before her marriage to Dr. Hurlbutt, Miss Morris was Director of Music to a number of High Schools in Pennsylvania, and took part in many a Gymanfu Ganu, for there is a tremendous Welsh influence in that part of the U.S.A. Mrs. Hurlbutt will sing in Welsh and in English; she is very thrilled with the prospect of singing in Brecon Cathedral and there is no doubt but that she will give much pleasure to we who hear her.

Finally, Mr. F. Grice of Worcester will give a TALK on KILVERT'S LITERARY BACKGROUND. It was, of course, Mr. Grice who so "held" the company present at the A.G.M. in Hereford in April (see the account of this on another page) and those who were there will particularly welcome hearing him again, on a different theme; those who hear him for the first time at Brecon will be most interested, I'm sure.

Please note we may alter the sequence of these three items, but their substance will remain the same.

BRECON CATHEDRAL GUIDEBOOK

A very nice little guidebook, with excellent pictures, can be bought for a modest sum in the Cathedral. The notes that follow are taken from it; and added to with a few observations of my own, for there are a number of points about Brecon Cathedral of very particular interest to all who know Kilvert's Diary.

Lining the aisles in the nave were the chapels of the craft guilds in the borough, the Tailors and Corvizors on the north side and the Weavers and Tuckers on the south; but

only the Corvizers' or Cordwainers' remain to tell the tale. It is now called St. Keyne's Chapel and was restored soon after 1921 as a memorial to Ellen Bevan, a sister of the first bishop of the diocese. Readers of Kilvert's Diary will know her better as Cousie Bevan. The bishops throne dates from the consecration of Archdeacon E.L. Bevan as Suffragan Bishop of Swansea in 1915 and the canopy was placed in position eight years later on the formation of the diocese. Below the East window the stone reredos (dedicated in 1937) commemorates the work of Bishop Edward Latham Bevan as first bishop of the diocese. The south transept contains the effigy of Bishop E.L. Bevan, by Sir Goscombe John; and a stained glass window given by the C.E.M.S. in honour of his work as chairman of the society. His tomb can be found in the cloister garth, alongside other bishops and distinguished laymen. Also in the south transept (not far from the effigy of Bishop Bevan) is the Bevington organ, formerly in Hay Castle, all readers of Kilvert's Diary will know how much this figures in the Diary.... please see the note that follows on the music for this service.

NOTES ON THE MUSIC ETC.

The following has been taken from the notes very kindly supplied by David Gedge, for the SERVICE SHEET and is reproduced here (with some additional observations of mine) for the benefit of those not able to attend the service, and for advance information for those who are coming.

The hymns include 'Hark, hark, my soul', mentioned in Kilvert's Diary on various occasions notably on 3rd March 1870 when it is mentioned in conjunction with the "Bevington" organ. The tune of 'Holy, holy, holy' is one of the many by John Bacchus Dykes (who was Vicar of St. Oswald, Durham, having previously been Precentor of Durham Cathedral) to be found in the Ancient & Modern Hymnal. The prime mover in producing the A & M Hymnal was Sir Henry Baker Bt. who was Vicar of Monkland, Herefordshire from 1851 until his death in 1877. One of the musicians who had considerable influence in the choice of music for the early editions of the A & M Hymnal was Sir Frederick Gore, Ouseley Bt. Ouseley was the founder of St. Michael's College, Tenbury in Worcestershire, Ouseley intended that the choir at St. Michael's Tenbury should be a 'model' for other Cathedrals to copy and in his diary for 26th October 1871 Kilvert tells of how he attended the 9 a.m. service and comments not only on the music but on Sir Frederick himself. Much of Ouseley's own music was influenced by the music of the past, a typical example being the anthem 'How goodly are thy tents' which, incidentally, Ouseley composed after seeing Milan Cathedral by moonlight in 1851. As the responses sung at the service will be those composed by the great sixteenth century composer William Byrd it is interesting to note that Ouseley made one of the earliest editions of the church music of Byrd's great fellow-composer Orlando Gibbons. The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis will be sung to a setting by Samuel Sebastian Wesley who was organist at Hereford Cathedral from 1832 until 1835 and Organist at Gloucester Cathedral from 1865 until 1876; his 'A few words on Cathedral Music' makes remarkable reading. The chant to psalm 145 was composed by Thomas Norris whose only connection with this service, and that a vague one, is that he sang tenor solos at the Three Choirs Festival at Hereford in 1762. Finally, the organ music before the service, which will be played by Hazel Davies, will be some of the "Twelve Short Pieces" by Samuel Wesley - his father Charles Wesley married Sarah Gwynne of Garth House, Breconshire at Llanleonfel Church near Builth Wells, now in this Diocese, and after the service Hazel Davies will play his prelude and fugue in C minor. The main "Hill" organ will be used for the service, but the organ voluntaries will be played on the 'Bevington' chamber organ of 1789.

