

# THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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

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**The Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn**

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**JUNE 1993**

Dear Member,

Our 1993, programme began with the A.G.M. on April 30th at Hereford it was pleasing that the attendance was larger than that of last year. Apologies were received from our President, the Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn and Mr. and Mrs. Ball (Swindon), Mrs. M. Burchett (Kent), Mr. and Mrs. F. Hooper (Sussex), Mr. A.L. LeQuesne (Shrewsbury), Mr. and Mrs. Morgan (Hay-on-Wye), Miss R.M. Mumford (Herefs.), Mrs. M. Ottaway (Hereford), Revd. Canon D.T.W. Price (Dyfed), Mrs. N. Turner (Dyfed), Mr. and Mrs. D. Wood (Herefs.) and Mrs. T. Williams (Middlesex).

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were approved and adopted, with no matters arising.

The Chairman reported on the events of the last year. He regretted his unavoidable absence at both Clyro and Langley Burrell, and spoke of his meeting United States members at Harvard and Jamestown, as well as his participation in a Radio Wales programme on Kilvert.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the financial statement. He reported a more favourable balance, and felt that the sum of £5 could be added to most of the annual donations of the Society. This was agreed to, as were a donation of £50 to the appeal by Blakemere Parish Council, the increase to £50 for life membership, and a similar amount as the Chairman's honorarium. The Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Auditor were warmly thanked for their work.

The list of Vice-Presidents remained unchanged save for the name of Mrs. Feisenberger who, it was reported, had died. Mr. M. West had resigned from the Committee after many years service. Mrs. C. Fleming and Miss E. Wheeldon were appointed to the Committee. The Chairman sought ratification of his wish to appoint Revd. P. Games of Harvard as an honorary life member. This was agreed to. Rather to my surprise - and doubtless that of those who read the last newsletter - I found myself still the secretary of the Society!

It was announced that Revd. J. Day and Mr. K.R. Clew would arrange a walk about in Chippenham, the venue St. Paul's Church at 1.00 p.m. on Saturday September 18th and finishing at about 4.30 p.m.

Refreshments taken and subscriptions paid, members reassembled to hear our speaker for the evening, the Revd. T. Dunn, Hon. Sec. of the Father Ignatius Trust. Born Joseph Leycester Lyne, Father Ignatius was always of a religious frame of mind. As a young man he had visited Llanthony Abbey, developing a dream of one day making it a real Monastery again. This was not to be, but he acquired land further up the valley and founded what is now known as The Monastery. A spell-binding preacher, he travelled extensively to raise funds, but incurred a great deal of hostility. While there is no doubt he was eccentric, he was a sincere, devout cleric, and among contemporary accounts of the man, the Diary entries (very largely confined to 1870) give the most balanced views. Mr. Dunn showed a series of photographs of the Monastery many years ago before the sad decline. He was thanked for his talk by the Chairman, and the warm applause indicated that the talk had given much pleasure.

For the walk the following day, some forty members assembled at Clyro. Mrs. Morgan, who was to have been the leader, was unfortunately unable to do so, and Mr. Morgan stepped in at the last moment with a walk already known to some members. The party drove up to the Green Lane, picnicked and then set off in a strong northerly wind, to the Fuaflit returning via Lower Glasnant - a walk referred to several times in the Diary.

## WEEKEND OF JUNE 26th - 27th

Saturday 26th - Walk, led by the Chairman. Meet at 12.15 p.m. at the Baskerville Arms Clyro. Picnic lunch.

Sunday 27th - Commemoration Service at 3.00 p.m. at Eglwys Oen Duw by kind permission of the Revd. B. Bessant (priest in charge). A short article on the church and where it is situated appears elsewhere in this issue. The choir of Clyro Primary School will attend with their music master. Mr. Eric Merriman. Mr. M. Bourdillon has very kindly given permission for tea to be held at Llwyn Madoc. I am delighted that our former Chairman, Revd. Canon D.T.W. Price, has accepted an invitation to preach the sermon.

A coach will be laid on. It will depart opposite Hereford Town Hall at 11.15 a.m. and pick up members along the A438 and make a détour to Hay is required. There will be a stop at Builth for picnic lunch. If members so wish, a further halt can be made to visit Llanleonfel church, though they won't find it in the same state as Kilvert did in 1873! Bookings to me, please.

The vicar of St. Harmon has kindly given permission for a service there on September 19th. There will be more information on the matter in the next newsletter.

Yours Sincerely  
E.J.C. West

## OBITUARY

Mrs. J. Feisenberger (Scotland), a member since 1954, and a Vice-President of the Society for many years.

Mr. W. Goodsir (New Zealand), a member since 1988.

