

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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29TH. MARCH, 1976.

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting and Social Evening will be held next month
on THURSDAY the 22ND. APRIL at 7 o'clock (PROMPT).

This will be the second in our new "home" ... the ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE HALL
in WIDEMARSH STREET, HEREFORD.

Those who attended last year's A.G.M. will know that it is a really large hall, in which we have the meeting at the stage end with tables set out for the refreshments in the other half. There is good car parking at the side and at the rear of the hall, and it is easily found, being exactly opposite Henly's Car Showrooms - (formerly Fryers).

If we start promptly at 7 o'clock (and we usually manage to do so, or within a couple of minutes after that) the BUSINESS part of the evening will be over by 7.30 p.m. or very shortly afterwards, and there will then be approximately half an hour for MR. FREDERICK GRICE to speak on:

THE NEARNESS OF FRANCIS KILVERT with a few slides.

This will take us up to 8 o'clock, when REFRESHMENTS will be served by some of our lady members. Immediately afterwards there will be an opportunity for members to pay SUBSCRIPTIONS to Mrs. Peters and to BOOK with Mr. R.I. Morgan for the coach tour to Aberystwyth on Saturday, 8th. May (see overleaf for full details). There will also be the usual BOOKSTALL where all our publications and cards can be bought, as well as KILVERT'S DIARY in sets of the 3 volumes and the abridged edition in paperback or hardback. A few copies of Skinner's Journal will also be available. This bookstall will be in the charge of Mr. & Mrs. M. West.

On resuming the MEETING (at approximately 9 o'clock or as soon as possible afterwards), we can look forward to another interesting session, this time by THE REV. D.T.W. PRICE of LAMPETER whose subject will be:

KILVERT AND WALES with some slides.

As usual we shall end the evening about 10 o'clock after what will undoubtedly have been an entertaining and instructive evening by two of our number who have become well known to many members, and to whom we have listened on several previous occasions, always with much pleasure.

This year's Commemoration Service will be at BUILTH WELLS, a place which Kilvert loved and which is truly of the "Kilvert Country". There should be no seating problems - for it is a large church. Nearby is a large hall (for tea, etc) and a roomy car-park. It is to be on Sunday the 27th. June at 3 o'clock. Full details in the newsletter which will be circulated about a fortnight beforehand.

The Statement of Accounts for 1975 will come with this newsletter ... AND ALSO A YELLOW LEAFLET APPEALING FOR DONATIONS FOR THE WILLIAM PLOMER MEMORIAL SHOWCASE WHICH IS NOW IN THE NEW LIBRARY AT HAY-ON-WYE (see item about it on an inner page). One of these yellow leaflets will go out to every member. It is much simpler to do this than to only send to those who have not yet subscribed. WILL THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT A DONATION EITHER IGNORE IT OR HAND IT TO AN INTERESTED FRIEND? Thanks. (Donations can be made at the A.G.M. - a committee member will have the receipt book).

Yours sincerely,



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

We cannot have the St. John's Ambulance Hall until 6 p.m. There is much to do in the hour before the meeting. Offers of help from anyone who can be there at 6 o'clock will be greatly appreciated.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS ... and NEWSLETTERS.

A number of members will NOT receive this newsletter - for the simple reason that their subscription is several years in arrears. They have not yet been crossed off as "lapsed" just in case they realise why they are not receiving a newsletter, and pay their arrears.

With the present rate of postage (and higher still to come in the near future), it has now become impossible to keep on sending to members who are behind with their subscription. Cost of paper and the production of newsletters is constantly rising too. How long will the £1. 00 minimum subscription suffice? We shall, in future, have to be more drastic than ever before, and cease sending to members in arrears far sooner than ever previously.

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THE MAY COACH TOUR - TO ABERYSTWYTH.

This has been arranged for Saturday, 8th. May (the only Saturday in May which is suitable for all concerned in the arrangements). Coach will leave Hereford (Town Hall) at 10 o'clock PROMPT. Please bring picnic lunch. This will be eaten at a nice spot in or near Aberystwyth, where we shall be joined by Mr. Wynford Vaughan-Thomas and the Rev. D.T.W. Price, who will be our guides for the afternoon and then come with us to Lampeter. Here we shall visit St. David's University College (where the Rev. William Price teaches history), have tea and be taken over the College. If we leave Lampeter at 6 o'clock we should be back in Hereford before 9 o'clock, via Llandovery and Brecon (where a brief halt will be made). The outward journey will be via Rhayader, but which route we take between Hereford and Rhayader depends on whether members living in Clyro, Hay and Glasbury book seats. As there can only be one coach, priority of booking will be given to members. Bookings will be taken at the A.G.M. or by the Hon. Secretary prior to it. Total cost will be £2. 25 per person. This includes coach fare, gratuities and HIGH TEA (Chicken, etc. and Peach Melba) at Lampeter. Payment when booking, please.

Aberystwyth has been chosen for this year's visit because of its connections with Kilvert. We know from the Diary that he spent several happy holidays there but we have no details, only the bare facts that he was going there or had just returned. His poems - "To some little friends at Aberystwyth" and "The Tanybwllch Beach" (to be found in "Collected Verse") tell us more, and those of us who were at the Commemoration Service at Hay-on-Wye that stormy Sunday afternoon in 1971 will remember the late Canon W.E. Jones telling us that Lizzie (the Queen of the Revellers on Tanybwllch Beach) became his mother, and often talked to him of Kilvert. We hope that we can visit Tanybwllch Beach (though it is a little difficult of access I believe), and we shall certainly see the Harbour and the Castle and other places mentioned in those poems. Our guides will take us to the National Library of Wales, where we shall most probably see some papers of interest, perhaps among them the Diary of the Rev. R.L. Venables. The glorious view from the terrace of the N.L.W. is alone worth the visit.

