

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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31st. March 1977.

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting and Social Evening will be held on THURSDAY, the 21ST. APRIL at 7 o'clock (prompt) - at the ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE HALL in WIDEMARSH STREET, HEREFORD - as in the previous two years.

For the benefit of anyone coming for the first time to this HALL it can be said that it will be found exactly opposite Henly's Car Showrooms. There is ample car parking space at side and rear of the hall.

We shall start very promptly at 7 o'clock so that the BUSINESS part of the evening is over by 7.30 p.m. This gives half an hour for Mr. Frederick Grice and one other speaker (maybe even two speakers) to entertain the company until it is time for REFRESHMENTS at 8 o'clock.

There will then be a break of ONE HOUR - for refreshments, and for members to pay subscriptions (to Mrs. Peters); to patronise the bookstall (run by Mr. and Mrs. West); and to book for the coach tour, this year to Bristol, with Mr. R.I. Morgan. It will be on Saturday, 21st. May (see overleaf for full details).

Upon resuming the meeting - at 9 o'clock - we can sit back and listen, for the next hour, to our President, Mr. Wynford Vaughan-Thomas. I need say no more, except that I feel sure that 10 o'clock will come around much too soon!!! This will be the first time that he finds himself able to get to an A.G.M. and I feel sure that everyone present will much appreciate having such a busy and much sought after man as is our President, among us.

An appeal for help - we do not need any helpers with refreshments this time, for completely different arrangements have been made, but we do ask for some of our menfolk to turn up at 6 o'clock to help with chairs and trestle tables. At present there is no caretaker at the hall, and as we cannot have it until 6 o'clock there is just a bare hour in which to get everything ready - and much to do.

This year's Commemoration Service is to be at MADLEY in Herefordshire on Sunday the 19th. June at 3 o'clock. Further on in this newsletter there is a note explaining the link which prompted the Rev. W.L. Paterson to invite the Society to hold this service in his church, but full details will be in the newsletter which always precedes our services by about a fortnight.

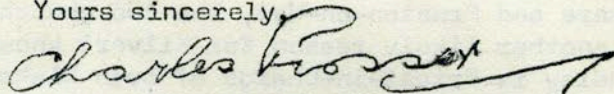
The Statement of Accounts for 1976 will come with this newsletter. It is good to see such a substantial balance in hand but there may be heavy calls on it in the next year or two - for production of more booklets; possibly for a filing cabinet for Hay Library (or even a second showcase); and for expenses in 1979, the centenary of Kilvert's death - when something quite expensive in the nature of a memorial may be contemplated.

I regret to have to state that there are some 1976 subscriptions still unpaid. Please remit these to Mrs. Peters as soon as possible.

WILL MEMBERS KINDLY NOTE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP CARD should NOT be sent with your subscription. The idea is for members to keep it by them for reference as to when their subscription becomes due, and to stick the receipt into it when this comes with the newsletter. All receipts are held over to come with the next available newsletter - unless a stamped addressed envelope is sent for it. In any case, membership cards are liable to get badly crumpled in the post.

Overleaf there are details of a WALK IN WILTSHIRE (the Langley Burrell area) that has been arranged for Saturday, 4th. June - something that will no doubt appeal to a number of members who will appreciate a walk in the Wiltshire "Kilvert Country".

Yours sincerely,



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

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

COACH TOUR TO BRISTOL - Saturday, 21st. May 1977.

This could be one of the most interesting such tours that we have yet made, for there are so many references to Bristol in the Diary (as will be seen from the schedule of them that follows). It all stems from suggestions made by our good member, Mr. Hugh Dearlove, who lived all his life in Bristol until a few years ago, when he and his brother Guy moved to St. Briavels in the Forest of Dean. WE SHALL PICK HIM UP EN ROUTE AND HE WILL BE OUR GUIDE FOR THE DAY. A 45 seater coach has been engaged - (one coach only).

IT WILL LEAVE HEREFORD TOWN HALL AT 10 O'CLOCK (PROMPT) and proceed via Monmouth and the Severn Bridge. TOTAL COST PER PERSON WILL BE £2. 50. This includes coach fare, admission to the "Great Britain", all gratuities, donations to churches visited, and HIGH TEA in Bristol. We shall hope to be back in Hereford by about 8. 30 p.m. Everyone should bring picnic lunch, we shall have this before going aboard the "Great Britain". Tables and chairs are available and hot drinks can be obtained. Some of our members who live in or near Bristol, Bath, etc., may like to join up with us at some point; we would welcome them. If they will contact the Hon. Secretary about a week beforehand he will tell them where to meet the party. PLEASE STATE IF HIGH TEA WILL BE REQUIRED.