Revd. E.F. Jelfs (Birmingham). The longest-serving of the Society's Vice-Presidents, he became a member in 1960, and soon was organising gatherings of Birmingham members, and was regularly in demand as a speaker on Kilvert. He was surely the most charismatic of men; at the last A.G.M. many members enquired after him, including the two ladies from the catering firm, each with their memories of him. I recall his determination, when ill, to walk from Bredwardine Church to Old Court, and, even more poignant, his last brave attendance at the A.G.M. of two years ago. The funeral took place on May 12th, attended by some of the Officers of the Kilvert Society.

## EGLWYS OEN DUW

On October 4th 1871, Kilvert recorded "I preached the old harvest sermon on Ruth and Boaz which has now done duty four times, at Eglwys Oen Duw (Llwyn Madoc), Llowes, Whitney and Newchurch", Eglwys Oen Duw was then a new church ("the church of the Lamb of God" its English translation), having been completed only 5 years earlier, and paid for by Mrs. Clara Thomas of Llwyn Madoc. It lies on the Llwyn Madoc road from Beulah, about halfway between Builth and Llanwrtyd Wells (A483). Coming from Builth, members would pass Cilmeri with its memorial to Llewellyn, last Prince of Wales, and Ganth, where Kilvert attended a Flower Show and visited the ruins of nearby Llanleonfel church (August 6th, 1873). The turn for Eglwys Oen Duw and Abergwessyn is immediately after the village of Beulah, on the right, and the church is on the right after about a quarter of a mile.

Mrs. Clara Thomas's brother-in-law was Charles Evan Thomas, whose wife was the eldest sister of Mrs. Venables. Of his large family, three boys, Algernon, Hugh and Owen are mentioned several times in the Diary, and at least two of them are buried at Eglwys Oen Duw. A tablet in the chancel commemorates Hugh, who achieved distinction in the battle of Jutland.

The very plain grey exterior of Eglwys Oen Duw is in strong contrast to the richly coloured interior with its red brick walls and variegated flooring. The author of "Powys" in the Buildings of Wales series writes of "well-designed Victorian fitments" and sums up the interior as "thoughtful and lavish".

**CHARLES LACEY**  
**COACHMAN TO REVEREND R. LISTER VENABLES**  
**by Mrs. T. Williams (North Wembley)**

One of the frustrations of the published Diary is, that as the majority of the original manuscript has been destroyed, we are now unable to tell whether Kilvert commented on a particular incident. The three notebooks and various extracted passages which did survive are, therefore, of great interest to Society members. Occasionally, it is possible to find newspaper coverage to extend our knowledge of an event, or to explain a Diary entry.

Much has been said and written on the way in which the original Diary manuscript was edited for publication and why some stories have been completely ignored. One such story is about 'Gipsy', a mare belonging to Mr. Venables. The tale of the mare's sufferings is told in the April-June 1870 notebook published by the National Library of Wales, beginning on Thursday, 5th May 1870 and ending on Sunday 15th May 1870, (pp.25-51).

When reading the story I noticed that Charles Lacey, the coachman to Mr. Venables was not mentioned until the entry for the day on which the mare died (Sunday 15th May). Mr. Venables had left Clyro on Saturday 30th April, "...in the Hay omnibus...for London for his two months' absence." The clue to why Charles Lacey did not attend the mare in her illness can be found on page 50 (Sunday 15th May). The previous evening, Kilvert came home from Cae Mawr (the home of the Morrell family) and saw lights in the Vicarage stable, and on going in, "...was delighted to find Charles [Lacey] there just returned from Hereford by the last train, his leg quite well, and as active, merry and jolly as ever, telling all sorts of funny stories about the Hereford Infirmary, the doctors and the patients." The story goes on to tell how Charles Lacey tried to save the mare but without success.

The rest of the story lies in the report subsequently found in a report in The Kington Gazette for Tuesday, 12th April 1870. The N.L.W. notebook (April-June 1870) does not commence until Wednesday, 27th April, so we shall never know what Kilvert said about the accident sustained by Charles Lacey, the coachman who had so often driven Kilvert to the station at Hay.

"HAY NEWS: Miraculous Escape."

On Saturday, the coachman of the Rev. R.L. VENABLES was driving a four-wheel dog-cart from Clyro to Hay Station to meet his master who arrived by the 1.15 train, and was approaching the Hay Bridge gate when the horse shied at a pool of water, and being startled ran against the gate-post, thereby overturning the carriage; the coachman who was not on the box as usual, was thrown to the ground, falling underneath the carriage, and in some way got his leg entangled within the wheel. The horse in his fright dragged the carriage as it lay some yards, but fortunately the traces broke and the poor man was saved from death, for had not the traces given way he must have been crushed to death. As it is he has met with a severe injury to his right leg.

The reverend gentleman on hearing of the accident and on being told that his carriage was broken, "that he did not care for the carriage if his servant was unhurt."

