

# THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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

**President: The Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn**

**Chairman:** Revd. D.N. Lockwood, Church Row, Llowes, Hereford HR3 5JB

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr. R.O. Watts, Dial Cottage, Bannutree Lane, Bridstow, Ross-on-Wye HR9 6AJ

**Hon. Treasurer:** Harley Dance, 11 Green Lane Crescent, Yarpole, Leominster Tel: (01568 780675)

**Subscriptions Treasurer:** L.F. Jackson, Little Orchard, 10A Manor Road, Sherborne St. John,  
Basingstoke RG24 9JJ

**Publications Manager:** C.J. Marshall, 169 Holly Walk, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 4JY

**Hon. Archivist:** Revd. Dr. J.N. Rowe, 12 Begwyns Bluff, Clyro HR3 5SR

**Hon. Editor:** E.J.C. West, 27 Baker's Oak, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5RP

**Minutes Secretary:** Mrs. V.J. Dixon, Tregothnan, Pentrosfa Crescent, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5NW

**Hon. Secretary:** Mr. M. Sharp, The Old Forge, Kinnersley HR3 6QB Tel: (01544) 327426

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984. The names and addresses of members are held on a computerised list exclusively for the distribution of Newsletters, and other information about the Society, to its members. If you object to this, please contact the Hon. Secretary. It has been decided that if any member objected, that member would have to provide a **stamped and addressed envelope** for dispatch of newsletters.

**PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT NOTICES RE JUBILEE ARRANGEMENTS ON PAGE 2.**

**Edward West is convalescing at home following a recent heavy fall (but still managed to continue his duties as Editor of the Newsletter as you will see!) Members will wish to send him their very best wishes for a speedy recovery.**

**JUNE, 1998**

Dear Member,

First, a report of the A.G.M. held on April 24th, attended by some sixty members. Apologies were received from Mrs. M. Burchett (Tunbridge Wells), the Revd. John Day (Sturminster Newton), Mrs. U. Fitzgerald (Moorhampton), Miss K. Goodwin (Bath), Mrs. O. Howells (Cowbridge), Mrs. M. Ottaway (Hereford), The Revd. and Mrs. B. Richards (Malvern), Mrs. S. Sharp (Kinnersley), and Mr. and Mrs. M. White (Birmingham).

The Hon. Treasurer reported some improvement in the Society's finances, but nevertheless a proposal that the annual subscription should be £6 was agreed to. **(Please remember to change your instructions to the bank, if you pay your subs this way.)** Life Membership was increased to sixty pounds.

Mr. J.H.C. Wilks was elected as Committee member to replace Mrs. C. Fleming who had resigned. Mrs. Fleming had taken an active part in her years on the Committee, had contributed articles to newsletters; and above all it was she who advanced the name of Katherine Heanley as the fiancée of Kilvert whose jilting of him caused so much misery – and later research proved her to have been right!

The Constitution (copy enclosed) was amended by reducing the period of grace for payment of subscriptions from two years to six months.

Following the usual sumptuous refreshments provided by Ascari Caterers, the 70 plus members present then enjoyed a showing of the film "Curate of this Parish" by John Betjeman, which many commented on as being a most sympathetic treatise of Francis Kilvert's life.

The following day about thirty members gathered at Bredwardine Church for a walk which should have taken them up Merbach Hill, however, due to recent heavy rainfall and a waterlogged course, an alternative programme was provided involving a visit to Brobury Gardens. The gardens are in a delightful setting, next to the River Wye with a view across to Bredwardine Vicarage. A leisurely stroll round well kept gardens on a sunny afternoon proved a popular alternative to the original programme. Members then enjoyed an ample cream tea and home made cakes at Burnt House provided by Peter Stutz and his daughter, as his wife is in hospital. They coped valiantly when faced with several more hungry people

than anticipated. Because it is Jubilee year this was then followed by Evensong at Bredwardine Church with the service conducted by Revd. Peter Stutz. The church looked lovely in the late afternoon sunlight and everyone agreed it had been a very pleasant day.