Places we hope to either visit or see in passing - with Diary references

Keynsham and Brislington (Dr. Fox's-. V.2. p.399. V.3. p 103. P264/5 in abridged.
S.S. "Great Britain" V.2. p.214. (Kilvert sees this ship at Liverpool). Not in abridged.
St.Mary Redcliffe Church. V.2. p.p. 281 & 386 and V.3. p.88. P.261 in abridged.
Colston Hall V.2. p.386 and Confectioners Shop V.3. p.31. P.247 in abridged.
Bristol Cathedral (where Kilvert was ordained) & the Lord Mayor's Chapel.V.2.p.281.
Great George Street (Clergy Daughters School) V.3. p.31. P.247 in abridged.
via the Victoria Rooms. V.2. p.281..... Not abridged.
1,Carlton Place (Adelaide Heanley & "Kathleen Mavourneen") V.3.p.88. P261 in abridged.
also pages 119 & 237 in Vol.3. Not abridged.
Royal York Crescent ... Tom Monkhouse (of Hindwell and the Stowe) died at No. 34.
see "Kilvert and the Wordsworth Circle"
Suspension Bridge & 16, Sion Hill (the Wyndowes) V.3. p.201. Not abridged.

A WALK IN WILTSHIRE.

For the first time, members will have the chance to join in a walk in the "Kilvert Country" around Langley Burrell - it is being organised by our good members, Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Payne of the Old Brewery, Langley Burrell - on Saturday, June 4th. The idea is that those members wishing to participate shall make the journey to Wiltshire in their own cars, meeting at Old Brewery House at 12 noon to 12. 30 p.m. - where we can eat the picnic lunch which each member should bring. Langley Burrell is on the A420 Chippenham to Swindon road about 1 mile from Chippenham. Leave the A420 on the side road sign-posted "East Tytherton and Langley Burrell". The Old Brewery is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile along this road, on the right. There is ample parking space. It is just about 60 miles from Hereford. It is suggested that Hereford area members could meet at 8, Prince Edward Road at 10 a.m. and all start off together. No doubt those with empty seats will fill them with those who could not otherwise come. Perhaps some of our members living in the area of Chippenham, Bath, Bristol, etc. will want to join us at Langley Burrell? We hope so. An interesting walk has been planned across fields and along the Stein Brook, through Sydney's Wood, Lessiter's Plantation, past Grove Farm and the Manor Farm. It is interesting that Francis Kilvert walked this area on 3rd. June, 1876. We may be able to make a brief call at Langley Burrell Church and look across at Langley House - for the benefit of any who have not been there before. We end the walk at the Old Brewery where Mr. & Mrs. Payne will most kindly give us afternoon tea - hopefully on the lawn. If we are able to do this walk exactly as planned the distance will be about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

THE SERVICE AT MADLEY - 19TH. JUNE.

Undoubtedly many members will say "but Madley is not mentioned anywhere in the Diary". This is quite so, although we must always remember that even the full three volumes are but ONE THIRD of the Diary that Kilvert kept in those 22 notebooks, and as Madley lies on one of the two roads between Bredwardine and Hereford (roughly halfway), it is quite likely that he knew it well. Furthermore, it is but a few miles from Madley to both Blakemere and Preston-on-Wye, the two churches of Kilvert's friend, the Rev. Andrew Pope - another likely reason for Kilvert knowing Madley. Today the Rev. W.L. Paterson of Madley is Priest-in-Charge of both Blakemere and Preston-on-Wye, so we can look upon Madley as the "Mother Church" of both of them. It is a lovely church, and a large one - and we are assured of a warm welcome from Mr. Paterson (a member

of the Society) and all others associated with Madley Church. Elsewhere can be found items about the CELEBRATIONS (in May) of the CENTENARY OF THE REBUILDING OF BLAKEMERE CHURCH and also a few words about the 1977 MADLEY MUSICAL FESTIVAL ... in July.

KINGTON ST. MICHAEL - OCTOBER 3RD. 1976.

Quite a memorable occasion, our fourth Kilvert Commemoration Service in Wiltshire. Everything went as planned - except that just as the Hereford party (in a 52 seater coach and several cars) got to Castle Farm, Marshfield, the rain started, so that instead of having our picnic lunch outside we had to take advantage of the tremendous kindness of Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Knight and over-run their house. Their Long House and Folk Museum are fascinating, and I am sure that many will go there again, on a dry day. The rain had eased before we got to Kington St. Michael, and by the time we came out of church had ceased entirely and we had it dry for the rest of the day. The large church was nearly full. The service started with a warm welcome from the Rev. J.E.G. Oswald, who later dedicated the OAK COMMUNION WAFER BOX AND THE CRUETS FOR WINE AND WATER - which the Society gave the church to mark this occasion. Some good singing, a splendid ADDRESS by the Rev. J.J. Harding (Leominster), and an Act of Remembrance that was quite different to the many we have had in previous years (by the Rev. J.E.G. Oswald) all went to make a much enjoyed service. The lessons were read by Mr. Daniel Awdry, the M.P. for the Chippenham Division, and by Mr. J.A. Payne of Langley Burrell. After an excellent tea in the nearby Village Hall we had a veritable feast of speakers. First Mr. Daniel Awdry and his father, Col. Edward Awdry, who between them told us a lot about the Awdry family and about the Prodggers and other local folk. Then from Mrs. Heather Tanner of Kington Langley we heard a fascinating account of the Colemans, particularly touching on the burials in Kington St. Michael churchyard and in the "Old Mausoleum" which is now within the boundary of Mr. & Mrs. Tanner's grounds. Then Mrs. Anne Mallinson (of Selborne, Hants) gave a most interesting talk on another side of the Kilvert family, the Wyndowes and their daughter who Kilvert dubbed "the Monk", and who Mrs. Mallinson remembers with affection. The Rev. J.J. Harding and Mr. Frederick Grice also spoke. Altogether a most entertaining evening. The Hereford party travelled via Monmouth, Tintern and the Severn Bridge - in both directions - a new route for quite a few members and their friends.