At the time of his accident, Charles was single. He was married on the 13th December 1870 at Clyro Church to Miss Mary Eliza CRUMP, a lady's maid at Clyro Court (the home of the Baskerville family). In the Census for 1871 (April 2nd), Charles is aged 30, coachman, and his wife Mary a dressmaker, aged 28.

Charles soon resumed his driving duties as Kilvert's entry for Saturday 28th May 1870 tells. The coachman is mentioned several more times in the published Diary. On one memorable occasion the coachman overslept and was required to dress himself, "...harness the horse, put him in the dog cart, and drive 5½ miles" from Clyro Vicarage to Three Cocks Station in time to catch the 7.58 a.m. train, for a visit to Llysdyman. When Kilvert knocked at his cottage the coachman was sound asleep and the time already 7.15 a.m. Kilvert remarked in this Diary entry for Saturday 16th March 1872 that, "As we dashed up to the Three Cocks Station the train glided up to the platform. ...Charles was in a great fright. He said we did the distance in 20 minutes." Poor Charles Lacey; he was probably remembering his accident of two years previously!

**MORE SPORTSMEN**  
**by J.C.Hockin (Swanage)**

I was interested to read John Hockin's article in the August 1992 newsletter containing Kilvert and sport, in particular the reference to the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Racing 1870.

It was in July that year that Kilvert enjoyed his Cornish holiday with William and Emma Hockin, William's cousin, Thomas Edmund Hockin, a famous sportsman and rowing blue, was still at Radley. He was the son of Canon Frederick Hockin, Rector of Phillack and Gwythian, Cornwall. Frederick had



become William's guardian after he and his two sisters were orphaned. Kilvert accompanied William and Emma to Phillack on 21st July, but Canon Frederick was away, and they were entertained by Susan, the Canon's sister and housekeeper.

Thomas Edmund went up to Jesus College Cambridge in 1873. He was a notable sportsman, rowing for Cambridge four successive years, including that of the only deadheat in the history of the Boat Race. At Henley regatta he helped to win a number of events, and when he left the university and returned to Cornwall, he took up rugby with great success. He founded Hayle Rugby Club, and did much to put Cornish rugby on the map. He was famous for his place-kicking, and is reputed to have kicked a ball over Angarrask viaduct (more than 100 feet high) both ways.

Kilvert met William and Emma at Chippenham station on 5th April 1876. He records they were on their way to watch Thomas Edmund row for a Cambridge victory. His allegiance to Oxford must again have been shaken. It would have been interesting to know if he made any comment in his diary when greeting William and Emma on their return.

Thomas Edmund married an heiress, the daughter of Thomas Petty of Ilverston, and became a wealthy landowner in both Cornwall and Lancashire. Had he chosen to enter the Church, he would have followed his father as Rector of Phillack and Gwythiem. As it was, he inherited the advowson, and in order to keep it in the family he awarded it to Arthur Pendarves Hockin, the eldest son of one of his six uncles. Arthur was "the new curate at Hullavington" whom Kilvert journeyed to meet in January 1875.

There is no doubt that the early death of his father (Rector of Stithians at the time) was a double tragedy for William. His father had been originally earmarked to inherit the Rectorship of Phillack, and William could have succeeded him. In the unhappy event, Frederick gave up training to be a solicitor and took Holy orders, so as to inherit the living in place of his brother. As an orphan, William followed a more modest course.

Although Kilvert is complimentary in his last reference to Emma (April 13th 1876), one senses that any ardour he may have felt has cooled - but by then he was much involved with Ettie Meredith Brown.

## GEORGE JARVIS AND HIS CHARITY

(In February of this year there was held at Bredwardine Church a special service to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of George Jarvis. For the reunion, Mr. Richard Pantall of Staunton-on-Wye had prepared some very interesting information, a copy of which he sent to me. I am very grateful to him for giving permission to use it. However, I do not reproduce it in its entirety. Mr. Pantall has written a book on the history of the Charity and he hopes it will be published in the summer; and hoping to whet members' interest for the book, I reproduce the brief life of George Jarvis and how the Charity came to be. E.J.C.W.)

Who was **George Jarvis**? For over 150 years the story has circulated that he was a poor orphan boy, born in Bredwardine in 1698, who wanting to go to America to seek his fortune went round the three Parishes of Bredwardine, Staunton and Letton begging for money to pay his passage; that he made the fortune, and when he died he left it to the poor of said Parishes in proportion to the given to him. Miss Hodgson, daughter of the Bishop of Hereford, in a radio broadcast made in 1957 on the "Endowed Village", called him a 'tramp.'

Gervis or Jarvis was the latin family name, and George was the third son and youngest of six children of William and Ann Jarvis, a yeoman, whose homestead was at The Green, Staunton-on-Wye. he was born there on 18th August 1704, and baptised 21st August, 1704. Around 1708 William Jarvis took his family to live at Old Weston, under Bredwardine Hill, where he was a Churchwarden in 1710, 1711 and 1712. In his boyhood days George played on the mound of the old Castle, demolished in the 14th century, and it was not difficult to appreciate the attachment he had for the two Parishes in his later years, which was reflected in his Will. As for the third, Letton, benefiting, it was undoubtedly because his father and mother later lived there and were buried there.

