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10th June 1974

Dear Member,

The April Newsletter gave (on page 5) the date of the Annual Commemoration Service; this year at the Church of St. Meilig at LLOWES... Sunday 30th June at 3 p.m. (two miles beyond Clyro... along the main road).

This service will be conducted by the REV. D.E. REES, BA, the Vicar of Clyro, who is also Vicar of Llowes. This will be his second Kilvert Service since coming to Clyro in 1973, for last year he took part in the service in Brecon Cathedral; and we remember with pleasure his welcoming words when Mr Wynford Vaughan-Thomas unveiled the new plaque on Ashbrook House, Clyro last October.

The ADDRESS will be given by the REV. T. MADOC-JONES BA of BRECON; who has strong connections with LLOWES, for his father was Vicar there for 25 years (1925-1951). Mr Madoc-Jones is a member of the Kilvert Society.

The LESSONS will be read by our Deputy President, Mr Frederick Grice, BA of Worcester and by the Rev. D.N. Lockwood BA, who is Vicar of Hanley Castle with Hanley Swan in Worcestershire, and a Vice-President of the Society. Another old friend and member the Rev. D.B. James BA., F.C.A. of Talybont-on-Usk in Breconshire will give the ACT OF REMEMBRANCE.

It is now 21 years since the Kilvert Society held the first such service at LLOWES; and to mark this occasion we are giving the church a HYMN BOOK CUPBOARD; this is at present being made by the Anthony Brothers of Clyro and will be dedicated during the service.

Since 1953 there has been Kilvert Services at Llowes in 1954 (when the then Bishop of Swansea and Brecon - the Rt. Rev. Glyn Simon---dedicated the Memorial Sundial beside the path to the church; this took place on a beautiful day in November, with wonderful clarity).... and again in 1960, when the special preacher was the Rev. A.J.K. Goss, then Vicar of St. Peter's Hereford. So it is 14 years since the last Kilvert Service at Llowes.

Llowes will, of course, for ever be associated with the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths and Mrs Lane Griffiths. Mr Lane Griffiths became our President in 1967, following the resignation of the late Mrs L.R.K. Wright---but only for a year, as he died in 1968, and was succeeded by Dr William Plomer. There are more notes overleaf about Mr Lane Griffiths and also about the Rev. T. Madoc-Jones.

TEA will, as usual, follow the service---but not at Llowes, for it has no Village Hall or the like. It will be necessary to go by car etc to Glasbury-on-Wye, some 2 miles further on, where there is a spacious Village Hall just off the main road (to the right) just where the road bends round for the bridge over the Wye. Do NOT cross this bridge, the Hall is in the Radnorshire part of Glasbury. TEA TICKETS are required, they are 40p each and obtainable only from the Hon. Secretary (or from Wyval Ltd in Hereford by those booking there for the coach from Hereford).

IMPORTANT --- there are a limited number of TEA TICKETS (150) so please get yours early; this number is about right, but late applicants may be disappointed. TEA IS BY TICKET ONLY; it is being done by a good firm of local caterers (James of Kington). WE HAVE THE HALL FOR AN HOUR AFTER TEA, AND HOPE TO ARRANGE AN INTERESTING PROGRAMME.

A motor-coach will run (as is usual) from Hereford---to Llowes, and afterwards on to Glasbury for tea. It will leave the TOWN HALL at 1-30 p.m. (PROMPT). Fare will be 40p per person. PLEASE BOOK EARLY---at WYVAL Ltd. Photographic Dealers, Bridge Street Hereford; or with the Hon. Secretary of the Society; Payment when booking is greatly appreciated and saves a lot of work.

Some newsletters will have a POSTER (or POSTERS) with them; if any with this kindly endeavour for display as prominently as possible.

Yours sincerely,

*Charles Prosser*

NOTES and NEWS... by the Hon.Secretary; with contributions from members

A walk on the day previous to such an event as the SERVICE at LLOWES on 30th June seems always popular, for there are mostly some distant members in the area for the weekend, or longer, and we therefore often have in the party some to whom the Radnorshire Hills are a new experience and sometimes others who have not been on them for many years. This time we shall again follow the usual pattern...cars meet in Clyro (near the Baskerville Arms, this will give an opportunity to see the new plaque on Ashbrook House opposite, for the first time or to see it again.) The programme will therefore be something like this:- Meet in Clyro at 11 a.m. Move off (in cars) up into the hills about 11.15. Probably a short walk before the picnic lunch. After lunch a longer walk, arriving back at the parked cars for TEA (each bring their own lunch and tea). Please note...it is a tradition that we turn up whether fine or wet; if wet we organise a car run to some places of interest in lieu of the walk.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS... a few words about subscriptions may not come amiss; for we do seem to get quite a few enquiries about "how much"... "when due" etc etc.

As has so often been stated the annual subscription to the Kilvert Society is an "elastic" one---with 50p the minimum, though how long we can keep the minimum as low as 50p is problematical in these days of ever rising costs. A larger annual subscription is very much appreciated, and very many members do actually pay more each year; £1 per annum seems a popular figure, though a lot of members subscribe more than that. LIFE MEMBERSHIP is £10, but there are grave doubts as to whether this is a large enough sum, and life members may be invited in the not so distant future to give a donation to an "increased costs fund". Now as to when the annual subscription becomes due; it is much easier on those handling subscriptions for them to be coming in throughout the year rather than at one particular time. We therefore look upon a subscription as being due on the anniversary each year of when any particular member joined. The membership cards which are now being issued to all members---a few each time newsletters go out---state when due. Please hold on to these cards, and stick each year's receipt in it as they arrive. Receipts are sent out with newsletters, unless a stamped envelope is enclosed with subscription and an immediate receipt requested.

