

# THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Formed (in 1948) to foster an interest in the Rev. Francis Kilvert,  
his work, his diary and the countryside he loved.

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FEBRUARY 1990.

Dear Member,

Our 1988 programme came to an enjoyable conclusion with the weekend of Sept. 23rd - 24th. Forty one members turned up for the Walk, led by Mr. Gordon Rogers. It was a great pleasure to welcome Miss Evelyn Madigan, one of our New Zealand members; and equally so for Mr. Rogers and myself to renew, after 50 years, acquaintance with Mr. Roger Mountford, who had recently become a member of the Society. Our Walk was on the hills to the west of the Roundabout. It was not certain that Kilvert had walked this particular area, but around us, in bright sunshine, were the hills and mountains he had known and loved - Llanbedr Hill, the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons. For many after the Walk, the desired cup of tea was taken at the Burnt House - as has become the custom! Once again we thank Mr. Rogers for his leadership.

The following day was even brighter and sunnier, and for those of us who travelled from Hereford by coach a most delightful Kilvert trail - Bredwardine, Cusop, Hay, Glasbury, Builth! At Llandrindod a detour was made to the old church to visit the grave of Florence Hill and her sister Eleanor. (This had been re-discovered and repaired by our Llandrindod member, Mr. Colin Dixon). Then on to Abbey Cwmhir for the service!

The Vicar, the Rev. Nigel Hall, who welcomed the congregation and conducted the service, had kindly allowed the Kilvert Family Bible to be placed on the lectern. The hearty singing was ably led by Mrs. Sybil Lewis, the organist, the Act of Remembrance by our vice-president, the Rev. D. Lockwood, and the lessons read by our Radnorshire members, Mr. Colin Dixon and Mr. Michael Reynolds. The preacher was the Rev. C. Edmonds, a member of the Society for many years. He spoke of his link with the Kilvert Country, having been born at Whitney-on-Wye; of what the Diary stood for and had meant to him, and of what Kilvert's attitude would have been to modern day problems. After the service members made their way to the Village Hall where the ladies of the parish served a splendid tea. Our Chairman thanked all those who had contributed to the enjoyment of the afternoon, especially Rev. Hall for his warm co-operation and Mr. Dixon for his research and repair of the grave of Florence and Eleanor Hill.

## PROGRAMME FOR 1990 (150th. anniversary of Kilvert's birth)

Friday, May 4th at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, at 7 p.m. A.G.M. and Social Evening.

Saturday, May 5th. at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, at 10.15 a.m. Talks by Dr. R. Maber on editing "Kilvert's Cornish Holiday" and by the Rev. D.N. Lockwood on his forthcoming "Introduction to Kilvert". (A note concerning this publication appears elsewhere in this issue). Interval for coffee.

Meet at Bredwardine (avenue to the Church) at 2.45 p.m. for visits to sites of Kilvert interest, followed by tea at the Burnt House.

Sunday, May 6th. Walk.

Commemorative Services - (With Walks on the previous day):-

Sunday, July 1st. at Newbridge-on-Wye.

Sunday, Sept 9th. at Whitney-on-Wye.

Sunday, Dec. 2nd. at Hardenhuish - (Kilvert born there Dec. 3rd. 1840).

(Fuller details concerning these events will appear in later newsletters)

Yours sincerely,

E.J.C. West.

### OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of the following members:-

Mrs. H.J. Wallbank (Goodrich, Herefordshire), a member since 1956.

Mr. E.F. Deans (Heighington, Co. Durham), a member since 1978.

Mr. H.T. Lloyd, (Hereford), a founder-member of the Society, and committee member for many years. Born in 1907 on a farm in Clyro parish, he had many memories of people mentioned in the Diary, especially of Florence, Eleanor and Colwyn Hill who farmed adjacent properties. He was able to travel on the coach to Abbey Cwmhir last autumn and to view the grave of the sisters, an event which gave him much pleasure, only a fortnight before his death. Of a warm, cheerful disposition, he will be much missed by those members fortunate enough to have known him.

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### BOOKS

The Rev. D.N. Lockwood's "Introduction to Kilvert" is one of a series on Border writers, composers and artists published by Seren Books of Bridgend. It will be about 100 pages with some photographs of the Kilvert family which had been in the possession of Mrs. Essex Hope. There will be hard-back and paper-back editions. The price is not yet known, the publication date sometime in May.