(See pages 362-363 of Volume 2 for the account of Kilvert's visit - with Mr. and Mrs. Venables and Mary Bevan - to Garth House and Llanleonfel Church; the Church was then partly ruinous - since those days it has been restored and is now in full use again; Llanleonfel is 7 miles beyond Builth Wells, towards Llanwrtyd Wells.

SUMMING UP

I make no apologies for taking up so much space in describing all aspects of the Brecon Cathedral service of 24th June - and so much concerning it. For I think it is going to be a really outstanding day; a splendid service in a charming setting. Those who will come that day to Brecon for the first time will not easily forget this nice old town in the valley of the Usk, backed by the grand prospect of the Brecon Beacons and crowned with a beautiful Cathedral. On every hand there is something that links up with Kilvert and the Diary. It is good too to think that with us will be Dr. Plomer; the new Vicar of Clyro, the Rev. D.E. Rees, just moved there from Swansea; and our good friend the Rev. William Price, newly made Priest - at his Ordination in Lampeter College Chapel on May 20th by the Bishop of St. Davids. And our "hour after tea" will surely be an outstanding one too.

OUR PRESIDENT

At last I come to what usually comes first in these "Notes" ... Dr. Plomer's engagements, past and present... and future; and anything else of interest concerning him, that I can glean from one source or another.

First, I now have a note about "The Butterfly Ball & the Grasshopper's Feast" that was mentioned in the March newsletter. It is by Alan Aldridge and William Plomer. A note says "For all ages". Another note says "Published by Jonathan Cape and Times Newspapers Ltd." And the blurb ends with this paragraph.... "Alan Aldridge was inspired by William Roscoe's original verse, first published in 1807. William Plomer wrote this delightful modern version - as magical and sinister as a Victorian allegory - to accompany Alan Aldridge's magnificent illustrations, which are some of the most beautiful ever to be seen in a children's book."

I hear that William Plomer is giving a poetry reading at Stratford-upon-Avon on Sunday, 15th July and that on Thursday 28th June he can be heard as one of the contributors to a programme about Lady Ottoline Morrell, on Radio 4, at 8 p.m. On Sunday 6th May Dr. Plomer gave a repeat of his Kilvert performance at the Hampstead Theatre; it was again very well received (I hear) - I wonder how many K.S. members got to know about it and attended? At least one was there, I know, for she told me how enjoyable it was and that among the audience she noticed Sir John Gielgud. The March n/1 gave news of Dr. Plomer's Poetry Reading at Cardiff on 27th April (with two very well known younger poets); by a fortunate coincidence one of our U.S. members was in Cardiff that weekend; saw it advertised and attended. He wrote me when he got back home, telling me this and also of how delighted he was at such an unexpected change to hear Dr. Plomer.

THE A.G.M. and SOCIAL EVENING (Wednesday 11th April)

This year a fortnight earlier than usual; but this made no difference to the attendance, so Eignbrook Church Hall was as full as ever, with members coming from near and far.... a half-dozen from Birmingham; several from Worcester; a number from Wales (Brecon, Builth Wells, Rhymney, Knighton, Clyro and Glasbury-on-Wye). Others from Shrewsbury and from Cheltenham and one from Chalfont St. Peter in Bucks. Many, of course, from the City and County of Hereford. Mr. F.R.C. Hermon took the Chair and welcomed this large company. The business part of the meeting was got through quickly and smoothly, as usual. Vice-Presidents, Officers, and Committee were all re-elected, this time with no additions anywhere. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J.D. Worsey spoke on the finances of the Society and answered questions; he paid a warm tribute to the work of the Asst. Hon. Treasurer (Mrs. E. G. Peters) for taking a load off his shoulders by now handling all subscriptions, and for the efficient way in which she is doing it. The Hon. Secretary pointed out that there was no ANNUAL REPORT as such; the three newsletters each year surely did this very effectively, so that all he need say further was that the membership now stood at over 700, correspondence was heavy and worldwide, he read one or two interesting letters. A vote was taken regarding the starting time (from Hereford) of the coach (or coaches) for Brecon on Sunday 24th June, when the Annual Commemoration Service was being held in Brecon Cathedral, the choice being between a late start after an early lunch, or an 11 o'clock start with picnic lunch, the latter was the verdict - by a very substantial majority. An announcement was then made re the 1973 Autumn Service, several invitations had been considered by the Committee at their last meeting and the voting had resulted in the decision that it was to be at LLANIGON on October 14th. The provisional date for the 1974 A.G.M. was also announced, April 24th, and the 1974 Annual Coach Tour was also discussed, with the result that it was decided that if possible it should be a whole day tour to the Gower peninsula, with a call on the Rev. T.J. and Mrs. Lewis at Crofty and a visit to the churches which Kilvert visited and wrote about in the Diary.