IMPORTANT---subscriptions should be sent to the Assistant Hon.Treasurer (Mrs E.G.Peters) and NOT to Mr Worsey as in past years. The only exception to this is that if a member is writing to the Hon.Secretary, subscriptions can be included, they will then be handed on to Mrs.Peters.

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THE REV.T.MADOC-JONES

The front page of this newsletter announces that it is the Rev.T.Madoc-Jones of Brecon who is giving the ADDRESS at LLOWES on 30th June...and that he has strong connections with Llowes; his father being Vicar there from 1925 to 1951. But I am sure that many members would like to know a little more; and therefore I asked Mr Madoc-Jones to give me a few details of his career. Here they are:- "For 25 years Vicar of Llanddew (near Brecon)---famous for being the home of Giraldus Cambrensis when he was Archdeacon of Brecon, and when Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury spent the night with him before they started their tour of Wales in the reign of Henry II". "While Vicar of Llanddew I was also Assistant Master at Christ College, Brecon---for 20 years. I then moved (in 1963) to the Diocese of Gloucester, where I was Vicar of Blakeney & Awre, and later Vicar of Kempley & Oxenhall in the same Diocese. I retired in 1970 and came to live near Brecon and now am back again at Christ College doing some part-time teaching".

Surely there could have been no better choice than the Rev.T.Madoc-Jones for our Commemoration Service at Llowes this year? We look forward to hearing him.

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THE SERVICE AT ILSTON (GOWER) 13th OCTOBER 1974

The next newsletter (end of September-beginning of October) will give FULL details of the AUTUMN SERVICE...about the coach from Hereford, about TEA after the service, the preacher, and the readers of the lessons etc. ALL IS ARRANGED. This should be an outstanding event, in an entirely new area. Once again the suggestion is made that anyone coming to ILSTON should read up the ILSTON references in KILVERT'S DIARY. Pages 118 and 183 to 188 in Volume 2 and pages, 275, 396 and 397, 426, 427 and 428 in Volume 3. Unfortunately there is no mention of ILSTON in any abridged edition.

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KILVERT'S MIGRAINE

The item in the newsletter dated 6th April 1974 and headed "WAS KILVERT A MIGRAINE SUFFERER?" has brought replies from several directions. Two doctor members both agree that the symptoms are definitely those of migraine and several members who are themselves sufferers agree that this is so. It seems therefore that all those who from time to time have asked the question "WHAT WAS THE MATTER WITH KILVERT'S EYES?" now have the answer.

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#### THE 1974 A.G.M. and SOCIAL EVENING (April 24th)

This has since been described as just about the most outstanding such event of the past 25 years, as will be realised from the account of what followed the business meeting. A larger than usual company of members attended, some from far away..... Birmingham, Worcester, Malvern, Bath, some from Radnorshire and from Breconshire, many from Herefordshire and perhaps those from furthest away were members from Oxford and from Chessington (Surrey).

Mr. F.R.C. Hermon (Committee Chairman) took the chair to open the meeting; and after giving a hearty welcome to all present proceeded to mention those who had died since our last meeting (particularly Dr William Plomer) and asked all present to stand for a few moments in their memory. After hearing from Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary we got to Election of Officers. Those present at the meeting were asked to confirm the election of Mr Wynford Vaughan-Thomas as President and Mr Frederick Grice as Deputy-President, in both cases this was done with unanimity and enthusiasm. At this stage Mr Hermon vacated the Chair and handed the meeting over to Mr Grice; for Mr Hermon had previously indicated that this was what he wished to do; he was warmly thanked for all his good work and for the efficient way he had conducted these meetings, since he took over following the death of the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths in 1968. All the Vice-Presidents were re-elected with the addition of Sir John Betjeman--as was the Committee, with Mrs. M. Mathers of Hay-on-Wye being confirmed as the new member to replace Mr H.W. Butcher (who resigned, having moved to Bournemouth). With the re-election of Hon. Treasurer; Asst. Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary the business part of the meeting ended about 7-30 and was followed by Mr Grice reading the extracts from KILVERT'S DIARY and from MORE CHAPTERS which tied up with our visit to BATH on 11th May; subsequently Mr M. West took many bookings for this visit. The last 15 minutes or so before the refreshment break was taken up with a tape recording of the Rev. David Lockwood's address which he gave at Brighton in September last at the funeral of Dr William Plomer; Mr Godfrey Davies had recorded it at Llanigon in October--where the Rev. David Lockwood gave it again as part of the service there; but we do not tire of hearing it--for it is most moving and eloquent. All then moved in to the adjoining hall for refreshments, and full justice was done to the sandwiches, cakes and tea served by a number of our lady members. Half-way through Mr Grice called for a few minutes silence--in order that the Rev. Roger Williams might speak; this he did, telling us of his regret at leaving Herefordshire but that his interest and membership would be retained. Mr Williams becomes Vicar of Fenton in the Potteries sometime during this month of June. This enabled us to have more time after refreshments during which members could pay subscriptions, buy publications and greeting cards, and complete their bookings for the visit to Bath... .. so that the main event of the evening could start a little in advance of the scheduled time of 9 o'clock. This was an hour of splendid entertainment from our London members the DAVIS BROTHERS (Colin and David)--with the title "THE HAPPY HIGHWAYS WHERE I WENT--SOME MEMORIES OF THE KILVERT COUNTRY". The April newsletter told of their Malvern connections and their later ones with the B.B.C. but we did not previously realise how well they know the countryside and people around the Hay area in years gone by. Mr Colin Davis talked of so much of interest and his brother read from Kilvert's Diary and from other writers the relevant passages. It is impossible to describe how well it was all put over, and what interest it caused and sustained. Time went by far too quickly and 10 o'clock was upon us before we realised that it was anywhere near. Those who missed this 1974 A.G.M. really missed a rare treat. Mr Grice thanked the Davis Brothers for a splendid evening's entertainment and the Hon. Secretary followed by saying that this was his 25th A.G.M. but he could not remember one that he had enjoyed in anything like the measure of this. With thanks to all who had helped towards this very successful evening Mr. Grice brought it to a close.

