

THE
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OF
THE KILVERT SOCIETY



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THE KILVERT SOCIETY

*Founded in 1948 to foster an interest in the Reverend Francis Kilvert,
his work, his Diary and the countryside he loved*

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Front cover: *Cae Mawr*. Photo: Alan Brimson

Back cover: *Across the fields to Llandewi Fach*. Photo: editor

Forthcoming Events 2023

Friday 21 April

The Annual General Meeting will be held at The
Bishop's Palace, Hereford, HR4 9BL at 7pm.
Following a buffet supper, our speaker, Huw Rees,
will give a talk about the Jarvis Charity.

Saturday 22 April

At the Pilgrim Hotel, Much Birch, HR2 8HJ

Morning seminar: 10.00 for 10.30

David Whitehead will talk about Moccas.

Afternoon

2:15. Visit to Hay Castle. Meet outside the entrance.

Evening

7 for 7.30: The Kilvert Society Dinner at the Pilgrim
Hotel

Saturday 24 June

Visit to Kilvert's Wiltshire, including Kington St
Michael, a picnic lunch and tea at Langley Burrell
(details to be notified).

Saturday 30 September

Visit to Worcester Cathedral and Deanery (details to
be notified)

*If you are on email, please help us to cut postage costs
by sending your email address to the Secretary at
kilvertsociety@gmail.com*

From the Editor

This year marks the Kilvert Society's 75th anniversary. Having run out of precious metals at 70, 75 sometimes borrows the title 'Diamond Jubilee' from 60. We celebrated our Diamond Jubilee in 2008, and the early history of the Society was comprehensively covered by Jeff Marshall, editor of *Journal 26* in June 2008. You can look back at it in our website *Journal* archive or treat yourselves to a DVD showing early films of Society events (see inside back cover).

We are always happy when *Kilvert's Diary* receives positive mentions in the media, and word has spread as far as the compilers of questions on BBC2's 'Mastermind'. The specialist subject was Offa's Dyke. Can you answer the following:

What was the name of the 19th century curate of St Michael's Church, Clyro, just over a mile from the route of the path, who kept copious diaries detailing life in the local area which were published posthumously in 1938?

The tiny church of St Mary the Virgin, built in 1762 and described by Francis Kilvert as *squatting like a stout grey owl among its seven black yews* is in which small village in the Vale of Ewyas?

My informant, Nicholas Green, adds that he has thought of entering 'Mastermind' with the *Diary* as his specialist subject but fears he would freeze at the sight of the famous black chair. My fear would be that I simply didn't know or remember enough. Offa's Dyke, for example, is not mentioned in the index to the three-volume *Diary*, though the connection is obvious when you look at a map and I shall look for any references to the landscape of the Dyke next time I read the *Diary*. Every time I reread, I find something that I hadn't noticed, or given enough attention to before. There is always something to discover in *Kilvert's Diary*.

It has been many years since there has been any information about the Morrells in the *Journal*. We catch up in full in this edition, including a report on our September visit to their home at Cae Mawr. It's a feast of family, local, and social history linked to the *Diary*. We also follow Kilvert on his second visit to the Isle of Wight: to Yaverland, at last!

From the Secretary

As I write this, it is the first week of January, yet another New Year. However, it is a momentous year for 'The Kilvert Society' as this year is the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1948.

As we are all aware, the three volumes of *Kilvert's Diary* had been published by Jonathan Cape, edited by William Plomer, to great critical acclaim, during the Second World War. There was enormous local interest in the counties of Hereford, Radnor, and Brecon, that led to a public meeting held in the city of Hereford, the result of which was the founding of the Society that survives and thrives today with a worldwide membership.

So, dear members, the reasoning of the committee is to celebrate this significant anniversary with a full programme of activities starting with a very full list of events for the annual weekend meet.

Friday 21 April 2023. At the Bishop's Palace, Hereford at 7pm. The Annual General Meeting, followed by a buffet supper. After which Mr. Huw Rees will give a talk on The Jarvis Charity, which Francis Kilvert served as a trustee during his time at Bredwardine.

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Inside Back Cover

Society publications and other recommended books about Francis Kilvert

Saturday 22 April 2023. At the Pilgrim Hotel, Much Birch at 10am for 10.30am, we will be addressed by Mr. David Whitehead with a talk on Moccas, an area of much significance to *Kilvert's Diary*.

During the afternoon we will visit Hay Castle for a guided tour. Meet at the entrance to the castle at 2.15pm.

On the evening we return to The Pilgrim Hotel 7pm for 7.30pm for our Annual Dinner. This is always a most enjoyable occasion, with readings, poetry, and good company.

Please do join us on the weekend, the highlight of the year. It would be good to put familiar names to unfamiliar faces we have yet to meet, so go on, make the effort, and join in.

Please see enclosed booking form. The dinner must be pre booked with the Secretary. For accommodation only the contact details for The Pilgrim Hotel is, email stay@pilgrimhotel.co.uk Telephone 01981 540742 postcode HR2 8HJ.

Further dates for 2023

Saturday 24 June – A visit to Wiltshire to include Kington St Michael.

Saturday 30 September. We visit Worcester, the Cathedral and Deanery. (Cancelled last year due to building work).

Full details for the two dates will follow in the June Newsletter.

From the Chairman

This year, 2023, marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Society's founding. It also happens to be the year of my own seventy-fifth birthday. Having attained so advanced an age, some few years older than Scott Fitzgerald's Benjamin Button as he begins his 'curious' journey from old age to infancy, I thought it might be of interest to examine the nature of ageing as it has been represented over time in literature. I must apologise beforehand to our female members for having to confine myself here to older male literary characters for the sake of economy of space.

To begin, as it were, at the beginning, among the various stock figures featuring in Roman comedies, notably those of Plautus, was a regular character going by the name of Senex (literally 'Old Man') whose comic qualities arose from his possessing some or all of the following attributes: miserliness or meanness with money, misplaced libido and a tendency to be henpecked by his wife. The latest manifestation of this form of comedy, the Stephen Sondheim musical and the 1966 film based on it, 'A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum' provides a modern insight into this character. Played in the film by Michael Hordern, the hapless Senex is thoroughly outwitted by the slave Pseudolus who is determined to secure his freedom at any cost. The plot, full of farcical twists and turns, is far too convoluted to outline here, but suffice it to say that Senex does not come out of the story well. All in all, this is scarcely a flattering picture of old age.

Proceeding from Rome to the Elizabethan stage, Shakespeare's King Lear furnishes no more positive an image of ageing. Lear, as we are frequently reminded in the play, is in his 'dotage'. The Oxford English Dictionary's definition of dotage runs as follows: 'The state of having the intellect impaired, especially through old age, senility, imbecility, stupidity, folly, one's second childhood.' Clearly, we are in some ways not so far removed from Senex here. Lear says of himself somewhat puzzlingly: 'I am a very foolish old man, fourscore and upward, not an hour more nor less.' His daughter Regan tells him: 'O sir, you are very old. Nature in you stands on the very verge of her confine.' And Lear himself remarks: 'old fools are babes again,' a sentiment many of us might recognise. Lear plainly lacks perspicacity. Remarkably ignorant of the characters of his daughters, he condemns himself by his own actions to loneliness and despair. The play tracks his decline through feeble mindedness to madness and death. Shakespeare confronts us here with an intensely tragic and wretched portrayal of old age.