This ended the business part of the meeting, but before adjourning to the other room for refreshments there was sufficient time for Mr. J.D. Worsey to read the report of the death of Miss Frances Thomas (Kilvert's "Daisy") from a Brecon newspaper of 1928, this report giving Newcastle Court in Radnorshire as her birthplace - the main reason for a call being made there on the "Annual Spring Coach Tour" of 5th May this year; and for the Rev. David Lockwood to give a report on THE ASHBROOK PLAQUE (there will be a further report from him just in time to be included in this newsletter). Refreshments were, as usual, prepared and served by a number of lady members and were obviously much enjoyed by the large company which completely filled the room. After supper bookings were taken for the May coach tour into North Radnorshire; and Christmas cards and the Society's publications were sold; committee members seeing to both projects, whilst Mrs. Peters and another committee member received subscriptions. Mr. T.S. Jones (Rhymney) then spoke on his love of the countryside particularly "Kilvert Country" - and then came the main event of the evening. Mr. F. Grice of Worcester (until recently Head of the Department of English at Worcester College of Education, and a valued member of the Society) gave a most interesting talk on "KILVERT - A NEGLECTED GENIUS". Mr. Grice spoke for almost an hour, but it was not a minute too long

for anyone - for he was received with rapt attention and one could have heard the proverbial pin drop at any time. Instead of quoting from this talk the Society has had it reproduced in order that members can read it for themselves, there is a notice following on after this report which concerns these reproductions. The evening ended with a short film show by Mr. Godfrey Davies - a film made up of records of various events of the last few years, nearly all being now shown for the first time to those present. The Chairman brought the meeting to a close with a hearty vote of thanks to all who had worked to make yet another highly successful A.G.M. and Social Evening.

KILVERT - A NEGLECTED GENIUS

As mentioned in the above report Mr. Grice's splendid talk - with the above title - given at this year's A.G.M. and Social Evening, has been reproduced in order that members (and anyone else who is interested in it) can acquire a copy for a very modest outlay. It runs to 8 pages (double sided foolscap sheets, very similar to our newsletters) - pinned to top L.H. corner. The cost is 15p and members can obtain them from the Hon. Secretary; we also hope to have a few at Brecon on 24th June, this depends on whether some of the Committee will be once again willing to take charge of a few booklets, a few Christmas cards, and some of these reproductions of Mr. Grice's talk in the Refectory at teatime.

We hope that very many members will obtain a copy of this talk, for Mr. Grice must have put hard work and long hours into preparing it, and he brings out many points that will be quite new to most of us; after reading it we shall have a new and much enhanced outlook on Kilvert and his Diary; and realise, as does Mr. Grice, that he is indeed "a neglected genius".

THE ASHBROOK PLAQUE

It is pleasing to be able to give definite news and a date for the unveiling of the new plaque for ASHBROOK HOUSE, CLYRO; news that the many members who subscribed towards this project will be delighted to hear. We had hoped that it might have been ready (and fixed) by midsummer - so that the unveiling could have taken place during the weekend of June 23rd/24th, when so many members will be in the area for the Brecon Cathedral Service.... but it cannot be until October, when we plan to have a little ceremony after the Autumn Service (this year to be at Llanigon on October 14th). I would like to remind members generally (and subscribers in particular) that I felt that it would be very wise if a small panel of members made the important decisions as to which of the several ideas on what form the plaque should take and what material was to be used for it, where it was to be sited and (most important of all) who should produce it - rather than that the Committee should make any of these decisions. An overwhelming majority of the Committee agreed with me, and it was therefore decided that all final decisions should be made by the following PANEL OF FOUR. Dr. Wm. Plomer; Mrs. J. Feisenberger; Mr. L. Le Quesne and the Rev. D.N. Lockwood. Before long Mr. Le Quesne left Clyro to live in Shrewsbury and Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Monk came to live at Ashbrook House. Mr. Monk was then added to the panel. Most of the planning and discussion was done by post, the Rev. David Lockwood acting in the capacity of secretary. Eventually a unanimous decision was arrived at on all counts.... but mainly that it should be in green Welsh slate; sunk into the north wall of Ashbrook House, between the windows; with simple wording, just giving the dates between which Francis Kilvert, Priest and Diarist, lived there - AND WITH A PROFILE HEAD OF FRANCIS KILVERT (IN RELIEF) TAKEN FROM AN ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH WHICH THE SOCIETY POSSESSES. The work is being done by Simon Verity who lives at Upper Minety - not very far from Chippenham in Wiltshire!! - a young sculptor who has done some important commissions and is now doing a memorial for the Shrine of St. Thomas à Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. This will surely be a worthy memorial to Francis Kilvert - on the house in which he lived for seven years in Clyro and where so much of the Diary was written. Full details in the next newsletter, which will be circulated at the end of September.