Mr. Kenneth Clew draws attention to "A Pictorial History of Builth Wells" by Malcolm Morrison. It contains much of interest about the Victorian period and is, he says, "a very good read". It is obtainable from D.G. and A.S. Evans, 7, The Struet, Brecon, at £4. 95. plus £1. 00 postage.

Our Publications Manager, Mr. C.J. Marshall, holds a new stock of "Kathleen Mavourneen", available at £2. 40 post free. The Robin Tanner sketch of Bredwardine Church is again available, as either a greetings card ("With best wishes") or blank, at the same price as the Xmas card version, 22p. post free.

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### THE LAST OF KILVERT

A personal reaction by David Bentley-Taylor

It has been a thrilling experience to study the long lost "Diary of Francis Kilvert : June-July 1870", covering the period June 11 to July 17 in 101 pages, cut down to 22 pages by Plomer (Vol. 1. pp. 158-180) and further abridged to 12 pages in the one volume edition (pp. 43-56). I began by adding stars and crosses to the text to indicate the beginning and the end of passages preserved by Plomer, which made it easy to identify what was new.

As expected, there is nothing revolutionary here. None of the mysteries surrounding Kilvert's career are cleared up, apart from an allusion to "the Seven Years Convention about Clyro and Langley" made with his father, which suggests why he felt he must leave Clyro in 1872. But the writer's genius as an observer and recorder is evident on every page. Glorious phrases, sentences and paragraphs abound. Time and again some triviality inspires him to immortal utterances, such as the classic statement on "the patience of women" (p.88).

And there are defects -- too much of the superficial social round towards the end, too much archery and croquet -- but these forced me to recognise how much we owe to Plomer for weeding out what was banal. The specimen of Kilvert's handwriting (p.26) shows what he had to contend with. Reading this part of the huge diary in beautiful print, it is only too easy for us to deplore the splendid passages Plomer failed to preserve.

Kilvert's father and mother and his brother Perch were with him in Clyro for some of the time, so they figure quite a lot. And although the diarist, as usual, makes remarkably little allusion to his ministerial duties, they do become slightly more prominent than in Plomer's extracts. There are repeated references to preparing parishioners for confirmation and a unique description of Carrie Gore remaining in the church at Bettws after the Sunday service while Kilvert sat at the reading desk, "in the surplice with the desk door shut", instructing her for no less than 45 minutes. (pp. 48-49). Equally priceless is another detail from Bettws. Kilvert often mentions what text or subject he preached about, but only here does he give an account of what he actually said. "I prepared as I went up the hill on the text 'They feared as they entered into the cloud'. The different kinds of clouds :

sickness, misfortune, old age, death. We fear as we enter into them. But every cloud except the cloud of sin has a silver lining and from it may be heard the Voice of God. The darkest cloud of all is the cloud of sin". (p.61).

Six pages (9-14) are devoted to a walk to Aberedw, quite different and much longer than the similar trek recorded by Plomer. It pays to read it several times, not least the fascinating account of walking along "the bed of the Edw" river just before it flows into the Wye.

Six more pages (23-28) are given to the outing to Snodhill Castle and Dorstone, preserved by Plomer but with the omission of ten passages of no particular interest.

Seven pages (39-46) cover the visit to Llanthony, of which Plomer kept only part of what happened within the Abbey. The original gives the full story of the walk up from Llanigon through the Gospel Pass to Capel y Ffin as well as of the struggle back out of the Vale of Ewyas against a gale of wind raging over the Pass. Our gain is substantial.

But perhaps the greatest prize is the ten page description of the fishing trip to Llangorse Lake (29-38), which we now discover was spread over two days. Of this Plomer salvaged only 1½ pages, missing many marvellous things including the encounter with a vast flock of starlings which begins with the words, "Then a sudden noise swept over the lake, growing louder and louder as if a great wind were rushing swiftly towards us".

The book is a delight to handle, an admirable index includes even the cows and the moon, and the notes most helpfully state the ages of many people mentioned. There are eleven pictures, the most impressive being of Mrs. Essex Hope, thanks to whom we were robbed of many more treasures like this volume.