OBITUARY.

The death of four long standing and valued members has, with regret, to be reported.

Mrs. K. Coltar of Lytham in Lancashire, in December. She had been a member since 1959 and had attended at least two of our Commemoration Services.

Mr. A. Harding of Chippenham, in January, a member (with Mrs. Harding) since 1964. They have been to several of our Kilvert Services in Herefordshire and Radnorshire, in addition to all in Wiltshire. Mr. Harding acted as sidesman at Kington St. Michael last October. He had been Churchwarden at Langley Burrell for many years, and was buried there. Mrs. Harding tells me that his grave is under the yew tree near the Rev. J. J. Daniel and also near the gypsy girl (Limpedy Buckland) mentioned in Kilvert's Diary.

Mr. H. Gregory of Morriston, Swansea, in January, a member since 1956. He too had been at a number of our services, contributed to newsletters, and donated an interesting book to the William Plomer Memorial Showcase in the Library at Hay-on-Wye. A well known man in his own area.

Mrs. L. Skerry of Hereford, in March. A founder member who joined in 1948 and a regular attender at almost all our services and meetings. Mrs. Skerry and her two surviving sisters (both members) were originally of the Hay/Clyro area. Mr. J.D. Worsey represented the Kilvert Society at the funeral service at St. Martins Church, Hereford.

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Mr. Grice has delivered two more illustrated lectures on Kilvert, one to Worcester Sorooptimist Club in the Old Palace, and one to the Over-Twenties Club in the Star Hotel. He is also engaged to speak to the Probus Club at Malvern at a future date. In addition, he is the author of an article on Kilvert and Clyro which is to appear in the next issue of the Anglo-Welsh Review, and has edited a WHO'S WHO IN KILVERT'S DIARY which will be on sale soon at 70p plus postage from Mr. Grice or from the Hon. Secretary. We hope to have them on sale at the A.G.M.

He has also recently published NINE DAYS WONDER, a story of the experiences of a Grammar School Boy in Durham in the year of the General Strike, and at some time in the future, Ward Lock are to bring out a story very much inspired by Kilvert. Its title is LEAP TO LIVE and the background is Kilvert's Radnorshire.

VICTORIAN COUNTRY PARSONS.

This is the title of a book by one of our London members, Mrs. Brenda Colloms. It will have a chapter on Francis Kilvert, with some pictures. It is to be published by Constable and will be out in June, or shortly afterwards. There will no doubt be more information about it in the June newsletter. Photographs supplied by the Kilvert Society.

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THIS ENGLAND.

Our Herefordshire authoress, Mrs. Mary Essberger, who writes under her maiden name of Mary Andere, will have an article on Kilvert in that lovely magazine which is published quarterly in Cheltenham under the above title. She is a member of the Kilvert Society and we have supplied the photographs used to illustrate her article. It is likely to be in the SPRING number - out quite soon.

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THE REV. H.T. WATTS - ONE TIME VICAR OF BREDWARDINE.

Those of us who were at the very first Kilvert Commemoration Service to be held under the auspices of the Society - at Bredwardine on July 18th. 1948 - will no doubt read with particular pleasure the following account of the second retirement of the Rev. H.T. Watts, who conducted the service; for it was Mrs. Watts who first suggested erecting a memorial seat in Bredwardine churchyard - an idea taken up by the Society on its formation - and Mr. Sid Wright, our first President, himself cut the lettering on the stone seat, for he had been apprenticed to a stonemason, but did not continue in the craft. In those early days the Society received valuable support from both Mr. and Mrs. Watts and they have continued to be members ever since.

First - from the BRACKNELL NEWS of 23rd. September 1976 Binfield's parishioners' high regard for their Assistant Priest was expressed during Sunday's Evensong, which was a service of thanksgiving for the 50th. anniversary of his Ordination. Before the blessing at St. Mark's Church, the Rev. Harold Watts was presented by Mrs. Peggy Mitchell on behalf of the congregation, with a cheque for some £475 and book tokens to the value of £9. For his wife, Lilian, there was a handsome bouquet. The service was conducted by the Rector of Binfield, the Rev. Timothy Fletcher, and the Rural Dean, the Rev. John Brown, was the preacher, taking his text from Psalm 77. v.5. "I have considered the years that are passed".

A Londoner, born in 1897, Mr. Watts served as a combatant in World War 1 - first as a Corporal in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and then as a Lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was twice wounded on the Ypres Salient, losing his right eye. He was also in action on the Somme. The war over, after brief experience as a farm pupil at Burgfield, he studied for the Ministry at Wycliff Hall, Oxford, and in 1926 was Ordained at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. His first Curacy was at All Saints, Faringdon, and his second at Christ Church, Malvern. "The years that are passed" included his first living at Bredwardine, where in the 19th. century had been Kilvert, whose Diary has become a classic of our time. During his 17½ years at Bredwardine, Mr. Watts was also for six years Rural Dean of Weobley. Moving eventually to Sutton St. Nicholas, Hereford, where he was Rector, he again filled the role of Rural Dean, this time of the Weston Deanery. In 1955, at the age of 58, the cleric whose war service had left him with a 90% disability was led to retire early, and he and his wife now decided to return to Berkshire and settle in South Ascot. The then Rector of Binfield was looking for an Assistant Priest, and so Mr. Watts immediately found a niche appropriate to his changed status. Fifteen years ago the Watts moved to Binfield, making their home at "Beech Trees", Alben Road. In their long association with the village they have won a way to its heart, as was evident on Sunday by the generosity of the anniversary presentation, nearly 500 parishioners having signed the accompanying testimonial.

