

# 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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## MARCH 1993

Dear Member,

A day of warm sunshine was rare last autumn, so how very fortunate we were to have such a day for our last meeting in 1992, the service at Langley Burrell on September 27th! The vicar, the Revd. J.A. Smith, warmly welcomed those present, and conducted the service. The choir and the excellent organist led the singing, and the Lessons were read by our Wiltshire members, Mrs R. Payne (also a vice President of the Society) and Mrs. V. Cleaver. For several of us it was a great pleasure to have as preacher the Revd. P. Ralph-Bowman, though in a setting far different from the hills of Llanbedr and Bryngwyn! His text was from Psalm 102 – "I have watched and am even as a sparrow that sitteth alone on the house-tops". He felt that this applied to Kilvert as a curate, even though sparrows are gregarious and chirpy! At Clyro Kilvert was isolated from his class, unable to offer hospitality, must have experienced loneliness, as the preacher himself had when a curate, of living in lodgings. After 13 years as a curate and 3 years as a vicar, Kilvert left only £400, whereas the Revd. Venables had an annual income of £2,000. It was lack of money which denied Kilvert the hand of Daisy Thomas. Further, he had an interior loneliness which enabled him to make a passionate response to beauty in his writings, a kind of splendid egoism which made these daily entries into so worthwhile a record. "He being dead yet speaketh: No longer diverted and misdirected by his earthy presence, we see and hear in his Diary his inner, hidden meditative self.

An excellent tea was provided by the ladies of the parish in the village hall. Mr and Mrs Cleaver had brought the letters written by Fanny Kilvert to Hannah Knight (Newsletter for March 1992), belonging to Mr Cleaver's cousin who was also present. They also brought transcripts of letters written by the daughters of the house where Hannah was employed. Warm and friendly in tone, they were in complete contrast to those written by Fanny. We were grateful to her and Mr and Mrs Cleaver and their cousin for the display of these letters.

In the unavoidable absence of our Chairman, Mr Harley Dance thanked all those who had made the visit so enjoyable an occasion.

Another event of last autumn, the Whitney-on-Wye festival, is fully reported elsewhere in this issue.

## PROGRAMME FOR 1993

Friday, April 30th at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, by kind permission of Mrs Oliver, at 7p.m. Annual General Meeting and Social Evening. Our speaker will be Revd. T. Dunn, Hon. Secretary of the Father Ignatius Trust. The Committee's proposals regarding subscriptions will be put to the meeting. (These are to be found elsewhere in this issue). Since I have informed the Committee that I wish to resign the secretaryship, a successor will have to be appointed.

Saturday, May 1st a walk, led by Mr and Mrs R.I. Morgan. Meet at 12.30p.m. outside the Baskerville Arms, Clyro. Picnic lunch and stout footwear.

Sunday, June 27th, as yet provisional, a service at Eglwys Oen Duw. Fuller details regarding this, and an autumn service at St. Harmon, will appear in the next newsletter.

Yours Sincerely,  
E.J.C. West.

## OBITUARY

We regret to record the death of Revd. D. Greaves (Langwathby, Cumbria), a member since 1969. Also of Mr. M. Wigmore (Knaresborough) life member since 1991, to whom I have been much indebted for his generous help re addressed labels.

## BOOK REVIEW

### **KILVERT THE VICTORIAN: A NEW SELECTION FROM KILVERT'S DIARIES**

**By DAVID LOCKWOOD**

**SEREN BOOKS £14.95 (Hardback)**

Now that the copyright on the three-volume edition of Kilvert's Diaries has expired we may look forward to the appearance of abridgements similar to that made by William Plomer, first published in 1944.

Indeed, two abridgements have already been published in recent years, though these were more suited to the coffee-table than to the bookshelf. Now we have a more serious and studied compilation, by a hand that could not be better trained for the task, that of our Chairman, Mr David Lockwood, who is, of course, author of one of the only two biographies of the Diarist so far to be published.

