

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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September 1975.

Dear Member,

The June Newsletter announced that the AUTUMN SERVICE of 1975 is to be at NEWCHURCH (Radnor) on SUNDAY the 12th. OCTOBER at 3 o'clock. Here are the full details.

NEWCHURCH figures in KILVERT'S DIARY to a considerable extent, yet we have not had a Kilvert Service there since 1952 - an event which many of us remember quite vividly - and those who heard the remark of one of the Churchwardens (long since dead) - will hope that someone will have reason to be as complimentary after this coming service. In his quaint way he was heard to say "that he had never seen a larger or a more respectable congregation in the church at Newchurch".

The little church holds just about 100, but I have suggested to the Rev. W.M. Davies that if about 50 chairs can be brought in from the nearby Parish Hall, this will be just about right - and the men present can then be asked to carry them back as we go to the Hall for tea after the service.

THE REV. W.M. DAVIES responded immediately with a kind invitation to hold this service at Newchurch when we enquired if he would like to have us there (following suggestions from several members that it was high time we visited Newchurch again) AND HE FURTHERMORE SUGGESTED THAT WE HAVE IT COMBINED WITH THEIR HARVEST THANKSGIVING. We thought this a charming idea, and at once agreed. Mr. Davies will, of course, conduct the service. He lives at the Rectory at Rhosgoch and has four churches in his care ... Bryngwyn with Newchurch and Llanbedr Painscastle with Llandewi Fach. Many will remember the services at Bryngwyn in 1961 and at Llanbedr in 1967.

The ADDRESS will be given by THE REV. D.N. LOCKWOOD - well known to so many of us from his attendance at many of our services and meetings - in a number of which he has participated. Mr. Lockwood is Vicar of Hanley Castle with Hanley Swan in the Diocese of Worcester. The Lockwood family is well known in the area for they have a cottage at Llowes.

The ACT OF REMEMBRANCE will also be by a member of the Society ... THE REV. D.J.H. LEWIS of Llyswen, where he is Headmaster of the Church in Wales School in addition to being a priest under the authority of the Archdeacon of Brecon.

The LESSONS will be read by two members who both have strong links with Newchurch and the surrounding area ... MISS M.M. MANTLE, who teaches at Clyro School, and MR. J.A. STRATTON of Llandrindod Wells. There is an item on a following page which tells more about both ... and other items about the Vaughans of Gilfach-yr-Hoel and about Kilvert's visits to Newchurch - one of them by Miss Mantle herself.

To mark the occasion of this visit to Newchurch, the Society is giving ALTAR GLASSWARE AND A WAFER BOX to the church. The latter will have a small inscription recording the gift. They will be blessed during the service.

Tea after the service will be in the adjacent Village Hall, by the same caterers who put on such a good tea at Glasbury-on-Wye last June, following the Commemoration Service at Llowes - (Messrs James of the Central Cafe, Kington). The cost will be 50p per head. There will not be tea tickets on this occasion - the caterers will take money at the door. Please try to have the right coin ready.

There will be the usual BOOKSTALL in a corner of the Hall, with all the Society's publications and greetings cards - and Kilvert's Diary in the 3 volume edition and abridged editions - and other items. After tea we shall stay on for $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ hour or so, and no doubt hear much of interest from various officials and members. Any member who can make an interesting contribution is invited to come prepared to speak, but not at any great length!!!

On the day previous there will be the usual WALK (with picnic). This time something different - a ramble over Bredwardine Hill. Please turn to next page for details of meeting place, time, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTES OVERLEAF
RE POSTERS and the COACH
from Hereford to Newchurch.

Yours sincerely,



C.T.O. Prosser - Hon. Secretary.

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

MOTOR-COACH ... Hereford to Newchurch ... Sunday, 12th. October.

As usual there will be a MOTOR-COACH (Canyon Travel Ltd) which will leave the Town Hall in Hereford at 1 o'clock (PROMPT) and travel via White Cross, Credenhill and Kington to Newchurch; return journey via Painscastle and then as time permits. Fare will be 50p per person. Booking (as usual) with Wyeval Ltd., Bridge Street, Hereford, or with the Hon. Secretary. PLEASE BOOK EARLY and kindly pay as you book. This simplifies matters very much.

POSTERS:

Most local newsletters (and many for further afield) will have a POSTER (or POSTERS) - with details of the Newchurch service in them. Please do your best to get them displayed prominently, for once again it is emphasised that not only do they advertise the service but also tell people that there IS a Kilvert Society; and excite the curiosity of those who have not yet heard of KILVERT'S DIARY and perhaps cause them to read it.

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SATURDAY, 11TH. OCTOBER - A WALK ON BREDWARDINE HILL.

It is now quite the custom to have a walk (with picnic) on the day before both the Summer and the Autumn services, and it does seem something that is appreciated and well supported - (see another page for an account of the June walk this year). Mostly such walks have been over some part of the Radnorshire Hills, for they are the setting for so much of the Diary. But this time we will have a change and ramble over Bredwardine Hill. There is much to see, and those who intend coming are advised to read through the last hundred or so pages of the third volume, starting at page 343 - or page 321 onwards in the abridged edition. We shall hope to see such places as The Knapp, Fine Street, Dolfach, Crafty Webb, Arthur's Stone, etc., etc. - (partly by car and partly on foot).