To move forward to the nineteenth century and Dickens, amongst whose vast array of characters we meet a great many old people. Perhaps the more memorable of these tend to be unsympathetic figures such as the criminal Fagin and the miser Scrooge. Yet the one portrayal that to me represents the most striking, if brief, caricature of a man of advanced years is the father of Mr. Jagger's clerk, Wemmick, in 'Great Expectations', to whom Pip is introduced on his first visit to Wemmick's 'castle'. Addressed habitually by his son as 'Aged' 'Aged Parent' or simply 'Aged P', the narrative never refers to him by his proper name but always as 'the Aged'. Frail and intensely deaf, he is a creature of simple pleasures, taking childlike delight in being vigorously nodded at, exhilarating in the firing of Wemmick's cannon even though the blast almost blows out of his armchair, happily raising and lowering the castle's drawbridge, coating himself in butter whilst eating toast, and reading aloud from a newspaper by the light of a candle, in constant peril of igniting his head or the paper in the process. The 'Aged' is, of course, little more than a comic caricature, but nevertheless he stands as one of Dickens' most engaging creations.

Thus far we have found old men portrayed as comic, gullible, tragic and childlike. This should come as no surprise since these are characteristics habitually associated with the elderly in both life and literature. For a more rounded and insightful picture we must go forward to the twentieth century and Ernest Hemingway's heroic and superbly crafted novella of 1951, 'The old Man and the Sea'. In his typically spare and unsentimental style Hemingway tells the story of Santiago, an old and impoverished fisherman from Cuba who, having spent eighty-four days fishing without success, resolves on the eighty-fifth day that his luck must finally turn. In the event he succeeds in hooking a huge marlin, but then must endure two days and nights being pulled ever further out to sea by the great fish, all this time bearing the strain of his line against his back and shoulder to prevent it from snapping. Entirely alone in his boat, Santiago suffers great pain with little sleep. His battle is not only with the marlin but with his own body, which seems at moments about to fail him. At the same time he is aware of a sense of oneness with the natural world, the birds and fish he sees around him. The marlin itself becomes a 'brother' to him, even though he knows he must find the strength to kill it at the last.

In the end, having succeeded in killing the exhausted fish, he lashes it to the side of his boat. Sadly, however, his hunt has taken him too far from shore. Drawn by the marlin's blood, the

IN THE MEDIA

THE REVEREND JOHN PRICE

The *Guardian* Country Diary for 13 August 2022 visited Llanbedr Hill, Painscastle, referring to Kilvert's 1872 visit and to the 'stone chicken shed' that Kilvert described, now 'faint traces' in 'the tormentil-starred greensward'. Like the route on our excursion tour, 'the road between Painscastle and Rhulen was [once] a rough track. It's been metalled for years now, and climbs steeply from the Bach Howey valley to emerge among bracken and mawn pools on the crest of Llanbedr Hill'. Country Diary writer Jim Perrin emphasised John Price's holiness: 'A Welsh John of the Cross, he had the simple devotion of an early Christian saint'. (*Thanks to Margaret Collins for the cutting*).

sharks close in. Although the old man manages to kill some of them, by the time he reaches the shore his great fish has been reduced to no more than a skeleton and a head. At this point the story seems to be an account of failure, representing perhaps the failure of all human endeavour. Yet there is more to it than that. At the end of the story we see the old man, tended by a young boy who brings him food and drink, talking with his young helper of going out fishing again the next day. As he falls asleep he dreams of lions on a beach in Africa. This, a recurring dream, is a striking and hauntingly beautiful scene from his younger and happier days, an image of his own strength as a young man. The story is essentially tragic, but it is nonetheless ultimately heroic in its depiction of the human spirit in the face of adversity. We are left with the certainty that this old man is not defeated. He will take to his boat again and continue to do so despite all he has suffered. And this, the story's ultimate message, a profoundly human one of defiance in the face of failure, is perhaps something we could all profit from, whoever we are, male or female, and however old we may be.

The Kilvert Pilgrimage

The Kilvert Pilgrimage is a walk around the four churches of the Painscastle group, in the landscape that Kilvert loved. Alternatively, organising your own transport, you can walk part of the pilgrimage and/or drive between locations. Adrian Chambers, organiser of the pilgrimage, has sent the following details of the 2023 pilgrimage:

The 25th Annual Pilgrimage will be on Sunday 30 July (which is the Sunday following the Royal Welsh Show).

Assemble at Newchurch from 9.30.

10-10.30 Service of Morning Prayer (1662), with other readings (no sermon).

10.30-10.45 Laying of flowers at Emmeline's grave [see Vol 2, pp 53 and other *Diary* entries about Emmeline Vaughan of Newchurch].

10.00 Start for Bryngwyn

12.00-13.15 Recital and readings at St Michael's Bryngwyn, followed by BYO lunch. Leave for Llanbedr.

15.00-15.15 Pause for rest at Ireland.

16.00-17.00 St Peter's Llanbedr. Laying of flowers at the graves of the Revd John Price and Aylmer Alexander, followed by Afternoon Tea (laid on). Leave for Llandewi Fach.

18.00-18.45 Evensong at Llandewi Fach with guest preacher. Farewell. Transport back to Newchurch.

The organisers are very keen to receive suggestions or readings, poems, extracts from the *Diary* or elsewhere.

Please bring a small posy of flowers if you can, but don't go buying any! Bring your own lunch. Details will also be posted on www.gladestry.org from February.

Although you don't have to book, it would be helpful if you could let us know if you are coming. Further details, if required, from Adrian Chambers (01497 821414).

This is the first full pilgrimage, with two Services and a Recital, that we will have had for some years.



Adrian Chambers, organiser of the Kilvert Pilgrimage.

Photo: Editor

Our President: Ronald Blythe

The death has been announced of Kilvert Society President Ronald Blythe on January 14 2023. He was born on November 6 1922 and reached his centenary last November.

Ronald Blythe had been president of the Society since 2006, having previously spoken at our Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1998. In 1991, he edited the *Penguin Book of Diaries*, and he says of *Kilvert's Diary*: 'For me, the diary of diaries was written by a young curate on the Welsh border, Francis Kilvert.' Writing about the Society, he regrets that age and distance prevent him from attending our meetings on the Welsh border, 'but my heart is often there.'

Ronald Blythe had been a writer and editor since his first book was published in 1955. His work includes the classic *Akenfield* (1969). From 1993-2017, he contributed a regular article, 'Word from Wormingford' to the *Church Times*, about life in the Suffolk benefice he served as a lay reader. These articles have been anthologised into books, and, as a tribute to his 100th year, a new selection has been published, *Notes from Nature: a Lifetime in the English Countryside*, introduced by his old friend, naturalist Richard Mabey, and with other contributions from friends and admirers.

In 2017, Ronald Blythe was awarded a CBE for his services to literature.

Notes from Nature is reviewed on page 5.