THE AUTUMN SERVICE

As indicated above, this is to be at LLANIGON (by kind invitation of the Rev. I.Ll. Davies - Vicar of Hay with Llanigon; a member of this Society). This will be the second "Kilvert" service to be held there, the first being in 1959, when the ADDRESS was given by the Bishop of Swansea & Brecon (the Rt. Rev. J.J.A. Thomas, D.D.) Llanigon has very close links with Kilvert and the Diary, for Llanthomas was in the parish, and "Daisy's" father was Vicar of Llanigon for many years (though Kilvert does not mention this anywhere in the Diary, which is odd). One member of the Thomas family has agreed to take part (by reading a lesson), and we intend asking another member of that family to read the other lesson, in the hope that he too will be able to accept. The ADDRESS will be by the Rev. J.R. Williams, the Rector of Pudleston - in North Herefordshire, an active member of this Society. With this service at 3 o'clock and tea to follow - we hope that it will then be possible to cross the Wye to Clyro and un-veil the new plaque on Ashbrook House; it is but 3 miles or thereabouts between Llanigon and Clyro. Times and all details in the next newsletter. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE OCTOBER 14th.

NEWCASTLE COURT, LLANBISTER & LLANANNO 5th May 1973

North Radnorshire was the area for this years "Annual Spring Coach Tour" and two coaches set off from Hereford at 2 o'clock, picking up en route to Kington; with the first stop at Newcastle Court - some 7 miles further on. But here and there the coaches halted, for someone in each coach to point out places of interest - some of Kilvert interest and some of more general interest - the first such halt being at Hindwell (the Radnorshire farm of John Monkhouse, a kinsman of William Wordsworth, who, afterwards farmed The Stow at Whitney, where Kilvert met him - see the Society's booklet "Kilvert and the Wordsworth Circle"). Hindwell is unmistakable, for surely no other farm has such a huge pond in front of it? Two miles beyond Hindwell we stopped at Newcastle Court, of great interest - for this was the birthplace and childhood home of Miss Frances Thomas (Kilvert's "Daisy") - the family moving to Llanthomas before she grew up; most members of the party walked down the long drive, perambulated the house and grounds, and enjoyed the view across to Radnor Forest - in the half-hour available. Just beyond Newcastle Court is the crossroads at Beggars Bush, the site of the inn where Charles the First and his army spent a night, the King dubbing it "Beggars Bush" because of the lack of available food; this was pointed out in passing. A few miles further and three places of note were arrived at in quick succession. Nant-y-groes (between Whitton and Pilleth) once the home of Sir John Dee, astronomer and astrologer to Queen Elizabeth. Then Pilleth Church, around which in 1402 was fought a battle between the forces of Owain Glyndwr and Edmund Mortimer, the latter being heavily defeated; hence the reference in Shakespeare's Henry IV (Part 1) to "a post from Wales, laden with heavy news". Just beyond is Monnaughty, one of the most interesting of the houses of Radnorshire, much of it 16th century and some even earlier. Then on through Llangunllo and under the Central Wales Railway, with a glance at the well known Baptist Chapel in the hamlet oddly named Gravel; and onwards, over the high moors of that still wild looking region of Maclienydd to drop down from 1202 feet to the village of Llanbister in the valley of the Eithon (Ithon). Here the two coaches parted; one to have early tea in the village whilst the other went on a mile to Llananno Church, beautifully situated beside the Ithon. Here is one of the finest screens in Wales, and was much admired - it is early 16th century, and the churchwardens pew is dated 1681. (Incidentally some of us heard the cuckoo for the first time this year whilst standing beside the Ithon in Llananno churchyard). Then on another mile to cross the Ithon and go uphill to one of the best known Baptist Churches in Wales - Maesyrhelem - it is not often that we can include on such an expedition a place of great interest to our many Free Church members; one such had brought with him a book on one of Maesyrhelem's most notable Ministers, and extracts from it were read to the company present and a collection made for its funds. From Maesyrhelem's graveyard there is a good view of the scanty ruins of Tinboeth Castle, high on its hill at 1235 feet across the Ithon valley, no wonder it was never captured!!! Then back to Llanbister with the first coach for a late tea; whilst the second coach visited Llananno and Maesyrhelem. Between times many from both parties managed to visit the extremely interesting St. Cynllo's Church at Llanbister; built on a steep hillside with the church "upstairs" and the tower at the east end (behind the altar!!!). Other features are a music gallery, and a baptistry (for baptism by immersion, said to be due to the influence of some of the congregation who left and went to worship at Maesyrhelem during the incumbency of a vicar they disliked; to return upon the appointment of a better man!!) Fortified by an excellent tea and not upset by a few showers on an otherwise delightful day of sunshine and shadow the return journey was made down the valley of Ithon to Penybont and over Radnor Forest to Kington, and so back to Hereford. Many of the party had come considerable distances to join the coaches in Hereford from Birmingham, Kidderminster, Worcester, Cheltenham, etc. and one lady member from Hertfordshire - who was in Hereford that weekend, just right to join us. Some would say we were right out of "Kilvert Country" (once we had left Newcastle Court behind us). Not so; for Llanbister and Llananno and the Ithon Valley down to Penybont is all adjacent to Abbeycwmhir and St. Harmon and Nantmel.