Other news: Mr. Wilks will lead an "energetic" walk on Saturday, 20th June of some 14 miles, over Hay Bluff to Capel y Ffin, returning via Gospel Pass. The walk will start from his home in Cusop at 9.30 a.m. (map reference SO 238412). His telephone number is [01497] 821401.

3 volume edition: since there is no possibility of a reprint, members wishing to dispose of their sets are invited to donate them to the Society.

The annual Father Ignatius pilgrimage and service will start from Capel y Ffyn at 3.0 p.m. on Saturday, August 29th.

Preliminary notice: Autumn weekend September 26th–27th. Walk on the 26th, service at Llowes on the 27th.

Yours sincerely,  
Edward West

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR JUBILEE WEEKEND June 26th – 28th 1998**

**Friday, June 26th:** Dinner at the Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford. 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. All attending are asked to **complete the enclosed reply slip** for the choice of menu and **return it to the Secretary, Michael Sharp, not later than MONDAY, JUNE 15TH, 1998.**

**Saturday, June 27th:** Seminar 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. at the Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford. Speakers: Dr. Bernard Jones, Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Southampton – "Kilvert in a Writer's World", and Mr. Ronald Blythe, celebrated writer on the countryside and contributor of the 'Wormingford Diary' to the Church Times – "The Diarist as Conscious Artist".

Coach Trip Depart from **The Green Dragon Hotel (note change of departure point)** at 2.30 p.m. Return by 6.15 p.m., followed by tea, sandwiches and cakes at the Green Dragon. (There will be a charge of £1.00 for the tea). Participants are advised to **treat lunch as their main meal of the day**, as the "Penny Readings" commence at 7.30 p.m.

Penny Readings at The Green Dragon Hotel at 7.30 p.m. Admission free, but contributions welcome.

**Sunday, June 28th:** Service at the Cathedral at 3.30 p.m., by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter. The address will be given by the Rt. Revd. Bishop of Monmouth.

**Brochures for these events will be available to all participants**

-----oOo-----

### **THOMAS, JANE AND MARY ELIZABETH MONKHOUSE** *By Miss. M. Campbell (N. Somerset)*

The churchyards of St. Andrew's Church, Clifton, were recorded in 1974 and one of the graves found was that of Thomas Monkhouse – a member of the family featured in Francis Kilvert's Diary.

The grave is covered by a chest tomb and is at the east side of the lime walk, the 15th grave from the end, nearest to the site of the demolished church. It is in the back row, excluding headstones placed against the back wall.

Sacred to the Memory of  
THOMAS MONKHOUSE  
of the city of London, Merchant  
who died at Clifton on the 20th  
February 1825 Aged 41 years

In Cruce Glorior

Also to the Memory of JANE his Wife  
who died June the 14th 1834  
Aged 39 Years

To whom this tribute of affection  
[is] inscribed by their only Child  
MARY ELIZABETH MONKHOUSE

In the booklet *"Kilvert & the Wordsworth Circle"* there is an article about Mrs. Henry Dew (Mary Elizabeth Monkhouse) the child mentioned above and as a result of reading this I obtained more information about Mary and her mother's life and I also noticed that there was no mention of Jane's second husband, Mr. Dick, on the stone. The reason for this might have been because the family disapproved of her marriage two years after Thomas's death.

Sara Hutchinson was a cousin of Thomas and a sister-in-law of William and Dorothy Wordsworth and in letters written to the Wordsworths she seems to have been critical of Jane and her daughter. The article quotes letters written by Sara to the Wordsworths and in one of them she writes "Mary improves very much .... she talks a great deal, tho' it was not very intelligible – but I do not quarrel with her for being so long a baby, tho' she is so surprisingly backward ..." To the reader it seems quite normal that Mary could not talk clearly, she was still only two years old! Sara also wrote about Jane's insensible demeanour after the death of her husband. Dorothy Wordsworth was possibly just as critical as she indicated that Jane being so often "confined to the sofa" was more a matter of convenience than a necessity. This criticism may have become much worse after Jane married again. Jane's death is not entered in the Clifton burial register, so she must have been buried near her new home.