"Collected Verse" will be on sale at the A.G.M. (50p) - also copies of the address given by Canon W.E. Jones at Hay in 1971 ... at 30p per copy.

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ANOTHER WALK ON BREDWARDINE HILL.

The October Walk (account on another page) was a great success, but not everyone who wants to join in can come on a Saturday. We will, therefore, do it again, though condensed a little, Sunday afternoon, 9th. May, when we may also get one or two who were on the coach to Aberystwyth the previous day. Please meet in the lane leading up to Bredwardine Church at 2 o'clock or soon after, so that we can move off at 2. 30 p.m. EVERYONE SHOULD BRING PICNIC TEA. We will visit the Knapp, the Upper Cwm, Fine Street dingle, glance at the Dol Fach in passing, look at what is left of the house at Crafta Webb where Kilvert held his mid-week service, walk to the top of Merbach Hill and afterwards visit Arthur's Stone. We shall take the cars up the hill road, park them where necessary to do a short walk and then go on to the next walk. Nothing very strenuous, the longest will be gently uphill for less than a mile to the top of Merbach Hill, with a splendid view when we get there. It will help if those who intend coming read the last hundred or so pages in volume three, or from 321 onwards in the abridged edition and the entry for August 14th. 1872 (page 18) in "Diary Extracts", for all that is described there is seen from Meerbach Hill.

The next walk will then be on Saturday, 26th. June ... somewhere new to almost all, we hope.

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THE WILLIAM PLOMER MEMORIAL SHOWCASE AT HAY-ON-WYE.

At last we have a "MINI MUSEUM" (and, we hope, the nucleus of a "Kilvert Centre")... in the new Branch Library (County of Powys) at Hay-on-Wye. It is a large glass showcase, and is designated as a MEMORIAL to the late William Plomer. (Please take

note of the Appeal on a separate yellow leaflet enclosed with this newsletter). The new library was opened on December 3rd. 1975, by Mrs. Coltman Rogers, Chairman of Powys Library Committee, at a ceremony attended by local dignitaries, and under the Chairmanship of Lord Watkins, Chairman of Powys County Council (better known to us as Alderman Tudor Watkins, M.P. for Brecon and Radnor for many years - and a founder member and Vice-President of the Kilvert Society). Mr. Grice and myself were the two invited guests representing the Society, and although I suggested that it should be the Deputy President who spoke on behalf of the Society, the "powers that be" decided that it should be me!!!

I was careful to include in my few words of introduction and thanks something to emphasise the point that the case is being bought by the members of the Kilvert Society and that both case and contents remain the property of the Society indefinitely. A number of members were present, some coming considerable distances. The whole company were afterwards entertained to tea by Lord and Lady Watkins. The new Hay Library is a fine modern building, well stocked with a wide variety of books, (including, of course, Kilvert's Diary). It is situated in Chancery Lane (now pedestrianised). It is not far from the Crown Hotel, in fact, Chancery Lane is just about opposite the road coming into Hay from Clyro, over Hay Bridge. It is open for many more hours each week than was the old library. THE HOURS OF OPENING ARE: MONDAY 10 a.m. to 12. 30 p.m., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. TUESDAY - Closed all day. WEDNESDAY 10 a.m. to 12. 30 p.m., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. THURSDAY 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. FRIDAY 10 a.m. to 12. 30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. SATURDAY 10 a.m. to 12. 30 p.m.

The librarian is Mrs. Betty Jones, who has been the Hay librarian for many years, and even in the old premises (far smaller) issued 23,000 books last year. The new library has cost £35,000. It is a handsome addition to the old town of Hay.

Among the items in the William Plomer Memorial Showcase are ... photographs of some of the Kilvert family and of others who figure in the Diary. Sketches and water colours done by members of the family. The ZOETROPE from Wye Cliffe (see the Diary, Vol. 2 p. 121). A teapot painted by Daisy Thomas, a firescreen by Mrs. Crichton, numerous books, all relevant, and many other items. Now that this "Mini-Museum" is a reality we confidently look forward to receiving other items of interest for it, perhaps from the most unsuspected quarters!! Please contact the Hon. Secretary and we will collect.

On the wall adjacent to the showcase is an array of photographs of scenes, places and people ... all connected with KILVERT'S DIARY. Large photographs, given to the Society by H.T.V. (Cardiff) after they had made the film featuring the Kilvert Country - with Mr. Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, back in 1973, or was it 1972? Mr. Grice arranged these (most effectively) whilst Mrs. Mathers, Mrs. Prosser and the Hon. Secretary set out the case. This was done in the morning of opening day. The case will be added to, altered and moved around from time to time. Members, and readers of the Diary in general, will no doubt go to see it when visiting the area of Hay-on-Wye. Mr. G. Llewellyn (Powys County Librarian) in a letter on other matters mentioned that he understands that the Kilvert Showcase has already created much interest, and I hear that it has started folks off reading the Diary when they had not previously ever heard of Kilvert!!!

THE "FRANCIS KILVERT" ... CANAL BOAT.