THE MEETING PLACE ... we must not meet anywhere near the Red Lion as that area is not suitable for the 20 cars (more or less) that usually turn up. So please make the meeting place the tree lined lane leading up to Bredwardine Church. - There is room for very many cars under the trees - leaving the lane free for anyone visiting the church or the adjoining house. The time? - 11 a.m. as is usual. Everybody bring picnic lunch and tea, please.

If some can make arrangements with others to fill some cars and leave others where we meet - the number of cars going up the hill will be reduced and parking on the hill made easier. The idea will be to park cars, do a walk to one or two spots of interest and then move on and repeat the process - thus eliminating long walks. Everyone should note "The Cottage", the nice house now being renovated after years of neglect and being hidden in masses of trees. It is just across the lane from the Red Lion and figures very much in the Diary - but we shall not be able to stop to look at it all closely because of traffic problems. Should the day be drizzly or muddy underfoot, we can do a tour by car to many places of interest within a few miles - so please remember that we turn up - wet or fine.

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THE SOCIETY'S GIFT TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH.

Of late years it has become quite usual for the Society to make a gift of something useful to the various churches we visit. The front page of this newsletter reveals that ALTAR GLASSWARE AND A WAFER BOX will be given to mark the occasion of the forthcoming service at Newchurch. They will cost perhaps around £12, perhaps more. Although we can well pay this sum from our funds we always find that there are some members who like to contribute specially ... and such contributions mean that we have that much more cash in hand for some other project. Any member who wishes to send something specially for this Newchurch gift is invited to send same to the Hon. Secretary, making it quite clear that it is for the Newchurch gift. A list of donors will be exhibited at a future function but receipts will only be sent if a stamped envelope is sent with request for a receipt.

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MISS M.M. MANTLE AND MR. J.A. STRATTON.

The front page promises notes on the connections of both readers of the lessons with the Newchurch area. Here they are. Not much need be said here about Miss Mantle, for she reveals so much in her splendid article on "The Vaughans of Gilfachroel". (Miss Mantle gives the local spelling and pronunciation of this farm. We must always remember that in this borderland there is much variation in such things and sometimes it is difficult to reconcile the local name with that of the ordnance map - which I think Kilvert must have often consulted. The most puzzling perhaps is the local name for the home of Florence Hill - the Upper Noyadd, for this is invariably known locally

as "The Nathey". Numerous other examples could be quoted). Everyone will surely agree that it is most fitting to have someone with such strong connections with Newchurch as has Miss Mantle to participate in this service.

Mr. J.A. Stratton has close links with the Newchurch area too. He tells me that in his youth he spent many holidays with his uncle at Newchurch ... Thomas Lloyd the local blacksmith, who followed the Pritchards mentioned by Kilvert (p. 43 of Vol. 1). Mr. Stratton knows the area well, for he has family connections (mostly Lloyds) in local farms today ... all related to the well known family of bonesetters of that name, the most noted of which is perhaps "Silver John" of long long ago. Many will no doubt have our first President's booklet about him?

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THE VAUGHANS OF GILFACHROEL by Miss M.M. Mantle.

Most of my childhood was spent at Penvaen Farm, Newchurch, facing the Little Mountain and "the little lonely thorn tree on the brow".

Our nearest neighbours were the Beavans (who followed the Vaughans to Gilfachroel) and the Owens of Tynycwm. Many were the visits we paid to Gilfachroel as children, seeing the place exactly as it was when Kilvert visited it some fifty years before. No matter what time of day we called, Miss Beavan's first words, after greeting us, were always "Put the kettle on, Edith". The same ready hospitality this which Kilvert received in so many places he visited. John Owens of Tynycwm was a gentleman farmer, owning some four or five farms in the neighbourhood, and occasionally enjoying a world cruise. He, and his father before him, had been churchwarden at Newchurch Church and knew the Vaughans well. Mr. Owens was a regular visitor at Penvaen. On arrival he always kissed my sister and me (how like Kilvert!) and most of his stories, mainly humorous, concerned Parson Vaughan (as he was known locally) and the Church. In these childhood days I had no interest in the Vaughans, but have since regretted that I hadn't lent a more attentive ear. The Rev. David Vaughan was the son of a Radnorshire farmer, so was well equipped to run a farm as well as take charge of a Church. He never resided at the Rectory, but lived and farmed at Gilfachroel to supplement his stipend. The Rectory, as we know from the Diary, was used as a school, and apparently continued to be used as such until the State School was opened a mile or so out of the village, on the Glascwm road ... to serve the children of both Glascwm and Newchurch.

There are many references in the Diary to the members of the Vaughan family, but Kilvert's favourites seem to have been Janet and Emmeline. It was for Janet's kiss that he walked the ten miles to Newchurch and back to Clyro. It was Janet he visited in school at Bristol, when they cut their initials on the beech tree. It was Kilvert's letter to Janet that was opened and laid before the committee. Yes, Janet was a great favourite.

There are many references to Emmeline, and to her grave in the churchyard, yet there is no mention of David's death, though he must have died while Kilvert was in Clyro. We read of Willie calling on Kilvert, and on being given a tumbler of beer, sitting still for some time to recall the expression "My best respects to you, sir". On that occasion Willie told Kilvert that David had been struck down on the previous day, and for some time had been unable to speak, but had recovered. Did he really recover? On Kilvert's farewell visit to Gilfachroel in August, 1872, he says, "Mrs. Vaughan thought of old times in happy years ago when Emmeline and David were with us, and burst into tears". How strange that his death is never mentioned.