The Binfield member who sent me the above newspaper cutting also sent the account as in the Oxford Diocesan Magazine; both much the same except the O.D.M. comments on Mr. Watts being seen walking or cycling round the village, very much as he did many years ago; and on Mrs. Watts lavishing her gardening talents on their beautiful, not-so-small, garden.

Hon. Secretary's Note..... the account of that first service at Bredwardine (in 1948) can be read on p.11 of "LOOKING BACKWARDS" - and the address given by the Very Rev. Hedley Burrows (then Dean of Hereford) on the following pages. In it is also a picture of the Dean dedicating the seat and Mr. Wright cutting the lettering.

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"ONLY LETTS DIARIES"

One of our members who lives in the Cotswolds sent for an abridged edition of the Diary in October last ... she had tried to buy one in BRECON when visiting friends there in September, without success. In one particular shop (selling books and

papers, stationery, etc) she was told by the young lady assistant "that they only sold Letts Diaries". A similar story was told by another member a few years ago. She asked for Kilvert's Diary in a similar sort of shop - to be told that "they only sold Diaries at Christmas".

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"WHERE TO STAY" in the Kilvert Country.

Each year at this time we give a list of addresses - for every year many come to see the places they have read about in Kilvert's Diary. We do hope that everyone who comes lets it be known that their visit follows reading the Diary, and that they are members of the Society.

These first three names are themselves members of the Kilvert Society.

Mrs. Harris, Crossway Farm, Clyro, via Hereford ... well situated on Clyro Hill, 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 very good roads (if still a little narrow) for the motorist.

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

Mr. & Mrs. F.W. Allen, Glendernol, Llanquariq, Llanidloes, Powys ... about 6 miles from Rhayader and the same from St. Harmon. In the valley of the infant Wye, and about 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. Lewis, Llanbedr Hall, Painscastle, Builth Wells, Powys.

Mrs. Nicholls, New House Farm, Bryngwyn, Builth Wells, Powys.

Mrs. Hollom, Pentwyn, Clyro, via Hereford.

Mrs. Barnes, Cwmllechredd Fawr, Llanbister, Llandrindod Wells, Powys.

HOTELS: The Crown and The Swan in Hay-on-Wye, and the Baskerville Arms in Clyro.

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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HEREFORDSHIRE SPEECH.

The title of a fascinating little book by Mrs. Winifred Leeds of Ross-on-Wye - the first woman to become President of the Woolhope Field Club, which is Herefordshire's Naturalist, Archaeological, etc., etc., Club, established 1851, now with more than 800 members (your Hon. Secretary is its Field Secretary). We have put a dozen copies into stock because we think they will prove to be of considerable interest to our members. It is interesting to compare words in it to words that Kilvert quoted, remembering that over the border into Radnorshire many words used are the same as in Herefordshire. It is priced at £1. 50, postage is 14p extra - from the Hon. Secretary of the Kilvert Society.

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THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

We are threatened with increased postal charges - some very substantial - in the near future. Now is the time, therefore, for those members who have not yet bought the Society's publications, to do so. Why not send to the Hon. Secretary for a pink leaflet, which not only gives prices and postages but also describes what is in each publication? At present there are seven available, with several more to come out during the year.

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B.B.C. DRAMATISATION OF KILVERT'S DIARY.

The B.B.C. have a project (which they are just about to start) for a dramatisation of some of the Diary - in many episodes, originally eighteen but will probably be less when it appears on television in the autumn or winter of this year. We understand that they are soon to start filming in and around the Clyro area, using the school children, and some adults too. We have been told that Clyro is "all agog" with excitement at the thought of "being on the telly". But the sad thing about it is how the B.B.C. has "twisted" the Diary, altering characters and situation AND INTRODUCING EVENTS THAT ARE NOT IN THE DIARY AT ALL ... SOME OF THEM VERY SILLY. We know, for we have gone through every one of the scripts, 30 to 40 pages in each script. Mr. Grice has tried his best to get the B.B.C. to cut out some of the silliest things, and some of the most untrue, but with very little success.

When it does appear there is no doubt but that very many keen readers of the Diary

(not to mention members of the Society) - all over the country - will be SADDENED, DISAPPOINTED AND PERHAPS ANGRY. We of the Society will therefore have to make it very plain that IT IS NOTHING TO DO WITH US, and that we have tried to get it altered, but with very little success. We shall also have to make it plain that anyone who wishes to protest about what they see and hear must address their complaints to the B.B.C. and not to anyone connected with the Society.

There will no doubt be a further note about this matter in the June newsletter.

CELEBRATIONS AT BLAKEMERE.