Ronald Blythe spoke to the Kilvert Society as part of our Golden Jubilee in 1998. Here he is, with Michael Sharp and David Lockwood, and the Kilvert Family Bible.
Photo: Hereford Times/KS Archive



Ronald Blythe in 2006, newly appointed as President of the Kilvert Society, with Chairman Michael Sharp.
Photo: Ann Dean

Next to Nature

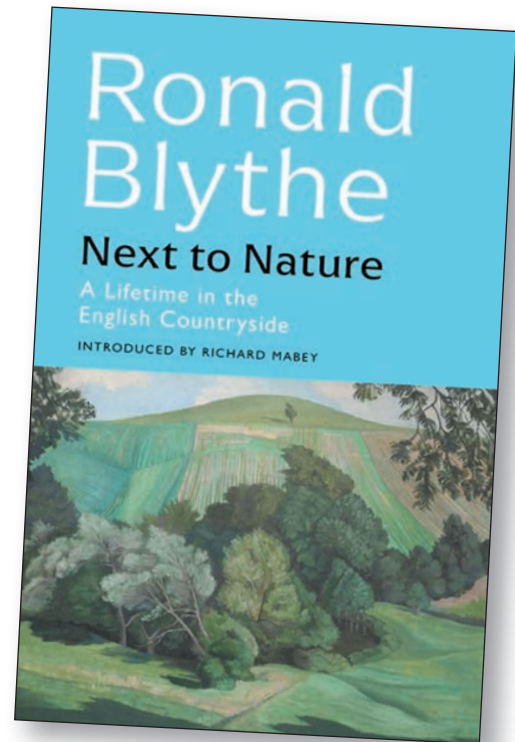
Reviewed by Mary Steele

NEXT TO NATURE: A LIFETIME IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE by **Ronald Blythe**

Introduced by Richard Mabey

John Murray, 2022 £25

ISBN 978-1-39980-46-77



This fresh selection from Ronald Blythe’s ‘Word from Wormingford’ *Church Times* articles, published to coincide with his centenary, is arranged into chapters dedicated to each month, each one prefaced by a short piece about Dr Blythe from a person who knows him. They represent different aspects of his life: writers, naturalists, priests, an artist. He himself describes his world as two gatherings: ‘one, farming and the Church; the other, the arts.’ Notably, he treats farming and the Church as one connection: writer and academic Alexandra Harris says of him: ‘The emotional and narrative arc of the liturgy directs his eye to features of the Suffolk world around him.’ He describes a writer’s work as ‘to make ordinariness extraordinary.’

Although the chapters take us through the calendar, articles within them are not chronological. A person who has died is alive later in the book; a closed school is open. This suits the flow of Ronald Blythe’s life, in which present and past are constantly echoing each other. In his 600 year old house, Bottengoms Farm, he can see then and now at the same time. The modern freezer competes for iciness with the brick-floored larder; the water supply is still from a spring in the garden.

“It was not always like this”, I admonish the white cat: “tinned breakfast regularly at six, gorgeous radiators, blackbirds through the window, devoted old chap.” Sometimes I hear them, the skinny labourers clumping down from the bothy to feed the stock, the girls singing in the dairy, the barefoot children falling over the dogs, the mother shouting, the pot bubbling.’

He has always lived on the Suffolk/Essex border and his knowledge of East Anglia is part of his being. He often references Constable, the local artist of Dedham Vale, but he has also travelled and fallen in love with other places, including Cornwall, Scotland and the Black Mountains of Kilvert Country. He has seen farming change from the last of the Victorian way of work to modern prairie farming, noting that the ten named fields near his home are now one. He is mostly tolerant, with the occasional gentle rebuke for people’s lack of awareness.

‘Down by St Andrew’s, the onion wagons scrape past worshippers’ cars with just an inch to spare. Why people have to go to church just when the harvest tackle takes to the lanes beats

the drivers. The bells, which once heard the excited shouts of “They’re cutting at Garnons!”, now ignore the whole business.’

He is not insular, being well aware of the wider world, its changes and sometimes horrors. But he gets great joy from small things. One column is made up of a list of things that give him ‘Certain Happiness’. They include:

‘Silence. Oaks before ash promising a splash. Re-reading *Swann’s Way*. Finding the nail scissors. Visiting the new bookshop in Stoke-by-Nayland. Watching the world greening. Remembering the Turners in Cornwall. Finishing a chapter. Choosing a page of *Kilvert’s Diary* for a sermon. Hearing a climbing rose scratch against the window, like Catherine Earnshaw’s escape-me-never hands.

Eating olives. The lawnmower starting at first pull. Feeding chaffinches. Watching Dan draw. The unbelievable scent of bluebells.’

Having written a classic work of social history in *Akenfield*, he understands *Kilvert’s Diary* as ‘an unconscious social history of the poor as they moved about: penniless lads, old soldiers and vagrant workers, each of whom catch his kind attention for an hour or so.’ He says of re-reading the *Diary* ‘As President of his Society, I have to keep up with him.’

He is more detached than Kilvert, his humour drier and more wry. He is older, of course, having started to write his ‘Word from Wormingford’ articles in his sixties. He says about Kilvert:

‘The lasting enchantment of *Kilvert’s Diary* is its lasting freshness. And particularly in May. It is dewy and untouched by maturity. He would die suddenly...never having quite grown up or grown out of his freshness.’

Obituaries in the press described Ronald Blythe as much loved, never sentimental, intensely private, deeply Christian, an original thinker and with an elegant prose style. This wonderful book is a reflection on his life and a memorial after his death.

EVENTS AND EXCURSIONS

Clyro, Cae Mawr and into the hills

*Charles Weston reports on our
September 2022 excursion.*

*Members meet at Cae Mawr.
Photo: Nicholas Green*

The Society's September visit should have been a 'day of two halves' with visits planned to Cae Mawr and Hay Castle, but instead became a 'day of five fifths' due to the temporary closure for extra work of the recently reopened Castle. Despite this sudden change of plan our worthy committee members Alan Brimson and Richard Weston put an alternative day of visits in place and what a success it proved to be!

The visit to Cae Mawr took place as planned. Some thirty members gathered at the assembly point outside the church in Clyro, following which there was a short walk to the driveway leading up to Cae Mawr. The house was the home of the Morrells, a wealthy local family, and a favourite visiting place for Francis Kilvert. (The house and the family are mentioned no fewer than 73 times in the index to the *Diary*). A plaque on



*Alun Williams explained that the
Georgian house was built as an
extension to the old farmhouse.
Photo: Val Dixon*

the gatepost told us that ‘This house is a member of the Historic Houses Association’. It did not disappoint! Set on the edge of the hillside overlooking the Wye Valley in spacious grounds and with a backdrop of dense woodland it looked much as it must have done in the 1870’s. A Georgian gem, its current state of renovation is due to the efforts of its owner Alun Williams. He welcomed the group by talking about the house, its history and his desire to refurbish and restore it to its former glory. The house had fallen into a sorry state in recent years before he had purchased it and his project was still in its early stages. After shedding footwear to help preserve the carpeting inside the house, we moved from the hallway into the spacious reception rooms. It was here that Kilvert dined and socialised, here where he...*drank too much port after dinner ...and had...a splitting headache all day in revenge...* His presence still seemed to linger on in the beautifully decorated room – the original shuttered windows facing the valley below. The gardens likewise were a delight – Kilvert seemed to have had as much pleasure in the company of the family outside as he did inside. The croquet/archery lawn remains as it was in his day – a place of *merry games* with friends and members of the Morrell family including their eleven offspring.

Our thanks were given to Alun as we gathered outside for a farewell cup of coffee. It was pleasing to find a kindred spirit so dedicated to restoring a Kilvertian gem! He was duly presented with a boxed set of the *Diary* and given a round of applause for his gracious welcome and excellent presentation.