I wonder if there are any of the descendants of the Vaughans living today? Janet, Sarah and Matilda married three Hinckesman brothers from Worcestershire. Willie married a Miss Price of Pentre Gobe, Brilley, and they farmed Westbrook Manor, Dorstone (in Herefordshire's Golden Valley).

Arthur married Annie Goodwin of Dorthy Farm, Newchurch. They emigrated to Canada, but returned after a short time to Gilfachroel, where Arthur died. The eldest son, John, married Lucretia Dyke of Cabalva and farmed Llwyngwillim Farm, near Bettws. From there they moved to Dunfield Farm near Kington, but there was a recession in farming and they had difficulty in making ends meet. One day Squire Beavan of Glascwm Court (or The Yat as it was then called) paid a visit to Parson Vaughan to enquire if he could recommend anyone to act as bailiff for his estate. The result was that John Vaughan was engaged, and later he and his family moved to The Yat.

When Squire Beavan died his estate went to his spinster daughter - his other daughter (as we read in Vol. 1. page 303) married against her father's will and he disowned her. On the death of the spinster daughter the estate was left to John Vaughan, who then had Beavan added to his name and became John Beavan-Vaughan. The late Mr. Arthur Goodwin of Newchurch, a champion ploughman in his day, showed us a silver cup that had been presented to him in 1905 by John Beavan-Vaughan, whose name was inscribed on the cup. Unlike all the rest of the Vaughan family, who were all buried at Newchurch, John was buried in the Beavan's private burial ground opposite Glascwm churchyard. Lucretia, his wife, died in 1936, when the property went to her daughter, Mrs. Armstrong, who died a few years ago at Winforton Court in Herefordshire. Her son John stayed at Glascwm as bailiff for his sister. He died in Talgarth Mental Hospital in 1959 and the property was then sold.

THE VAUGHANS OF GILFACHROEL ... CONTINUED

Apparently Parson Vaughan disapproved of his servants having callers. One night Sam Williams (whose nephews now farm in the Clyro area) went a-courting a maid from Gilfachroel. Vaughan, hearing a noise outside, went out with his lamp to investigate. Sam, seeing him coming, picked up a stone, took aim and broke the parson's lamp, and the lovers escaped under cover of darkness!

The Rev. James followed the Rev. Vaughan as Rector of Newchurch, and lived in the Rectory. When James left the Rector of Bryngwyn became Rector of both Bryngwyn and Newchurch, and the Rectory became vacant. My father bought the Rectory in the early 1930's and had water brought to the house from a spring on Newchurch Hill. So, the folk who lived at Newchurch Rectory had previously to carry their water (as all the other inhabitants of the village did) from a spring in a field on the far side of the village, some quarter of a mile away!!

My great uncle retired to Newchurch Rectory, and I have spent many happy days in that very pleasant house, where the Vaughan girls once had their school.

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EMMELINE'S GRAVE - by the Hon. Secretary.

The Diary tells us of Kilvert bending low over Emmeline's grave "under the great yew tree by the churchyard gate" (at Newchurch). At different times, members visiting Newchurch have looked for it in vain, and sometimes have written to me afterwards to enquire about it. The answer is that no stone or cross was erected over it, but, many years later, when others of the Vaughan family had been buried nearby, a granite cross was erected ... probably in the midst of a number of Vaughan graves; for it records the death of the Rev. David Vaughan in 1903, at the age of 83, and of Margaret, his wife, in 1901, when she was 84 - "and also of their children .. David, Emmeline, Arthur and Eleanor". It is the nearest memorial to the churchyard gate, and though a little distance away, the yew tree is above it. NO DOUBT MANY OF THOSE WHO GO TO NEWCHURCH ON OCTOBER 12TH. WILL BE LOOKING FOR IT - SO THESE NOTES WILL HELP. In the church itself there is a tablet to the Rev. David Vaughan "50 YEARS CURATE AND RECTOR" - and another to the Owens of Tynycwm.

GILFACHROEL (or GILFACH-YR-HOEL) ... this is the farm that can be seen on the hillside when standing in the churchyard at Newchurch with one's back to the church porch and looking towards the south-west. It would be less than half a mile away and has several large new farm buildings of a light colour which makes them stand out conspicuously on the hillside. The road to it crosses the Milw just before it joins the Arrow, and Kilvert's way over the brow of the hill at the back of the farm and sloping down to it can be plainly seen. This is the route that anyone walking over from Clyro would take today.

THE FORMER RECTORY is in the angle between the road from Painscastle and that for Glasgwm - it faces towards the churchyard gate.

THE HINCKESMANS ... Miss Mantle tells us that Janet, Sarah and Matilda Vaughan married three Hinckesman brothers from Worcestershire. Daughters of two of these marriages were founder-members of the Kilvert Society and sometimes attended meetings, etc. - especially Miss W.M. Hinckesman, who lived at Shucknall near Hereford. Her cousin, Miss M.G. Hinckesman, lived at Ombersley in Worcestershire and therefore did not come so often. Both came with the coach party which visited the Chippenham area in 1955. The last event which either attended was the Worcester Cathedral Service in 1967, when the Vicar of Ombersley brought a rather frail, old lady to it. She recognised me immediately and we had a chat. She died in 1972 at Kington in Herefordshire. Her cousin from Shucknall had died in 1961; her mother was Sarah Vaughan. Miss W.M. Hinckesman told me that her mother was Tilly Vaughan. Strangely enough neither ever mentioned Janet, and I was quite unaware that she had married the third brother. Perhaps she had died a long time previously? I have often wondered where their possessions went. It may not be too late to trace them even now ... they may have had family photographs. How nice it would be if we could even have copies made of Sarah and Matilda, and may be Janet too?. Too much to hope for - one of Emmeline.