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MORE ON THE FAMILY BIBLE  
by the Hon. Secretary

I feel it may well be of interest to record some of the 40 entries in the Bible. At the front is the inscription "Thermuthis Coleman, the gift of her grandmother Jan. 1st. 1817". Under the conclusion of the Book of Revelations are the records of the births (both in 1747) of Thermuthis Martyn and Robert Ashe and their marriage in 1775. Following these are those of the births of their 3 children, Thermuthis (1778), Robert (1786) and Martin (1789). This younger son died in infancy.

There follows in the Bible several pages of "Instructions for Binding", and it is after this that the main entries - in a different hand - occur, on four pages. The first records the birth of Walter Coleman (b.1778) and his marriage to Thermuthis Ashe (b.1778), the six children, 4 girls and 2 boys, of whom Thermuthis Coleman (b.1808) was the eldest. Walter's death is recorded in 1845, but his wife had predeceased him - "Thermuthis, wife of Walter Coleman, died the 7th. of April 1825, her birthday, and was buried on her wedding day".

The second page records the wedding of Robert Kilvert and Thermuthis Coleman in 1838, followed by the births of the 6 children, the marriages of Emily, Thermuthis, "Perch", Dora and the diarist. The last entry on the page is "Robert Francis Kilvert died September 23rd. 1879".

The third page records the 4 daughters and 1 son of Emily's marriage to Samuel Wyndow. Then, after a space, the 2 sons and 2 daughters of Thermuthis and William Smith; again a gap and the 1 son and 1 daughter of Perch and Eleanor. (The name "Thermuthis" occurs twice).

The fourth page is incomplete. The deaths of the diarist's parents are recorded, 1832 and 1889 respectively, and the handwriting changes with the entry for Mrs. Kilvert. There follows "Frances Henrietta, daughter of the above, was Professed into the Community of St. John the Baptist Clewer April 23rd. 1894, as Frances Harriet, sister C. & J.B". The full entries of the births of 2 sons of Dora come next and then of the marriages of 2 of Emily's daughters, the last of which is incomplete. This leads me to think that the Bible passed to Dora, and I think further proof is to be found in the sign which follows the entry of her wedding, a presa, which in music notation means "recommence from this point". As for the grandmother who donated the Bible, she, I feel, must be Thermuthis Ashe (née Martyn).

(Donations towards the cost of the Bible from the following are gratefully recorded:- Mrs. S. Ball, Mr. R. Best, Rev. and Mrs. Bonhall (U.S.A), Miss Coleman,



Messrs. G. and H. Dearlove, Mrs. Filler, Miss Hancock (New Zealand), Rev. D. Lockwood, Mr. Millard, Major Pritchard, Miss Phillips, Mr. P. Turgeon (U.S.A), Mrs. T. Williams. (Tasmania)

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KILVERT AND THE HILLS OF NOYADDE  
by Revd. G.M. Reed

(The Society is most grateful to Revd. Reed for permission to use this article, published in Clyro Parish Magazine).

Kilvert, while Curate of Clyro, formed close links with many of the local families, not only the gentry, but also many of the workers. One such family was the Hill family of Noyadde Farm on the boundaries of Llowes and Clyro parishes.

The first time Kilvert mentions the Hill girls was in his account of the school feast at Clyro school on 30th. August 1871, when he simply says, "the beauties were Eleanor and Florence Hill and Gipsy Lizzie and Esther and Pussy of New Barn". Eleanor was then 12, and Florence was 9. They lived closer to Llowes School than Clyro, (in these 'advanced days' modern road layout has cut off this part of Llowes from its village), but as their parents lived in Clyro when first married it was to Clyro school they sent their children.

For a family to feature so much in his return visits Kilvert surprisingly makes no mention of the family anywhere else while he was still Curate at Clyro, but then the family home was in Llowes Parish so he would have no cause to have visited them, and they had only recently moved back into Llowes. The mother Ann Michael, married John Hill, a widower, with a baby Elizabeth of 3 years, at Llowes in 1858. They had farmed in Clyro, Llanyre and Ledbury while Noyadd was run by Ann's father, David Michael, at least until the mid 1860's.

Kilvert at first enthuses on "Florence Hill, my sweet Florence Hill ... My darling, my darling.....As she stood and lifted those blue eyes, those soft dark loving eyes shyly to mine, it seemed to me as if the doors and windows of heaven were suddenly opened", when he returned to visit Clyro on 23rd. March 1874. Florence is visiting her grandmother, Eleanor Michael, then a widow of 75, living in the Harley Almshouses in Hay (her husband, Florence's grandfather, had died at the Noyadde in 1872, since Kilvert's previous reference).