The garden includes an aboretum and the lawn; croquet and archery in Kilvert’s day.
Photo: Val Dixon

Lunchtime gave members an opportunity to rest awhile in the churchyard and partake of packed lunches, giving much needed energy for the afternoon travels to visit churches mentioned in the *Diary*. A lengthy and circuitous route along narrow country lanes took us to St. Mary’s Newchurch. Here we were greeted by Adrian Chambers – an elder of the small village community and a devotee of the church. His interest was more to do with the history of the church than with the visits of Francis Kilvert. The church had Saxon origins, was rebuilt in 1858 and in fairly recent times had been described by Pesvner as of being ‘of little architectural interest’. Adrian told us a little about the Reverend David Vaughan – priest and hill farmer – and his twelve children, most of them mentioned in the *Diary*. The most adventurous souls in our party climbed up to the bell tower to ring the 14th century (cast on site) cracked bell. We ended the visit by congregating around Emmeline’s gravestone (she being a favourite of Kilvert who died tragically young aged thirteen and a half) to hear selected readings.

The whirlwind tour continued with our caravanserai moving the short distance to Bryngwyn. As with Newchurch the origins of the church date back to Saxon times. It is likely to have been in a dilapidated state at the time of Kilvert’s visit on 13 June 1870 (an account that survives in the June-July 1870 Notebook). His travelling companion, his brother Perch, was *considerably astonished at the ruinous state of the church, its crazy roof and walls and broken windows... the wittan and birch twigs still sticking in the church door...* It was some time after that visit,



Original shutters inside the house, as seen by Kilvert.

Photo: editor

in 1874-7, that the church was rebuilt, so Kilvert never had the opportunity to see it in its restored state. An impressive array of extracts from the Diary on display boards reminded us of Kilvert's fascination with the ancient customs and folklore of the area.

Our penultimate stop on this Kilvertian roadtrip was Llanbedr near Paincastle and its delightful stone built church. It is of course renowned for its association with the Reverend John Price *The Solitary...Master of Arts of Cambridge University and Vicar of Llanbedr Paincastle*. In the bright afternoon sunshine we perched or stood gazing reflectively around his gravestone whilst Alan Brimson read extracts from the *Diary* entry of 3 July 1872, the date of Kilvert's famous visit. John Price was a remarkable man – a hermit who spent 36 years as priest at Llanbedr, a scholar who invented a shorthand system and a bachelor who died in virtual poverty in March 1895 aged 86. He was also a benevolent provider, obtaining funding from a local landowner for the rebuilding of the church during his period of office, and this benevolence extended to the local community and to 'others'. An intriguing information sheet on the display board inside the church illustrated his concern for the 'others' – an article written some 12 years after John Price's death by the Reverend David Owen, an antiquarian. This revealed another aspect of his trusting and Christian character:

he... 'held a service for tramps and gave 6d each to those who came. As his money ran out Price had to reduce it to 4d. A year later he reduced it to 3d. At a further meeting the tramps rejected the revised contract by a majority. Price married vagrants without fees and started each couple off with a gift of five shillings. It is recorded he married the same couple five times under five different names. Not for the first or last time have rascals taken advantage of his simple goodness...'



Bryngwyn church: the Ogham stone is a pillar dating from the 7th-9th century, carved with ogham script and christianized with a cross. It was moved from the churchyard in 1958 and is now in the chancel.
Photo: editor

Llanbedr Paincastle: the altar.
Photo: Val Dixon



After the tranquility of Llanbedr churchyard it was time for afternoon tea, courtesy of the good ladies of Llanbedr and Paincastle. Trestle tables groaned under the weight of their offerings – sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakesa veritable feast. The ladies of the village are renowned for their generosity and welcome; those of us who have taken part in the annual Kilvert pilgrimage in July can testify to that. Once again they did us proud!

The final visit took us to perhaps the most remote of the churches and chapels in the locality of Clyro. Llandewi Fach is not a church which figures large in *Kilvert's Diary*; it is only mentioned in passing five times and no visits to the church were recorded. It is however the final destination for those on the Pilgrimage and its secluded location is truly divine. However, to reach it is not for the faint hearted! A single track road weaves its way between high hedges to the head of the Llandewi cwm and there almost obscured by woodland lies the small church. Our party was met by Joe Bowkett, a local resident and diehard Kilvert Pilgrimage walker. He led us across a meadow into the church and there told us a little about its history. The first church dates back to the 12th century, built reportedly on the site of the cell of a 7th century monk. As with the churches at Bryngwyn and Llanbedr it fell into a poor state of repair prior to the time of Kilvert's curacy at Clyro. It was Tom Williams, Kilvert's friend and rector at nearby Llowes who oversaw its complete rebuilding between 1860 and 1863. Kilvert makes a brief mention of the little school that Tom Williams held for the local children every Sunday before the Service – the only schooling available in that remote spot at that time. The church continues to be held for a once-a-month service with a congregation of 'six if we're lucky' according to Joe Bowkett. The lighting inside the dark, brooding nave appeared to be by candles. Sunday Evensong services there in the bleak midwinter must be very special, mystical occasions!

Our brief visit to the church concluded, the party wended its way back across the field to our parked vehicles for our return journeys. The day ended in glorious sunshine leaving us all with lasting memories and a greater knowledge of Clyro and its surrounding area so beloved by Francis Kilvert.

See page 3 for information about the Kilvert Pilgrimage 2023.



Llandewi Fach interior.

Photo: Charles Weston

Llandewi Fach exterior.

Photo: Rob Graves





Harvest at Clyro

Clyro Church opened its doors to us for refreshments on Saturday during our September Excursion and invited us to celebrate Harvest on Sunday.

By Richard Weston

*The sky a cloudless deep and wonderful blue and the mountains
so light blue as to be almost white.*

A similarly beautiful, clear and bright Clyro morning welcomed all to the 9.30 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving service on 25 September at St Michaels and All Angels – the familiar scene of so many Kilvert services over the years.

Welcomed by Ted and Hilary Brown were a further seven members of the Kilvert Society who attended the service, which was celebrated by the familiar figure of the Revd David Thomas.

The church looked exceedingly bright and pretty with floral and vegetable decorations as we sang the first hymn, ‘Come All Ye Thankful People Come’. We had the collect and readings from Deuteronomy and Corinthians and sang Psalm 67.

We ploughed the fields and scattered, the singing of the hymns immeasurably improved by my neighbour, an eminent Kilvertian with a beautiful soprano.

A reading from John, Chapter Six and the singing of our final hymn ‘Praise, O Praise Our God and King’ followed by David’s very thoughtful sermon on the subject of co-operation and our social interaction.

Communion was taken – wafer only – and the blessing followed.

We all gathered for coffee – a convivial end to what had been yet another memorable Kilvert outing!

Photos: editor



The Tragedy on Llanbedr Hill

Eva Morgan relates a story that reminds us that the landscape of Kilvert's Diary can be cruel as well as beautiful.

This story began on Sunday 24 July, the only wet day of July 2022! A rather bedraggled group of a dozen folk met en route near Ireland, a green fenced area of a few acres, on Llanbedr Hill. They were taking part in the annual Kilvert Walk organised so well by Adrian Chambers in aid of the local churches, starting at Emmeline's grave at Newchurch at 10am, then to Bryngwyn for readings, music and a picnic, on to Llanbedr for a magnificent tea to end in early evening at tiny Llandewi Fach. We know from so many references in *Kilvert's Diary* that he walked and loved these hills so well and would have often passed this way, then just tracks over the hill to Aberedw. In Vol 3 p168 he talks so fondly of a day never to be forgotten, 29 May 1865, when I walked alone over the hills from Clyro to Builth and first saw the Rocks of Aberedw.....I was discovering a new country and all the world was before me. Then, in Vol 2 p223-231, he tells of his meetings in and around Painscastle with William Price, of Pendre, the Mayor of Painscastle and with the Revd John Price, *The Solitary*, Vicar of Llanbedr.