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MUCH MARCLE ... 29TH. JUNE, 1975.

This was another highly successful day ... a well attended Commemoration Service in the lovely old parish church dedicated to St. Bartholomew. Everything went as planned, except that Mr. Wynford Vaughan-Thomas was unable to attend and I deputised for him by reading the second lesson, Mr. Grice having read the first. Someone once said that they couldn't think how any clergyman could have anything different to say when one considers that we have had a Commemoration Service every year since 1948. This must have been said by someone who has only been once or twice in all these years, for every year the Address IS totally different, and the Rev. W.L. Paterson was no exception this year at Much Marcle. Very good and greatly appreciated, but unlike anything that we have ever had before. Instead of quoting from it it is better to say that it will

MUCH MARCLE (CONTINUED)

be duplicated as soon as this newsletter is finished and will then be for sale alongside all the others that are available, though at a higher price than the 10p previously charged. Indeed, all will be at a higher price for many are sold out and will have to be re-done. They will be at least 15p each, plus postage. The Act of Remembrance was given by one of our V.P.'s ... Canon J.S. Leatherbarrow of Malvern. Again something different to on previous occasions - followed by four SONGS WITH CLARSACH (the Irish Harp) by Eleanor Simey, something which delighted the large congregation. Then the Vicar of Much Marcle, the Rev. Graham F. Holley, dedicated the hymn board which the Society gave to the church. The service ended with the hymn "Glorious things of thee are spoken" sung to that rousing tune, "Austria". The beautiful day, but not over hot, and the lovely floral arrangements in the church added much to the enjoyment of the occasion.

TEA followed ... in the Village Hall, provided and served by ladies of Much Marcle and Yatton Women's Institute - and what a tea it was, but then, a W.I. tea is invariably like that. We are all very grateful to them. Mr. Grice voiced our thanks during the period after tea when we listened to him and to other speakers. Many called in at Homme House on their way home, eager to see the steps where the bridal party was photographed in 1874, when Kilvert was best man at the wedding of his friend, the Rev. Andrew Pope to Miss Mary Money-Kyrle of Homme House - and to view house and grounds. This was by kind permission of the Kyrle-Pope family, some of whom attended the service.

THE PREVIOUS DAY ... 28TH. JUNE 1975 ... ON CLYRO HILL.

Nigh on 20 cars met at 11 a.m. on this day - in Clyro village, for some walks and a picnic on Clyro Hill. Our two local committee members - Miss C. Powell and Miss M. Mantle - had planned it, and so they led the way. First by car along the up-hill road which Kilvert so often used when going to Bettws, all stopping at intervals to pinpoint a place mentioned in the Diary. Down into the dip where the scanty ruins of Whittys Mill can be seen, and up the other side to the Tump Farm where, by kind permission of Mr. Meredith (the same family as in Kilvert's day) all parked in a field opposite the farm. Then quite a long walk along narrow lanes lined with foxgloves and honeysuckle to Bettws Church, passing en route Llwyngwillim Farm and the dingle where the cottage of Emma Griffiths once stood (see p. 280 in Vol. 3). Then back to Pant-y-ci (where Kilvert left a cowslip in the latch hole when he found no-one at home) and down the lane to pass the ruins of Whitehall (p.p. 121-122 in Vol. 1) and back to the Tump across the fields to our cars and a picnic lunch. New ground to many, for members from far and wide were with us - from Brussels and from Jersey; from Barnet and from Swansea; from Birmingham and from Bristol. Others from Dorset, and many from nearer at hand. These included Mr. & Mrs. Grice from Worcester and members from the Forest of Dean. Lunch over we took to the cars again and after a devious route by Crowthers Pool to Rhosgoch and Painscastle, stopping here and there to point out such places as Rhosgoch Bog and Llanshiffr we arrived at the weekend cottage of Dr. & Mrs. Nussey of Birmingham (who were both out with us) and from there we walked up Kilvert's "cwm" to The Homme. Then back to our cars for a picnic tea in the little meadow in which the cottage stands, before breaking up for the journey to our respective homes - and so ended a most enjoyable day on Clyro Hill. Almost all who came also attended the service at Much Marcle next day and were glad of this opportunity of seeing so many places mentioned in the Diary and of enjoying the walk, the flowers and the lovely views to be had from Clyro Hill.