The Wordsworths took a great interest in Mary and she made visits to their house both before and after her mother's death. The article tells us that Mary became engaged to William and Mary Wordsworth's son, William. Mary broke the engagement after two months and eventually married Francis Kilvert's friend Henry Dew.

It is also interesting that Thomas Monkhouse was taken to Clifton for his health. Perhaps he came because Clifton was a healthy place to visit, but if he came to take the waters he must have felt it was a death knell. The Spa had got a bad reputation because so many of the sick who came to take the waters for their consumption died soon afterwards. For this reason and for the problem of access the Spa had fallen into a decline and in 1816 it was described by Dr. Andrew Carrick as having "the silence of the grave ... not a carriage to be seen once an hour, and scarcely more frequently does a solitary invalid approach the neglected spring."

In 1822 an attempt was made to revive the Spa by rebuilding the Pump Rooms and constructing Bridge Valley Road. This may have been the reason for Thomas Monkhouse's visit but unfortunately, like so many visitors before him, he died one week after arrival.

### **KATHLEEN HEANLEY (MAVOURNEEN)**

*By Mr. B.E. Jackson, (Saddleworth)*

You may well have the following piece of extraneous information, but I cannot remember seeing in any of the Kilvert Society publications in my possession where Kilvert found the name MAVOURNEEN.

Crouch, Frederick William, of Plymouth, ex-seaman and Westminster chorister was the composer of "Kathleen Mavourneen" and of two operas entitled "Sir Roger de Coverley" and "The Fifth of November". He had 16 children (at least), the 16th being Emma Elizabeth Crouch, born 1842, who became famous as Miss Cora Pearl, notorious in London and Paris as a music hall artist and later becoming the greatest courtesan of the French second empire.

Some time after the birth of Emma, the father deserted his family and went to America where he served in the Civil War on the Confederate side.

This information was obtained from the autobiography of James Agate – *"A Shorter Ego"*, second selection. Readers Union/ G. Harrap & Co. (London 1947) page 81. (There are two more pages of information on the exploits of Miss Cora Pearl).



## A SIGHTING OF KILVERT AT CHIPPENHAM IN JANUARY 1876

*By Mrs. T. Williams (North Wembley, Middlesex)*

A report in **The Wiltshire Independent** dated Thursday, 20th January 1876, lists Kilvert and his mother amongst the named audience attending a concert at Chippenham on Tuesday evening, 18th January 1876, in aid of the parish church restoration fund. The value of this report is because it occurs during one of the gaps in the published diary. There are no entries for almost six months from Friday, 10th September 1875 until Tuesday, 29th February 1876 inclusive. We know, however, from retrospective diary entries that during these months Kilvert was corresponding with, and seeing, Ettie Meredith Brown. (See volume 3 pp. 238, 243-7, 255-7 260-1 and 298-299). His hopes that one day their friendship might lead to marriage were in vain, as on Thursday 20th April (volume 3, pp 260/1), the diarist received a "tender beautiful letter of farewell" from Ettie together with "a kind friendly little note from young Mrs. Meredith Brown ... saying she is afraid Ettie and I must hold no further communication by letter or poetry or any other way."

The last mention of Ettie in the published diary is on Monday, 23rd September 1878 (volume 3, p.423), when Kilvert records that, "today I received a kind letter from Rosie Meredith Brown saying that Ettie would sail for India on October 5th to be married there. I wrote to both of the sisters." Her name is recorded in the passenger list for the P & O steamer "**Cathay**" which left Southampton for Bombay, via Venice in early October. Ettie arrived in Bombay on Wednesday 30th October aboard the "**Bangalore**", and was married the next day according to the following marriage notice.