To return to Ireland – We, who can't walk and provide a taxi for any who have walked for long enough, met up with the walkers below the green fenced-in area of Ireland in the middle of Llanbedr Hill, where Andrew produces welcome lemon barley drinks. I mentioned the Rosa Williams memorial on the hill about which no-one seemed to know – after all these years. It didn't take Richard Weston long to say – write a piece for the *Journal*. So here goes...

It was sixty years after Kilvert's initial walk to Aberedw over Llanbedr Hill and past Ireland when Rose Blanche Williams, always known as Rosa, made the journey on her pony to Hay Market; a trip which she made once a week and which would take her across some unforgiving territory. From Pant Farm at Rhulen [the farm sits astride the road from the turn off to Rhulen Church], the ten miles were a switchback route over Llanbedr Hill and down to Painscastle, back up and over The Begwns to Clyro and across the River Wye at Hay Bridge. Unbelievably, a photograph was

taken in 1920 showing her as she crossed Hay Bridge on her pony.

On Tuesday 22 December 1925, a snow storm started when Rosa was on the way back. Friends in Clyro, concerned about her safety, had begged Rosa to stay overnight but she declined the chance because she was anxious to get back home to her six young children, the eldest born in 1914 and the youngest in 1924. So she pressed on in an epic struggle to defy the elements. She reached a point one and a half miles above Painscastle, two and a quarter miles from home where her pony stumbled in the blizzard and Rosa broke her ankle in the fall. A little girl, staying at the house which was then at the holding known as Ireland and sleeping in a strange bed, was sure she heard someone in the late evening crying out for help. Several times she went downstairs to tell her uncle and aunt but they insisted it was just the wind and sent her back to bed. But just three hundred yards away, Rosa Williams, aged 39, froze to death on the lonely slopes of Llanbedr Hill, her basket full of purchases still on her arm. Her pony later returned home, its tracks were followed and next morning, after a search by family, neighbours and police, Rosa's body was found. An inquest was held and then she was buried in the Chapel graveyard at Painscastle after a service at Llanbedr Church.

Rosa's remarkable life had earlier taken her and her young husband to Australia where their first four children were born and they established a successful business. They later returned home to Radnorshire and took on The Pant where two more sons were born.

After Rosa's death, the two eldest of her children, Jack and Ivor, stayed with their father at The Pant until they went to run her farm for their grandmother at Glasbury. The younger children were taken into their homes by various members of the family. The two girls, Rene and Mary, went to their aunt, who ran a hat shop in Rochester, Kent. David went to live with his mother's sister and her husband at Church Farm, Wellington near Hereford, which in later life he farmed and became a well-known breeder of Friesian dairy cattle. Allan, the youngest of Tom and Rosa's



Rosa Williams.

Rosa on Hay Bridge.



family, was only a toddler so his grandmother looked after him for a while before he went Longtown to Rosa's sister, Edith, returning to live with his father when he remarried.

In the early years of the 21st century, at the suggestion of Roy Lloyd of Pendre, Painscastle, (coincidentally the great-grandson of Kilvert's Mayor of Painscastle, where he and his family are still farming the same farm), suggested that a memorial plaque be placed on the hill where Rosa Williams had died. This was done and a ceremony attended by many family and friends, took place there in 2006. A poem which had been written in memory of

Rosa Williams by Arthur I Davies of Upper House, Howey, near Llandrindod Wells, was read and the memorial was unveiled by David Williams, Rosa's fifth and only surviving child. Various members of the family, though scattered far and wide, had always met over the years near Painscastle to remember their brave mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and were there and took part in the ceremony.

The photographs are courtesy of the Ken Jenkins Estate and Matt via Allison Joyce.



The memorial plaque to Rosa Williams on Llanbedr Hill.

The Morrell Family

Teresa Williams tells us about the family that lived at Cae Mawr.

The Morrell family lived at Cae Mawr in Clyro from 1865 to 1892. Four of the 12 Morrell children were clearly named in the published *Diary*: they were *Hopie*, the eldest child, born and baptised in London with the names Hopewell James Shuldham; Louisa Florence who called herself 'Louie' (known as *Lulu* in the published *Diary*); Reginald, the second Morrell child to be born at Clyro, and given the additional name of Lister; and Winifred, who was born at Clyro, and like her brother Reginald, baptised there by Kilvert. She was in fact baptised Violet Winifred and subsequently so called herself and also was known thus on all official documents. The reference in the *Diary* index to *Hassie* (Vol 1, p52) might refer to Herbert Hugh, the first child of the family to be born and baptised at Clyro, on 17 June 1866, the officiating minister at the ceremony being the Reverend R Lister Venables. The twelfth child, Gwendolen, died on the day she was born, 18 February 1880.

Hopewell Baker Morrell, Esq., lived the life of a country gentleman at Clyro, attending many of the social occasions held locally and entertaining guests at Cae Mawr. He was a keen archer and an active member of the Wyeside Bowmen. Together with Kilvert he enjoyed walking and made several expeditions in the company of the diarist according to accounts in the published *Diary*. Whilst living at Clyro, Hopewell Baker regularly visited Mouldsford in Berkshire, where the Lordship of the Manor came to his son Hopie through the line of Robert Baker, who married into the Morrell family and inherited the Mouldsford estate.

According to an item published in the *Hereford Times* for Saturday 28th December 1867, he was generous, the article speaking of "Mr Morrell's munificent benevolence on Christmas Eve in giving 30 poor families in Clyro parish, a Beef roast with pudding and soup." The newspaper alluded to this act being an annual occurrence. [This I have not been able to check as only a few Hereford Times or Hereford Journal newspapers of those years are available in the archives online.]

There is no mention in the published *Diary* of Hopewell Baker's keen interest in exhibiting poultry at competitive 'Shows' in different English and Welsh cities, these 'Shows' taking place annually in late August and during September. He appeared to visit several events each year, often staying in a nearby town or city for this purpose, and always showed the same breed, i.e., 'Dark Brahma Pootra, (a cock or hen).' I have found more than twenty occasions reported in newspapers for the years 1869 to 1875 when he exhibited and won a prize or was 'highly commended,' Several times he gained up to three

awards at the same venue. At his first venture, in 1869 at the Royal Bucks Agricultural Association Show he won a silver cup, "value five guineas donated by the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos." In 1871, he again won a silver cup, this time given by "the Rt. Hon. Lord Boston" and valued at three guineas. At the 1873 show, he was awarded a third piece of silver. This may have been the item he bequeathed to his eldest daughter, Louie Florence Morrell, when he wrote, "My Prize Silver Sugar Basin," in a codicil to his Will made in 1907, a year before his death. After 1875, he did not appear to compete but in the 1880's until the early 1900's his name was shown as one of the judges at the many 'Bird and Poultry Shows' held in the Home Counties.

Another interest was exhibiting at the annual Hay Horticultural Show. At each of the 1873 and 1874 shows he was awarded first prize for his display of 'British Ferns' and second and third prize for a 'Hand Bouquet.' He was beaten in this 'Amateurs' class by the Misses Ellen and Alice Bevan from Hay Castle and Miss Jane Dew from Whitney Rectory for their "magnificent bouquets."