OBITUARY

Happily, there seems no current obituary notices.... but I have to record, with much regret, the death of a long-standing member known to many of us - which occurred in January. Somehow or other I neglected to put it in the March newsletter, an omission which vexed me when I realised it - too late. I refer to the late Mrs. J.E. Davies of Aberdovey, who joined the Society way back in 1956. Mrs. Davies then lived near the Shropshire border and came to many of our meetings, services, and walks with the late Mr. & Mrs. Newman of Bishops Castle. All stalwart members, and well known to many of us. Although for the last few years of her life Mrs. Davies lived in Aberdovey she often made the long journey to the A.G.M. and to the Commemoration Service; in 1971 she attended both - for the last time. A notice in the "Daily Telegraph" told of her death on January 15th 1973, peacefully at her home, in her 70th year, after a long illness, patiently and courageously borne.

A KILVERT EVENING IN GILBERT WHITE'S SELBORNE
Dean Burrows speaks to the Selborne Society 6. 11. 1972

Contributed by a Hampshire member.... February 1973. (but crowded out of the April newsletter)

Twenty-five years ago, in January 1948, the new Dean of Hereford, "mad about Kilvert" as Sid Wright was to describe him, read a paper to the Civic Trust in St. Nicholas Hall, Hereford. His subject was of course, Francis Kilvert, and the speaker was the Very Revd. Hedley Burrows.

Dean Burrows now lives in retirement in the Itchen valley, a short distance from Winchester, where, during his period as Archdeacon in the '40s, the Dean of Winchester, the late Dean Selwyn, had introduced him to Kilvert.

By the time Clement Atlee, then Prime Minister, had submitted Hedley Burrows name to the King to be Dean of Hereford, Kilvert had won one of his greatest admirers. A man to whom the Kilvert Society owe with Dr. Plomer and the late Sid Wright the very roots of their beginning.

Dean Burrows spoke to the Civic Trust in Hereford as a poet, a lover and a parson. In Clyro two years before the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, Dr. Williamson, had preached a sermon speaking of Kilvert as a man of letters, as a recorder of a phase of social history and as a clergyman. The Reverend Francis Kilvert was indeed all of these; so too a century earlier in the village of Selborne in Hampshire was the Reverend Gilbert White, M.A. Famous not for a Diary, but for his Letters, "The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne". First published by his brother, Benjamin in the year 1789, the book has not been out of print since.

And it was to Selborne in November 1972 that the Very Reverend Hedley Burrows travelled to read again his Kilvert paper - at the invitation of the Selborne Branch of the Selborne Society. A Society founded in 1885 whose main aim is to perpetuate the memory of Gilbert White and all that his name and the village of Selborne stand for.

How Kilvert would have enjoyed the evening! The supper party which preceded the meeting; the old world charm and the atmosphere of the occasion. Somehow it would not have seemed out of place had both Gilbert White and Francis Kilvert stepped out of the past to join in.

Seated around the candle-lit supper table in the small hotel in Selborne, the Dean had on his left Canon John Darlington, Rural Dean of Alton and Vicar of Selborne for almost 25 years. To his right, the Reverend Sidney Wright, now living in retirement from his final parish at Eastbourne, but for many years he was priest in country parishes in Shropshire and often visited the Kilvert Country. (He has too many memories of Dean Burrows' father, Bishop of Sheffield, when he, Sidney Wright, was a young reporter on a Sheffield newspaper). Opposite the Dean, at the other end of the table sat Anthony Rye, poet and biographer of Gilbert White and eloquent admirer of Kilvert and his Diary. In between their respective ladies, and the Hon. Secretary of the Selborne Society, local branch, did their best to keep the meal moving - for time was precious and the village hall called! Although the animated talk of Kilvert's qualities, illustrated with references from his diary, proved that an evening with Kilvert was in fact well under way; and Clyro and the Baskerville Arms, Bredwardine and the Kilvert countryside seemed but a stone's throw away.