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#### SIR JOHN BETJEMAN

In the above report on this year's A.G.M. it will be noticed that Sir John Betjeman has become a Vice-President of the Kilvert Society. This came about after he was asked to contribute to the booklet of appreciations of the late Dr William Plomer that the Society hopes to bring out before the end of 1974. Sir John has kindly agreed to contribute; he was, of course, one of William Plomer's close friends. We are proud to have the Poet Laureate as one of our V.P's.

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ANOTHER MEMBER WHO WRITES : We have added to our Hereford members through Miss Lois Lang-Sins moving from Market Harborough to Hereford; she writes and the titles of some of her books may interest other members. One that is full of descriptions of the English countryside and of country life in Regency times is THE CONTRITE HEART, pub. by Andre Deutsch, now out of print but easily obtainable from libraries. Two volumes of autobiography are still in print: A TIME TO BE BORN and FLOWER IN A TEACUP (both also Andre Deutsch). We are always glad to mention the books of any member who writes.

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#### THE VISIT TO BATH—11th May 1974

This was surely one of the most successful of the "Annual Spring Coach Tours" that we have now had for a number of years—always visiting places with Kilvert connections. The motor-coach left Hereford at 10 a.m.—almost full; not only with Hertfordshire members, for others had come from Birmingham, Worcester, Malvern etc. to join it—and after a nice run via the Wye Valley and the Severn Bridge reached Bath at mid-day. After picking up our guide—Miss K.G. Goodwin—the coach proceeded slowly via the Circle and then the Royal Crescent to the Pavilion Gardens, where the picnic lunch was eaten in the shelter of the long colonnade to escape one of the several short "April showers" which did not mar an otherwise very nice day. Here we were joined by Mr and Mrs. Payne from Langley Burrell, members from Guildford and several more Bath members. Lunch over the party crossed the road to Bath Abbey, for a somewhat brief visit to this beautiful building which is much mentioned in Kilvert's Diary, and then boarded the coach in order to visit other places associated with the Kilverts. At this point Mr. Payne became our pilot and we were glad of his help through some of the narrow roads ahead. The first stop was at Caroline Buildings, where at No.7 the family lived at the time when the Diarist's father was a boy; with the grandmother (whose tomb we were to see later on at South Stoke) at No.15 and other relatives at No.11. Owing to road works we couldn't really stop but had to be content with driving very slowly past this long row of still handsome houses—which must be little different today. Then on by narrow uphill roads to the church of St Thomas a Becket at Widcombe—a nice old church where the family from Caroline Buildings worshipped. Mr Grice read page 21 of "More Chapters" and it was not difficult to envisage the scenes described there. In the churchyard we saw the tomb of the Rev. Francis Kilvert of Claverton Lodge and his wife Sophia—cleaned up and very legible. It was unfortunate that we were ahead of schedule and so missed the Vicar, for we heard afterwards that he brought interesting records for our inspection. As we boarded the coach Mr Payne pointed out Widcombe House (opposite), where the Clutterbucks lived before going to Hardenhuish. Most likely the reason for the Rev. Robert Kilvert getting the living of Harnish. We then doubled back to visit St Mary's Church (Bathwick), this is where Francis Kilvert the Diarist conducted two weddings which are somewhat amusingly described in the Diary (see volume 3, page 71 for Frederick Kilvert's wedding and pages 129/130 for Eliza Kilvert's wedding)...Mr Grice read these Diary extracts and we noted tablets to some of the Kilvert family and the fact that the Rev. Francis Kilvert of Claverton Lodge was at one time vicar here. Short walks from this church took us to see the imposing building of the Museum which was Sydney College in the time when the Rev. W.R. Smith was master before becoming Rector of Monnington-on-Wye in Herefordshire, en route we passed 9 Darlington Street, and then walked a little further in the opposite direction to look at 13 Raby Place...where Thersie and her husband lived prior to moving to Monnington-on-Wye. Then by coach uphill to Claverton Lodge, a place of great interest, for we now know that it was here that the young Francis Kilvert was educated (by his Uncle Francis) in the years between leaving his father's little school at Hardenhuish Rectory and going up to Oxford (pages 110/111 in "More Chapters" give interesting side-lights on Claverton Lodge and its occupants); we had special permission to visit it and stroll in the grounds. It was interesting to compare the house and grounds as they are today with the Rev. Edward Kilvert's picture of it, done in 1842; a few changes but basically just the same. Then on to tea at The Rockery, where we met more Bath members; after an excellent tea Mr Grice thanked those who had helped to make the day such a success, particularly mentioning Miss Goodwin and Mr Payne. The final visit was to the church at South Stoke, only 2 miles or so from Bath but completely rural, this is where Grandmother Kilvert was buried in 1821...she was Elizabeth Caint from Condover in Shropshire; the account of the funeral which can be read on p.50 of "More Chapters" gives a good picture of the scene; but does not tell us why she was buried there. On the homeward run we went through a very heavy storm on the approach to the Severn Bridge—and then as suddenly ran out of it into brilliant sunshine by the time the bridge was crossed; this sunshine persisted all the way up the Wye Valley to Monmouth and home—a perfect ending to a good day. A short stop at Tintern enabled us to view the Abbey in a splendid light and to remember that even here we were not far from Kilvert and the Diary and that on p.203 of volume 3 we can read of his visit to it, when he climbed to the top of the ruined walls—something most certainly not allowed today!!!