During the years 1866 to the late 1880's Hopewell Baker attended the Clyro Petty Sessions as a magistrate together with W M Baskerville of Clyro Court and H B Crichton of Wye Cliff. He retired from Petty Sessions duty at Clyro in 1892 when he went to live at 'The Retreat,' in Reading, Berkshire. Whilst there he attended regularly at Wallingford Petty Sessions until he finally left the Bench in 1905.

Mrs Louisa Foote Morrell of Cae Mawr was a typical Victorian wife in the social class of gentry, regularly overseeing her household and the servants and caring for her ever growing family. According to Letter # B1404 [Dec 1866] in the Venables Collection at the National Library of Wales, Louisa made time to take the reluctant and elderly Mrs Sophia Venables (the mother of the vicar of Clyro, Reverend R Lister Venables), out for carriage drives. The vicar wrote to his brother, George Stovin Venables, that Mrs Morrell had made this offer to Sophia frequently throughout that year but it was not until the month of December that their elderly mother agreed to go out with her. This late decision presumably irked Mr Venables because by then the weather had turned very cold and a carriage drive might have put Sophia's health at risk.

The Morrells were on friendly enough terms with the Venables in 1870 for the vicar to include Louisa among those to whom he wrote with news of the birth of his first child. (Vol1, p146). In village affairs Louisa also obviously felt enabled to give advice without being accused of interference. The published *Diary* records that in the case of a disputed Will, Mrs Morrell



Hopewell Baker Morrell.
Photo: KS archive

was expected to give evidence as to Mrs PREECE'S sanity and capacity to make a Will, after the testator had, at Mrs Morrell's suggestion, left a bequest to a distant cousin and servant, Anne BOWEN. She had been a resident with Mrs Preece for 18 years and apparently suffered in health as a result. Mrs Preece, a resident of Clyro, died on 21 May 1870 and was buried there on Wednesday 25 May. (Vol 1, p 145, 147, 148 & 153).

The 1871 Census lists eight of the twelve children who were born to Hopewell Baker and his wife Louisa Foote Morrell, in 1860 to 1880 Six female servants are shown, Clara L Sandall, the governess born in Hammersmith, Middlesex, a cook, housemaid, two nurses, one under-nurse and a footman. By the next Census in 1881, Miss Sandall had left and Mrs Morrell and Louie are away from home. Violet, five brothers and Mr Morrell are recorded being at Cae Mawr, with six servants.

Many of Louisa's interests would have involved the activities and education of her children. We know that her daughter Lulu (Louie) Morrell attended at Miss Emily Sheriff's house in Hay for daily lessons and on Thursday 17 September 1874 and on May Day 1876, Kilvert walked there with Lulu. After seeing that a visit to Emily's mother was not possible because of her illness, (she died later that year), he walked on to see Mrs Lewis and her baby. (She had been 'Gibbins,' a servant at Clyro vicarage who had had a problematic love affair: Vol 3 p83 & 280). Louisa would have overseen her daughters' activities with regard to achieving social skills such as music, singing and conversation as well as learning how to manage a household. She, like many ladies of that era, attended Church regularly, taking an active part in Church festival arrangements and helping with the floral decorations on many occasions.

Hiring servants to care for the Cae Mawr household would have been a necessary duty for Louisa. Census details for 1871 to 1891 indicate there were up to six servants living in the house in Clyro. The following four advertisements testify that extra or replacement help was at times required. It is noticeable that

each advertisement stipulates that the servant must be a good needlewoman. Other than making new garments for the large family of children, and 'personal' sewing for Mrs Morrell, there would have been a fair amount of repair work to bedding such as turning sheets 'side to middle.' It would be expected that needlework would be done when other duties had been completed; servants were not encouraged to 'sit about without an occupation.'

From: THE HOUR, Monday 21st September, 1874
 "WANTED: A strong, active GIRL of 17 or 18 years of age to be an Under Nurse. Must work well at her needle: Wages £8 per year to rise to £10 and everything found.
 Address: MRS MORRELL, Cae Mawr, CLYRO, Hay, Radnorshire."

From: HEREFORD TIMES, Saturday 21st September 1878
 "WANTED: GOOD NURSE for Children out of arms; must be thoroughly good needlewomen able to cut out and make children's things: Nursery Governess and Under Nurse kept: Preference given to a Widow without encumbrance – Apply to Mrs Morrell, Cae Mawr, Clyro, Hay, Herefordshire. R.S.O."

From: HEREFORD TIMES, Saturday 28th September 1878
 "A HOUSEMAID WANTED, for Gentlemen's Family, about the end of October: not under 25 years: must be a good needlewomen. Apply to Mrs Morrell, Cae Mawr, Clyro, Hay, Herefordshire. R.S.O."

From: STAMFORD MERCURY, Friday 25th April 1879
 "WANTED: A HOUSEMAID for a large family in the country. Must be a good needlewoman. Not under 25 years and with no less than 12 months' character from last situation. A Manservant kept." Apply to Mrs MORRELL, Cae Mawr, Hay, Herefordshire."



The Wyeside Archery Club. This can be dated by the clothes to the 1880s. The Morrells were members, but have not been identified in this photo. Daisy Thomas is in the 2nd row, light dress and hat; Mrs Crichton is front row, dark dress and hat with light feather, in front of Daisy; Mr Crichton is far left; Colonel Baskerville 2nd left and Mr Henry Dew behind Col Baskerville. Photo: KS Archive

Not surprisingly, a ready supply of fresh milk was considered necessary in the Morrell household for the number of young children in the nursery. By 1889 however, it appears that this no longer applied and an advertisement in the *Hereford Times* for Saturday 12th January that year offered for sale, “A remarkably choice ALDERNEY COW (in Calf). Owner, Hopewell B Morrell, Esq, Clyro.” It was to be sold at the next auction held by Mr E H Sunderland at his Repository in Owen Street, Hereford.

Despite her household and family duties Louisa Morrell still managed to have some interests outside Cae Mawr. As a member of the Wyeside Archery Bowmen during her years residing at Clyro, she regularly won prizes. On one occasion she won the ladies’ top prize for the season, which appears to have been a clock. This clock may have been the one she bequeathed in her Will as, “My prize Archery Clock in the drawing room, to my niece Edith HILDYARD.” Mr and Mrs Crichton of Wye Cliff also were very keen archers, winning awards each season. In September 1877 they, together with Louisa Morrell, carried off all the top prizes. The following year it was the turn of Hopewell Baker Morrell to win. By the late 1870’s younger people had joined, Hopie and Ellen Bevan winning prizes, their successes appearing in the newspapers. The lists of familiar names taking part resembling a roll-call of people mentioned in the *Diary*. The ‘match standard’ was always the same, ‘10 dozen arrows at a distance of 60 yards.’

Another success for Louisa Morrell occurred ten years later at “The Hay Great Show.” Held in September 1887, this event was one of several in Clyro and Hay celebrating the year of Queen Victoria’s ‘Golden Jubilee.’ A ‘Dog Show’ proved very popular and in the class for ‘Dachshunds,’ Louisa won the second prize of fifteen shillings. Mr T Thompson Evans of the Baskerville Arms, Clyro, entered a ‘Sheep Dog’ and was ‘highly commended,’ whilst Mrs Crichton of Wye Cliff achieved the same result when exhibiting her ‘Pug Dog.’