In the Village Hall many members of the Selborne Society had gathered to hear the Dean, who was introduced by Anne Mallinson of the Selborne Bookshop, a former Chairman of the local branch of the Selborne Society. Mrs. Mallinson is also a member of the Kilvert Society and it was at her suggestion that Dean Burrows was invited to Selborne. And, as Mrs. Mallinson recalled, it was not the Dean's first visit to the village either, for he had preached in the church in July 1970 at the special service held for European Conservation Year.

In his introductory remarks the Dean referred to the tragedy of Kilvert's early death. "Yet a young unknown country parson - through the rescue and publication of his diaries, has now taken rank with the immortals."

Dean Burrows presented a finely balanced picture of Kilvert's life under the three categories he had selected. Throughout giving a picture of the world in which Kilvert lived: emphasising the nature and quality of the people on the Welsh - Herefordshire border. Kilvert, said the Dean, loved all sorts and conditions of men. He was as much in love with Morgan the old Peninsular soldier and Hannah Whitney, as he was with the little girl Gipsie Lizzie or Irish Mary. "He had an eye for what was quaint, what was valuable, and what was beautiful in people".

Of his faith in the Saviour, the Dean spoke of this as the mainspring of Kilvert's life. "This faith explains his power of loving, his attraction for the children, his love for all sorts of people." "It discloses" said the Dean, "why he was so near to God in the sufferings of his people and reveals his power to win and draw souls to the Lord. The worship of God is the secret of his self-discipline and of his joy in every day of his life and work".

In summing up the Dean said that the truth was that Kilvert loved our Lord so much, and he was so rich in all kinds of friends, and in the beauty of the countryside, that he saw the world as redeemed as he moved through it. Kilvert, he said, was a gift of God to his people. "I cannot help thinking that the whole force of our society would be changed if we had more like him at work today".

On thanking the Dean, the Reverend Sidney Wright spoke of the great pleasure of the entire evening, which he felt had a true Kilvertian quality, and he referred to the endless joy experienced in the reading of Kilvert's Diary.

AROUND LANGLEY BURRELL - (contributed by Mr. Melville Thomas of Brecon). (Crowded out of the April newsletter).

In September 1972 my wife and I thought we would like for two or three days to follow the footsteps of Rev. Francis Kilvert in his parish of Langley Burrell and around the neighbourhood. We are both old enough to remember the pony and trap as a means of transport, roads which were muddy and not tarmacaded, and walking as the usual method of moving from place to place. We made the Angel at Chippenham our centre. However, as my walking days are now over, we drove by car, first to look at Langley Burrell Church, it is really beautiful. Squire Ashe's house adjoins the churchyard, which was very well maintained. We next called to see Mr. & Mrs. Payne at the Old Brewery House, who were kindness itself. Their house is where the owner or manager of the brewery lived. The brew houses have gone, but the retailing part is still in use, and to this day among the locals is always referred to as "The Tap". We looked round the village and although there are a number of new houses, the old ones where Kilvert used to go "villaging" are quite clearly recognisable. Just beyond the Brewery is Langley Green. The house was undergoing some repair, but behind the thick laurel bushes, one might still hear the girlish laughter of Karen, Ellen, Margaret, and Katherine Wood, and the Miss Longs, and the click of croquet balls on the lawn.

Our journey took us over the Avon, though the season was wrong to see if the moon daises still grow by Kellaways bridge (they were being gathered in May) past little Kellaways church, and up Wick Hill to Maud Heath's Monument. She was already sitting on her column looking down on her Causeway before Kilvert was born. On then through Studley, Derry Hill, and Sandy Lane to look at Nonsuch. This was Ettie's home, and I was most curious to get an impression of her background. Nonsuch is quite close to the main road, and is a Georgian house of substantial proportions, with coach houses, stabling and accommodation for a considerable household. My heart went out to poor Kilvert, whose background would draw him to this type of house, and yet he was a penniless curate. The quickest way to Chittoe church would be by a footpath through the fields, which Ettie normally followed; but these paths have practically all disappeared through lack of use. Chittoe seemed a sad little Church to me. It must have been poor Kilvert's grief still haunting the place. The journey back to Chippenham took us through Lacock, and near Notton House, the scene of the dance at Sir John Awdry's, so marvellously described in the entry for the 7th January 1873. In my youth a dance like this was an exceptional occasion and when reading these lines I could still savour its enjoyment to the full.