The new Selection, perhaps inevitably, invites comparison with that of Plomer's, with which it is comparable in extent, and of course there are differences. Generally, as would be expected, the set-pieces, such as the ascent of Cader Idris and the visits to Mouse Castle and the Solitary, are included; other less eventful passages selected by Plomer are omitted and replaced by interesting ones that Plomer was obliged to omit. Also included in the new Selection are passages taken from the three recently published notebooks that survived Mrs Essex Hope's unforgivable act of vandalism; most interestingly, perhaps, the fascinating account of Mr Venables's poor old mare and her suffering and demise at the hands of an ignorant horse-doctor. William Plomer, in one of his Introductions, wrote that although he had been forced to discard two thirds of Kilvert's manuscript he had not omitted anything of outstanding interest. Alas, such was not the case, as demonstrated by the sad tale of the vicarage horse.

In so far as Members who possess the three-volume edition of the Diaries and the three supplementary volumes published by the National Library of Wales and the University of Durham are concerned, then, the new Selection contains nothing new from Kilvert's pen, but what will be of interest to them is Mr Lockwood's perceptive Introduction and his prefatory commentaries to each of the annual sections into which he divides the volume.

One aspect to which he draws attention is Kilvert's undoubted sense of humour, something no one else seems to have commented on, at least not in print! One incident in the Diary that has always amused me occurs in the account Kilvert gives us of the countryman who had been to the dentist in Chippenham and had come back minus not only several teeth but also three "knubs" which the dentist had cut out of his head. "It made I sweat," he tells Kilvert. (One likes to think that his actual words, delivered in a rich Wiltshire burr, were: "Ah, it did fair make oi swa-at!"). I had often wondered what exactly these "knubs" could possibly be. Well according to Mr Lockwood, in one of his annotations, they were sebaceous cysts, and since he has the advantage of being married to a medical doctor I suppose we can't argue with that diagnosis! Anyway, even the thought of having cysts lanced out without the benefit of an anaesthetic is enough to make anyone sweat.

There are very many photos of Diary personalia and places, most of them no doubt familiar to keen Members, but there are one or two never previously published, or even made known to Members so far as I know. Also, in the text, pertinent to some of Kilvert's references to public events, there are facsimiles of woodcuts taken from contemporary numbers of the Illustrated London News, than which nothing can be more evocative of the Victorian era. A nice touch, this.

Altogether a welcome addition to the Kilvert bookshelf.

R.I.M.

### **THE KILVERT EVENING AT HARVARD by CARL SEABURG (MEDFORD U.S.A.)**

Eight of us assembled in Room 9 of the Harvard Faculty Club on Friday evening September 18, 1992 about 6.30 p.m. Arrangements for the meeting were made by my brother Alan Seaburg. The group included our special guests, the Lockwoods, on their first visit to the United States. As he is the chair of the Kilvert Society, we American members of the Society thought it appropriate that he be welcomed "to the colonies" in some style.

After introductions and getting acquainted-talk, three of the guests became new American members of the Kilvert Society: Dr. and Mrs. Widrick and Mr. Gene McAfee. Then began our formal activities at 7 p.m. Mr. Gene McAfee offered an appropriate grace taking it from an 1853 Book of Common Prayer, printed in London, which he borrowed from the Divinity School Library, a volume that would have been familiar to the Rev. Francis Kilvert.

Before we sat down to dinner, a toast to Kilvert was offered by Dr. Eugene "Woody" Widrick. Woody for several years was minister of a Unitarian Church in Capetown, South Africa, and he made use of an Xhosa sentiment to "walk gently." Kilvert, he said, had indeed "walked gently through this life."

The dinner followed: consomme, Breast of Chicken, assorted vegetables, salad, and an interesting dessert of strawberries and pastry that someone observed reminded them of Stonehenge, the strawberries being the pillars supporting the pastry lintel.