There are several references to Blakemere in Vol. 3 of the Diary, the most interesting being that for Friday, 27th. December, 1878. Mrs. Pope had driven to Bredwardine the previous day and brought Kilvert and his sister Dora to stay at Preston Vicarage for the next two days. On Friday Kilvert "walked with Pope to Blakemere to visit the pretty little church which I had not seen since it was restored. I was much pleased with it and especially the three beautiful lancets and the Church arch, the restored Churchyard cross with the Virgin and child carved on the panel on the North side, and the little empty niche on the west side for the image of St. Leonard, the patron saint of the Church".

On Friday and Saturday, the 13th. and 14th. of May, Blakemere is celebrating the Centenary of the re-building of its Church with a FLOWER FESTIVAL. In addition, on the 13th. there will be a Concert in the Church at 7. 30 p.m. - and on the 14th. a Fete with sideshows. Refreshments will be available. The Kilvert Society will have a small stand on each day with our booklets and cards, all profits from sales of these will be given to Church Funds. On Sunday the 15th. May there will be a SPECIAL SERVICE at 3 o'clock, with Hereford Church Singers. Preacher will be the Dean of Hereford.

We hope that members of the Society will go along and support these events.

MADLEY FESTIVAL.

This year to be held from 4th. to 10th. July and will include a Concert by the famous Welsh Harpist, DR. OSIAN ELLIS, C.B.E. In past years many members of the Kilvert Society have supported this now well known Festival. No doubt they will do the same this year. Much fuller details will be in the June newsletter.

KILVERT'S DIARY - THE FIRST ILLUSTRATED EDITION.

This latest edition of Kilvert's Diary was released for sale in shops, etc. on 3rd. February. There are many improvements over any previous edition - no less than 28 photographs, some in each volume (Venables, Bevans, Crichtons, Dews, Ashes, Ettie Meredith Brown, Florence and Eleanor Hill, and the complete Thomas family of Llanthomas. Churches and houses in each area; Horden's shop in Hay, and one of Chain Alley, and of the cottage of the "Old Soldier", etc., etc.). Most of the little errors in text and index have been corrected, and the handsomely bound volumes are in a much improved case. Very good value in these days at £20 the set. The Society has put a number of sets into stock (and have sold 5 sets already, one to go to the U.S.A.) and will no doubt sell many more in the near future. Please send your order to the Hon. Secretary and a set will be posted immediately.

ODD VOLUMES.

We have a few of Volume 1 and a few of Volume 3 (brand new) of the 1969 edition at £4. 00 each (post free) - and the last 2 copies of SKINNERS JOURNAL at £4. 50 each.

WANTED.

Complete sets of the 1969 edition (three volumes) or of any previous edition; also a few of Volume 2. Reasonable prices paid or taken in part exchange for the new illustrated edition.

THE GUARDIAN.

I wonder how many members saw the fine article in THE GUARDIAN of Wednesday, 2nd. February? - by Brian Jones of that paper who, incidentally, lives at Langley Burrell and is a member of the Society. This article was timed to appear just as the new illustrated edition was released for sale, and mainly dealt with the destruction of most of Kilvert's original 22 notebooks. There are some good photographs.

LISTS OF MEMBERS - (NAMES AND ADDRESSES)

A note in the September newsletter told of the Dorset member who was providing us with lists of members which would be sold at 25p each, plus a stamp for postage .. 6½p. Quite a few orders came in, but there was some delay and it was not until after

Christmas when they were fulfilled. WE NOW HAVE PLENTY OF SUCH LISTS - READY FOR IMMEDIATE POSTING. Please note the price - 25p plus a stamp for postage. Will all those who buy these little lists please note that they will have to watch these newsletters for changes of address, new members, deaths and resignations, etc., if they want to keep their lists up to date. THIS IS IMPORTANT.

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PHOTOSTATS OF WILLIAM PLOMER'S COPY FROM KILVERT'S CORNISH NOTEBOOK.

These keep selling, and our Barnet (Herts) member has very kindly just provided us with a further batch. They are, of course, 90 photostats of the 90 handwritten sheets that the late William Plomer copied out from those parts of Kilvert's notebook which dealt with his three weeks in Cornwall that are not in the Diary. Thus, by reading these 90 sheets in conjunction with the Diary anyone can get a complete picture of Kilvert's holiday in Cornwall. The original notebook is now in the library of Durham University, one of the only 3 which still survive out of the 22 in which Kilvert wrote his Diary. These photostats are invaluable to anyone spending a holiday in Cornwall and wishing to "follow in Kilvert's footsteps", for although there are 26 pages in volume one dealing with that holiday in Cornwall there is still very much left out - which these 90 sheets cover. They are offered at the very nominal price of £2. 00 the set, plus postage, which is, at present, 32p if just posted in a strong envelope; or £2. 80 if in a wallet and very well packed. Profits go to finish paying for the SHOWCASE in Hay-on-Wye Library.

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OPENING TIMES OF THE HAY-ON-WYE BRANCH LIBRARY.

Despite the fact that we gave these times in the newsletter which was circulated at the time of the opening of this new Branch Library, we hear every now and then of members visiting Hay who go there to see the WILLIAM PLOMER MEMORIAL SHOWCASE only to find that the Library is closed - so here they are again.