Another day we went past the Plough Inn, which once stood right on an important road fork; but a new dual carriageway has just passed it by. Then to Kington St. Michael, a beautiful old church, with Mrs. Prodggers' face in the East window. Next a visit to Mrs. Tanner, who showed us the foundations of Walter Coleman's Mausoleum. She was most kind and helpful. Close at hand we saw The Ridge, where Ettie's brother lived, and then The Poet's Gate, where poor Kilvert must have leaned and mused about the future after visiting the Meredith Browns at The Ridge. The view from the gate across the fields and valley is just as he would have seen it, perhaps some trees slightly different. It was rather misty the day we were there, so the view was somewhat reduced.

We next made our way to Draycot Church, in the grounds of Draycot House, passing the Lodge, now being modernised, where old Molly Carey lived, and which had a room fitted up as a retreat for the Miss Longs. We passed the ponds where the skating took place, and I don't think I have ever seen so many moorhen in the water and running about the grass like chickens. The approach to Draycot House was beautifully kept, which helps to set off the little church, very old, and still with box pews and a two deck pulpit. There was even a sort of side chapel with a fireplace, the walls covered in monuments to Cowleys, Longs, and Wellesleys. Here in former years the Lord had a habit of retiring during the sermons, which were no doubt lengthy. This was the Rev. Charles Awdrey's church; but it seemed hard to visualise where the Rectory was, as there did not appear to be any buildings anywhere near.

We next visited Seagry Church, again a nice little church, beautifully maintained, but they were having an awful battle with moles in the churchyard. One side chapel was given over to children and their drawings, which set my mind thinking of the famous nutting expedition to Seagry Woods, which are still there, and another picnic in the Marsh on the 18th May 1874, with Agnes, Edith, Mabel, Evelyn, Beatrice and Julia, all children of Rev.

Charlie Awdrey of Seagry Vicarage present, plus other as well. No doubt all using this same little side chapel in their day 100 years ago.

There was a lot more to see, but this was the extent of our visit on this occasion, and I was much impressed that, with one exception, all the churches (and I looked at some others as well) had made valiant efforts to make their churchyards look nice.

Three other points stand out. Nearly all the footpaths have disappeared, the Common has been enclosed, and the building of scores of new houses and road alterations have altered the landscape a bit. However, the joy is that so many of Kilvert's houses have remained, and undoubtedly each one must have accommodated many more people per house than is the case today. The distances that Kilvert walked are still exactly the same, and his walking ability fills me with admiration.

Hon. Secy's notes

Chittoe church is not mentioned by name in the Diary, but there is no doubt that the church about which Kilvert writes at length on pages 246 and 247 in Volume 3 is Chittoe, for close by is Nonsuch "the picturesque Manor House, Ettie's sweet home"; (p. 299 onwards in the abridged edition). No wonder that Mr. Thomas was interested in Ettie and in seeing her home and Chittoe church; and The Ridge at Kington Langley..... for he is a kinsman of the Thomas family to which Kilvert's "Daisy" belonged. Both young women were forbidden to Kilvert by their respective families because (as Mr. Thomas puts it) he was a penniless curate.

LONG WELLESLEY

Draycot House, the Longs and the Wellesleys all figure in the previous item. They figure in Kilvert's Diary too (page 393 onwards in Volume 2) where we can read of "that scamp Wellesley" marrying Miss Long, the great heiress of Draycot, of how he treated her etc.etc. with a final reference - page 405 - on Wellesley's death, and the comment that he wasn't buried at Draycot as "he wasn't worth the carriage". (page 229 onwards in the abridged edition).

One of our Surrey members has recently written to me suggesting that many who know the Diary will be interested in the account of Long Wellesley in the second volume of "Wellington, Pillar of State" - Lady Longford's biography of Wellington. The relevant part being from the last line of p. 250 to p. 257.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - the new one for 1973

Each year we sell more and more Christmas cards; and each year we add to them. The new one this year is a delightful picture of THE OTTERS POOL (PWLLDWRGWY) - ON THE WYE NEAR CLYRO. In the background are the Black Mountains, with the Gospel Pass (Bwlch yr Efengel) at their lowest point; nearer are the wooded hills beyond Llanigon (here is the site of Llanthomas); with the Wye in the foreground, just here broadening into THE OTTERS POOL, where - on 27th January 1872 Kilvert wrote in his diary, "I set out for Pwllldwrgwy to get some wild snow-drops along the riverside for Mrs. Venables". Eight different cards are now available, scenes and places in Bredwardine, Clyro, Wiltshire, (the churches at Hardenhuish and Langley Burrell); Hay, and the Black Mountains, and now the Otters Pool.

Each is obtainable in packets of 5 for 22½p (plus 2½p postage) or there are assorted packets of all 8 for 38p (plus 5p postage). ALL PRICES INCLUDE ENVELOPES. From the Hon. Secretary and from stockists in several towns etc. FURTHER DETAILS ON REQUEST; but why not send for a sample packet NOW?