Greetings and a welcome of the Lockwoods to the States were given by Carl Seaburg. He commented that this special Kilvert evening began actually in 1978 when he made his first visit to the Wye valley, being completely ignorant of Kilvert and only interested in the second-hand bookshops in Hay. By 1982 he had encountered – and "devoured" – the three volumes of Kilvert, so that when he made his second visit in 1987 he was much more interested in visiting Clyro and Bredwardine than the bookstores. But he was still ignorant of the fact that there was a Kilvert Society. He did pick up a folder about Kilvert in a car park in Hay, and on his return home decided he should join the Society. This led to a fascinating correspondence with the Honorary Secretary, and resulted in an invitation to preach to a meeting of the K.S. at Whitney-on-Wye when the same Seaburg brothers were in England in September 1990. This time, finally, with a wonderful tour guide – the said Hon. Sec. – and a car, the Seaburg brothers were able to visit many of the places known to them. Finally he read the amusing entry from the diary for 13 May 1876 and assured the Lockwoods that we had not fed them upon "jugged cat!" This occasioned some discussion of how you "jugged" hare or cat.

Since Alan Seaburg had only just returned from two weeks in England, where he had again met the Hon. Sec. in London, we were favoured with an Ode specially written "on the spot" by Mr. West for our particular evening. This was read and admired by all.

Remarks by some of the other American members of the Kilvert Society were either given or read. Ms. Elizabeth Osborne, our Cambridge member, a musician and composer, told us that she was given the diaries as a Christmas gift and made it a particular point on her next visit to England to visit the Wye valley area.

Remarks from some of the letters by Peter Turgeon of Long Island, who was unable to be present, were read. He had first encountered Kilvert when he and his wife were acting in the musical "Brigadoon" in Australia during the 1951-52 season. He became "enchanted" and became a life member of the Society and has – as so many have done – had a fascinating correspondence with our Hon. Sect. for over 15 years. A recent postcard depicting one of his oil paintings, a hobby of his retirement, was passed around and admired by the group.

We were sorry that our other East Coast members, Mr. Larry Hyde of Old Saybrooke, CT, and the Rev. Mr. Feick of Couderport, Pennsylvania, were unable to be present on this unique evening.

Finally, our guests of honor were given a chance to speak. Dr. Wilhelmina Lockwood spoke of growing up in Indonesia and being imprisoned with her family returned by the Japanese during the second world war. After the war the family returned to the Netherlands where she read for medicine at the University of Leyden, and for many years she has practised as a General Practitioner. By a strange chance, years later when a man came to buy one of their young puppies, he turned out to be the General who had liberated their prisoner of war camp.

The Rev. David Lockwood then spoke to us informally about Kilvert and read us some of the charming passages from the diaries, a number of which will appear in his new work KILVERT THE VICTORIAN, due out in November. As a keepsake of the evening he gave us all a copy of a 1988 poem he had written called "Near the Castle."

It was after 10.30 p.m. before we reluctantly broke up this first ever meeting of the American members of the Kilvert Society. Gene McAfee reminded us that one of Kilvert's favourite hymns was "Lead Kindly Light," but none of us attempted to sing it in farewell.

One guest who had intended to be at the Kilvert Evening, found that official duties required him to be elsewhere. This was the Rev. Dr. Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and minister in the Memorial Church. The Convocation of Radcliffe College had commanded his presence. The Kilvert Society had voted to make him an Honorary Member of the Society, but this little ceremony was only postponed and was held after morning services at Harvard's Memorial Church on Sunday, September 20th, when the Lockwoods attended and when member Gene McAfee introduced them to Dr. Gomes, who responded with effusive pleasure to the special honor conferred upon him.



So ends this account of the first American meeting of the Kilvert Society. A word of thanks needs to be said to Alan Seaburg who made all the arrangements for the evening and to Gene McAfee for the splendid souvenir programs. May we all walk gently until the next meeting occurs!