Just after the last newsletter was circulated several members sent me a cutting from a September number of the "SUNDAY TIMES BUSINESS SUPPLEMENT". It dealt with the activities of BINGLEY MARINE ENGINEERING, who build canal boats, not for commercial purposes but of steel, with all home comforts and priced at £8,000 plus VAT. But the fascinating thing about this cutting was the picture - of just such a boat, with its name very prominent - FRANCIS KILVERT. I couldn't resist writing to Bingley to inquire how it came to be so named. It was some little time before I got any reply, for the letter had to be forwarded to the new owners' "base" in Essex and from there to catch up with them on a canal somewhere in the north of England, but in due course a letter came from Mr. & Mrs. Townley, who have now joined the Society and bought the three volumes of the Diary. They have come home after many years in Rhodesia, but instead of buying a house they have bought this luxurious canal boat - and intend seeing England from the canals for a number of years to come. But why did they name it FRANCIS KILVERT? - because when they were over here a few years ago (on holiday) someone gave them an abridged edition, and they have been fascinated with it ever since. Mr. Townley regrets that no canal will get them to the "Kilvert Country, but I have reminded him that they can get to Worcester by canal, within easy reach of all that they will want to see.

A WILTSHIRE LONG HOUSE.

Two of our numerous Wiltshire members are Mr. & Mrs. R.W. Knight of the Castle Farm, Marshfield, Nr. Chippenham. Part of their farm buildings is an upper cruck Monmouth type long house, once occupied by a farmer and his stock. It is now part of the Castle Farm Folk Museum. Adjacent buildings contain kitchen, dairy, cheese loft, etc. Here are (and will be) a collection of old agricultural and domestic tools, etc., etc. Occasional demonstrations will be given. It is open June to September on Wednesdays,

Saturdays and Sundays; 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. but parties can visit it at other times by APPOINTMENT. Admission is 25p. O.A.P's and children (accompanied) 10p. (NO DOGS). Telephone: Marshfield 469.

This is something that should appeal to members within a wide radius of Chippenham. It is of interest too that Mr. Knight is of the Knight family of Langley Burrell who figure frequently in the Diary.

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BREDWARDINE HILL ... OCTOBER 11TH. 1975.

Following the usual custom of having a walk in some part of "the Kilvert Country" on the day previous to both the summer and the autumn Commemoration Services, the Bredwardine area was the venue on this October day. Some 25 cars turned up at the meeting place near Bredwardine Church at 11 a.m. and, as usual, they came from far and near. Old friends met who had not seen each other since the Clyro Hill walk in June. Some made arrangements to transfer to other cars and park their own, thus reducing the number to go up the Hill. After brief visits to church, various graves, etc., and a general look round, the party moved off. A procession of some 20 cars passing between the "Red Lion" and "The Cottage" to climb the steep hill. In a short distance from the top of the first steep section cars were parked and the company of almost 50 started the first short walk. This was to the Knapp (clumps of trees on top of a steeply sided hillock - see Vol. 3. pages 344 and 450) from which place there are some good views. Below us were the cottages of the Hydes and of Maurice Richards (Vol. 3. pages 384/5/6 and 387).

Then back to the road up the hill but soon turning off it to visit the Cwm. This is where Annie Abberley told Kilvert that the birds sang all night, and pointed out the spire of All Saints Church in Hereford - a lovely spot. After all had enjoyed a picnic lunch the next short walk was down to Fine Street dingle (p. 345 in Vol. 3) to see the places Kilvert visited and wrote about, and after that a quick look at the Dol-fach, high on its hillock with wonderful views down the valley of the Wye - it was now time to re-join the cars for the mile or so to the starting place for our final walk (to the top of Merbach Hill) with a stop half-way for the Hon. Secretary to point out the ruins of the house at Crafta Webb where Kilvert held his mid-week service - (many references in Vol.3) - then on to park on the wide greenswards at the point where the Merbach Hill walk starts. This gentle walk of about a mile ends at about 1,045 feet, from which point there are good views of the Radnorshire Hills with the Wye winding at the foot of Merbach. Here Mr. Grice read the entry for 14th. August, 1872 - (only to be found in "Diary Extracts"). We looked down on Clock Mill, the Castle Field Inn and Winforton across the river ... and strained ears and eyes in the hope of catching the blasts from Willy Bevan's brass horn or seeing the party coming across in the ferry and then climbing the steep hill!!! On returning to the cars next came the drive down the long straight lane to Arthur's Stone (often visited by Kilvert and his friends) for a brief visit. This was to be the place of our picnic tea, but a message had come from Mr. & Mrs. Ottaway inviting us all to their home at Preston-on-Wye (the former Vicarage, where Kilvert often visited his friends the Rev. Andrew Pope and his wife). This we willingly did, taking our picnic with us and calling en route to look at the Church which Pope talked of moving to a more central position!!! Cars filled every available space around "Pope Place" and the party filled the house to overflowing - but all were glad of this opportunity of seeing yet another house so linked with Kilvert and the Diary. Before departing for our various homes, Mr. Grice thanked our hosts for their kindly thought and their hospitality. So ended a most rewarding day of pleasant walks and visits - (reported here in detail in order to help members who go to Bredwardine on their own). Elsewhere there is a note about repeating this in a condensed form on the afternoon of Sunday, May 9th. (the day after the coach tour to Aberystwyth).

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NEWCHURCH ... the Autumn Service ... October 12th.1975.