BATH MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

A LONG STANDING MEMBER HAS VERY RECENTLY MOVED FROM LONDON TO BATH; SHE IS MISS K.G. GOODWIN and the address is 2 Catherine Place, BATH. Miss Goodwin would welcome contacts with members in Bath and the surrounding area. We are always pleased to help to bring members together in this way.

KILVERT'S FURNITURE

Recently I read an extremely enjoyable little book of autobiography called "Drawn from Memory" by Ernest Shepard, an artist who contributed to "Punch" for over half a century and who illustrated the famous A.A. Milne's children's books as well as Kenneth Graham's Immortal "The Wind in the Willows".

In "Drawn from Memory" (Methuen & Company, 1957) the artist describes his life as a London boy of seven and eight in the years 1887 and 1888 - a period very little changed from that of Kilvert's Diary. On young Shepard's seventh birthday he was presented with a large wooden horse, something like a rocking-horse to look at but mounted on wheels and capable of being pedalled along the pavement. This was a present from an aunt, who has bought it from "Mr. James Shoolbred's store". He describes how this aunt later took him several times to "Shoolbred's, in Tottenham Court Road". He adds: "Apparently there was

a rivalry between this shop and Maples'; which would suggest that Shoolbred's was a very large and important emporium.

Now if we turn to Kilvert's Diary, volume three, we can read the following:-

24th January (1878). Shoolbred's sent in their bill, £230.9.6.

27th May. Sent Shoolbred and Co. a cheque for £50 on account of a bill of £230.9.6. for furniture.

5th July. Sent Shoolbred a cheque for £130.9.6. the balance of my account for the furnishing of Bredwardine Vicarage.

I had always imagined that "Shoolbred's" - who seemed far from strict in their credit terms(!) - was the local Hereford emporium, and I was therefore somewhat surprised to realise that - as there seems little doubt - he had ordered his furniture from what appears to have been one of the leading London furniture stores of his day.

We do know, of course, that Kilvert had no very high opinion of Hereford itself; and, oddly enough, Sara Hutchinson, the sister of Mrs. William Wordsworth, had something to say on this subject when, in 1824 she was staying with her cousin, "blind Mr. Monkhouse", at Stow Farm, Whitney-on-Wye. Writing to the brother of "blind Mr. Monkhouse," Tom Monkhouse, she says:-

"We had thought about the sofa, and will have one if Hereford can furnish it - but it is the most barren place in the Island, and I believe it would take a twelvemonth to furnish a cottage to one's mind from that City."

A charge, happily, which no one could justifiably bring against the Hereford of 1973!

May 1973 - R.I. Morgan, Chalfont, St. Peter Bucks.

MR. RIVETT-CARNAC

A Buckinghamshire member has just sent me a cutting from the "Daily Telegraph" of sometime in December (with a letter saying that he intended sending it at the time, but mislaid it). It tells of the death of Sir Henry Crabbe Rivett-Carnac at 83 and gives as his heir his nephew, the Rev. Thomas Nicholas Rivett-Carnac (45). Our Buckinghamshire member suggests that this is most likely the same family as the Rev. Rivett-Carnac, Curate of Bremhill (near Chippenham) who Kilvert records as being attacked by a ferocious gander, which tore a grievous rent in his 'petticoats' (as the old lady who told this to Kilvert called his cassock).... see page 197 of Vol. 3 ---- or 287 in the abridged edition.

THE LAST CHANCE

This will be the last chance in 1973 to issue a general reminder to those members who have not yet paid their ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION; please do it now if not already paid.

Once again I appeal to members to send subscriptions to Mrs. Peters (the Ass't. Hon. Treasurer) and not to Mr. J.D. Worsey. The only exception is if a member wishes to write to me on any matter, or is ordering publications or Christmas cards, they can then also include their subscription and I will pass it on to Mrs. Peters. (Hon. Secretary's note)

THE JUNE WALK

Several members have asked for a WALK to be arranged for Saturday 23rd June. This is a good idea, for many will be around Hay, Clyro etc. that weekend, in order to be at Brecon Cathedral on the 24th.

Unfortunately, neither my wife nor myself will be available that day; but I am glad to say that our two Clyro committee members Miss C. Powell and Miss M. Mantle..... have agreed to do the organising, and lead the walk. Plans are the same as usual, meet near the Baskerville Arms at Clyro at 11 a.m. EACH TO BRING THEIR OWN PICNIC LUNCH AND PICNIC TEA, PLEASE.

Cars will be used to take members to the spot from which the walk will start, and the picnic lunch will be eaten there before moving off; and tea at the same spot later on. Unless it is decided to have two walks, as last October.

It has not yet been settled which direction the walk will take, but I am quite sure that the two ladies concerned will pick an interesting route, somewhere up over the Radnorshire Hills.