Kilvert was smitten by the beauty of this girl of 12 daughter of a tenant farmer of 55 acree of Radnorshire hill land - in some people's opinion, more so than by any other girl in the diaries! He goes back to the Almshouses the next day to see if he could see her again, but without success.

Two years later when Kilvert is in Hay on Friday, 28th. April 1876 he again visits the Almshouses in Hay, sees Mrs. Michael - she will live there till she dies aged 88 in 1887 when she is returned to Llowes to rest with her husband - but it was not until that evening, on his second visit that day, that he meets Florence, called 'Florrie' by the family, and now a teenager of 14. Kilvert is again ecstatic in his praise of her beauty - "I never saw anything so lovely. A tall, beautiful, stately girl with an exquisite figure, a noble carriage, and most lovely delicate and aristocratic features, gentle loving blue eyes shaded by long, silken lashes, eyebrows delicately arched and exquisitely pencilled, and beautiful tresses of golden brown hair falling in curling clusters upon her shoulders. And the loveliest part of it all was that the girl seemed perfectly unconscious of her own loveliness.....She was indeed..Beautiful and wild and stately, a true mountain child".

In ancestry she was a 'true child of the mountains'. Her grandmother was from Llowes, as was her grandfather who farmed Upper Noyadde Farm from at least 1820. Florence's mother was born in Llowes as were her three aunts, and three uncles. Florence's mother married at Llowes and had returned to work the farm her parents had tenanted for over 50 years. A family securely rooted in the Radnorshire countryside!

The next day, Saturday, 29th. April 1876: "A day of unceasing hopeless rain". Kilvert meets Florence Hill as he walks into Hay. She is walking from Hay up to her home at Upper Noyadde. Despite the rain she refuses his offer of his umbrella saying she will break her journey with her aunt in Clyro. Kilvert then visits Wyecliffe after which he sets out to follow Florence to her home.

Kilvert walks along the side of the Wye to Llowes, then calls at Llowes

Vicarage, but finding his friend Rev. Tom Williams away he sets out for Upper Noyadde. He starts out correctly up out of the village, but then at Moity he goes on up the road "past Moity and the chapel" - (now closed and converted into a pretty-like house), "the road growing narrower, steeper and stonier, till at length from a lane it threatened to become a watercourse and the rain growing harder till I seemed to be lost among the clouds".

Totally lost he asks directions at a farm he calls "Caer", but I think was Perth-y-Coll, since that better fits the description of the lane. In true 'Radnor' dialect they give him directions. "There's a little village called Llowes down below, you go down to him". Eventually they send him to Moity. "Go you down to Moity by the Chapel and there they will tell you the way". They ask his name, "Make so bold, what's your name?". Then, offering hospitality, "Come you in and take something to drink". The phrasing of the sentences is the old Radnorshire dialect caught perfectly by Kilvert.

Kilvert goes on his way. "I soon dropped down again upon the little wayside sheltered Chapel by the dingle brookside and heard the welcoming clink of the anvil from the blacksmith's forge at Moity". He now turns down the side road he had missed at first and over the stream which is out in flood, and up past Dolybongham, (though Kilvert mis-spells the name as 'Tylybyregam'), in those days a small holding and a pub. Kilvert carries on up the hill by a road now just a mud track with hedges closing in, up past Lower Noyadde, where lived Margaret Williams, one of Eleanor Hill's aunts. Margaret had married in 1868 John Williams who farmed this 80 acre neighbouring farm to her parents' one of only 55 acres. Then finally he arrives at the Hill's house.

There were three Noyaddes in Kilvert's day, one Middle Noyadde, then a workman's house, now gone, but Lower Noyadde and the Hill's house of Upper Noyadde still remain as farms. Kilvert saw Upper Noyadde as "a new house just finished and the debris of stone and stonemason work yet lay freshly about the place". It was probably rebuilt when Eleanor's father John Hill took over after his father-in-law's death in 1872, although John Hill had been running the farm before that.