When the Jarvis family were at Bredwardine in the early 1700's, it was a familiar sight to see thousands of cattle and sheep being driven annually from the great rearing areas of the Welsh hills and farms, along the old Drove Roads to the fattening farms around London, before going to the Smithfield Meat Market. The drovers had their ponies and dogs, and the journey was done in stages, staying overnight at their favourite inns; it was a common thing for anyone wishing to go to London to go with them, where they would be well looked after. There was no other means of transport, except by coach.

George's elder brother by nine years, Joseph, walked to London with the drovers at the age of 16, and put himself apprentice for 7 years with Organ Eglestone, a Currier, from 6th May 1712, for a fee of £10. Six years after that apprenticeship, George, then at the age of 13, also walked to London with the

drovers, and joined his brother in the same business, again on a 7 years' Apprenticeship.

In the course of time both brothers were admitted to the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Curriers, a business engaged in the collection of skins, hides and fat from Smithfield Market, which were graded and cured in their oak Tanneries for the production of leather, for which they had a lucrative market. Their centre of trade was Snow Hill, in the City of London, a mile down the road from the Meat Market. Both brothers trained many apprentices, including local boys from Credenhill and Monnington. In 1745, at the age of 50, Joseph was elected to the most senior and honoured position of Master of the Worshipful Company, and in the year 1749 George received the same accolade, but he declined to accept, preferring to pay a fine of £16, which was his custom on being elected to any parochial or business office.

George Jarvis married three times, and from the second one to Rebecca Blakesley, he had one surviving child of three daughters, Mary. He was a man of exceptional business ability, making money from his leather cutting and hide business, training apprentices for fat fees, and shrewdness in placing money in Government Stocks and Securities.

So successful was he that in 1758 he acquired for himself a fine gentleman's residence and farm at Thomas Ditton, which he called "Weston Green," after his boyhood home in Bredwardine. He lived a life of style with butler and servants. The furnishings in the house were elegant - Turkish carpets, mahogany and walnut furniture, fine silverware and Dutch paintings. The finest port and Madeira wine was stocked in many dozens of bottles in his cellar. Outside buildings contained a Stable and Coach House, with a room for his Groom. He kept three fine black geldings named Duke, Pedlar and Pincher, any two of which conveyed him in splendid style in his Post Chariot the 17 miles to his London Business.

**Mary Jarvis** was born in November 1733, and her mother died when she was only seven years of age. Her father married, thirdly, Frances Harvey, who formed a very close and loving relationship with Mary, as of mother and daughter, influencing Mary's education and upbringing. On 14th July 1759, at the age of 25, she married 52 years-old Sir William Twysden, 6th Baronet, of Royden Hall, East Peckham, an Army Officer, who enjoyed cultivating extravagant society, which made him reckless with his money. George Jarvis gave him £8,000 on his marriage, with which he paid off half his mortgage. However it did not help for long, he was soon borrowing again.

They had four children, three sons - William, Heneage and Thomas, and one daughter Frances Twysden. Tragedy struck for Lady Twysden on her 8th wedding anniversary when her husband died suddenly from apoplexy. Her eldest son, the new Baronet, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, was only seven years of age, and she had on her hands a heavily mortgaged Estate. She went to her father to request his assistance to lighten the financial burden, but after seeing the spendthrift ways of the family, he refused.

Two important events were to happen in Lady Mary's life. The first was the marriage of her 20 year-old daughter in 1783 to 57 year-old Archibald, the 11th Earl of Eglington, a Colonel of the Scots Greys, an old soldier with a reputation for hard drinking. Upon her marriage her grandfather gave her £5,000, and promised that at his death she shall have £5,000 more. They had two daughters, Lady Mary Montgomery and Lady Susannah Montgomery.

The marriage was in trouble in a very short time, and in less than five years the Earl had divorced her because of her adulterous behaviour with Douglas, the young, handsome and married 8th Duke of Hamilton, with whom she appeared as "The Candid Wife and His Caledonian Grace," in notorious tête-à-tête portraits.