What a splendid day this was !!! Fine, dry and sometimes sunny. The small church packed almost to bursting point. Despite about 100 chairs coming in from the adjoining Parish Hall and every pew being filled beyond its usual capacity there were still at least 20 who failed to get in at all. Altogether there were more than 200 in a church designed to seat 100!!! Members and friends had (as usual) come from near and far, perhaps those from Kent (well beyond Canterbury) and from Suffolk (beyond Bury St. Edmunds) were those who had made the longest journeys. Others had come from Devon (Buckfastleigh) and from Dorset (Wimborne), with many from Bath, Bristol, Swansea, Aberystwyth, etc., and quite a little contingent from the Birmingham area. Impossible to mention all those from Worcestershire and Gloucestershire and from the more immediate neighbourhood. Cars were parked everywhere. No need to worry about them in this quiet area and in October too!!! Many had come for the weekend (or longer) and were out walking on Bredwardine Hill on the previous day. Others had come to the district for the first time and were exploring in the "Kilvert Country". We were all

pleased to welcome not only our President, but also to have present Lord Watkins, a founder-member and a V.P. - now Chairman of the new Powys County Council, and with him Lady Watkins. All went according to plan (see the October newsletter - and there are a few spare service sheets available for anyone sending a s.a.e), with a thoughtful address from the Rev. D.N. Lockwood in which he reminded us of Kilvert's associations with Newchurch and of the Harvest Festival Service at which he preached - complaining afterwards that the pulpit was too low for comfort (though Mr. Lockwood's tall figure seemed quite at ease in that self-same pulpit!!!) The church had been nicely decorated for this combined Harvest Festival and Kilvert Commemoration Service - during the course of which the Rector dedicated the ALTAR WARE AND WAFER BOX which the Society gave to mark the occasion - and our Llyswen member, the Rev. Hugh Lewis, did the Act of Remembrance - and prayers. That well known hymn, "Christ is made the sure Foundation" was a resounding finish to a memorable service.

AFTER THE SERVICE came TEA in the adjacent Village Hall - another good spread by the same caterers (Messrs. James of Kington) who did the tea at Glasbury after the Llowes service in June last year. There were more than 150 for tea and afterwards to listen to Mr. Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, Mr. Frederick Grice and others ... and to buy publications and cards from the "bookstall" in a corner of the room (run by some of our committee members). Friends met who had not seen each other since some previous Kilvert Service and it was therefore after 6 o'clock before the room started to empty and members and friends began the homeward journey. The coach from Hereford returned via Rhosgoch, Painscastle and Clyro - thus giving those who were making their first visit to this corner of the "Kilvert Country" a glimpse of some of the places they had read about - with a halt in Clyro, outside Ashbrook House, for all to see the handsome plaque unveiled by Mr. Wynford Vaughan-Thomas in the autumn of 1973.

SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL.

Only a few weeks before he died William Plomer finished copying out, for us, all that is in that original notebook of Kilvert's (which he was given - and which is now at Durham University) that is not in volume one of the Diary. Thus we can get a complete picture of Kilvert's three weeks holiday at Tullimaar (it proved invaluable to the party of members who spent a few days in Cornwall in April 1975 - see report in the June newsletter). It was a real labour of love, ninety sheets in William Plomer's distinctive handwriting. One of our London members has most kindly made it possible for us to be able to offer photostats of these 90 sheets for only £2. 00 (far less than cost of production). 15 sets were sold in the Hall at Newchurch last October and we now have a further batch, some of which will be on the bookstall at the A.G.M. on April 22nd. Packed in a wallet and posted the price is £3. 00. ALL PROFITS WILL GO TOWARDS THE WILLIAM PLOMER MEMORIAL SHOWCASE AT HAY-ON-WYE.

"FRANCIS KILVERT - PRIEST AND DIARIST"

This is the title of Mr. Grice's latest booklet. It was not out in time to be advertised in the October newsletter, though a member kindly ran off a hundred slips about it and these were put at random in newsletters as far as they would go. Many were sold at Newchurch, many by post already, and they will be on sale at the A.G.M. - there are plenty more, and this is something that every member should have. It has 58 pages and a total of 20 illustrations ... these include an 1872 photograph of Daisy Thomas and an 1876 one of Etty Meredith Brown. Others are of the Rev. R.L. & Mrs. Venables, taken in the 1870's - and one of Squire Ashe and his three daughters of about the same time. The subject matter is most interesting - much about the Kilvert family, about the Venables family and about Clyro and other places. Sections deal with Langley Burrell and with the Ashes and the Meredith Browns with St. Harmons and with Bredwardine and with the Rowland family, into which Kilvert married. It ends with THE FATE OF THE DIARY and THE APPEAL OF THE DIARY. The latter contains many of the appreciations and analyses which have been made from time to time. Much can be learned from this booklet, it has a wide appeal and will surely be a "best seller". £1. 00 per copy, plus 11p (at present) if posted.

OUR OTHER BOOKLETS

A KILVERT SYMPOSIUM (Reviewed in last October's newsletter) - 75p plus 11p postage.
MORE CHAPTERS FROM THE KILVERT SAGA (the "MEMOIRS" of the Rev. Robert Kilvert plus the "RECOLLECTIONS" of Emily Kilvert) - 80p plus 13½p postage.
KILVERT AND THE WORDSWORTH CIRCLE - also has 3 items by Kilvert - 50p plus 9p postage.
LOOKING BACKWARDS - so much that has happened since 1948 - 50p plus 9p postage.
COLLECTED VERSE ... Kilvert's 55 poems - not available otherwise. 50p plus 11p postage.
EXTRACTS FROM KILVERT'S DIARY - 22 pages of bits originally omitted - 30p plus 6½p postage,

SPECIAL OFFER (until postage rates rise again) - ALL SEVEN FOR £4. 70 (including postage).

GREETING CARDS

Packet of 10 assorted (2 each of 5 types) with "BEST WISHES" only ... OR of 10 Christmas Cards (1 each of 10 types) for 70p (plus 11p postage ... either). Each picture is of a scene or a place in the "Kilvert Country".

If ordering to come by post please get them from the Hon. Secretary of the Society.