A KILVERT SYMPOSIUM

In January of this year a KILVERT CONFERENCE was held at Attingham Park near Shrewsbury (Shropshire Centre for Adult Education ... alas, soon to be closed). It was a highly successful and very pleasant few days, and it was afterwards decided that a booklet should be published based on the proceedings at that conference. Mr. Grice undertook to edit it and have it produced. All who spoke and/or read papers at Attingham Park contributed articles, so that the booklet is virtually a record of the conference. It is issued under the title, "A KILVERT SYMPOSIUM". In it are eight articles, most of them long ones ... starting with KILVERT'S SHROPSHIRE ANCESTRY, by Marion Halford, who is the Salop Country Archivist. Many members will find this extremely interesting. Next is FRANCIS KILVERT AS A CLERGYMAN, a long article into which the Rev. D.T.W. Price undoubtedly put a lot of thought and research. There are two contributions by Laurence Le Quesne of Shrewsbury, one on THE MANUSCRIPT OF KILVERT'S DIARY, the other being SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH. Mr. Grice also has two contributions, THE DIARY AS LITERATURE and THE OTHER MISSING MANUSCRIPT - all four being extremely interesting. Quite different and really fascinating is A SIDELIGHT ON THE CHARACTER OF FRANCIS KILVERT, by the Rev. D.N. Lockwood. Finally THE NEED FOR A KILVERT MUSEUM by the Hon. Secretary ... discussions on this theme were what really sparked off the idea of a showcase in the new Hay Library (a matter dealt with elsewhere in this newsletter). This latest publication is available at 75p per copy, postage is 11p extra ... from the Hon.

A KILVERT SYMPOSIUM ... (CONTINUED)

Secretary. 500 copies have been printed, many have sold already but there are enough on hand to last at least until Christmas. We suggest that you get yours without delay!!

A LITTLE MORE OF THE ORIGINAL DIARY ... this little booklet was first mentioned in the March newsletter and resulted in a complete sell-out of the first batch of 200. A second batch has now been produced. They are still 30p each, plus 6½p postage. It has 22 pages of extracts that have almost all never before been published ... mainly about the Hay and Whitney areas and people who lived in them. Its actual title is "EXTRACTS FROM KILVERT'S DIARY". If this booklet is ordered at the same time as "A KILVERT SYMPOSIUM" they will come together for only 13½p postage.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The new card for Christmas 1975 will no doubt be very popular. It is a photograph of the OLD RHYDSPENCE INN at Whitney-on-Wye as it was in about 1910, and therefore very much as Francis Kilvert knew it, for it is on his route between Whitney and Clyro ... see the Diary entry for May Day 1872 for details of one such walk. Unfortunately production costs have rocketed and the true selling price of this new card would be just double last year's price of similar cards, but we have decided to sell them at 35p for a packet of 5 (with envelopes) and at the same time raise the price of the nine other cards to the same level ... virtually subsidising the new card. Postage will be 9p extra, but 2 packets will come for 11p, 3 packets for 16p or 4 packets for 18½p. Assorted packets of all 10 cards will cost 70p plus 11p for postage. Please order your Christmas Cards as early as possible ... from the Hon. Secretary. Local members can get cards and publications from the Pierpoint Gallery, Church Street, Hereford.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

We very much hope that the long awaited MAMMOTH BOOKLET (with extracts from the Diary of the Rev. R.L. Venables and from Dora Kilvert's "Honeymoon Diary" and containing reprints of former booklets, etc., etc.) will be out by the end of 1975. Here again, printing costs have soared tremendously and it would be a terrific price if sold according to costs. We have, therefore, decided to subsidise this too by raising the prices of existing stocks of publications of other years. Henceforth prices will be as follows:-

"Looking Backwards", "Kilvert and the Wordsworth Circle" and "Collected Verse" will each be 50p per copy. "More Chapters from the Kilvert Saga" will be 80p each. Postages 9p on "L.B" and "Circle"; 11p on "C.V" and 13½p on "Saga". All four can be obtained for £2. 50 post free.

KILVERT'S DIARY

Sets of the 1969 edition of the original 3 volumes are still obtainable, and at the old price of £12 the set, plus 75p postage - BUT, THIS EDITION IS FAST SELLING OUT AND WE EXPECT A NOTIFICATION FROM THE PUBLISHERS AT ANY MINUTE THAT ALL HAVE BEEN SOLD - PERHAPS EVEN BEFORE THIS NEWSLETTER IS POSTED. The Society has bought as many sets as we can afford. At the moment there are upwards of 20 sets here. All these will, of course, be sold at £12 plus postage, but we anticipate a rush once it gets known that the edition has really sold out. Good advice then is "BUY NOW", for they will never be at this price again. ABRIDGED EDITION, paperback, is now £1. 10 plus 28½p postage. In hardback it is £2. 50 plus 42p postage. SKINNER'S JOURNAL - a few copies left out of the big batch we acquired earlier this year. Still £4. 50 plus 48p postage.

LOVE AND LET GO

One of our Vice-Presidents, the Rev. David Lockwood (he preaches at Newchurch on 12th. October) has written a book with the above title. It is the biography of his daughter Helena who was killed, aged eleven, in a road accident. The publishers are THE MAYHEW-MCCRIMMON GROUP, Great Wakering, Essex. It costs 80p and can be ordered at any book-seller. In Worcester it is stocked by S.P.C.K., A.O. Jones and Page One. In Hereford at Latchams, the Hereford Book Shop in Church Street. William Plomer and the Kilvert Society are frequently mentioned in it. "The Church Times" and "The Birmingham Post" have given it excellent reviews saying, "Gently and poetically written, it is deeply personal, and is indeed one of those volumes which the author has written for his own sake as much as for that of his readers who, in a sense, are eavesdroppers. All those who read will be wiser, grateful and more human for sharing in their experience". "The story of Helena's all too brief life span is told in a series of entertaining anecdotes used to illustrate the milestones of her growth from babyhood and childhood towards the woman she might have been. For all that it is not a sad book - the sadness is in the reader who knows the outcome and can only guess at what the future might have held for Helena".