It was reported in Town & Country Magazine Vol.XX of January 1788 that "Those who know the Duke of.....must allow there is in his appearance, manners and address a happy amiability, sufficient upon intimacy, to make a tender impression upon a female heart possessing sensibility. Such a heart lodged in the body of Lady Eglington. The Duke often visited the house of the noble Lord, who was deceived by the subtilty of his guest and the hypocrisy of his wife. An old faithful servant saw through the deception and wrote an anonymous letter to his Lord stating the Duke was paying private visits to his lady, and charging the parties with committing the foul crime of adultery. The alarmed Lord Eglington watched with the strictest attention, but could not perceive in the conduct of the Duke or his lady any cause to justify the charge against them. Soon afterwards Lord and Lady Eglington went to Scotland, where they were visited by the noble Duke, when a second anonymous letter was received by his Lordship. He resolved to show it to his lady, and going into her dressing room, he put it in her hand and desired her to read it. Overwhelmed with confusion she sank into a chair confessing that a criminal intimacy had long subsisted between her and the Duke, and that she believed him to be the father of the child she bore. Lord Eglington left the room and rang for his lady's attendant, telling her with a voice scarce articulate from grief, to go to her mistress and tell her she might dispose of herself from the house and everything belonging to her."

The second event was in 1876, when her eldest son secretly wooed the 15 year-old daughter of the Widow of Alexander Wynch, late Governor of Madras. Persuading her to elope with him to Gretna Green, they were married over the blacksmith's anvil. Having got more deeply into debt than his father, he was pursued by his many creditors and fled to France to avoid them. Given 'safe conduct' return, on the understanding he would sell his Estate to satisfy them.

Altogether George Jarvis gave instructions to his Attorney for eleven Wills and Draft Wills from 1873. Every bequest in them was, in the main, for the ultimate benefit of his Executrix daughter and grandchildren, while he wished to be buried in Surrey, but he viewed with great disdain the scandals of his eldest grandson and grand-daughter. Any question of a change of mind was not apparent until September 1788, when something serious must have taken place within the family circle. He mulled it over for a year, and then, having decided on the course he was going to take, he made his Last Will on 9th January 1790, clearly disinheriting his only child, Dame Mary Twysden (to whom he left only a miserly annuity of £200); neither his grandson Sir William Jarvis Twysden, or his grand-daughter, Francis (nee Twysden), were mentioned.

It is said there was some act of intentional rudeness or disrespect to him by one of the Twysden family, and although friends begged of him to be conciliatory, the old man was unrelenting. The indications are that it was by his titled grandson, supported by his mother and sister, and it can safely be assumed money was involved. Grandfather Jarvis had seen their recklessness and financial irresponsibility getting more desperate each year, and he had taken note of the shame brought by them on the Twysden family. He had started life as a country boy who worked hard to become successful, and he probably did not take kindly to any supposed insolent remark(s) from this layabout young man. It obviously left him very embittered, and had it not been for these incidents it is doubtful if Bredwardine, Staunton-on-Wye and Letton would ever again have heard of George Jarvis. On his death he had expressed the following simple instructions to his Executors "I desire that I may be buried in Bredwardine Church Yard, as near the Castle as conveniently may be."

The Will was immediately in dispute by his daughter, taking a number of actions in the Ecclesiastical courts to have it reviewed and reversed in her favour, but her proposals and pleas were always rejected. By 1822 the funds of the Charity had reached over £100,000 (in 1989 value £4.16 million).

### **"GRIFFITHS OF PORTWAY" by K.P. Finney (Halesowen)**

Although there are only two scant references in Kilvert's diary to "Griffiths of Portway" my interest in the gentleman was aroused when I read the inscription on the monument erected to his memory in the in the churchyard of the Congregational Chapel at Rhosgoch.

The inscription reads thus -

"God is love. In memory of the Rev. John Griffiths of Portway.  
Died June 18th, 1882 aged 69. Having served this church  
faithfully and gratuitously for nearly 40 years. Thy will be done".

The adverb "gratuitously" was unusual and in the event proved to be quite interesting. I am indebted to Mr. Arthur Griffiths of Llandrindod Wells, late of Portway, grandson of the Rev. John Griffiths for the following story.

John Griffiths was brought up as a churchman, a member of the Bryngwyn Church. Born in 1812 he was 19 when his father, who farmed Portway, died. Sometime later a new vicar was appointed to Bryngwyn at a stipend of £300 per annum but he in turn appointed a curate at £100 p.a. to carry out his responsibilities while he remained a professor at Bristol University. Young Griffiths objected to this dereliction of duties by the vicar and forthwith threw in his lot with the Congregationalist led by the Rev. Richard Lloyd. However, Mr. Lloyd was not permitted to continue his labours long. In 1845, at the age of 41, he was called to higher service and a Mr. Henry Jones was invited to take over and in 1847 he was ordained.

The story is best continued by quoting an extract from an article in a history of the Brecon and Radnor Congregationalists published in 1912, written by the Rev. Prof. John Evans B.A. thus:-

"In 1849, during Mr. Jones' ministry, a chapel was built at Rhosgoch and called Hermon. On the spot where it stands there was formerly a saw-pit, where the ungodly used to congregate on Sundays to play pitch-and-toss, and to witness cock-fights. The good and faithful fathers determined to convert it to higher uses. The opening ceremony took place on the first Sunday of August, 1849, the officiating ministers being Revs. T. Rees, Huntington; Jones, Maesyronen; Evans, Carmel; Powell, Llandrindod; Griffiths, Hay; and Jones, Gore. A little later than 1849 the Primitive Methodist chapel at Painscastle was offered for sale and purchased by the Congregationalists. Henceforth the two churches worshipped in commodious chapels.