CALLERS can get most of our publications and cards from:- The Pierpont Gallery, Church Street, Hereford; Grants, Castle Street, Hay-on-Wye; Miss Tong, Bridge Stores and Post Office, Clyro.

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TWO COINCIDENCES - (by the Hon. Secretary).

From time to time members tell me of some off coincidence they have experienced, and over the years some very strange things have happened where I myself have been concerned, but both of the following will "take some beating".

1. Among the many at the Newchurch service last October who had come a considerable distance was a member from Warwickshire who had not been to any of our functions for a year or so - Mrs. Bennett from Wootton Wawen. Next day she discussed the service, etc. with her Vicar and his wife, found that it interested them and loaned them service sheet and newsletter. A day or so afterwards Mrs. Southeard was in Wootton Wawen church, saw two people looking round and got into conversation with them - to her astonishment she found that they were Mr. and Mrs. Stratton from Llandrindod Wells, who had merely stopped to look at the church as they passed through; something that they often do, it appears. Only a few hours previously Mrs. Southeard had been reading about Mr. Stratton taking part in the service at Newchurch. We now have two new members of the Kilvert Society ... the Rev. A.G. and Mrs. Southeard of Wootton Wawen, and are most pleased to have them.
 2. The story of the second coincidence starts with a letter from Ireland delivered to me a short time ago addressed to "Hon. Secretary, Kilvert Society, Hereford". The writer explained that they had picked up a leaflet in Clyro Church some time ago which had my name and address - but it had been lost, and they now sought details of the Society. The outcome is two more new members - Canon and Mrs. Boake from Co. Wicklow. The coincidence happened two years ago when they crossed from Rosslare to Fishguard en route for Lincolnshire, where Canon Boake was doing a locum. They had a dreadful crossing and the boat was hours late, so they set off on the long journey as soon as their car was off the boat, but by early morning they decided that a hotel must be looked for. They spotted one in a village on their left, but it was too early and no-one was up. As they were about to drive away a man came out of the house opposite, with his dog. They asked him about somewhere to sleep and were told that they could get B. and B. with him. So they stayed there, fell into bed and woke at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, greatly refreshed and anxious to find out where they were. To their amazement they found that they were in "Kilvert's house" at Clyro (Ashbrook) - a place familiar to them from reading Kilvert's Diary, though they had no idea that they were anywhere near it!!!
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KILVERT LECTURES AT WORCESTER ... AND AT LEDBURY.

In December of last year and January of 1976 the Deputy-President of the Society gave two extremely well-attended lectures on Kilvert in Worcester. The first was to a study group that meets regularly in the Swan Theatre, the other under the auspices of the National Trust. So great was the enthusiasm generated for the Diary that both groups have asked Mr. Grice if he will lead a party to look at some of the places in Radnorshire and Herefordshire which are connected with Kilvert. There is one interesting footnote to these lectures. At the end of the National Trust address an elderly lady called Mrs. Forrest told Mr. Grice that she could remember Father Ignatius staying with them one night in the course of one of his evangelical tours of South Wales.

LEDBURY ... on Monday, 23rd. February, Mr. Grice gave a talk on Kilvert (illustrated with slides) to a large and very responsive gathering of the Probus Club of Ledbury. Although this was a Monday morning meeting the room was crowded with members and their wives, many of whom were enthusiastic and well-informed readers of Kilvert. One of the members who spoke to Mr. Grice after the meeting said she had been speaking to a Miss Dorothy de Winton, a granddaughter of Archdeacon de Winton of the diary. Miss de Winton is now in a home for the elderly but is still very alert.

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THE ROYAL MAUSOLEUM.

An item under this heading in the "Daily Telegraph" one day in February stated that the Royal Mausoleum, Frogmore, will be open to the public without charge on May 26th. from 11. a.m. to 4 p.m. This has brought to mind an item in a newsletter some years ago now, by our Committee-member, Mr. R.I. Morgan, who was then living in Buckinghamshire. Mr. Morgan happened to be passing on a similar date that year (it is only open one day each year) and decided to pay it a visit. Something he noticed there may be the clue to a

sentence in Kilvert's Diary which has puzzled many readers. On p. 437 of Vol. 3. Kilvert records the death of Princess Alice ... "a martyr to maternal love, kissed to death by her suffering children". A memorial in the Royal Mausoleum makes it plain that her children died of diphtheria. Surely this explains "kissed to death" ?

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"WHERE TO STAY" in THE KILVERT COUNTRY.

This is the time of year when we give some addresses, for each year many come to see the countryside they have read about. Wherever you stay, please let it be known that you have come after reading the Diary, and especially that you are a member of the K.S. First, three who are themselves members of the Society.

Mrs. Harris, Crossway Farm, Clyro, via Hereford ... well situated on Clyro Hill and about 1½ miles from the village, in the heart of the Kilvert Country with Bettws, Newchurch, Rhosgoch and Painscastle not far away. Grand walking country all around, and good roads (if still a little narrow) for the motorist.

Mrs. N.D. Jones, Olchon Court, Nr. Longtown, Hereford ... tucked away in the Black Mountains, just 10 miles from Hay-on-Wye. Hill walks abound. Llanthony Abbey (Priory) and Capel-y-Ffin are in the next valley.

Mr. & Mrs. F.W. Allen, Glendernol, Llanurig, Llanidloes, Powys ... about 6 miles from Rhayader and the same from St. Harmon. In the valley of the infant Wye, and 30 miles from the sea at Aberystwyth. B. and B. and evening meal.

NON-MEMBERS:

Mrs. Williams, Brooklands, Lion Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford.

Mrs. Lloyd, Hawkeswood Farm, Nr. Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford.

Mrs. Knights, Old Black Lion, Lion Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford.