Kilvert is welcomed in and joins the family at their evening meal. Florence, "tall and stately, looking more beautiful then ever in her sweet mountain home, with her lovely golden brown hair still damp from her long rainy walk". Mr. Hill, "the kindly farmer", now 54, and his wife Ann, now 55 "the mistress of the house.... with her beautiful face, gentle manner, graceful courtesy, and warm welcome". Florence's sister, Eleanor, now 18, "a tall fine handsome girl with the same frank, sweet, truthful look in her clear, beautiful eyes that she had as a child". Colvyn, Florence's brother, "with something of his sister's beauty in his fair, boyish face", now aged 12. And a "little rosy-faced dark haired niece of Mrs. Hill" probably Eleanor White, aged 11.

Eleanor White's mother, herself called Eleanor, was one of Florence's aunts. She had died in 1875, as had Eleanor White's sister, they were both brought back from Cardiff to rest in Llowes Churchyard. Her father died in 1877, leaving Eleanor White to be looked after by her aunts and uncles till in 1903 she married Colvyn, Eleanor's brother, then sitting beside her. (He died in 1923, Eleanor surviving until 1952 at Upper Noyadde. Both were buried in Llowes).

Kilvert was delighted by his visit. "I felt at home at once in this dear kind family circle. There was an air of delicate courtesy, refinement and high breeding, which I have looked for in vain in many grander homes. All were simple, natural and at their ease. All were courteous, considerate and attentive and unaffectedly happy to see and welcome me as a friend of the family. I felt I was in a congenial atmosphere and was perfectly happy. The hours passed only too quickly. But finally, I could stay no longer. I took a fond farewell of the beautiful girls, and their kind, warmhearted mother, and their father obligingly went with me some distance through the rain to show me the way to Llowes Common".

On the next Tuesday, May 2nd. Kilvert out walking meets Florence and Colvyn Hill just setting out to walk back home, so the three of them walked "together up through the steep cherry orchard to the Old Forest, and over the sunny green slopes of Llowes Common among the gorse bushes and thyme knolls".

As they walked Kilvert told a story to entertain them. "Both my hearers walked entranced as the tales beguiled the way, the beautiful girl beside me every now and then lifting her lovely face and soft blue eyes with a grave sweet look, wondering, awe-struck or pitiful, according to the progress and passion of the tale, her sensitive features reflecting as a mirror the swiftly changing emotions of her

gentle heart.

Florence pressed Kilvert to come in to tea. "So the beautiful face and the pleading voice and the loving eyes prevailed, how could I resist?". Kilvert was firmly under her spell when after tea she entertained him on her concertina. "I never saw anything more beautiful than Florence Hill as she stood playing by the window with the evening light falling upon her golden head. Her head was slightly turned onto one side as she played and there came over her lovely face a rapt, far-away look, self-forgetting, self-unconscious, a look as of one divinely inspired. She seemed to me to be the daughter of the Bards. So pure, so heavenly, so perfect in her beauty. I saw her face as it had been the face of an angel".

Kilvert left Clyro at the end of his visit the next day and pays no more lengthy visits. In January next year, 1878, he records "a nice letter from sweet Florence Hill of the Upper Noyadde at Llowes". Passing through Hay on 1st. February 1878 he visits Mrs. Michael at the Almshouses. "Hoping to see dear Florence Hill but she was not there". Again on 3rd. September of that year he calls on Mrs. Michael at the Almshouses, and learns that Florence had gone to a place at Clifton.

The final reference in the Diary occurs on 10th. February 1879 when Kilvert again stays in Clyro. He pays a very different visit to Upper Noyadde, to see Florence now 17, and Eleanor now 20. "Went in rain to Upper Noyadde to see dear Florence Hill who is thought to be dying of consumption. She was in bed very weak and very ill. Poor Eleanor had one eye nearly destroyed by the bursting of a bottle she was uncorking. Both the dear girls sweet, gentle and patient, and poor Mrs. Hill wonderfully cheerful". On that sad note Kilvert leaves us, his own span of life was to run out first, before his 'darling' Florence's.

However, neither of the Hill girls died. Eleanor recovered, and Florence went to Switzerland for treatment and made a full recovery, (leaving the mystery of how her trip was paid for). They stayed on at Noyadde until in 1928, following the death of their brother, Eleanor, by now 71, and Florence 69, moved to live at 2, Wellington Terrace, Ridgeborne, Llandrindod. Neither married, and lived there with a man-servant to keep house. A Mrs. Beatrice Price, who lived next door to them, remembers them as "very smart, very private ladies, very old-fashioned in their dress, wearing long black dresses and blouses. Florence was tall and thin, Eleanor rather short and stout".