After Mr. Jones' departure, the Rev. William Jones, Gore, officiated on Communion Sundays, while on the other Sundays Mr. John Griffiths, Portway, one of the members, conducted the services. His career is remarkable and worthy of honourable mention. Though he only received meagre educational advantages, he rose head and shoulders above his companions. When 19 years of age, his father died bequeathing to him Portway farm. He was brought up as a churchman, but he resolved to cast in his lot with Mr. Richard Lloyd and the little band of Congregationalists at Rhosgoch. His gifts were soon recognised, and he was urged to use them as a preacher. He very soon gave ample proofs of his qualifications for the work. After Mr. Henry Jones' departure he was pressed to take the services regularly and in 1852 he consented, after repeated refusals, to ordination as pastor of the two churches. Here he laboured faithfully and gratuitously for 30 years. Mr. Griffiths was a notable personality, exceptionally gifted. The late Kilsby Jones (not a mean authority) is reported to have pronounced "Griffiths, Portway" as he was called, "the prettiest speaker he had ever listened to." His preaching was pointed and impressive. He was a large-hearted man. His genial personality, buoyant spirit and unostentatious generosity endeared him to his people. The churches prospered under his ministry. The chapel at Rhosgoch was renovated, the pastor himself bearing a large share of the cost. He died June 18th, 1882 at the age of 69 years. He was interred in the graveyard attached to Hermon, right in front of the chapel. A few years later a massive monument of Aberdeen granite was erected over his grave, the result of public subscriptions."

The first reference in the Diary to Griffiths was made on Friday 11th March, 1870 in Vol.1 page 53 and reads thus:-

"Mrs. Meredith of Bethel had for some reason of her own called in Griffiths of Portway to baptise her child, which cooled my manner."

Understandable, perhaps!

The only other reference is on Page 68 of Vol.I and is part of an entry for Saturday, 26th March, 1870 and it reads as follows:-

"I was leaning over the wall reading the epitaphs on the tombstones in the Chapel yard when a woman who was sweeping out the Chapel appeared at the door and asked me if I would like to come in as the gate was open. So I went into the building which was very ugly, high and boxy looking and of course whitewashed, the usual conventicle. Inside there were a number of dark coloured long wooden seats armed and moveable, benches with backs and arms in short, a fixed bench running all round the room against the wall, a pulpit between the two windows, a plain high box of dark wood with two brass sconces and a plain naked wooden table standing in front of all the benches and beside the pulpit. I asked the woman who said her name was Sheen if she were a communicant. She said 'Yes'. Then I asked how the Sacrament was administered and she said the people sat stiff in their seats while the 'deacon' carried round to them the bread and wine. On Sunday evenings she said, the Chapel is crowded often and sometimes 200 people are present. I could hardly believe the room would hold so many. Probably it will not."

It is, unquestionably, a small chapel seating about 100 but could, with people standing, accommodate more.

Mr. Arthur Griffiths, the grandson, who will be 90 in February, 1993, has no doubt that Kilvert and Griffiths met and he well remembers his own father, who never farmed Portway, talking about Kilvert.

I am indebted to Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Griffiths of Llandrindod Wells and to Mrs. Edith Davies of Rhosgoch, grand daughter of the Miller Powell whom Kilvert mentions on Page 68, Vol.I., for information.

### **DIARY LINKED WITH CHELTENHAM COLLEGE by Mrs. C. Fleming (Broadway)**

On undertaking some work for Cheltenham College recently, three names sprang to my attention from the College Registers and I am grateful for permission to share a few details with other members of the Kilvert Society.

#### **Michaelmas 1848**

Wyndowe, Samuel Jardine, Son of Captain Samuel Wyndowe, 1st Dragoons; Born 3rd April 1830. Dayboy. Left Easter 1845. M.D. (Aberdeen) M.R.C.S. 1854; Madras Army 1854; Dep. Surg.Gen.(Ret) 1881. Served in the Mutiny Campaign (Med). Died at Uley, Glos. 19th March 1919.

Since we know that the Wyndowe family lived at Churchdown it was possible for Sam Wyndowe to attend Cheltenham College as a Dayboy. Two other former College pupils listed on the same page as Sam Wyndowe died in the Indian Mutiny.