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**OBITUARY:** With much regret the death of two members has to be reported, both occurred since the April newsletter was circulated. MR R.T. LLOYD of Burghill nr. Hereford, on April 28th. Mr & Mrs. Lloyd have been members for many years and have attended many of our services, walks and meetings. The funeral service was at Burghill Church with which the Lloyd family have been closely associated for very many years and the church was full, with family & friends. My wife & I attended, as kinsmen as well as representing the Society. MR L.T.C. ROLT of Stanley Pontlarge, nr. Winchcombe in Gloucestershire, on May 9th; a nationally known figure we were proud to have (with Mrs Rolt) in the Society. The funeral was at Stanley Pontlarge and members of the Society were among the many who attended.

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#### PILGRIMAGE TO CAPEL-Y-FFIN

The newsletter of October last (page 5) told - in a short paragraph - that members of the Kilvert Society had been invited to join the pilgrimage to the tomb of Father Ignatius on Saturday 31st August and that further details would appear in the June Newsletter. Here they are.....firstly the note which Mr W.I.Davies of the Monastery very recently sent me (he is Hon.Secretary of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust). It reads:- "The Annual Pilgrimage in memory of Father Ignatius O.S.B. (The Reverend Joseph Leycester Lyne) will assemble at the hamlet of Capel-y-Ffin at 2 pm. on Saturday 31st August and move off for The Monastery in procession, led by the Abergavenny Town Band, at 2-30 pm. There will be parking facilities in a field at Capel-y-Ffin and directional signs will be put up. Some visitors however may wish to drive to Llanthony, visit the famous 12th Century Priory there, leave their cars in the Priory car park and walk the remaining  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Capel-y-Ffin. All are invited to attend the service of Evensong, following the procession, in the ruined Abbey Church at The Monastery. Only the walls of the church now remain, and the restored tomb of Fr.Ignatius, covered with a tiled cross, is set in the centre of the chancel floor - open to the sky. One interesting feature of the ceremony will be that the cope worn by the officiant will be that which was actually used by Father Ignatius until his death in 1908. The church service will be followed by an invitation to enter the Monastery and inspect an exhibition of photographs, books, cuttings, together with relics and exhibits relating to the history of The Monastery--and tea will be served in the Central Garth within the Monastery quadrangle. Admission to the exhibition and tea will be 30p. The proceeds will be in aid of The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust Fund (a registered charity) and will go towards paying off an outstanding debt for the restoration of the tomb and church of Father Ignatius."

It is to be hoped that a goodly number of Kilvert Society members will join this pilgrimage; for whether we all fully agree with Father Ignatius (or fully disagree) the fact remains that he is an outstanding character of KILVERT'S DIARY and it is generally recognized that Kilvert's account of meeting Father Ignatius and witnessing the building of The Monastery is the only account written down by anyone who was there at the time which exists for us to read today. (see any edition of Kilvert's Diary for 5th April 1870; 15th July 1870 and 2nd September 1870). What remains must be preserved.

Owing to the narrow roads and the time of the year it is impossible to even think about a motor-coach; so we must all make our own arrangements for getting there. It is to be hoped that those with spare seats in their cars will offer to take someone who has no car; friends may think about engaging a minibus between them perhaps? Given a fine day it will be a delightful afternoon in the heart of the Black Mountains, plenty of nice places for a picnic lunch and much to see in the valley (for instance, the unique church at Cwmyoy---see another page of this newsletter).

Mr Davies suggests that some may like to leave their cars at Llanthony and walk the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Capel-y-Ffin. Another has thrown out the suggestion that those used to mountain walking and who know the Black Mountains well, might like to lead a party over from the Olchon Valley (Llanveynoe); this would be a much lesser distance than the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles up the valley BUT A "TOUGH" WALK; anyone interested in taking the lead or joining in on such a mountain walk might like to write to me (the Hon.Sec. of the K.S.) and I will put them in touch with each other; providing it is all done well in advance of Saturday 31st August.

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#### MADLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL - JULY 10th to 14th 1974

Though Madley is not quite within the Kilvert Country most people who visit the area make a point of going to Madley if only to see its lovely 12th-13th Century church in which, for the 9th year in succession, the Madley Music Festival is held. The programme this year will include a dramatic performance by William Fry & Co. entitled "My Brother's Keeper" (Wednesday); the Linden Singers, together with the Symphoniae Sacrae Brass Group will be heard on Friday; and on Saturday an Orchestral Concert will include Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.4 and Haydn's Symphony No.103 (Drum Roll) Dr.Melville Cook will give a piano and organ recital immediately before the Festival Service at 3 pm. on Sunday when the Festival Chorus will sing anthems by Wesley and Joubert and the preacher will be the newly enthroned Lord Bishop of Hereford. For tickets and information, write to the Vicar, Madley Vicarage, Hereford, or Tom Lloyd, the Forge, Tyberton, Madley, Hereford.