Among papers of the late William Plomer now at Durham University is the following ... which will undoubtedly be of great interest to many members, for it throws some light on the earlier history of the 22 notebooks from which the three volumes of Kilvert's Diary were compiled and tells the story of how it all came about.

This particular paper is a "SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN" of THE MACMILLAN COMPANY (of the U.S.A) and is dated June 9th. 1947.

KILVERT'S DIARY - the journals of this charming Victorian clergyman Francis Kilvert, edited by William Plomer and published by Macmillan, has been hailed on all sides as one of the classic diaries of all time. How it came to be published is an interesting story, illustrating a publisher's chance discoveries and also what narrow escapes some literary gems have from being consigned to the scrap heap. A Macmillan editor in New York - reading A.L. Rowse's "West Country Stories" found in that book some enthusiastic references to the diaries of Francis Kilvert. After some difficulty, he succeeded in getting a copy of the one-volume edition of the book and was so taken with it that Macmillan published it. When bound copies of the new edition were available, he sent copies to Kilvert's surviving relatives in England. In a letter to the editor, Kilvert's nephew tells how the diaries were published in England.

After my uncle's death in 1879 the Diaries (MSS.) remained in the possession of his widow. She, at her death, left them to the Diarist's sister (the Dora of the Diaries) with instructions that at the latter's death, they were all to be burned. She, however, having a great affection for the Diaries (she used to read from one or other of them regularly at bedtime to the end of her life) was very unwilling that they should be so destroyed, and in this she was joined by her two surviving sisters who held that the Diarist's widow had no right to decree their destruction. At the same time she wished that the MSS. books should never fall into careless or unknowing hands and that, if at any time there should be danger of this, it were better that they should be burned. With this stipulation, she left them all to my two sisters who, after holding them for a while, sent them about 17 years ago to me at King Stag. For a long time after they had come into my possession I felt that their merit was too great to be allowed to pass into oblivion without some attempt to save them. I knew that when our generation of the family had passed there would be none who would care anything about the MSS of the Diary - that they would without doubt be destroyed. Thus it was that I selected two of the MS. books and sent them to Messrs. Jonathan Cape, who at once wrote in reply most favourably about them, only wishing to know if I could assure them that the interest was sustained throughout and not confined solely to the two I had sent them. I was able of course to satisfy them about this and thereupon sent up the first eight volumes of MS. to be edited and published as Vol. 1 of the Diary ... I am glad you wrote to me for the facts, for my sisters and myself are the only ones still living who could have given them to you.

Hon. Secretary's Notes ... it was the American edition of KILVERT'S DIARY that was published by Macmillan (of New York). All the British editions were, of course, published by Jonathan Cape.

Kilvert's nephew was Percival Smith, the second son of the Rev. and Mrs. W.R. Smith who were at Monnington-on-Wye when Kilvert was at Bredwardine. Mrs. Smith was his sister Thersie (Thermuthis). King Stag, where Percival Smith was living when the MSS. of the Diary came into his possession, is in Dorset, a few miles S.E. of Sherborne.

We have to thank Mr. Frederick Grice for getting a photostat of the above paper from Durham University ... by kind permission of the Keeper of Ancient Books and Documents. This was during a visit to Durham.

Many members will no doubt wonder why the late William Plomer's papers, etc. are at Durham University. By his Will, dated 10th. January, 1962, it was left to his Trustee, Sir Rupert Hart-Davies, to dispose of his letters and papers as he thought fit ... and it is presumed that they went to Durham because this is where the Doctorate of Literature was conferred on William Plomer. Mr. Grice has other photostats, the contents of which I hope to publish in future newsletters.

When William Plomer was staying with us in June, 1973, (over the weekend of the Brecon Cathedral service) we knew that he was unwell and taking medicine, but none of us, I am sure, then thought that within two months he would be dead. One thing that he said to us stands out ... "I must put my affairs in order when I get back home" and we gleaned from his conversation that among other things he must make a new Will. This he never did and his Will of 1962 therefore stood. In 1962 he had not become so interested in the Society as in later years. It was not until 1968 that he became President, and after that came much more regularly to our functions, sometimes twice in one year. Had he made a new Will I feel that many items may well have been left to the Society, particularly if the Hay Mini-Museum had come into being during his

lifetime. As it is, the best we can hope for are photostats.

NEXT YEAR'S A.G.M. AND SOCIAL EVENING

This popular annual event is to be held on Thursday evening, 22nd. April, at 7 p.m., in the St. John Ambulance Hall, Widemarsh Street, Hereford, as in April last. Everyone seemed to like the new venue, so it has been booked again. It is so popular that we had to book now in order to secure it for next April. The usual newsletter will be circulated about a fortnight beforehand with full details of the evening. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE.