Under Easter 1844 there is an entry for Thomas Williams, son of the Rev. Thomas Williams, Archdeacon of Llandaff; born 1st May 1834; Left June 1848. A further Register confirms that this was the Thomas Williams of Kilvert's Diary by giving the information that he was Vicar of Llowes, Co. Radnor. As we know from Mrs. Ursula Cooper's article in the KS Newsletter Feb. 1985 Tom Williams attended Sherborne School and went on to Oriel College, Oxford. Presumably he spent four years from 10-14 at Cheltenham College before moving on to Sherborne.

The fullest entry we have which will be of interest to KS members is under Michaelmas 1846 for William Robins Smith, Son of Thomas Furley Smith Esq. Surgeon, Broadway, Worcestershire; born 24th December 1830. Left June 1850. Boarder. Silver Medallist 1849-50. Cricket XI 1848. 49-50. Scholarship, Pembroke College, Oxford 1850. Ordained 1858 Principal of Bath College 1860-74. Rector of Monington-on-Wye 1874-89. Died in London 1889.

Thus it was that two of Kilvert's brothers-in-law attended Cheltenham College. However, although there was less than a year between them in age, their time at the School did not overlap. We cannot, therefore, conjecture that Thersie met her husband through this friendship with Sam Wyndowe.

The School authorities have provided me with an additional item of interest in the case of the evidently prize pupil, William Robins Smith. It is a Form of Nomination dated 19th August 1846. It is made out by one William Abraham Byrd, the proprietor of Share 109 in Cheltenham College giving details of his nominee W.R. Smith the son of T.F. Smith and Louisa Smith of Broadway, Worcestershire. It states that his last school or tutor was the Rev. Geo. Hoosons, Henwick, Worcester. It further states that he was not removed from this school for any misconduct and he was not subject to fits or any contagious disorder. Tuition fees for Cheltenham College and a fee for a seat in the Church were to be paid in advance; viz. at the entrance of the pupil classes 1,2,3,4 £20 per annum. Classes 5,6,7,8 £18 per annum. Classes 9,10,11 £16 per annum. Each boarder to bring with him a Silver Fork and Spoon.

A local Broadway Historian has told me that W.R. Smith's father, Thomas Furley Smith, Surgeon, occupied a house now known as Pond Close in Broadway. It is a fine old Georgian house not unlike Langley Burrell Rectory and stands just over half-way up the famous High Street on the South Side. The garden and pasture land still open onto the beautiful orchards and lower slopes of Fish Hill. Unfortunately a rushed visit to the County Record Office at Worcester did not produce any additional information about the Smith family from the Church Records nor do there seem to be any (legible) grave stones belonging to the Smith family in the Churchyard. I hope I may be able to find additional interesting information in due course.

### **DID MR. FURSE PREACH A GOOD SERMON? John Hodkin (Cumbria)**

One of Kilvert's finest passages in my opinion is the entry for Tuesday, 25th January, 1870, in which he describes the consecration of the new Bishop of Oxford, John Fielder Makarness at Westminster Abbey. It is full of his deft, vivid mixture of description and comment which makes his diary such a constant source of delight. One part of the passage is surprisingly curt, however. "First came the communion service, then a sermon by Mr. Furse, Vicar of Staines." Was it a good sermon or an indifferent one? Kilvert does not say. This is odd because Kilvert usually has some comment to make on sermons he has heard.

Only two days previously he heard Dr. Vaughan, Master of the Temple, and Dr. Goulburn, Dean of Norwich, preach and made illuminating remarks on both men. It may be, of course, that Kilvert did have something to say about Furse's sermon and that William Plomer cut it out. We shall never know, alas. This is the only time Furse appears in the diary, which set me wondering about his subsequent history. Finding out was not easy, because when I tried "Who Was Who", usually a fruitful source, I met with frustration. It mentions a clergyman called Charles Wellington Furse, who was for ten years Principal of Cuddesdon Theological College, but maddeningly does not say where he was in 1870. The Church Times is similarly uninformative about where he was in 1870. However, the Times turned up trumps, as it produced a full and clear obituary which confirms that he and the man who preached at the 1870 consecration were one and the same person.

Charles Wellington Furse was born in 1821, the son of Charles William Johnson, of Great Torrington, Devon, and Theresa, daughter of the Revd. Peter Wellington Furse, of Halsdon, North Devon. On the death of his father in 1854 he took his mother's maiden name. He was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. in 1847, and was ordained in 1848 by Bishop Samuel Wilberforce. After serving curacies, Furse was in 1863 appointed Vicar of Staines, where he remained for ten years. In 1870 he became Chaplain to Bishop Makarness, an office he held until the Bishop's death in 1889. In 1873 he was appointed Vicar of Cuddesdon and Rural Dean, being at the same time,



according to custom, Principal of Cuddesdon College.

The Times says that these were perhaps the most important years of Furse's life - "no man can hold that office without exercising a considerable influence of some sort on the Church at large".