From: **The Pioneer Mail** (published Allahabad) Sat. 9th November 1878

At the Cathedral, Bombay on the 31st October by the Reverend F.L. Sharpin MA, William Henry WRIGHT MA, Professor Muir Central College, Allahabad, eldest son of the Reverend Henry WRIGHT, Rector of Thuxton, Norfolk to Henrietta Maria, fourth daughter of the Reverend Meredith BROWN of Nonsuch, Wiltshire and The Pines, Bournemouth.

We shall never know whether Kilvert referred to the marriage in his diary as there is no entry for Thursday 28th November 1878 when a similar notice appeared in **The Times**. Ettie and her husband eventually returned to England, where she died in Southsea on the 5th February 1910. The marriage was childless.

An account of the Concert at Chippenham follows:

"A grant concert, given by the Orchestral Guild, took place at the New Hall, Chippenham on Tuesday evening in aid of the parish church restoration fund. There was a large and fashionable audience, amongst whom were the Mayor and Mayoress and the Misses Spencer. Mr. West Awdry and the Misses Awdry, Mr. George Awdry, Mr. F. Awdry, Mr. and Mrs. Justly Awdry (Melksham), Miss Goldney, Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Goldney, the Reverend J. Rich (Vicar), Mr. and Mrs. Rooke and party, Reverend E.C. Awdry (Kington St. Michael), Reverend Mr. Palmer (Bowden Hill), Reverend A. Law (Dauntsey), Reverend H.K. and Mrs. Boldero (Grittleton), Mr. and Miss Phillips, Dr. and Mrs. Farrage, Miss Lane, Mrs. KILVERT and the Reverend F. KILVERT, Mr. and Mrs. Keary, Dr. and Mrs. Briscoe, Mr. John Wilson MA, Mr. and Mrs. F.R. Sidebottom, Reverend F. Cory, Captain Bailey and Mrs. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Noyes, Reverend Mr. Hecks (Somerford), Reverend C. Clarke (Kington Langley), Reverend Mr. Atherley (Hartham), Mr. and Mrs. Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Reverend T.A. Clarke, Mr. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Dowding, Reverend R.C. Christie (Castle Combe), Mrs. Miles, etc. etc.

The Guild was established in the year 1868, for the organization of advanced amateurs, and this is the 77th concert given since its formation. The members of the band are gentlemen of high distinction, the president being Sir William Medlycott, Bart., and the vice-presidents the Hon. and Reverend A. Byron and Sir George Cornwall, Bart. The vocalists were members of the North Wilts. Amateur Orpheus Society. The programme was an exceedingly choice one, and was executed in an admirable manner. The Reverend J. Rich and the Reverend G.W. Murray each sang two solos. The latter obtained a hearty encore for his able rendering of "Gut 'nacht, fahr wohl," by Kucken, and the former was loudly applauded for the excellent performance of "Thou visitest the Earth," by Davis. An ode, "integer vitae," by Flemming, sung by the members of the Orpheus Society, was encored, and the rendering of a glee, "Shades of the Heroes," by Cooke was greatly admired. The instrumental part of the entertainment was delightful and comprised an overture ("La Reine d'un our") Adam; an allegretto by Mendelssohn; opera selection and orchestral fantasia ("Der Freisehut,") Weber; Marche Nuptiale ("La Nonne Sanglante"), and selections from Chopin's celebrated pianoforte vales, specially arranged for orchestra and ballet music ("Introduction

et Fantastique"), Lamotte; all of which were admirably executed. The concert was in fact a great success, both musically and financially."

## AUGUSTA PEARSON'S TOUR OF NORTH WALES

By Mr. A. O'Brian, (Newchurch)

An enjoyable little book, "*A Spinster's Tour Thro' North Wales*" and barely 35 pages long, has recently been found on the Radnorshire mobile library and whose author is one of the five Pearson girls mentioned quite often in the Kilvert Diaries. She was Augusta Pearson and strangely although her four sisters are well known for their kindness towards him and for the hospitality offered him in entertaining the diarist in their homes in Wales, London and the Isle of Wight, there is no mention of his path ever having crossed that of Augusta. She would have been in her early 40's when Kilvert was filling his diary with stories of the Pearsons and associated families.