Mrs. Lewis, Llanbedr Hall, Painscastle, Builth Wells, Powys.

Mr. & Mrs. Barnes, Cwmlllechwedd Fawr, Llanbister, Llandrindod Wells, Powys.

HOTELS: The Crown and the Swan in Hay-on-Wye and the Baskerville Arms in Clyro (all via Hereford).

At THE OLD RECTORY FARM, NEWCHURCH, NR. KINGTON, HEREFORDSHIRE (Mrs. A.J. Ball) there is a 6 Berth Caravan and also a ROOMY FLAT - on weekly lettings.

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KNIGHTHOOD FOR A VICE-ADMIRAL.

This is the heading of an item in a local newspaper for January 9th. which reports that "a member of a Herefordshire leading naval family is knighted in the New Year Honours List". "He is Vice-Admiral John Ernle Pope of Much Marcle, who is Chief of Staff with NATO forces in Naples. His father, Cmdr. Kyrle Pope of Homme House, Much Marcle, had a distinguished naval career and his brother Michael was a Rear Admiral when he retired. Before he was posted to Italy, H/Q of NATO Southern Europe Forces, Vice-Admiral Pope was Chief of Staff of the British Fleet. He is a former Commander of H.M.S. Eagle, Britain's largest aircraft carrier. He is made a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath". All this will be of considerable interest to our members, for Cmdr. Kyrle Pope is the son of Kilvert's friend, the Rev. Andrew Pope and Kilvert was best man at his wedding to Miss Mary Money Kyrle of Homme House, on 9th. September, 1874 (p.p. 77/78 in Vol. 2. ... nothing in abridged editions). It was this association with Much Marcle which resulted in the 1975 Commemoration Service being held there on 29th. June - members of the Pope family were present at this service and many of us visited Homme House after tea.

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A KILVERT THESIS.

In 1965 the Commemoration Service was at Clyro. We called it a Centenary Service, because it was 1865 when Kilvert went to Clyro. We tried to make it an outstanding event (and, I think, succeeded). Almost 500 people were packed into Clyro Church to hear Bishop Newnham Davis. William Plomer gave a reading on the lawn at Pentwyn after tea. There was a Kilvert Exhibition in the school, and we gave prizes for essays written by the children of Clyro Primary School. They produced some excellent work and among the best was that done by James Lewis, son of the Rev. T.J. and Mrs. Lewis of Clyro Vicarage ... and now of The Vicarage, Crofty, Nr. Swansea.

James has been for the last several years at St. Paul's College, Cheltenham, and chose FRANCIS KILVERT as the subject for a thesis for his degree. His tutor described it as scholarly and said that it should obtain an "A" mark. A Professor friend at Oxford confirmed this opinion. The work was then sent to the examiner and he awarded the thesis an "A" with distinction. James was the only student in 1975 to be awarded such a high mark. St. Paul's College authorities have also suggested he continues his research for his M.A. He is now a qualified teacher and is reading for his B. Ed. degree under Bristol University, and sits for exams in May and June. His thesis was marked by Bristol University and in the Preface he acknowledges the help given by Mr. F. Grice and Mr. L. Le Quesne as well as that of his father and of the Hon. Secretary of the Society. James' parents are very proud of him and say that they found it most enjoyable to read. It runs to some 15-20 thousand words and has numerous coloured

photographs of Clyro and the surrounding countryside with very apt quotations from the Diary.

This is splendid news, and we will all wish James the greatest success in the years that lie ahead.

OBITUARY.

We announce, with regret, the death of the following since the last newsletter was circulated.

Mr. P.H. Stephens of Hay-on-Wye, in October 1975. Not only a member but someone I had known since schooldays at Glasbury-on-Wye, when Percy and the girl he subsequently married (Una Baker) were two of the many Hay children there. (Mrs. Stephens died a few years ago). I attended the funeral at Hereford Crematorium.

Mrs. E.M. Shetliffe of The Cathedral Close, Hereford, in early February. A member since 1958. Mrs. Shetliffe was a Money-Kyrle and therefore closely connected with the Money-Kyrles and the Popes of Much Marcle. She attended the service there last June and was one who greeted those of us who visited Homme House afterwards. Our Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J.D. Worsey), attended the funeral - at Much Marcle Church. Mrs. Shetliffe was buried in the graveyard there.

Mrs. L.E. Lloyd of Sarnesfield, Hereford, died in December, aged 94. Though not herself a member several of her family are members, and it is of great interest to record that with the passing of Mrs. Lloyd undoubtedly the last link with the Rev. John Price (the "Solitary" of Llanbedr) is severed ... for her home when a girl was the Upper Lundy, one of the nearest farms to the "cabin" where the old hermit-parson lived, and Mrs. Lloyd remembered being sent by her mother with the maid - to take him food and clean up his abode. Mrs. Lloyd was the wife of the late Mr. Thomas Lloyd, a noted Radnorshire farmer, and one of the Lloyds of Wern Newydd - a farm where Kilvert records he always had a warm welcome from "dear Mrs. Lloyd". The funeral was at Clyro, followed by a Memorial Service at Lyonshall Baptist Church.

Col. Sir Charles Ponsonby, Bt., who died in January, aged 96. He was not a member, but I had quite a correspondence with him and with Lady Ponsonby prior to our Commemoration Service at Wootton-by-Woodstock (Oxfordshire) in 1970. Both were interested and both attended that service, when he gave a copy of his book on Wootton to the Society. Sir Charles Ponsonby was, of course, a nationally known figure in a number of different spheres.