Kilvert evidently felt relaxed with and enjoyed the Morrell family’s company. His friendship with Louisa is evident from an early *Diary* entry on Saturday, 13 May 1871 when he *went to Cae Mawr and had a long chat and tea with Mrs Morrell* Vol 1, p332). The diarist appears comfortable with Louisa in much the same way as he was with Mrs Venables, Mrs Hockin or Mrs Crichton (Vol 2, p97).

During one return visit to Clyro in 1876, he stayed at Cae Mawr from Wednesday, April 26 to Wednesday 3 May (Vol3, pp 268-287). On that day his *Diary* reads: *Today I left kind hospitable Cae Mawr and my dear friends the Morrells after a very pleasant happy visit which had been greatly enhanced by the uniformly polite, courteous, considerate behaviour of all the children, the boys and girls of the family.*

The names of the older Morrell sons began to appear in the local press from 1876 onwards; up to four of them playing cricket for a Brecon team and also at Clyro. Details of one match played by the latter eleven in August 1877 were published in the *Hereford Times*.

“CLYRO v GLASBURY – A match took place at Wye Cliffe on Tuesday 21st August 1877 and resulted in a victory for the Clyro team.”

Four MORRELL sons, ‘Hopie’ (aka H J S Morrell), Arthur, Charles and Herbert played for Clyro together with three CRICHTON sons, Willie, Alan and Bertie. The other four members of the team were: M W STRANGWAYS: H S STRANGWAYS: O W TAYLOR and W DEW.

Mr Taylor and Arthur Morrell scored 23 and 12 respectively in Clyro’s single innings with the Morrells taking 10 and Taylor eight of the Glasbury wickets. Clyro won the game scoring 48 runs, but were helped by the very large number of 63 extras: Glasbury scored 34 and 13 in their two innings with just 3 extras.

The weather on the day was fine and sunny so no doubt there was an audience of parents and siblings at the match supporting the home side. Mrs Crichton’s hospitality would have ensured the serving of a lavish ‘Tea’ in a shady part of her garden at Wye Cliff for thirsty players and visitors.

The question of careers for Hopewell Baker’s nine sons must have been of a long running concern for him. Two sons at least took the problem into their own hands; Charles Sconce joined the Royal Navy in 1879 at the age of 16 whilst nine years later George Deacon, then aged 16, sent off the following advertisement to North of England newspapers.

From: MANCHESTER COURIER & LANCASHIRE
GENERAL ADVERTISER, Sat. 8th September 1888

“*Advertisement:* A Gentlemanly Youth of 16 years, just from School (the last 18 months spent in Germany) requires a Situation in an Office where knowledge of German would be used; good Arithmetic and fair Writer, small Salary for first six months –

Apply to: George Deacon MORRELL, CLYRO, Hay, Radnorshire, R.S.O.

Another Morrell son, Herbert Hugh, baptised at Clyro on 17 June 1866, is reported in the *Tenby Observer* for 29 November 1888 as appearing at the Princess Theatre in a comic play entitled



Mrs Louisa Foote Morrell

Photo: Courtesy Teresa Williams



Moulsford Manor. The Edwardian modernisation may have been begun by Hopewell James Morrell. Photo: Teresa Williams collection

'Hands across the Sea' written by Henry Petitt in 1887. In a brief report on the play, Herbert's acting in the comic parts was commended. No information has been found that he pursued acting as a career: he later emigrated to America where he died on 15 January 1908 just two months before the death of his father, Hopewell Baker.

The seaside fishing port of Tenby in Pembrokeshire was well known to the Morrell family. Research shows that they stayed there for holidays on several occasions. Their first visit staying in 'Bridge House,' lasted from 20 July to the end of August 1869. The party consisted of the family of five sons (Reginald Lister, the youngest son, had been baptised in March that year) and one daughter, Louie, aged seven. Mrs Morrell was at that time pregnant with Violet Winifred who would be born on 31 December 1869. The 'Visitors' Arrivals' in the weekly *Tenby Observer* newspaper showed the names of several residents from Hay and the Winthrop family from Hardenhuish Park.

The Morrells returned to Tenby for the month of August 1870 staying at 2 North Cliff House and, in 1874, they spent a third holiday there in June, July and August. In the summer of the previous year, 1873, the Morrells chose Aberystwyth for a four week holiday in July. Their arrival is in the 'List of Visitors' for July in the *Aberystwyth Observer* as "H B Morrell, Esq., Cae Mawr, Clyro, Radnorshire, with Mrs H B Morrell and family and servants, at No 55 Marine Terrace, (Mrs Pugh)." (Kilvert stayed at No 38 (Mrs Lloyd) with his parents, Dora and Thersie and her family in July 1877).

The *Tenby Observer* for Thursday 13 November 1879 records Hopewell Baker and Louisa at No 1, St Catherine's Terrace where they stayed until early December. The reason for a stay in that winter may have been due to Louisa needing a complete rest as she was expecting her twelfth child in the New Year. Tragically, the child, a daughter, Gwendolen, survived for just 12 hours on

the day of her birth, 18 February 1880. Five years later in July 1885 the *Tenby Observer* reported a visit of four weeks by "Mrs Morrell and family of Cae Mawr, Clyro, Radnorshire," staying at Myrtle Cottage, Penally, a village about one mile west of Tenby.

In January 1888, Hopie appears in the 'Arrivals' at Tenby, staying in the Cobourg Hotel. He attended a 'Grand Fancy and Evening Dress Ball' held at the Royal Assembly Rooms and opted, according to the newspaper, to wear 'Evening Dress.' It has not been possible to identify any friends or a partner for Hopie at the Ball as names of the several hundred ladies and gentlemen attending, are given in alphabetical order. One more seaside holiday has been found when his parents together with Louie are recorded in late May 1890 staying at the Grand Hotel, King's Road, Brighton.

In Victorian times, daughters often fared very badly in terms of receiving a useful education, the emphasis being on raising a marriageable 'young lady.' The alternative, unless the family had money, was dismal, with very few ways of earning a respectable living; life as a 'Companion' or 'Governess.' Even in moneyed households the unmarried daughter quite often lost her home after her parents' deaths with an elder brother taking over the house for his wife and children. She then became an 'Aunt' called upon to help out in siblings' households in times of crisis. The advantages, she as a spinster did enjoy, at that time, was the ability to own property in her sole name, handle her own money and also to be able to make a Will.

Louie Morrell, (*Lulu* in the published *Diary*) the second child and eldest daughter was still living at home in Clyro at the time of the 1891 Census and no doubt was expected to be of some help to her mother in managing the household. In 1889, she wrote the following letter to the 'Field' newspaper revealing that in addition to a musical talent she also had an interest in bee-keeping.

From: THE FIELD, Saturday 18th May 1889

“NOTES & QUERIES of NATURAL HISTORY:
A STARLING’S NEST in a BEEHIVE –

On going to put a super on one of my hives – an ordinary straw one with a wooden roof – I was astonished to find, on opening the door at the back, between the hive and the door hinge, a starling’s nest with three eggs in it. I was puzzled at first to imagine how the bird could have got in, but on examining the hive, I discovered a hole just big enough to admit the bird in front of the little wooden roof.

I should be glad to know if there have been other instances known by any of your correspondents of starlings choosing so strange a nesting place.