(Madley is almost half-way between Hereford and Bredwardine, on the road which runs south of the Wye).

## KILVERT AND HIS DENTISTS

The account of the 1974 A.G.M. (on another page in this newsletter) tells of the splendid hour's entertainment we all enjoyed ... thanks to our two London members Colin and David Davis; and now we have this very interesting item from Colin Davis, who is a practising dental surgeon and therefore very interested in Kilvert's accounts of his visits to Gaine of Bath and McAdam of Hereford. Gaine was obviously a man ahead of his time; the index tells us of Kilvert's many visits to him---this contribution will undoubtedly interest many, perhaps particularly so those who visited Bath recently and saw a number of the houses mentioned in Kilvert's Diary. Gaine was talked about but we did not see 8 Edgar Buildings or No.30 Gay Street.

What follows has been extracted from the script of a paper with the title "Francis Kilvert-A Diarist and his Dentists" which Colin Davis gave (illustrated with slides) to the Lindsay Society a year or so ago.

Charles Gaine published a treatise in 1856 entitled 'On certain irregularities of the teeth'-with cases illustrative of a novel method of successful treatment - and in her 'Short History of Dentistry', Lilian Lindsay described it as the first work devoted exclusively to the subject. Gaine himself however, paid tribute to his predecessor Joseph Fox whose text book published in 1803 established the broad principles of orthodontic treatment which Gaine later applied and developed. I find it tantalising that so obviously important a figure in the annals of dentistry should have left behind him so little record of his life and work; and on the other hand intriguing that almost the only clear picture we have of him should have been provided by that least likely of sources, namely one of his patients.

It was no great effort for Francis Kilvert when living near Chippenham or on his holidays there from Wales to take train down to Bath to do some shopping and meet friends and see his dentist, Charles Gaine at No. 8 Edgar Buildings. Who then was this soldier-like surgeon attached to the local militia who in 1871 was reporting a sophisticated dental technique to the Odontological Society? If you want to be remembered by posterity it is a disadvantage to die of natural causes during a World War when more violent forms of extermination get the headlines; but worse still to outlive your contemporaries let alone your wife and children as did poor Charles Gaine, who died at the age of 87 on December 19th 1914 - the first Christmas of the war. No medical or dental journal carried any mention of his death and even the Bath Weekly Chronicle only gave him four perfunctory lines, so our first and obvious sources of information were denied us. We can deduce that he was born in 1827 and we know from his treatise that he was acting as assistant to a Mr Wood of Brighton in 1851 where he was already treating orthodontic cases very successfully by means of a screw. Mr. Wood considered the process and results sufficiently novel and important to be illustrated by models and plates---which were accepted for, and their merits acknowledged, at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Gaine said "Mine was the invention, his the kudos". Perhaps this was a spur to him to set up on his own and where better than in Bath which must have abounded in retired Indian Army officers and their dentally irregular progeny. Here he settled in 1858 and did not finally retire until over forty years later, in 1901. He moved his premises several times, finally practising for the last twenty years of his professional life in the Georgian elegance of No. 30 Gay Street. After establishing himself in Bath he married and had two sons and two daughters, but various tragedies overtook each of them and the last twenty years of his life was spent in lodgings in the solitary splendour of Norfolk Crescent, where he died in 1914. He was cremated and his ashes buried in the somewhat elaborate family vault near the entrance to the Landsdowne Cemetery.

In the year following his arrival in Bath he became a part-time student at the Medical School in Bristol and gained his M.R.C.S. in 1862. With this qualification he was to hold the post of surgeon-dentist to the Royal United Hospital in Bath and was also for some years Assistant Surgeon to the 2nd Somerset Militia, which accounted for the striking but rather unexpected impression which his military uniform made on the unsuspecting Kilvert (p.328 Vol.1). Gaine was president not only of the Western Counties Branch of the B.D.A. in 1883, but also of the Bath and Bristol branch of the B.M.A. three years later. No mean record. Gaine wrote a number of papers on a wide range of subjects, many published in medical journals. Kilvert refers to one of these in his account of a visit in December 1871 (p.100 Vol.2) when one of Gaine's discoveries produced a miraculous easing of the diarist's sensitive nerve. How strange it is that we should know so little of Gaine's private world and so much of that of his faithful patient who continued to visit him at regular intervals which he records briefly in the diary, the last one being on October 25th 1878. "Went to Bath by the 9.45 train. Had two teeth stopped by Gaine and bought six pairs of gloves at Harmer's at 1/6d per pair".

When he was living in Clyro and could not always get to Bath so easily Kilvert did on occasion have to visit a dentist in Hereford....G.C.McAdam. There were so few properly qualified dentists, particularly in the provinces, in those days, that it seems

continued...

reasonable to conjecture that there was a bush telephone system by which the gentry got passed on from one doctor or dentist to another as they moved about the country. Gaine would almost certainly have referred him to G.C. McAdam in Hereford and he records a visit to him in 1871 (see entry for Friday 14th July). Gaine and McAdam must have had much in common, apart from their interest in the new laughing gas as they were both members of the Odontological Society and McAdam followed him two years later as President of the Western Counties Branch. McAdam was however junior to Gaine, qualifying in 1866 but by considerably pre-deceasing him by many years managed to get a half-page obituary in the British Dental Journal, and the tribute in the Dental Record has a Kilvert-like quality:- "His many friends who loved him and respected him during his life followed him to his grave under the shadow of the church of the picturesque village of Tupsley on November 11th. Many others testified their regard for him by sending over 70 wreaths to adorn the last resting place of our honoured friend".