THE MINI-MUSEUM AT HAY

The previous newsletter (June) revealed that we are to have a large glass showcase in the new branch of the County Library in HAY-ON-WYE and that we are to buy (and own) the showcase. It will cost more than £300 with its interior fittings and we propose making it a MEMORIAL to the late William Plomer and inscribing it to that effect. Members were invited to subscribe to this and it was suggested that it might even be bought entirely with members' subscriptions. So far the result of this appeal has been very disappointing. ONLY SEVENTEEN MEMBERS HAVE RESPONDED - (AND BETWEEN THEM DONATED A LITTLE LESS THAN £40). The case has been ordered and we expect to hear quite soon as to when the new Library is to be opened. Exhibits are being prepared and labels are being got ready for them. It should create a lot of interest.

FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED - TO THE HON. SECRETARY PLEASE.

WHERE TO STAY

Each year in the Spring newsletter we publish a list of hotels, farms and guest houses where members have, at different times, stayed when in the "Kilvert Country" - giving prominence to those who are members of the Society. We have now had notification from members living but 6 miles from ST. HARMON (and six miles from Rhayader) that they receive paying guests (for bed, breakfast and evening meal). They live in a valley just off the Wye valley, on the Montgomery side of the border with Radnor. Further enquiries to be addressed to: Mr. & Mrs. F.W. Allen, Glandernol, Llangurig, Llanidloes, Mont.

OBITUARY

With regret we report the death of four elderly members which have occurred since the last newsletter went out.

Mr. T.L. Stokes of Monnington Court, Vowchurch, Herefordshire, on May 24th. at the age of 88 ... a member since 1951 and with strong connections with what we read in Kilvert's Diary, for Mr. Stokes has told me that the Mr. Stokes who Kilvert mentions as farming the Old Court at Bredwardine (churchwarden, I think) was his father ... and that the Miss Stokes of Cusop who was the Rev. Andrew Pope's sole candidate at the unfortunate confirmation at Whitney in 1870 was a near relative. The late Mr. Stokes was a very well known farmer in the county and for many years an Alderman of Herefordshire County Council.

Major J.C. Keyte who lived near Pershore in Worcestershire, though he was at Burford in Oxfordshire when he joined the Society in 1963 and had been but a few years at Pershore. He died in July in his 84th. year. A chartered architect and chartered surveyor by profession - he served in the Warwickshire Regiment in the 1914 war and in 1939 was called up again and served in Burma in his professional capacity with the Royal Engineers. He knew the "Kilvert Country" well and was immediately attracted to the Diary when first published. He and Mrs. Keyte attended a number of our Commemoration Services and but a few years ago joined the company on one of our walks "Across the moors to the Rocks of Aberedw".

Miss M. Morgan-Gibbon of Copperkins Cottage, Amersham, Bucks. in July. She had been a member since 1968, as has her friend Miss Irene Radcliffe who shared the house with her. For 31 years both ladies shared a cottage at Cwmyoy in the Black Mountains (many members will remember the item in a quite recent newsletter which told of how Miss Morgan-Gibbon was instrumental in getting the stolen "Cross of Cwmyoy" restored to the church). The deceased lady was one of the first few women barristers, being called to the Bar in the mid-1930's when she was in her late forties. She did extremely well in the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division till her retirement at the age of 79. She was also a Bard of the Welsh National Eisteddfod. I had the pleasure of meeting both ladies at the Commemoration Service at Wootton in Oxfordshire in 1970.

Mr. J. Madders of "Clyro", Belle Orchard, Ledbury, Herefordshire, who died in June, before the service at Much Marcle. Mr. & Mrs. Madders joined the Society in 1954 and were for many years regular attenders at many of our functions, especially our Commemoration Services and our excursions by motor-coach - Chippenham in 1955, etc,etc.

LINKS WITH NAPOLEON - AND WITH EISENHOWER.

In the June newsletter was the account of a few days in Cornwall, enjoyed by a party of members in April - the highlight of which was a visit to Tullimaar. This house is interesting in two other ways in addition to being where Kilvert stayed for his three weeks holiday in Cornwall in 1870.

The Princess Bibesco lived there for many years (she died but a few years ago - at a great age I believe). She was a great grand-daughter of Napoleon Bonaparte and at one time there were a number of things relating to him at Tullimaar. The only evidence of the Napoleonic connection to be seen there today is in the dining room which Princess Bibesco had done out completely with glazed chintz in narrow red and white stripes and fashioned to convey the impression that you are in a tent ... Napoleon's tent!!!!!! Something of much later interest is the plaque in the hall - it reads: "IN THIS HOUSE GENERAL EISENHOWER, SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ALLIED FORCES, DWELT FOR A FORTNIGHT BEFORE D. DAY IN MAY 1944".

Much was planned here, I understand.

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AN EXPLOSION IN LONDON.

The entry for Saturday, 3rd. October, 1874 (see page 90 of Volume three) reads: "Today we heard of the terrible explosion of the barge laden with gunpowder on the Regent's Canal, which shook all London early yesterday morning".

A member now living in High Wycombe, Bucks, comments on this in a letter dated 16th. May (he had just had the three volumes posted to him) ... "I am in the thick of the three volumes and keep coming across chance remarks which link up with other memories. There is a reference to the explosion on the Regents Canal at St. John's Wood. My grandparents lived close by when this happened and were nearly thrown out of bed by the concussion".

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AUTUMN AT BREDWARDINE.

Another nice little poem from our Cheltenham member - Mrs. Gwendoline Calderbank, one of our many members who love Bredwardine and never tire of visiting it. We hope for many more from her.

The song is sung, the singer gone,
But still the Wye rolls ceaseless on.
The nest is empty, boughs are bare,
Loud sighs the wind through Autumn air.