### **WHITNEY-ON-WYE FESTIVAL**

Public transport on the Welsh Border is so thin that I almost despaired of visiting Whitney-on-Wye during the weekend of September 4th-6th. However, through the kindness of fellow member, Mr. John Nunn, I was able to get there on the 5th and am delighted to have seen something of the festival. We travelled along the A438 from Hereford, a rather dull road until one arrives at the top of Tin Hill (just north of Bredwardine) where the view of the river plains backed by the Welsh mountains was superbly lit up in glorious sunshine. In view of the exhibition "From Roman times to the present" the route we had taken was most fitting, for long stretches of the A438 are basically the Roman Road to Clyro and Wales.

The exhibition was most professionally mounted, and of absorbing interest, the references in the Domesday Book, and other medieval documents, and then the emergence of the Whitney family, who for three centuries owned the lands, giving their name to the village. The estates passed to the Wardours, and later some of the lands passed to the Monkhouse and Dew families. (Here of course is where Wordsworth and Kilvert come in – of which more later). Mention was made of the Whitneys in America, notably John Hay Whitney, millionaire and benefactor of Whitney-on-Wye church, and of the Hope family, the present landowners. (The organiser of the exhibition was Mr. John Hope of that family and a member of the Kilvert Society.)

The Wordsworth connection has, of course, been the subject of an excellent booklet published by the Kilvert Society, written by Mr. R.I. Morgan. Briefly, Revd. Henry Dew married a young cousin of Mrs. Wordsworth (nee Mary Monkhouse), who was a niece of "Blind John Monkhouse" of the Stowe. The young cousin, whose maiden name was the same as Mrs. Wordsworth's must have met Henry Dew when visiting John Monkhouse, who was a noted breeder of sheep and cattle. I liked the story, referred to in the exhibition, that he was more inclined to recite Burns's poetry than the pedigree of his animals!

It was a sister of Revd. Henry Dew who married Revd. William Bevan of Hay-on-Wye. Two enjoyable exhibits illustrated the link between the families. One was a charming watercolour entitled "Dew Cousins on the Wye" done by E. (I presume Ellen) Bevan. The other was the original poem written by Revd. R.L. Venables, to celebrate the wedding, at which he officiated.

The history of the castle (long demolished), the church, the bridges and railway, all featured in the exhibition. The church paid tribute, in its flower festival, to these and other aspects of village life. I was particularly impressed with those paying tribute to the school, and to John Hay Whitney. Mr. Hope kindly pointed out to me the memorial window dedicated to Frederick Napleton Dew, about whom I wrote in the last newsletter. The youngest brother of Revd. Henry, he died in 1909, as J.P. and possibly having other titles, but masses of red dahlias obscured the lower part of the inscription. Did the flowers refer to his army career I wondered?

I was very pleased that among the many people there, were Mr. and Mrs. Stratton of Llandrindod Wells and Mr. and Mrs. Fleming of Broadway all members of the Society. Like Mr. Nunn and myself they were thoroughly enjoying the visit to "Pleasant, kindly Whitney."

Instead of taking the A438 back we took the Golden Valley road out of Hay, and called at Peterchurch church, a fine Norman building which Kilvert visited in March 1877. He admired the fine noble spire and lamented the absence of "the fish on the wall". For us it was the opposite. The fish was on the wall, but the present spire – a necessary postwar substitute in fibreglass – can in no way be termed "fine and noble".

E.J.C.W.

### **LOST OPPORTUNITIES by MISS V. NOAKE (Worcester)**

In the early summer of 1936, I first visited Llanthony, with a friend and former schoolfellow. We knew nothing of Kilvert, whose Diary had not yet been revealed to a delighted world. We were mildly interested in Father Ignatius and his strange monastery at Capel-y-ffin. Being tireless walkers in our twenties, our main object was to explore the valley, to walk to the Gospel Pass and climb to the top of Hay Bluff. It was beautiful beyond belief – and still is!