Mondays - 10 a.m. to 12. 30 p.m. 2. 00 p.m. to 4. 00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Tuesdays - CLOSED ALL DAY.

Wednesdays - 10. 00 a.m. to 12. 30 p.m. and 2. 00 p.m. to 4. 00 p.m.

Thursdays - 11. 00 a.m. to 3. 00 p.m.

Fridays - 10. 00 a.m. to 12. 30 p.m. and 6. 00 p.m. to 8. 00 p.m.

Saturdays - 10. 00 a.m. to 12. 30 p.m.

New items are added to our showcase from time to time - visitors will find that the Librarian (Mrs. Betti Jones) is most helpful.

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CLYRO SCHOOL - REGISTER AND LOG BOOK.

The old school which Kilvert knew so well has been closed. The children now attend a new school which has been built a little way up the road running uphill between Cae Mawr and Clyro Court - away from the noisy main road. The register and log book of last century (covering the years between 1861 and 1899) have been at the old school up to the time of its closure. Now, thanks to the kindness of the authorities in Llandrindod Wells and the intervention of Mrs. R.I. Morgan (who as Miss M. Mantle was assistant mistress at the old school for many years) - they are on loan to the Kilvert Society and will shortly be displayed in the WILLIAM PLOMER MEMORIAL SHOWCASE in the LIBRARY at Hay-on-Wye. They contain the names and ages of many of the children we read about in Kilvert's Diary, and much other information. There is the signature of Shadrach Pryce, who inspected the school on July 12th. 1871 (V.l. p.374) and signatures of Josiah Evans the Headmaster in Kilvert's time - and of the Rev. R.L. Venables. Mrs. Crichton many times inspects the girls' needlework and Mr. Crichton the drawing, and sometimes the Rev. R.L. Bevan of Hay carries out an inspection. The children have a day or a half day off "to attend a wild beast show in Hay" - to gather acorns - to help with the harvest, etc., etc., and school treats are given by the Morrells and the Crichtons. These two books are mines of fascinating information.

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THE SHEEP STEALERS.

This was the heading of an item by Mr. E.J. West of Ross-on-Wye in the last newsletter. It concerns the book of that name by Violet Jacob - who was connected with the Thomas family of Llanthomas. Most of her novels were set in her native Scotland but this was written about the district around Llanthomas. Mr. West ended his most interesting article by telling us that he had lost his copy of it - loaned to someone who never returned it.

When our Scottish member, Dr. J.F. Milne of Blairgowrie in Perthshire read his news letter he was quite amazed by this article, for he had always thought of Violet Jacob as a Scottish writer and poet, and had no idea that she was connected with the Llanthomas family or had written anything about that area (which he knows, for Dr.

Milne has several times visited the Kilvert Country and was at the Commemoration Service at Bryngwyn in 1961). One nice outcome of all this is that Dr. Milne has very kindly sent a copy of THE SHEEP STEALERS to Mr. West. Furthermore, he has sent the following interesting account of Violet Jacob.

Violet Jacob was born in 1867 as Violet Kennedy-Erskine of Dun. Dun being near Montrose in E. Angus. In due course she was to marry Arthur Jacob, of a Yorkshire family - not Jewish as has been sometimes supposed. She always insisted on her Scottish origins and stressed that she was "Mrs. Jacob"! Her own ancestry she dealt with in her historical account of "The Lairds of Dun". The most notable member of that family was the 16th. c. laird who was a fervent supporter of John Knox and the Reformation movement. Mrs. Jacob is particularly known as a poet in the dialect of her home countryside - Angus. Certain poems, like "Tam i' the Kirk" are favourites in anthologies and for that matter, inevitable choices - like "Innis free" for W.B. Yeats. It was only reading Mr. West's communication in the newsletter that the writer of this discovered that she had a link with Llanthomas - and so in a sense with Kilvert. Whether she ever met Kilvert would depend on whether she visited there as a young girl - this is perhaps unlikely. The scenes in her first novel, "The Sheep Stealers" are laid in what is now known as "Kilvert Country". This also applies to her third novel "The History of Aythan Waring". Other works are placed in Scots settings with Scots scenes, and benefit by this, since she is positively a Scots writer. It should be said that the setting in the Wye Valley is not really an inevitable circumstance. These books are not strongly regional - she probably just used the geographical background as being familiar to her. Nor is it immediately easy to date the supposed action of these books, especially the second. "The Sheep Stealers" is dated by the Rebecca Riots, but this action could readily have been replaced elsewhere. "Aythan Waring" remains doubtful until (about halfway through) a passing reference occurs to the then reigning monarch - who turns out to be George IV. There is also reference (also late in the book) to an Excise statute of 1827 - so the date is around 1827 - 1830. The particular regional background here is even less "necessary" to the theme than is the case with the earlier book.

Hereford, the Cathedral and the "Green Dragon" occur in both books, but with no special significance. The same slightly contrived geographical names also occur in both books, e.g. Crishowell and Llangarth. In both, by the way, Talgarth appears once or twice as such by what might be a slip of the pen, if one supposes that that name had already been supplanted by Llangarth. These volumes should be regarded as collectors items, and indeed they are. "The Sheep Stealers" is the more interesting book. It has been found to be less highly priced, however, than the other. Without a fairly astute book "searcher" in this particular field these volumes would be very difficult to secure - they are not then to be lightly regarded.