Brown rolls the Wye, its glassy reach
Slides under the bridge, past glowing beech,
And on, beside the pink-scarred banks,
Through waving reeds in swaying ranks;

While robins sing sweet, wistful songs,
And swallows wing in twittering throngs
And those rich songsters Summer bore
Have taken wing, and sing no more.

But nightingales will come again
When brilliant May returns to reign,
And through the glimmering, warm night long
Will thrill the heart with poignant song.

For Spring will come, and life anew
Will start with snowdrops in the dew,
With primrose starring mossy banks,
And blackbirds fluting joyful thanks.

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STONE AND STEAM IN THE BLACK MOUNTAINS

This is the title of a fascinating paperback recently published - of much interest to those who know the Black Mountains and like reading about things mechanical. Many of our members know the Llanthony Valley and have visited the ruined Priory at Llanthony and the Monastery of Father Ignatius some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles further up the valley - at Capel-y-Ffin--(and there seen the nice little church which Kilvert described as being like a little owl). At the northern end of this valley is the Gospel Pass, leading over to Hay. Some have no doubt explored more ... into the next valley, and found the delightful little church at *Patricio - with its rood screen and loft. It is well hidden and not easily found, the reason why it has kept its treasures. Further up this valley of the Grwyne Fawr is a great dam and the reservoir at Blaen-y-Cwm and no

STONE AND STEAM ... CONTINUED

doubt many have been right up this valley. But how many know that a railway was built for its construction? Built where it was said it was impossible to build a railway. This paperback is the story of that railway and the making of the dam - in the early years of this century. Not much to do with Kilvert you may say - but we don't know how much he explored these Black Mountains. Turn to page 235 of Volume two and you will find that on 10th. July, 1872, he "went with Pope and Arthur Jones to Abergavenny by train through Hereford and walked back to Hay over the Black Mountains". Did they traverse the valley of the Grwyne Fawr? We shall never know, because the Diary tells us nothing of their walk except for the last few miles, from Capel-y-Ffin over the Gospel Pass and down to Hay. "STONE & STEAM" is £1. 25. The Society is not selling it, but if anyone wants a copy I will willingly get one from a local bookseller and post it for an extra 16p. (* or Patrishow)

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THE PRICES OF SHELTINGEY

Francis Kilvert briefly refers to walks he took around St. Harmons and to several farms he visited (Thursday, 25th. April, 1878 - Wednesday, 2nd. October, 1878). One of these farms was Sheltingey or Sheltinge (now called Shetingau, perhaps a corruption of Siet yn (ar) gau = closed shed). This is an old, substantial farmhouse, still occupied, at NGR SN (97) 984728. It lies at an altitude of 1,000 feet (300m) on the north side of the Marteg valley, which has hardly been touched by the developer since Kilvert's day. In fact several of the homesteads which he mentioned in the vicinity, cannot now be traced, and with the closure of the railway in the 1950's, the present population is probably sparser than in 1878.

It was here that he saw "dear Jane and Mary, John and their father". No further information is given, and these are the only references to Shetingau, although from the tone of endearment, he must have known the family fairly well. It now transpires that the father referred to was Thomas Price (sometimes spelt Pryce) who was born 1.3.1819. Although by the time of Kilvert's visits he was a widower his wife (who the diarist must have known) had produced eleven children before she died on 18th. November the previous year. The family comprised:-

Thomas	born	7. 3.1843.	Sarah	born	16.6.1855.
Ann	"	21.11.1844.	David	"	26.5.1857.
James	"	15.12.1846.	Henry	"	15.1.1860.
Elizabeth	"	3. 3.1849.	Jane	"	5.9.1862.
Edward	"	7. 3.1851.	Mary	"	3.3.1865.
John	"	30.12.1852.			- - - - -

So by the dates of Kilvert's visits to Shetingau Jane was 15, Mary 13, John 25 and Thomas Price was 59.

The Prices are reputed to have lived at Shetingau for many generations, but it has not yet been possible to confirm this. Out of Thomas' large family there was the usual crop of child mortality. Sarah died in infancy and several of the others are not heard of again, but despite the rigours and privations of hill farm life, the majority survived and married. Their descendants may be traced in the neighbourhood, indeed, the present occupiers are descended from John, who succeeded his father at the farm. Not all the children stayed nearby, though Mary eventually married a Mr. Edwards of Blackwood in Monmouthshire (Gwent) and disappeared from local records. Neither did they all remain members of the Anglican Church, at least one, Elizabeth, married a local Baptist of Nantgwyn (beyond St. Harmons, on the road to Llanidloes).

From the order in which the children are listed it is apparent that the fifteen year old "dear Jane" is the one who particularly attracted the attention of the diarist. Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to trace her subsequent movements. In all probability at least the younger children were literate. The St. Harmons' National School was built about 1874 (p.288 in Vol. 3) and there is evidence of various private educational ventures ("penny schools") and the "dissenters" Sunday Schools. Thomas Price could only make his mark, and this leads to the alternative spelling of the surname by different officials. But someone in the family could write, because the flyleaf of the Shetingau Bible (now preserved at a neighbouring farm) lists the family, together with dates of birth. Perhaps Sarah, Thomas' wife, was the authoress.

(Contributed by a kinsman of the Price family, now living near Glasbury-on-Wye).

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