It is perhaps salutary to remember that it was only the gentry and the professional classes who received the standard of professional treatment which Kilvert records. For the working classes dentistry was a horrific business, memories of which still affect even today their attitudes to dental care. The contrast is brought home almost too graphically by Kilvert himself in his entry for May 24th 1875. (William Hulbert, a workman at Lanhill Farm had been to Chippenham, where he had been "put through summat" by a local doctor pulling out a good many of his teeth.

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Hon. Sec's note on G.C. McAdam: Local directories of 1867 and of 1890 show George McAdam at 21 King Street, Hereford; later directories give the name of another well-remembered dentist at that address...Quintin Miller. The house still stands, adjoining the Friends Meeting House; both are reached by a short passage from King Street. McAdam was a familiar name to me, long before I heard of Kilvert, for my parents talked of him as their dentist in earlier years and of my grandparents earlier still.

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#### KILVERT AND THE 1974 SALISBURY FESTIVAL

A member has just sent in a cutting from THE TIMES of May 10th. It reads..."Princess Alexandra, as patron of the 1974 Salisbury Festival of the Arts will be present at Wilton House for a performance by Alan Bennett of excerpts from Francis Kilvert's Diary on July 14th".

It is to be hoped that this will be a straight-forward performance, with no innuendos, smirks or quips from Master Bennett. I have not forgotten what nearly happened in 1965. A well known and highly respected Sunday newspaper announced that Alan Bennett was going to portray Kilvert on television; but the quotations from his remarks about Kilvert left no doubt as to what sort of a portrayal it would be (especially to those who had seen Mr Bennett "doing" Lewis Carroll) and I was inundated with letters saying "Can't you stop it". And stop it I did, for once the B.B.C. listened to an unknown like me!!! I was, of course, subsequently pilloried in the press---as the man who stopped something without any knowledge of what it was going to be etc. etc. But I was proved to be right; for the late William Plomer subsequently talked to the man who would have produced it (and possibly to Alan Bennett too) and got the confession that they had not read one word of Kilvert's Diary at that time!!! So obviously it was going to be done on hear-say and conjecture; and it does not need much imagination to picture what might have been---under such circumstances. Subsequently I met a B.B.C. man and we talked about it. "How right you were" he said, "Why A.B. would 'take the mickey' out of his own mother if he thought it would get him a laugh". Since that time he has obviously read Kilvert's Diary (or some of it, anyway) for many of us saw him walking across from the former Langley Burrell Rectory to Langley Burrell Church, with the Diary in his hand, reading extracts from it. There was nothing about which anyone could raise the slightest objection in this episode---and yet I had many letters afterwards from members up and down the country all saying what amounted to the same thing.....that they were not completely happy about it, mainly because they didn't think that A.B. was the right man for it.

No doubt some of our Wiltshire and Hampshire members will be at Wilton House on July 14th and I shall look forward to having a report from at least one of them as to what sort of a show A.B. puts on.

## THE CROSS OF CWMYOY

Many members know the Llanthony Valley (the Vale of Ewyas) in the Black Mountains, and have visited the ruins of the old Priory at Llanthony—and the Monastery of Father Ignatius at Capel-y-Ffin which is three miles and more further on up the valley and near to the little parish church at Capel-y-Ffin—for all figure considerably in Kilvert's Diary.

But much lower down the valley is the somewhat strange but very interesting church at Cwmyoy, high up on the mountainside and approached either from near the Queens Head Inn or from a farm a mile or so nearer Llanthony. Cwmyoy church is not mentioned in Kilvert's Diary, but it is possible that Kilvert visited it and that the account of his visit is in those parts of the Diary now lost for ever. It is a most unusual church, though beautifully kept, for geological faults have caused it to assume various angles—nothing is upright or "square" and anyone entering could be forgiven for thinking that they had suddenly become badly cross-eyed. Those who already know it, plus those who will visit it after reading this article (and not forgetting those who will be at Capel-y-Ffin on August 31st this year——see another page of this newsletter) will be particularly interested in the story that follows, for it concerns one of our members who lives in Buckinghamshire but has a holiday cottage at Cwmyoy. It is taken from a back number of "Presenting Monmouthshire" —the journal of the Monmouthshire Local History Council. It all happened some years ago now, but has only just been brought to my notice; but is none-the-less interesting because of this. The article is headed "The Cross of Cwmyoy" and is by Irene Radcliffe, and is as follows:—