Born on the 16th February, 1829, Augusta was baptised a month later in Great Marlow, Buckinghamshire, which was also the home town of the Higginson family. She was the second daughter of Henry Shepherd Pearson (1781–1840) of Spinfield, Berkshire, and his wife Caroline Lyons. Both sides of the family held senior posts in the navy, the army and the diplomatic service. The girls' grandfather was Captain Sir Richard Pearson, R.N., (d. 1806) and their father's brother was Admiral Richard Pearson (1779–1838). Their mother's brother was Admiral (later Lord) Edmund Lyons (1790–1858), Crimean veteran and diplomat, whose daughter, also Augusta, was the Duchess of Norfolk. Another brother was Vice-Admiral Lord John Lyons (1787–1872).

Augusta kept her little journal of the 19 day tour in 1853 of north Wales which she dedicated to her "3 beloved sisters E.H. and A." (the 4th sister was with her). Sister "E" was Emily (1830–1876) who was to be the wife of Captain Cowper Coles R.N., who designed and sank with the ill-fated "H.M.S. Captain" in 1870. Sister "H" was Henrietta (b.1833) later the wife of the Rev. Stirling Westhrop (1830–1885) Rector of Ilston, Swansea. Sister "A" was Kilvert's confidante and mentor, Agnes Minna (1834–1908) later the wife of Rev. Richard Venables of Clyro. With Augusta on her tour was Caroline (Cara), the eldest of the five sisters, born in 1827 and already the wife of barrister Charles Evan Thomas (1817–1902), one of the land owning Thomas family of **Powys**, who joined the two girls on their trip. Cara left behind her 9 month old baby son, Algernon, who later in life was a commander in the royal navy.

The journal was published in 1988 by Lt. Col. J. Little of Newbold Pacey, Warwickshire (a great-grandson of Augusta) in whose library the diary had been found.

On Friday, August 12th, 1853, Caroline (Cara) then aged 26 and Augusta aged 24 along with Cara's husband, Charles Evan Thomas, aged 36, set off from Euston for Chester. It was the first time that the girls had used the station which was opened 16 years before, with its Roman style booking hall and its huge Greek arch over the main entrance – all of which were criminally demolished in the 1960's.

Arrived at Chester they toured its ancient cathedral and the two tiered "rows" of shops and then took train for Birkenhead where in 1867 the keel would be laid for the ill-fated H.M.S. Captain, designed by Captain Cowper Phipps Coles, the husband of their sister Emily. The following day (13th) they toured the new docks and town and were shown over an emigrant ship, the "Amerikay", which annually helped to ship 200,000 hopefuls to the New World for £5 one way. The trio then took a steamer to Beaumaris. It was church the next day (Sunday 14th) and on Monday 15th the two sisters visited and sketched the pretty 6th century Penmon Priory.

On Tuesday August 16th they took carriage to view the Menai and Britannia bridges and thought the Menai structure " ... light and graceful but the piers heavy and ugly". (*Stephenson's twin tube Britannia Bridge was only 3 years old. It was destroyed by fire in 1970 and was then rebuilt*). Then on to Bangor where they booked into the "Penryn Arms" hotel for a huge dinner which upset Cara who left the other two to "sail forth to see the town". The next day (17th) they left by train for Conway where the girls sketched the huge castle and explored Telford's 1826 suspension bridge anchored by enormous chains built into the castle rocks.

Thursday, August 18th, saw the trio up early and off to Carnarvon where they sketched the famous castle and toured the "dull and unclean town". On the 19th they had a boat trip under the bridges and thought the 4 lions on the Menai bridge "expensive at £500 each", then back to the "Penryn Arms" where they packed and set off by carriage for Llanberis and booked into the Victoria Hotel set between "dirty, straggling cottages". On the 20th with the fragile Cara on a pony they visited the beautiful Pass of

Llanberis and sketched a group of grubby kids "none of whom could speak English". Sunday, August 21st, had the trio at church in what looked like "a converted cowshed" and the next day (22nd) Charles and Augusta set off to climb Snowdon by pony. A dense mist enveloped them and their guides halfway up but they reached the top and its tatty cafe. Still mounted they set off down again, saw where the Rev. Hy. Starr walked into space seven years before in a mist and joined Cara at the hotel. Tuesday, August 23rd, saw their hotel full of tourists (*this in 1853*) but they decided to stay longer and sketch the scenery. Charles went up to Snowdon again on his own.