Eleanor died in 1938, aged 78, and Florence in 1946, aged 83, 6 years after the diaries were published. Both lie buried in the Old Churchyard at Llandrindod, where their memorial stone can be seen.

It is a story of Kilvert and a beautiful girl. Much controversy can be raised on this issue, but I feel we need to remember three things:-

First, this is a private diary written by Kilvert. If it was to have been published by him, I suspect much would have been re-written. To me much of the beauty lies in its unpretentious nature. He writes as he feels, nothing is dictated by considerations of an audience.

Secondly, it is all entirely innocent. Someone once said of Kilvert, "he was a very good man, which is fortunate because if not he could have been a very dangerous man". I do not see in Kilvert any signs of danger, he is a man who appreciated and loved the simple beauty of nature. He sees it in a beautiful sunrise, in the snow-capped Black Mountains, in the hair, face and figure of a beautiful young girl, and in the simplicity of a farm kitchen. He is not looking for sexual attraction, but simply beauty, and that is what he describes so well.

Thirdly, we read the Diary in light of the twentieth century, in light of sexual scandals, in light of sexually orientated attacks on children. But with this in our mind we often throw out the very child-like innocence, and give a wrong motive to everything.

In Kilvert I just find a rejoicing in beauty, and in the simple life of the countryside.

#### SOURCES

The quotes from the Kilvert Diaries are out of the three volume version. They have been shortened. Do look them up and read the full account. I must also thank Mr. Colin Dixon of Llandrindod for permission to quote from his article on the Hill sisters in the Parish Magazine of Llandrindod. The register and M.I. information, and Census material are from my own studies.



If anyone has information on families of Clyro and surrounding area, and would like to see if, from the records we hold, a similar Family Tree could be constructed, please do contact me.

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#### KILVERT'S ABUSED CHILDREN

The following, part of an article written by Mr. A.D.M. Douglas for the "Psychiatric Bulletin", appears by the kind permission of the editor of that journal. It is adduced in evidence that the abuse of children was considered to be culturally acceptable in Britain one hundred years ago. It comments on the passage in the Diary for 29 June 1871, where Kilvert records the cruelty inflicted on the Corfield daughters by their father.

"Kilvert had visited the dying mother three weeks earlier. She is described as lying in bed, very weak, sweating profusely under two blankets and a coverlet. He advised that one blanket be removed but makes no reference to the children. In the entry for 29 June, he does not give the age of the three girls, but as they were still at home, presumably they must have been dependant and therefore relatively young.

"Despite all his recorded virtues, he did not appear to take any action on behalf of the unfortunate Corfield girls, or if he did, he did not appear to confide such action in his Diary. Could, therefore, this kindly, conscientious Victorian clergyman have accepted that the abuse of children was culturally acceptable, that it was the right of the father to brutalise his three daughters, that no response other than to express sympathy was required?. The concept that children are the property of the parents, particularly the father, is still prevalent today".

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#### CRAFTA WEBB by the Hon. Secretary

Last summer Miss Kate Goodwin, a member of the Society since 1950, loaned me her file of correspondence with Mr. Oswin Prosser (Hon. Sec. of the Society 1952-77). In one letter he reported that he, his wife and William Plomer had picnicked at Crafta Webb "near the stile which led to the house where Kilvert had held his cottage lectures". I made enquiries as to the site among older and more knowledgeable members, but to no avail. However, I am now sure that the site has been located, through the following circumstances.

A house damaged by a solitary enemy bomb in 1941 had been left derelict until this last year when it was purchased by Graham and Wendy Middleton. In their restoration work they have been helped by Andrew Pearce, whose family I have known for many years, who knew of my post in the Society and who invited me to visit Crafta Webb. I was told that the house had originally been two cottages, which with the adjacent fields had been Church Glebe property. The Diary entry for New Year's Day 1878 includes "I visited Preece the tailor and Bevan the shoemaker, my tenants, and arranged with Eliza Preece to hold a cottage lecture at her cottage on Winter Thursday evenings till Lent.....the shoemaker took me round the little meadows he holds of me". This sentence, with its coincidences, I determined to follow up.