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The Rood, or Crucifixion, had always attracted me ever since we first came to the Black Mountains some twenty-five years ago. It bears a primitive relief of Christ wearing a crown, which is apparently unique. The Cross stands about 4ft 6in high by 1ft 6in wide, and weighs some two to three hundred-weight. It used to lean in a dusty corner of the tower at the west end of the Church of St Martin's, and was often hidden by a pile of grave boards. For years I had meant to take a photograph of it, and get an expert opinion on the sculpture, but I only had an old camera, and the tower is dark, lit by two small windows, one triangular-headed. However, on 28th March 1967, there was a bright shaft of sunlight shining in at mid-day, and I took a guess-work exposure with my camera perched on an old box or two. Seeing a superficial resemblance to the early figures at Llanveynoe (Hfds) and Wormington (Glos), I thought the Cwmyoy Cross was pre-Conquest. Several experts, to whom I showed the photographs, were of the same opinion. There are, however, authoritative reasons for believing it to be 13th century, or even early 14th century; for instance, the fact that the shaft is chamfered. Pre-Conquest shafts are almost invariably rectangular in section. Anglo-Saxon sculptors carved the feet pointing straight down, and usually the nail-holes showing. They are never crossed. I wanted to check some measurements and decide whether or not a stone slab in the Old Vicarage Garden could have been the original base. I therefore went into the Church tower on the eve of Whit-Sunday 13th May (1967). BUT THE CROSS HAD GONE. No one had missed it, and it could have been removed at any time between Easter and Whitsun. Mr Harry Jones of Whitecastle, Cwmyoy, was able to tell me something of the Cross's last hundred years. It was dug up in 1861, just outside the Churchyard wall, by Mr Meredith of Cwmyoy Farm. The then Vicar, the Rev. Lewis Lewis, said it had been desecrated, and it was placed in the garden, near the farmhouse. Here it remained till 1935 when Mr Meredith's son, now aged 78, told of his father's discovery when he was a child of four. The Rev. David Davies, who was then vicar, in consultation with an antiquarian (another Mr. Davies, but details unknown) decided that the Cross should be returned to Church property, and Mr Jones and the late Mr Tyler, Blacksmith, carried it back and put it in the tower. Mr Tyler is believed to have prepared irons to fix the Cross, but they were never used. Mr Jones remembers the late 1935, as that was the year of his daughter's birth. The Cross remained in the tower undisturbed until this year, and only a handful of people appreciated its existence. But a sculpture of this antiquity has, of course, a market. A lucky idea took me to the Dept. of British and Mediaeval Antiquities in the British Museum. Here I entered in a book my name and the nature of my enquiry— "pre-Conquest Cross?"—and sent in my photograph which had by the way come out surprisingly well and of which I was inordinately proud. Some little time afterwards the Assistant Keeper, Mr Michael Taylor, came in saying pleasantly, albeit a trifle impatiently, "Yes, I've examined this Cross most carefully, and am convinced that it is 13th- possibly early 14th Century, and certainly not pre-Conquest". To my stunned enquiry as to when and where he made his examination, he replied "Within the last eight weeks, in an estate car, at a London dealers; it had been dug up in a field (I murmured 'yes, in 1861')—"and is being offered for sale at around £250". Excited questions followed. The police were informed, and the Cross ultimately recovered from the dealer, who had, in

continued....

all good faith, paid a substantial sum for it. It had, apparently, passed through several hands after the original purchase in a public-house in Somerset. The Cross is now back in the Church at Cwmyoy, securely fixed on the north side, where it will catch the eye of anyone entering the South Door.

Then follows a footnote by the late Mr F.J.Hando: "It must have been c.1935 that the Vicar of Cwmyoy-the Rev. David Davies-assured me that the "Crucifixion"stone fitted the stone pedestal, still standing in his garden. He was certain that both formed a "calvary" alongside the "pilgrims way" from Llanfihangel Crucorney via Llwygy to the Abbey. The line of this track is dramatically marked up the valley, for vegetation grows below it and only scrub above. Miss Radcliffe deserves praise for her enterprise in restoring this relic to St.Martin's, Cwmyoy".

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#### THE 1974 CHRISTMAS CARD

The new card for next Christmas is just available and will no doubt prove to be a very popular one. It shows two people walking over the Black Mountains, making their way from Hay over to Capel-y-Ffin, they have just come through the Gospel Pass and are walking downhill, along a road that is much more as it was in Kilvert's time than the fair motor road of today—for this picture is from a photograph taken a good many years ago. Despite greatly increased costs of production they will be sold at the same price as our cards in past years; 5 in a packet for 22½p (with envelopes, of course). Postage 3½p extra at the moment; increasing after July to about 5p. PACKETS OF THIS NEWEST CARD WILL BE ON SALE IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT GLASBURY-ON-WYE, AFTER THE TEA WHICH FOLLOWS THE LLOWES SERVICE OF 30th JUNE. Also packets of assorted cards at 8 for 38p. KILVERT'S DIARY AND THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS ALSO ON SALE

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#### KILVERT'S DIARY FOR A "CHESHIRE HOME"

In Kilvert's Diary there are many references to the Old Manor House, (or Great House) at Kington Langley, for this was the ancient home of Kilvert's ancestors the Colemans (see p.107 and also pp.214/215 in volume three); though in Kilvert's time it was deserted and the Colemans lived in the smaller Manor House across the road. Today, the Great House is serving an excellent purpose—for it is one of the many CHESHIRE HOMES. Last year our good Kington Langley member Mrs Heather Tanner gave a talk on KILVERT'S DIARY to the occupants of the Home; it was received with great interest, but Mrs.Tanner noticed that the three volumes were not in the Home's Library. She has now remedied that defect—by buying a set and giving them to the Great House Library, a kindly action and one that will surely be greatly appreciated by the folk living in this old home of the Colemans. (There is a good description of Squire Coleman on p.85 of Vol.3).