Mrs. Jacob died in 1943. While the present writer has been unable to prove this, it is believed that "The Prose of Violet Jacob" was the subject of a critical study by Miss Winifred Duke in "The Northern Review" June - July 1924.

The Poems are a separate matter, far more dear to this writer's heart. As they were to their author. J. F. M.

A copy of "The Sheep Stealers" is now in the William Plomer Memorial Showcase in the Hay-on-Wye Library ... very kindly donated to the Society by Mrs. D. Price of Velindre in Breconshire. And "Aythan Waring", given by Dr. Milne to the Hon. Secretary, will probably find its way there too.

"LEWIS OF DOLBEDWYN'S CAUSE"

On Saturday, 26th. February, 1870, Kilvert set off from Clyro to walk over the hills to Colva. On the way he met Willie Vaughan, bringing a note from his father "announcing his return from the trial of Lewis of Dolbedwyn's cause in London".

These thirteen words have puzzled a good many readers of the Diary and made them wonder what tale lies behind them. Perhaps the story told me more than ten years ago will cause someone who knows more to let me have the details? I had forgotten it, until quite recently someone was talking about Dolbedwyn and brought it to mind and made me decide to put together this note about it.

From the early years of the Society up to their deaths in 1969 we had two staunch members living at Grosmont (Monmouthshire - now Gwent) - Mr. & Mrs. T. Lewis of The Point Farm. They rarely missed a church service, a meeting or a coach tour - and were keenly interested in the Diary and the countryside, for Mr. Lewis had strong Bredwardine connections and, further back, connections with Dolbedwyn. He told me his version of what happened, and showed me the gold watch that had been bought in London by some of his family who were at the trial (perhaps in celebration of the verdict?). According to Mr. Lewis it all arose out of someone in Radnorshire borrowing money in the name of Lewis of Dolbedwyn and signing in their name. In due course the lender applied for re-payment, to be met with a denial that it had ever

been borrowed. Somewhere in the case there was a story of impersonation, and I believe that twin brothers came into the story too, one removing his beard so that he would not be recognized!! Perhaps I have got it all very mixed up, but there is surely truth in it somewhere. We know the approximate date of the trial. Would it be possible to even now trace the true facts from records of cases in early 1870? The entry referred to at the beginning of this item can be found on page 41 of volume one. It is one of the many interesting things omitted from the abridged editions.

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"FATHER IGNATIUS OF LLANTHONY"

This is the title of a book by Donald Attwater, published in London by Cassell in 1931. Although I have read several other books on Ignatius this is one that I have not yet read. Recently two widely separated members of the Society have written to point out that on pages 52 - 55 he quotes "the diary of an Anglican Clergyman, Curate at Clyro". Nowhere does he specify Francis Kilvert, but quotes parts of the entries subsequently transcribed by William Plomer. For instance ... April 5th. 1870. Midsummer Day 1870 (and here is quoted a part not in the published edition). July 13th. and September 2nd. We can only speculate about who showed Donald Attwater the notebooks written by Kilvert containing these entries. Perhaps it was Percival Smith (for is was he who put them into William Plomer's hands some 5 or 6 years later). Perhaps it was the elder brother, Hastings Smith? I am not sure when he died and the notebooks passed on to his younger brother.

All this brings back to us what a tragic loss occurred when Mrs. Hope (the youngest of the Smith family) destroyed almost all of the 22 notebooks from which the Diary was compiled. How tantalising to read on p.165 of Vol. 1. "Perch ready for a walk to Llanthony ... here follows an account of the walk"; and on p.235 of Vol. 2. we read, "Went with Pope and Arthur Jones to Abergavenny by train through Hereford and walked back to Hay over the Black Mountains" ... followed by a note "They walk from Abergavenny to Llanthony" and a description of the walk from there towards Hay. Did they go over the Sugar Loaf after leaving Abergavenny? Which way did they take? What walks would be provided for us if we did but know the route they took. It is true to say that anyone can walk from Abergavenny to Llanthony without knowing all this, but what added interest there would be to do it Diary in hand.

Hon. Secretary.

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"WALKED TO KINNERSLEY STATION" - (Vol. 3 page 357 - 10th. January 1878).

The lane from Letton to Kinnersley station winds through the lush green plain of the Wye, cradled as it is by rolling hills and chequered by woods, fields and blossoming orchards. The hedgerows are alive with whitethroats, whose loud, rattling songs atartle the wanderer and whose sudden, arrowlike flights over the hedges delight the eye. Many of the ancient orchards, blossoming in pink and white profusion, must have caught the eye of Kilvert himself, as he hastened along the lane to the station at Kinnersley. Past magnificent chestnut trees, with their creamy-flowered candles, past golden oaks where the green woodpeckers laugh, beside lushly-bowered brooks where moorhen and coot skulk among the reeds, on goes the fortunate wanderer. All would be quiet save for the song of the birds, and their music leads one on, as it must have led Kilvert, in happy anticipation of the next singer to reveal itself. In a marshy field where the waters of a pond glitter in the sunlight, a sedge warbler flits from perch to perch, now and then alighting on some favourite twig or branch, and sending forth his loud, continuous song in a passionate haste. Overhead, a yellow wagtail flits its long tail against the blue sky, and beside a small lake, a swan dozes on her nest, safe in her rushy home, while the cob grazes nearby in the growing crops.