The next few days had the trio touring Beddgelert and the Vale of Glynant, sketching the lakes and slate quarries and enjoying a coach ride to Dolgelly and then they settled at Llangollen "a dirty hole, dirty kids and drunken tourists". (*They knew the story of the Two Ladies but declined to visit their house or graves.*) Then on Tuesday, August 30th 1853, they set off for London and home at 19 Eaton Place South.

Cara and Charles ended up with 6 sons (one an Admiral) and three daughters. Cara's sister Augusta married George Knightly Little (1823–79) (who changed his name from Howman), barrister and banker, who then came into the Newbold Pacey, Warwickshire, estate. It was he who purchased the travel clock for Kilvert (i254). They had one son, Ernest (1860–1921). Augusta died in 1922 aged ninety three years.

**PILGRIMAGE – NEWCHURCH TO LLANDEWIFACH**  
**(Painscastle Group of parishes)**  
**and Inauguration of the Friends of Llandewifach**  
**Saturday, 25th July 1998**

The Society has been approached by the 'Friends of Llandewifach' re a Pilgrimage they are organising on Saturday July 25th, 1998 and has been invited to join in the following programme. Anyone interested in participating should contact either Michael Sharp or Dr. Humphrey Fisher (Friends of Llandewifach) [Tel. 01544 370632]

10.00 a.m.	Arrive Newchurch: coffee/tea/etc. in St. Mary's Church (or at Great House)
10.40 a.m.	20 minute service at St. Mary's Church (including appropriate Kilvert reading)
11.00 a.m.	Leave Newchurch for Bryngwyn (one hour's walk)
12 noon	20 minute service at St. Michael's Church, Bryngwyn (including appropriate Kilvert reading)
12.20 p.m.	Picnic lunch at Bryngwyn: please bring your own food. Coffee/tea/etc. in St. Michael's Church (or the church hall, in case of inclement weather).
1.00 p.m.	Leave Bryngwyn for Llanbedr: (Three hours' walk)
4.00 p.m.	Coffee/tea/etc. in St. Peter's Church, Llanbedr.

At this point there are two alternative timetables, depending on the number of people involved.

With fewer than 50 people:

4.40 p.m.	20 minute service at St. Peter's Church (with appropriate Kilvert reading)
5.00 p.m.	Leave Llanbedr for Llandewifach: (30 minutes' walk)
5.30 p.m.	Festal Evensong at St. David's Church, Llandewifach, (again with appropriate Kilvert reading, plus sermon or talk on Kilvert).
6.30 p.m.	Festival tea: disperse.

With 50 or more people:

4.40 p.m.	Leave Llanbedr for Llandewifach: (30 minutes' walk)
5.10 p.m.	20 minute service at St. David's Church (again with appropriate Kilvert reading)
5.30 p.m.	Return to Llanbedr from Llandewifach: (30 minutes' walk)
6.00 p.m.	Festal Evensong at St. Peter's Church, Llanbedr: (again with appropriate Kilvert reading, plus sermon or talk on Kilvert).
7.00 p.m.	Festival tea: disperse.

Almost all the pilgrimage will be fairly gentle hill walking on grass. You may join, leave or re-join the pilgrimage at any of the stopping points along the way; please feel free to drive from one church to another if that is necessary. Parking is available at each of the four churches, but on a very limited scale at Llandewifach itself. We hope to arrange to bring anyone back from Llandewifach or Llanbedr at the end of the day to his/her parked vehicle; or, if you prefer to park initially at Llandewifach or Llanbedr, to bring you back to Newchurch at the beginning of the day.