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#### DR. FOX

Several members have at different times mentioned "SKINNERS DIARY"; this is something that I have not yet read, but intend to do so in the near future. It is the "Diary of the Rev. John Skinner" and I understand that the setting is the Somerset coalfield some 20 to 30 years before the period of Francis Kilvert and 50 years or so before the period of Kilvert's Diary. But one particular member has pointed out that Skinners Diary mentions the private asylum of Dr Fox at Brislington (near Bristol) at the beginning of the 19th Century. Dr Fox is mentioned several times by Kilvert in volumes two and three; for "Aunt Emma" was a patient there and there is a mention of both Francis and his father visiting her. She was the wife of the Rev. Edward Kilvert (whose books of sketches are here.....many members have seen them) but it was a long time before I realised this. The clue is on page 447 of volume three.....  
.....Friday 3rd January 1879 — "Today Aunt Emma was buried by Uncle Edward in The Widcombe Cemetery, Bath".

Perhaps some Bristol member will do an item on Dr Fox and his Establishment?

(Hon. Sec.)

SOME RADNORSHIRE RECOLLECTIONS OF LONG AGO: This is the title that I have put to the interesting contribution which follows....from the Wellington (Salop) member whose article on Doldowlodd Station—published in a newsletter several years ago—proved to be of much interest to many. For the benefit of those who do not know the area much (or at all) it will help to mention that Doldowlodd was the station next before Rhayader on the old Cambrian Railway (the Mid-Wales Railway when Kilvert was using it; it became G.W.R. in the 1920s and W.R. up to its closure in 1963). It is but a mile or so from Doldowlodd to Ysfa, the little church well known to readers of Kilvert's Diary from his vivid description of laying the foundation stone on April 21st 1870. It will be remembered that in 1972 the Kilvert Society had the Bishop of St David's certificate for the opening of Ysfa Church cleaned up and re-framed; it hangs prominently in the little church today.

(Hon. Secretary's note)

Extracts from an unpublished autobiography of the Rev. Howel Saunders Davies; Born in 1883 at the Station House, Doldowlodd, Radnorshire—giving his recollections of church attendance and schooldays. Of interest as a contemporary account of life in the countryside much as Francis Kilvert would have known it, and with some relevance to places and people described in Kilvert's Diary.

My father was born at Devynock in Breconshire and my mother was a Monmouthshire farmer's daughter; Mother often used to tell me that father was descended from the great Celtic heroes of the past. My maternal grandmother—a Saunders, also of farming stock, came from Newbury in Berkshire and my grandparents met as a result of cattle droving. Before coming to Doldowlodd my father was Station Master at Aberedw for some years (He was Station Master at Doldowlodd c.1880-1922).

I must refer to our Sunday worship—Holy Communion 8 a.m.; Mattins 11 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m.———at Llanwrthwl church across the river. Father was choirmaster there for many years until his retirement. In the afternoon we usually went to Ysfa Church—a daughter church of Nantmel, 4 miles away ("the Church above the Stars" — The Inn). I can remember ourselves as small boys going to church proudly wearing our new overcoats from the firm of Pryce Jones of Newtown. I knew two vicars of Nantmel — Mr Thirlwall who was a relative of the Bishop of St David's, and

Mr Adamson who was a saintly Parish Priest who seemed to us children to carry goodness with him as he went about visiting. Mr Griffiths was Vicar of Llanwrthwl when I was a small boy and Mr Evans was Vicar until I went to college. Both were excellent and well-beloved priests. Attendance at Llanwrthwl church was usually good with various families occupying the same seats every Sunday morning. The most attractive and pleasing feature regarding church attendance was the preliminary assembly (with voices relating the experiences of the past week) of farmers and farm hands all gathered together in the so-called village square—perhaps 20 or 30 of them—and then when the 5 minute bell started they would all march into church military fashion. One of the customary events in country areas 70 or 80 years ago was the funeral procession. Such processions seem to proclaim Christian fellowship and love. Perhaps 50 or 60 men would pass along the road in front of our house carrying the coffin in turn. Father's office (which was equipped for receiving and sending telegrams) seemed to be the centre where the vicar, the postman, the policeman, and leading members of the local community assembled for communications and news of the area.

I remember one morning the vicar coming up from the station office to our house to ask my mother for some of our blackcurrant wine for use at a private communion service. She was proud to supply the need. I started school at the age of 6 at Ysfa. The headmistress—Mrs. Mellhuish—had about 20 children and cared for us very well. She must have been a very good teacher for many of the children gained success in college etc., and reached influential positions in life. After leaving the school several of us went to Llanidloes Intermediate School while some of the girls went to the Intermediate School at Llandrindod. We went by train, picking up at each station along the line, and made up quite a company. The headmaster at Llanidloes was a fine, capable man and the school was modern by the standards of those days. I was immediately impressed by the skeletons in the Science Dept. I went on to the old established school at Ystrad Meurig (near Strata Florida) entitled St. John's College under the headmaster nicknamed John Latin and afterwards I went on to Lampeter College where I obtained my degree in 1907. Because of my father's position on the Cambrian Railway we children always had free passes on the train to Llanidloes, Strata Florida, and Lampeter; but in the past I have walked home to Doldowlodd from Strata Florida, through Ysphyty Ystwyth to the Elan Valley and it did not seem a very long journey.

(Hon. Sec's note...."not a very long journey"!!! Considerably more than 20 miles, nearer 30 perhaps—and over the wild countryside of the Ystwyth, Elan and Claerwen valleys....to the Wye valley).