We might have had more interest in Father Ignatius if we had known that when younger he had taught at a private school for junior boys at Britannia House, Worcester, which in 1883 would become

the Worcester High School for Girls where my friend and I had been pupils after it had changed its name to The Alice Ottley School in honour of its first headmistress.

We walked from Llanthony to Capel-y-ffin and went as near as we dared to the monastery. At that time it was occupied by the sculptor, Eric Gill, his family and artist friends. We ate our picnic lunch by the banks of the Honddhu. There we were addressed by an elderly man, very well spoken, looking like a retired farmer, who told us he was the adopted son of Father Ignatius.

It was a year or two before we visited the area again. We noted in the churchyard at Capel-y-ffin a new headstone bearing the name of Joseph Laycester Lyne, who had died on the interim. In the Diary for September 2nd 1870, Kilvert describes at length his meeting not only with Father Ignatius but also his parents and brother, his lunching with them and being waited on by the monks. "One of the novices was a fine looking noble boy.... sent by his parents to learn to be a monk. The boy seemed devoted to Father Ignatius... Poor child, I wonder if he will ever become a monk. I hope he is reserved for a better fate".

A brief calculation shows that if the boy was then ten or eleven years old, he could have been our acquaintance of 1936, could have legally adopted the true names of Father Ignatius. An opportunity truly lost, just too early to have known of the diaries, and too young to be really interested in the history of the monastery!

Another opportunity was lost later, Alec Macdonald, the distinguished historian and author of the invaluable little book "Worcestershire in English History" (1943), was at that time writing radio programmes for the B.B.C. He wanted to do one on Father Ignatius, but the then Director of Religious Broadcasting ruled that Father Ignatius "was too mad for a broadcast".

### **THE SOUTH CERNEY LINK by J. NUNN (Cirencester)**

The village of South Cerney is not the typical pretty tourist village that one usually associates with the Cotswolds, but a large industrialised one. It has plenty of amenities, including three public houses, a large general store, post office, garage, pharmacy, hair salon, restaurant and surgery; also a butcher's shop, greengrocers and florist, a fish and chip shop, a plumber and other small tradesman's shops. There is a gardening club, a bowls club and a spacious sports ground. A large factory manufactures concrete blocks and other items for the building trade, and there are other smaller industrial units. In the mid 1930's an airfield was built at the northern edge of the village. The R.A.F. sometimes use the site, used as a transit camp during the Falklands war.

The reason for the expansion was that the land was rich in gravel deposits. The pits, now exhausted, have been made into the "Cotswold Water Park". But the old part of the village, containing several fine old houses is now a conservation area. Today, the village has a population of 3,000 – the largest village in Gloucestershire.

The link with Kilvert's Diary is of course that his aunt Mary lived and died there. She was the only sister of the Diarist's father, older than him by 2 years. She had married the Revd. John Matthews, widower and vicar of Lacock, near Chippenham. They had two children, Edward and Elizabeth. After her husband's death in 1853, the family went to live at the Ann Edwards College Almshouses in South Cerney. The Diary entry for February 28th 1870 records her illness, and that for September 30th her death. "My father was much knocked up after attending the funeral" – he was now the sole survivor of this generation, and Mary was not only the closest to him in years, but possibly in affection. (One of Emily Kilvert's earliest recollections was a visit with her father to her aunt Mary at Lacock).

Later entries in the Diary refer to Edward and Elizabeth. He is well spoken of, but Elizabeth is "a deplorable object to look at, no teeth-left, marred mentally and morally by her mother's death". Later still, Edward tells Kilvert that she is living in a hotel in Chippenham and has cut herself off from all her relations, whence came the money for this independence? Aunt Maria had died some two months after Mary, and had made her a beneficiary in her will.

Mary's grave is situated almost exactly in the middle of the large churchyard to the rear of the church. It has a large painted headstone, and the inscription, clearly readable, is "To the memory of Mary Matthews widow of the late Rev. John Matthews, who died in peace on the day of St. Michael and all Angels, Sept 29th. 1870 aged 68 years. even to them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him".