Miss Dorothy Raikes of Hen Ysgol, Llangasty-Talyllyn, Brecon, who died on March 8th. aged 87. Miss Raikes had been a member for many years. She was of an old Breconshire family. Kilvert met some of the family at Hay Castle (see p. 364 of Vol. 2).

KILVERT'S DIARY ... sets of the 3 volumes.

The last edition (1969) has completely SOLD OUT. All that are now available are what sets there may still be in shops all over the country - PLUS what is left of the 30 or so sets that the Society put into stock towards the end of 1975. At the time that this note was typed there were more than 20 sets in the care of the Hon. Secretary. These are available for members and their friends to purchase at the original price of £12 per set, plus 75p at present if they are to be posted. The publishers (Jonathan Cape) say that they hope to bring out a new edition of the 3 volumes set (exactly the same as all previous editions, of course) during 1976, possibly before the end of the summer - BUT THE PRICE WILL BE MUCH HIGHER ... in the region of £20 say Jonathan Cape. Existing Stocks will be sold on the principle "first come, first served". If there are sets still unsold at the time of the A.G.M. a few of these will be available on our usual "bookstall" in the Hall. ALL PROFIT GOES TO THE SOCIETY'S FUNDS.

Abridged editions also in stock at 8 Prince Edward Road, Hereford. Paperback is now £1. 10 plus 28½p postage. Hardback is £2. 50 also plus 28½p is posted.

SKINNERS JOURNAL - by the Rev. John Skinner, 1803 to 1834. A very few copies still available by this clergyman of Camerton near Bath, then in the Somerset coalfield ... a large handsome volume for £4. 50 plus 48p if posted before the next rise in postal rates.

JARVIS' CHARITY - (Gale damage at Bredwardine).

During the time that Francis Kilvert was Vicar of Bredwardine he was automatically a Trustee of this Charity - volume three of the Diary has a number of references to this. It is a wealthy charity and has done much good among the poor people of Bredwardine and the adjoining parishes of Staunton-on-Wye and Letton. It is still functioning, though the free doctor provided for many years past has been superceded by the welfare state. A vast sum of money was left to the three parishes by George Jarvis, who died in 1790. He was buried in Bredwardine churchyard and a large and ornate memorial,

rather in the shape of an oblong chest upon short legs, was erected on his grave. This gave a long history of the man and of his bequests. It was an outstanding tomb, almost straight ahead as one came out of the church, but the January gales caused a large tree to fall right across it, smashing it into an unrecognisable heap of little pieces. Fortunately, there is a tablet in the church to the memory of George Jarvis and this also tells something of the Charity.

A SOLDIER OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST.

A Gloucestershire member has sent me a copy of the review of a book bearing this title, and the suggestion (with which I agree) that it will no doubt interest some of our members as fringe reading about a period contemporary with that of the "old soldier" (John Morgan of Clyro) who Kilvert so often visited and talked with. Much is about the Peninsula War. It is edited by Christopher Hibbert and published by Leo. Cooper Ltd. at £3. 95.

LEISURE AND PLEASURE IN THE 19TH. CENTURY.

By Stells Margetson (Cassell ... 45/-) - another contemporary book, probably published some years ago, judging by how the price is quoted. It is mentioned here because the author is now writing a book which brings in Kilvert and others of his period. Some of the illustrations are to be photographs which the Society possesses. Perhaps more about this book in the next newsletter.

WILLIAM PLOMER'S LAST LECTURE ON "FRANCIS KILVERT AND HIS DIARY".

Many members will undoubtedly be glad to know about this. It can be found in a book with the title "ESSAYS - by Divers Hands" ... Edited by John Guest and published in 1975 by the Royal Society of Literature - (O.U.P). It is one of ten lectures and was the "Giff Edmonds Memorial Lecture" for 1972. It perpetuates the memory of Lieut. Gifford Edmonds of the 2nd. Black Watch, killed at Magersfontein in 1899. The Chairman for this lecture was Lord Butler, K.G., C.H., the President of the R.S.L. (incidentally, William Plomer has been heard to say that "RAB" is deeply interested in Kilvert and the Diary). This lecture is just about the best "summing up" of the Diary and of Kilvert that one could find anywhere, yet it is all in just fifteen pages. If it could be obtained on its own, what a splendid slim booklet it would make, just the thing to give to enquirers about Kilvert and the Diary.

I was particularly pleased to see that William Plomer had used the words of Arthur Waley (the famous poet and orientalist) which he told me many years ago and which I had intended asking permission to quote, for William Plomer said that it was one of the greatest compliments yet paid to Kilvert. When Waley was on his death-bed in 1966, and in great pain, the book he wished to have read to him was Kilvert's Diary. After his death a passage was found sidlined in pencil and against it he had faintly written, "Like Chinese poem".

I happen to know that this referred to Kilvert's reference to seeing a girl carrying water "in a blue jug". Such a simple little touch that most of us would let pass unnoticed, but see how it caught the eye of Arthur Waley.

THE CHURCH ON CHOSEN HILL.

Mid-way between Gloucester and Cheltenham is the village of Churchdown, at the foot of Chosen Hill. Here the Wyndowe family once lived, at Chosen Hall, long since demolished. A year or two ago, when visiting friends in Gloucester we all motored to the top of Chosen Hill to see what tablets there might be in the ancient church of St. Bartholomew. Although this church is not now in regular use, as a new church was built in Churchdown village, it has occasional services and one was in progress that afternoon. So, after a look at some of the old tombstones we departed without seeing the interior. Recently we have acquired a new member (Mrs. Back) from not far away. At Newchurch last October I told her of our fruitless visit to the church on Chosen Hill and she subsequently journeyed there, and then wrote to me with a description of what of interest is inside. The East Window has an inscription (in the glass) "TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN MEMORY OF A FAMILY RESIDENT AT CHOSEN HALL IN THIS PARISH". In the chancel are three memorial tablets to members of the Wyndowe family, one of them is of great interest to us, for it is to Francis Kilvert's brother-in-law, "Sam" of whom we read quite a lot in the Diary. The wording is as follows:- RESURGAM. IN MEMORIUM. THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN. SAMUEL JARDINE WYNDOWE M.D. DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL INDIAN ARMY. OBIT MARCH 19, 1919. AETAT 89 YEARS. IN COELO QUIES. THIS MEMORIAL IS PLACED HERE BY HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.