Documents held at Hereford Record Office yielded little, though it was interesting that the earliest entries (c.1820) referred to "Crafty Webb". The 1871 Census was held at Llandrindod Wells, and having already arranged a short holiday in that town I was able to inspect it. 15 dwellings were recorded at Crafta Webb. Feeling certain that the enumerator of the census would have recorded in a methodical manner, I sent the list to Graham Middleton, the two cottages being Nos. 6 and 7. From a careful count of cottages still standing and those whose foundations were just discernible, he felt sure that he had purchased Nos. 6 and 7. Later, inspection of a large map of that part of the county indicated very clearly the 2 cottages adjoined and the "little meadows" of the Church Glebe.

The most memorable character on Crafta Webb, Priscilla Price, is not mentioned in the Census. The only Priscilla in the whole parish is Priscilla Harris, at No. 11. Graham showed me what he felt were the ruins of that cottage. It fits exactly Kilvert's description of seeing her "in her garden from the road above".

Graham is busy restoring the exterior of the house, and is planting new hedgerows to redefine the boundaries of the original tenants' little meadows. I am very pleased

to add that he and his wife have kindly offered to receive a visit from members on the afternoon of May 5th.

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FROM SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE

Our Subscriptions Treasurer, Mr. Hugh Dearlove, has drawn attention to the sale of Brislington House, a visit to which he organised 3 years ago. Established in the 18th.c. by Dr. Fox, and with a continuous history of care for the elderly, it has now been acquired by a Harley Street specialist.

Mrs. R. Carlisle, Churchwarden at Llanigon, has written of an appeal for the restoration of the church organ. Made by Berringtons of Soho, and formerly at Glasbury-on-Wye church, it was installed in 1911 in memory of Edward Dumaresq Thomas. A member of the Brecon branch of the family, he was married to Mira Thomas, widow of Daisy's brother, Lechmere, (see entry for Sept. 3rd. 1878). The organ needs much overhaul and repair. The parish is small and sparsely populated, and Mrs. Carlisle asks for donations to help restore what she terms "an instrument which must have been dear to the heart of Daisy Thomas". Donations to "Llanigon Church Organ Fund" may be sent to Mrs. Carlisle, Penywrlodd, Llanigon, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford, HR3 5PX or to Mrs. J. Williams, 53, Park Town, Oxford, OX2 6SL.

Mr. John Hockin (Swanage), has presented to the Society some photographs of his grandmother, Emma Hockin (of the "Cornish Holiday"). They show a very attractive-looking woman in various poses - no wonder she aroused Kilvert's susceptibilities! We are very grateful for this interesting addition to Kilvert personalia.

Mr. R.W. Wood, the "discoverer" of the Family Bible, has sent me a copy of his book, "He could go where he would". It is the history of the Whitney family, and in particular that of his great grandparents, Thomas Whitney of Bryngwyn and Ann Williams of Llanthony, who emigrated to Australia in 1857 - a fascinating story, and all the more remarkable that the great bulk of his research was done 12,000 miles away from the Welsh Border! I am pleased to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Wood hope to be in the U.K. at the time of our Autumn service. His further attempts to trace the provenance in Western Australia have been largely unsuccessful.

Mr. Barry Smith (Truro) has sent a very interesting newspaper cutting regarding Tullimaar. It was purchased in 1957 by members of the exiled Romanian royal family, the Princess Marthe Bibesco (remembered still in literary circles), her daughter Princess Valentine Ghika and grandson Prince George. The house and grounds were extravagantly restored, furnished with Napoleonic relics - Princess Ghika was descended from the Emperor - and the entrance hall became a copy of the famous Hall of Mirrors in the palace of Versailles. However, the family fortunes dwindled, and eventually Princess Ghika and her son were forced to eke out a living from market gardening. They left Tullimaar in 1975.

Mr. and Mrs. Stutz of the Burnt House restaurant have completed the restoration of the neighbouring house, and can now offer accommodation - Address - The Burnt House, Middlewood, Clifford, Hereford.

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STOP PRESS

Dr. Maber has written to indicate that his fellow editor of the "Cornish Holiday", Angela Tregoning (Mrs. Maber), will join him for the Study morning on May 5th. and will speak on Plomer's editing of the original notebooks. He himself will speak on Kilvert's techniques of writing.

Walk on Sunday, May 6th. - Meet at Baskerville Arms, Clyro, at 12. 15 p.m. Picnic lunch, stout footwear.

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