The Ann Edwards College Almshouses are a row of twelve three storey houses, Tudor Gothic style, and built in 1837. They face South East overlooking a large area of parkland. They were recently put on the market and most of them were sold for private occupation. Ann was the Widow of Isaac Edwards who had been a curate at South Cerney from 1800 till his death in 1820. She inherited a fortune from various relatives and became a great benefactress to the village. She died in 1834. The Almshouses were built for the benefit of widows and orphans of clergymen in the Gloucester diocese. The village school that she founded in 1820 still stands in School Lane, it is now being used

as a workshop. Recently a new Ann Edwards School was built at the new southern end of the village close to a large housing estate. It was built in two phases, the first part in 1972 and the second at Easter 1990. There are 268 pupils, some of them are bussed in from nearby villages. Inside All Hallows Church are memorials to Ann Edwards. A large ornately carved stone tablet is placed high up on the South wall, difficult to read but it lists her good deeds and generosity. The West window is dedicated to her memory and was donated by the village people in 1862 when the church was enlarged. The coloured glass depicts the twelve Apostles and below ten pictorial representations of extracts from the New Testament, with the following words, "To the glory of God and in memory of Ann Edwards. Their works do follow them. Rev; 14. v 13."

On the stone below the window is inscribed the name of her husband, Isaac Edwards, B.A. Curate of South Cerney from 1800 to 1820.

The vicar from 1862 to 1870 was the Revd. William Liddell uncle of Alice Liddell, immortalised as "Alice in Wonderland". His vicarage is now named Liddell House, and in the entrance hall there is a small door in the skirting, said to have given Lewis Carroll the idea of writing a story about a miniature world and nursery toys as a Christmas gift for Alice. Carroll was of course at Oxford at the same time as Kilvert, but it is not known if the two men ever met.

### **AUNT MARIA'S WILL**

(This article is very largely based on notes sent to me by Mr. Hugh Dearlove, compiled from photostats of the will which our Vice-President, Mrs. G. Grice, had found among her late husband's papers.)

The first section of the Will consists of legacies to servants past and present. Charlotte Sayers and Jane Stroud receive £20 per year for their life, while the late servant Jane Booth has £7 per year for life. The sum of £100 is given to Elizabeth Middleton and to the 2 executors of the will. Sufficient money for housekeeping for one month after her death is to be set aside, and each servant is to receive £5 to "enable to provide themselves with decent mourning."

These legacies were to be paid out of her £5,000 in 3% consols. The residue, together with the sum resulting from the sale of all her effects, was to provide for the following payments:- £10,000 to the Relief of widows and orphans in the diocese of Worcester, and £2,000 to each of the following societies, for the Propagation of the Gospels and that for the mission for increasing the number of Curates.

The remainder of the estate was to be shared between Margaret Kilvert, widow of her cousin John, Robert Kilvert and his sister Mary Matthews. A codicil two years later gives the rose trees to Robert and the furs and lace to his wife. (The original will had been made in 1868. Maria had died on 26th November 1870). An earlier codicil had changed Charlotte Sayer's legacy to a flat £100.

When we read the entry in the Diary for 30th November 1870, it is easy both to sympathise and criticise. But first a query "Margaret, widow of my cousin John" is referred to in the Diary by the name "Marianne", and the "Motherwells" must refer to Mary Matthews and her children. Of the 8 Kilvert cousins, Robert, Mary and John's widow were the only ones living when the will and codicils were made, and they are duly remembered. Kilvert's outbursts regarding the servants' legacies seem quite unjustified. Why should not loyal servants receive some reward? His comments on the sums given to the religious societies are unnaturally fierce, but are prompted by the hurried letter from his mother when she was not fully aware of the situation. One is prompted to ask if the ties between Maria and the cousins were close – she was 14 years older than Robert, who had responsibilities as both parent and priest and in the feud between Maria and his brother Francis would surely have sided with him.