Soon, too soon, the lane reaches the site of the old station. A bridge carries the lane over the old railway line, and the remains of the sad, desolate platform can be seen below. No glittering lines snaking away into the distance now, to carry the traveller to Hereford or Whitney. No busy little station, no bustling, steaming train, only the lush green grass, the encroaching hedgerows, and the songs of the birds as they delight in the leafy shade of their ancient familiar haunts, now returned to them. Here Kilvert waited in the still, sunlit countryside, senses alert to catch the first distant sound of the approaching train, delighting perhaps in the call of the cuckoo from the nearby copse, or the simple song of a reed bunting from a leafy bush.

All is quiet now. A sudden, squally shower scatters sparkling droplets on the trees and bushes. A cool breeze shakes the shining leaves and slips away, sighing, along the bright green track.

Gwendoline Calderbank. (Cheltenham)

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THE HOCKINS OF TULLIMAAR.

Many members are deeply interested in Kilvert's three week's holiday in Cornwall (July-August 1870) when he stayed at Tullimaar (between Truro and Falmouth) with the Hockins. At one time they lived at Langley Burrell and this is no doubt when he got to know them. Soon after Kilvert's visit to Tullimaar the family moved to Taunton, and in December 1872, he went there to christen their fourth child ... Lancelot Cuthbert Baines Hockin. One of his sons is a member of the Society and now lives near Kidderminster. It is from this Mr. John Hockin that we have the following notes:-
HOCKIN --- WILLIAM AND EMMA (nee EMMA BORLASE BAINES)

Married 1st. January, 1867, at Dulwich, London. According to the Ashe family they rented Langley Lodge, Langley Burrell in September 1867, and resided there until they moved to Tullimaar, Perranworthal, Cornwall, in about March, 1869. Their eldest son was born at Langley Lodge on 14th. December, 1867, and William's profession is given as "Railway Shareholder". The second child, Florence Mary, was born (possibly at Tullimaar) before Kilvert's first visit - on 19th. July, 1870. (Vol. 1. p.183).

Tullimaar, which has a story of its own, was built by William Hockin's grandfather (by adoption) Benjamin Sampson, in 1830, on land held on a tenancy for the longest of three lives. Unfortunately, this lease fell in soon after William inherited Tullimaar, and he was obliged to surrender it. This explains the move to The Ferns, Taunton.

The third child, Beatrice, had been added to the family on 10th. February, 1871 (Vol. 1. p.303) and Francis was godfather. It is clear that by the time of the visit to Langley Burrell in August, 1871, (Vol.1. p.395) the search for another house was in progress, although the reason for leaving Tullimaar was possibly glossed over.

The Hockin family is established at The Ferns, Taunton, by the time of Kilvert's visit to them on 11th. September, 1872 (Vol. 2. p.267) and Mrs. Hockin was less than a month off the birth of her fourth child - Lancelot Cuthbert Baines Hockin - on 3rd. October, 1872, after which she had a severe illness, and had only just recovered from it when Kilvert went to Taunton on 13th/14th. December, 1872, to christen the child (Vol. 2. p. 292). The third Christian name was, of course, Emma Hockin's maiden surname.

Further visits to Taunton occurred on 9th. August, 1873, and in September 1873. No extracts from the diary are given for the first visit (Vol. 2. p. 364), but the second visit a month later is more fully detailed (Vol. 2. p. 367).

The last reference to Kilvert's friendship with the Hockins occurs in Vol. 3. (pages 251 and 254) when they stopped over on their way to and from the Boat Race held on 8th. April, 1876, in which Thomas Edmund Hockin (Radley & Jesus) rowed successfully for Cambridge at No. 6. He was born on 22nd. September 1854, the first son of the Rev. Frederick Hockin, Rector of Phillack Church, Nr. Hayle - 1853 - 1902. T.E. Hockin also rowed for Cambridge in 1877 at No. 7. - this was the year of the famous dead heat. He also rowed in the following two years.

In an accompanying letter Mr. Hockin makes the point that the Hockin family in Cornwall must have many ramifications and that he hopes some day to explore them. He also wonders if Emma Hockin had any connection with the antiquarian William Borlase A.M., F.R.S., Rector of Ludgvan - for her father was Dr. John Borlase Baines.

TO CHEDDAR FOR EIGHTEENPENCE.

Those who look up Kilvert's week's stay with the Hockins at Taunton in 1873 (p.367 onwards in Vol. 2) will find a lot to interest them ... "Went to Cheddar and back with Mr. and Mrs. Hockin by excursion train for eighteenpence" ... followed by a good account of the caves, etc. Another day up the tower of St. Mary's in Taunton with Mr. Hockin, and the same afternoon by train to Wiveliscombe where they "walked through the little town up to Abbotsfield House, the place of Mr. Collard, the celebrated piano-maker". Another day by coach to Lynton.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED.

Our stock of contributions for these newsletters is now sadly depleted. We would therefore welcome further items from members, on any subject, however remotely connected with KILVERT'S DIARY - (people and places in it, etc., etc).... and whether full page, half page or just small items of a dozen lines or less. To the Hon. Secretary, please.