NOTE ... In "Random Recollections" - (the second half of "MORE CHAPTERS FROM THE KILVERT SAGA") - written by Emily Wyndowe - much more can be gleaned, and there are photographs of both of them, and the baby Annie (the "Monk").

A KILVERT AT BALACLAVA.

Among the 1975 new members was Mr. R.B. Kilvert of Reigate in Surrey who, whenever he has time, works on family history in order to establish just where he comes in

with the Kilverts generally. His enquiries have brought to light something most interesting, which has been passed on to the Society. This is the story of John Ashley Kilvert, who was one of the "gallant six hundred" of the famous Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava in 1854. He was then 21 and a Corporal in the 11th. Hussars. John Kilvert was born on 29th. September, 1833, at High Ercall, Nr. Shrewsbury, the son of George Kilvert, farmer. Educated at High Ercall Grammar School, he enlisted on 9th. December, 1851. Was wounded in the charge on 25th. October, 1854; sent to Scutari (was he nursed by Florence Nightingale?) and invalided to England in February, 1855. Promoted Sergeant in 1856 and Troop Sergeant Major in 1857. His medals were presented to him by Queen Victoria on Horse Guards Parade on May 18th. 1855. These medals and his sword were bequeathed by him to Wednesbury Art Gallery. He died on 17th. October, 1920 at Wednesbury and was buried in Wood Green Cemetery, West Bromwich, Staffordshire. He was survived by only two other participants in the Charge. They died in 1925 and 1927. John Kilvert had settled in Wednesbury and played an important part in its municipal affairs, was Mayor in 1905 - 1906 and being a widower his niece, Mrs. Harris, acted as Mayoress. He had married Henrietta Stredwick at Brighton in 1858. These extracts are taken from a record of the Light Brigade, compiled by Canon William Murrell Lummis, M.C., Canon Emeritus of St. Edmundsbury, Vicar of Bungay, Suffolk 1941-1958 and formerly R.Q.M.A. of the 11th Hussars 1913-1916. Canon Lummis says "John Kilvert's family could be traced back nine hundred years".

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WHO WAS THE INTREPID MRS. NICHOLL ? - (Vol. 1. pp. 316-7)
A Contribution from a Gwent Member, Mr. W.G.H. Robins of Usk.

I am doing some research into the Nicholl family who lived in this house (Ynys Hafod, Usk), during much of the 19th. century.
In the National Library of Wales, ms no. 18555, I came across the diary entry of Iltyd Bond Nicholl for August 8th. 1881. He and his mother were staying at Hardwick. He mentions Mrs. Webb and comments "Miss F. Thomas of Llanthomas arrived here". Iltyd was 19 at the time and impressionable towards the ladies. ("Daisy was then 29").
If his mother were to have been the Mrs. Nicholl who plunged into the river after a salmon in 1871, she would have been aged 45 then. She died in 1905, was Mary Lewisa Nicholl, wife of George Whitlock Nicholl who by 1871 had inherited his brother's estates in Llantwit Major, Glam.
George Whitlock Nicholl was brought up in this house by the river Usk and lived nearby for some years after his marriage. The age of Mrs. Nicholl, and the salmon fishing interest probably identifies her. I can find no other close candidate. However, any comments from members would be welcome.

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THE SLAVE GIRL - (Contributed by Mr. J.L. Naimaster, London. N.W.7).

On 22nd. May, 1876, Kilvert saw in a shop window in Oxford a picture, doubtless an engraving, of "L'Esclave" ... "which above all the others instantly arrested my attention and admiration". As he sees it, five days later, in another picture shop (which was on the opposite side of The High) it would have been a popular print of its day, and he "stopped to take a long last lingering look and farewell to the beautiful slave girl".
He must have purchased a copy, as four days later he goes (from Langley) to Bath "and took the picture of the Slave Girl to be framed".
Despite the recent endeavours of a London Member of the Society to trace the name of the artist, and may be find a copy of the print, he is unable to report any progress. The title, "L'Esclave" suggests that the painter was French, as indeed the Subject. The Fine Art Trade Guild (as successors to the contemporaneous Printsellers Association) has no record of an English publication with that title. The names of Bougereau, Gerome and Meissonier have been put forward as possible painters, and it has even been suggested that the picture might be a piece of sculpture. Art publications of the time also have been searched. Has any member discovered anything about "L'Esclave"?

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NOVEMBER - BLOT MONATH.

A Radnorshire member was reminded of Mr. Grice's contribution to the newsletter of March, 1973, when she saw the following in a national daily not long ago. It is from a review of a book on the history of fox-hunting, and reads ... "Few labels upset devotees of the sport more than "blood-sport", but after the 11th. century English King Canut had imposed a close season on hunting the name for November was "Blot Monath" - "Blood Month" when serious hunting began".
This ties up with some of the words Kilvert used for certain months - Wolf monat, Barn monat, Trimalki, etc., to which Mr. Grice referred in his article on Kilvert's interest in words.

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