It is with some relief that the reader finds in the entry for December marrow that a sum of about £7,000 will come to Robert! The heat of the moment has gone!

### **SALE OF "TULLIMAAR", 1871 by BARRY SMITH (Truro)**

"Tullimaar", Kilvert's place of residence in Cornwall during his memorable visit of 1870, held a special place in his affections. It has also been a source of interest to the not inconsiderable number of Kilvertians who have visited the House, or its grounds, over the years. To these, especially details of the House as it stood in Kilvert's day may be of special interest. Recently discovered particulars of the 1871 auction of "Tullimaar" not only amplify the description of the House as given in the Diary but also add to our knowledge of the legal context of the sale.

The earliest Diary entries for 1871 give no hint that the Hockins, Kilvert's hosts during his stay in Cornwall the year before, were about to part with "Tullimaar". They concern the birth of a daughter



to the Hockins and their request for Kilvert to act as godfather. However, in the Spring of 1871, advertisements started appearing in the local Cornish newspapers, announcing a forthcoming auction. The following one is taken from the "Falmouth Packet" of 22nd April 1871:-

WEDNESDAY 10th MAY, at 3.  
PARISH OF PERRAN - AR - WORTHAL

A very desirable FAMILY RESIDENCE, standing within its own Ornamental Grounds, situated between Truro and Falmouth, for Sale, with early possession.

MR CORFIELD

Has been directed to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the ROYAL HOTEL, Truro, on WEDNESDAY, 10th of May next, at 3 in the Afternoon, subject to the conditions to be there and then read, all that very attractive

RESIDENCE  
known as  
"TULLIMAAR"

With the ornamental pleasure grounds, fish ponds, productive orchards, walled fruit and vegetable gardens and paddocks, including stabling for 11 horses, harness and coach rooms, Gardener's and Coachman's cottages, and all convenient outbuildings belonging thereto, measuring in the whole about 11 acres, be the same more or less, and now in the occupation of the Proprietor, William Hockin, Esq.

This very beautiful Residence is of modern construction, handsomely fitted and decorated throughout, **regardless of expense**, is healthily situated on an eminence, has a southern aspect, abuts a tidal river, overlooking the picturesque and extensive parks and grounds of Carclew, the seat of Col. Tremayne; is approached by a carriage drive, with rustic lodges at the entrances; is within a few minutes' walk of the Parish Church, and about a mile from the Perranwell Railway Station; with good hunting, boating and shooting in the neighbourhood.

**The PROPERTY is adapted for a FAMILY of DISTINCTION, and is held on an existing lease granted by the Lord of the Manor, for the term of 99 years determinable on the death of one good life now aged about 33 years, and subject to a conventional rent of £20 per annum.**

On view by card only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays preceding the sale, from 12 to 4.

For descriptive printed particulars, conditions and cards, application to be made at the Offices of the AUCTIONEER, Falmouth.

Dated April 10th, 1871. Falmouth.

Notwithstanding these published blandishments of the desirable property, the Hockins' attempt to dispose of their Cornish home ran into some difficulty. The Royal Cornwall Gazette for 13th May, 1871, reports:- "Mr. F. Hearle Cock was the only bidder for Tullimaar, which was offered for sale by Mr. Corfield, at the Royal Hotel, Truro, on Wednesday. Mr. Cock's bid was £500, and as the reserve was £1,200, the property, which is held for one life only, remains unsold."

Why was there so little apparent interest in this "very desirable family residence."? Perhaps it was an exaggerated price which deterred potential bidders? It has been suggested that William Hockin was unable to find a suitable occupation in Cornwall and was needing to dispose of his Cornish property in order to establish himself in business "up country", which he eventually did. He maybe felt impelled to drive a hard bargain for Tullimaar.