In 1883 he received the Residentiary Canonry in Westminster Abbey which carried with it the charge of the parish of St John, Westminster, and in 1894 exchanged his stall for one to which no parochial duties were attached.

In 1895 Furse succeeded Dr. Farrar as Archdeacon of Westminster.

The Times in the obituary notice observed: "The Archdeacon who perhaps never made any considerable mark as a preacher at the Abbey, had for some time been unable to perform his residentiary duties, and there had been some question of his resigning his Archdeaconry." He was the author of a volume of sermons entitled "Helps to Helplines" and of "The Parish Church and the Parish Priest". At the time of his death in 1900 Furse was senior in age of the Canons of Westminster and second only to the Sub-Dean Canon Duckworth in length of service on the Chapter.

Furse was twice married and among his children was a painter also called Charles Wellington Furse, 1868-1904, whose wife Dame Katherine Furse, was Director of the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1917-1919. Another of Furse's sons, Michael Bolton Furse, 1870-1955, followed his father into the church, and was Bishop of Pretoria from 1909 to 1920 and of St. Albans from 1920 to 1944, yet another son, Lieutenant General Sir William Furse, 1865-1953, was Master General of Ordnance in 1916 and a member of the Army Council.

There is a fascinating and tantalisingly brief glimpse of Furse in Owen Chadwick's two-volume work "The Victorian Church". Furse once heard a group of people discussing the plight of country parishes and told them when he was a boy in North Devonshire it was not uncommon for parishes to lack any resident vicar or curate, that the only services on Sunday evenings were nonconformist ones, and that of his five teachers in the art of riding to hounds, three of them had been beneficed clergymen.

Reading such an invaluable piece of information makes one regret that Furse never wrote a book of memoirs. If he had, it could well have been a notable addition to Victorian church literature.

### **AMENDMENTS TO "WHO'S WHO IN KILVERT'S DIARY by S.W. Ball (Swindon)**

On page 10 "old Mr. Clutterbuck was not related to the family at Hardenhuish; Mr. A. Crichton was not a clergyman, and lived at Broadwood Hall, Shropshire. The London address that of his father.

On page 15, it is recorded that little is known of Kathleen Hearnly. That is no longer so-see the booklet published by the Society "Kathleen Mavourneen" (by Mrs. Eva Farmery)

On page 18, it was not Kilvert's great grand mother who was shot at, but her mother.

On page 21, Mr. Rowland came of no distinguished family: his father had been a baker, The Revd. A.L. Mayhew - that he was one of the owners of "The Times" is recorded by Kilvert himself.

On page 24, the reference to Revd. Henry Moule contains 2 errors. The Duchy is that of Cornwall and it was not "later in my life" but earlier that he became unpopular.

On page 25, Miss Julie Newton was not a trustee of the living of Bredwardine Church. Arthur Newton was her nephew, the son of Revd. William Newton.

On page 26, Henry Shepherd Pearson was the father of Mrs. Venables; he was not a Colonel. The reference to "Colonel Pearson who had at least three sisters" is inaccurate, he was Mrs. Venables's brother, there were five sisters and he was a Lieutenant Colonel.

On page 31, "John, another son of Revd. David Vaughan became bailiff to Squire Beavan of Glaswen", it was not Squire Beavan but the man who married his daughter and became Arthur Beavan Dixon Beavan. On the same page under the reference to Revd. R.L. Venables, contrary to what is written, Kilvert knew the first Mrs. Venables and conducted her funeral at Clyro. The mistake referred to above (page 26) is repeated - regarding the brother of the second Mrs. Venables.

## NEWS FROM CRAFTA WEBB

Following a visit by members 2 years ago, restoration continues at Glebe Cottage, Crafta Webb. Wendy and Graham Middleton have established and planted the boundary hedges of Preece and Bevan's meadows, and a small copse has been added. overgrown hedges have been cut back and pleached in the traditional way by David David, local shepherd, crook and basket maker, who appeared in the local programme on TV's "Country File".

Attention has now been turned to the outbuildings, and only Miss Williams's (the likely daughter of Jack My lord) pig and cow are missing!

Graham has completed the definite numbering of the 15 dwellings on Crafta webb and identified Kitty Armstrong's cottage. This find leads to the "beautiful wild dingle" that Kilvert walked down to Ellen Lewis's cottage.

A delight to members coming from afar to Bredwardine is that Wendy now offers accommodation in the form of bed and breakfast at the Glebe.

The views from the cottage have not changed since Kilvert's day. Jim Arrowsmith's cottage still remains next door, the remains of Priscilla Price's dwelling still lie opposite "below the road" and the garden gate outside which William Plomer picnicked and which Kilvert had so much difficulty in finding stands below the bedroom window.

Wendy can be contacted on 0981-599-635.

## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

(in addition to those listed on page 1)

### VICE-PRESIDENTS IN ORDER OF APPOINTMENT

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Rev. E.H. Waddleton  
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