Kilvert Society member and grandson of William, Mr. John Hockin of Swanage, has commented:- "As to the price, the house cost £5,000 to build in 1829. I do not know whether there was any inflation in those 40 years - possibly not. In any case, a leasehold interest for only one life only is a gamble which could put the buyer at the mercy of the freeholder (Basset Estate), so William may have been optimistic asking £1,200, unless there was some competition".

A deal between the Hockins and Hearle Cock was eventually struck, though not till some considerable time had elapsed and perhaps no other buyers had appeared. The Royal Cornwall Gazette of 29th July, 1871, reports:- "The beautifully situated residence of Tullimaar, in the parish of Perranarworthal, immediately opposite Carclew Park, has been purchased by Mr. F. Hearle Cock, solicitor, and Town Clerk of Truro, and will, it is understood, be his future residence."

This accords well with Kilvert's Diary entry of 15th August, 1871, when he writes of a surprise visit by the Hockins to his home in Langley Burrell:- "I went down and there were actually in the flesh the Hockins. I could hardly believe my eyes ..... They had come up to Warminster to look at a house which Daniell had told them of as they have sold Tullimaar. This would not do at all, so they have been house hunting in Bath this morning."

When the Hockins' residence is next mentioned, they are, in fact, established in Taunton, as the entry for 11th September, 1872, clearly shows:- "Our party at Weston broke up today. I went on to Taunton

to visit the Hockins, and the rest of the party went home to Langley. The Hockins came to to the Taunton Station to meet me and drove me to the Ferns, their house at the Nursery Gardens...." He observes, perhaps wistfully, "Many things about the house and place within and without reminded me strongly of Tullimaar."

**Footnote:** Tullimaar and its grounds are, of course, private property. However, it is gratifying to learn that one of the present occupants, Lady Golding, is a member of the Kilvert Society, thus providing an interesting link between Kilvert and his Cornish holiday home!

### IMPORTANT NOTICE - SUBSCRIPTIONS

At a recent meeting of the Committee, changes to the Rules and Constitution were discussed. It is proposed that these come into effect from the **1st January 1994** if approved at the next AGM in April.

The proposed changes are:

1. The subscription year to run from the 1st of January and all subscriptions are renewable on this date.
2. Future life Membership to be £50.
3. Members whose subscriptions are 6 months or more in arrears, will be assumed to have resigned from the Society and will not receive further copies of the Newsletter.

The change in the subscription year, will simplify the collection of subscriptions, enable the Committee to have a better idea of income each year and will make it easier for members to pay their subscriptions without the need and cost of sending reminders. Many members forget which month their subscriptions fall due under the present system of renewing on each anniversary date. The Newsletter will be used at the end of each year to remind members that **all** subscriptions are due on the 1st of January.

It was felt by the Committee that the present cost of Life Membership (based on 6 annual subscriptions) was too low and less than similar Societies where Life Membership can be up to 24 annual subscriptions; also that rule 8 of the constitution should be revised.

In the past, the Newsletter has continued to be sent to members who are seriously in arrears with their subscriptions. This has been a heavy burden on our finances which the Committee felt we could no longer afford to bear and was unfair to the majority of members who pay their subscriptions regularly each year.

In order to phase in the change in the subscription year, it is proposed that as members renew their subscriptions during 1993, they should pay a proportion of the full year subscription so that a full year's subscription would again become due to the 1st of January 1994. The amount to be paid for **1993 only** will be as follows:

Month due:	Proportion of subscription due for 1993 only
January	£5.00
February	£4.60
March	£4.20
April	£3.70
May	£3.30
June	£2.90
July	£2.50
August	£2.10
September	£1.70
October	£1.20
November	£0.80
December	£0.40

It would be very helpful to the Society if members whose subscriptions become due in the latter part of 1993, would consider paying their annual subscription for 1994 at the same time.

If any member has already paid their 1993 subscription, they should pay a reduced subscription (see table) when they come to pay their 1994 on the 1st January 1994.

Members who pay their subscriptions by standing order, have already been contacted by the Subscriptions Treasurer to amend the date of their current standing order, where this is necessary.