From: L. MORRELL, (Cae Mawr, CLYRO, Hay).”

Louie was musical; her name reported in the *Brecon County Times* during the last two decades of the 19th century playing pianoforte solos as the opening performer at local fund raising concerts. Together with her brother Hopie, and her father, Hopewell Baker, she also participated in the arrangement of two cantatas staged at Clyro School in 1887 and 1888 and acted as an accompanist. The singers from Clyro and Glasbury met regularly under the name of the ‘Tonic Solfa Class’ and were trained by Llew Buallt. In 1887 they performed ‘*The Hay Maker*’ and the next year, ‘*Words of Joseph.*’ Hopewell Baker was President of the proceedings. Following the latter Cantata “which lasted for two hours, the singers presented a ‘Concert of Songs.’” During this recital, Louie and her sister Violet were accompanists as well as playing two duets together. Hopie is reported as singing a comic song, which was encored, “he then chose to sing a song incorporating ‘Local Bits’ which greatly amused the audience.” On every occasion their mother Louisa was among the large audience which included many of the local gentry.

The last Census listing the Morrell family at Clyro was taken in 1891. Hopewell Baker is 55 years old, Louisa 52, their two daughters, Louie 29 and Violet 21. Only their two youngest sons, Noel Hay and Wallie, aged 16 and 15 respectively, remain at home. The number of servants employed had decreased to four.

Neither of Hopewell Baker’s two surviving daughters married. The younger daughter Violet died at the early age of 26 years, her death being registered as taking place in the Paddington district in London in early 1896. No information as to the cause of her death or why she was in London at that time has been found. In the late 1880’s her name is reported at local events and she is listed in the 1891 Clyro Census, but I can find no other mention of her until the registration of her death.

It is not known when Louie, the elder daughter, left home, but there is no trace of her moving to Berkshire with her parents in 1892 when they left Clyro. Her Will, dated 23 March 1933, the year in which she died at Elgin Crescent, London W.11, records a bequest of £25 to the Roman Catholic Church of St Edmund at Great Malvern, “to be applied for Masses for the repose of my soul.” She wished to be buried there in the grave of a friend and bequeathed part of her estate to five children of the friend’s family. Louie owned a freehold property in Boscombe at which she had resided and this was bequeathed to *The Incorporated Society of the Crusade of Rescue and Homes for Destitute Catholic Children*. Other legatees were Hilliard cousins, friends in Boscombe and two God-children from the congregation of St Edmunds. She did not mention any of her brothers.

Individual members of the Morrell family are mentioned many times in the newspapers during the years 1865 to 1892, when the Morrell parents with varying numbers of children, attended, or took part in, local horticultural shows, the Clyro ‘Golden Jubilee’ festival, fetes and bazaars, concerts, a militia ball, a fancy dress ball, a coming of age celebration, two marriage ceremonies and numerous Church events. Some examples of newspaper reports are on pages 18-19.



Memorial to Hopewell James Morrell (Hopie), Moulstord church.

Photo: T Payne/KS Archive

Local Events: what the papers said

The following extracts from newspapers report a few of the events mentioned by Teresa Williams in her article on the Morrell family. Many other *Diary* characters make an appearance. [All spelling and punctuation are original].

From: THE BRECON COUNTY TIMES, Saturday 17 April 1880
“MARRIAGE AT CLYRO OF THE VICAR’S DAUGHTER:

On Tuesday last the 13th the pretty and picturesque village of Clyro on the Wye-side shewed more than ordinary indications that something unusual was going on and the erection of a tasteful arch over the churchyard entrance at once put the matter out of doubt. A marriage was to take place at Clyro Church. The contracting parties were Miss Millicent Clara Williams the elder daughter of the Reverend John Daniel Williams M.A., Vicar of Clyro and late Headmaster of Christ College, Brecknock, and the Reverend William Manners Wood, Curate of Chartham near Canterbury, Kent. The wedding was to take place at 11 o’clock and by that time the church was crowded with a fashionable and interested auditory. The path from the vicarage to the church was literally covered with primroses by the schoolchildren and on either side of the path were bouquets of primroses. The bridegroom was the first of the wedding party to arrive supported by his best man, Mr Frederick Manners Wood and also by Mr Connop Williams (brother of the bride).

Shortly afterwards the bride’s mother entered the church attired in an elegant costume of heliotrope silk, trimmed with broche and satin and Honiton lace; white chip bonnet trimmed with deep heliotrope velvet and white feathers. Mrs Williams was accompanied by Mrs Manners Wood who wore a dress of deep sapphire cachmere and satin with a bonnet of ecme satin and feathers and blue corn-flowers. Among the many elegant toilettes, a magnificent cafe-du-lait silk dress trimmed with broche, worn by Mrs Baskerville of Clyro Court, attracted considerable notice. Five bridesmaids attended the bride, wearing short pink cachmere dresses trimmed with coffee coloured lace, white hats of coarse straw and carrying bunches of pale pink roses. The bride who entered on the arm of her father wore a dress of rich white silk trimmed with white satin and wreaths of orange blossom with a white tulle veil down to the ground and carrying a bouquet of exquisite white flowers. The service was performed by the Reverend R D Williams, Rector of Bowers Gifford, Essex, (Uncle of the Bride) assisted by the Reverend Canon Bevan, vicar of Hay.

The wedding breakfast was a most elaborate affair and amongst those who we noticed sat down were Mr and Mrs Morrell (Caemawr), Mr and Mrs Crichton (Wyecliff), Mr and Mrs Baskerville (Clyro Court), Miss Bevan and Miss F Bevan (Hay Castle). After the breakfast the happy couple drove to Hay Station en route for London.”

From: BRECKNOCK BEACON, Friday 6th June 1884

“THE SOUTH WALES BORDERERS – PRESENTATION OF COLOURS by LADY ORMATHWAITE

An impressive ceremony took place in brilliant sunshine on Tuesday morning last at the Brecon camp-ground. Colours were to be presented to the 3rd battalion of the South Wales Borderers formerly known as the Radnor and Brecknock Militia which were amalgamated on the 23rd August 1876 and became infantry on the 1st of July 1881. The battalion consisting of eight companies was drawn up in line, and the proceedings

commenced with the reception of Lord ORMATHWAITE, (lord lieutenant of Radnorshire) who is honorary colonel of the battalion by a general salute.”

NOTE: [The newspaper listed all those who had accepted the invitation of the Officers of the battalion to Luncheon. Amongst the list were: The de WINTON family, Reverend T WILLIAMS (Llowes), Mr and Mrs HAIGH ALLEN (Clifford Priory), Mrs BOLD (Boughrood Castle), the Reverend Henry DEW (Whitney), Mr H B MORRELL (Clyro), the Reverend Lister and Mrs VENABLES (Llysdinam), the Reverend, Mrs and the Misses JONES THOMAS (Llanthomas), Canon and Mrs BEVAN (Hay) and Mrs BATTISCOMBE (Glasbury).]

From: THE BRECON COUNTY TIMES, Friday 1st July 1887

“CLYRO: CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN’S JUBILEE –
The pretty little village of Clyro in picturesque surroundings was en fete on Friday, the day selected for celebrating the Queen’s [Golden] Jubilee. Arches had been erected and there was a profusion of flags of various kinds. The Union Jack floated from the Church tower, and surrounding the entrance gate to the churchyard was an arch bearing the following: ‘1837–JUBILATE – 1887’ painted in large silver letter on a crimson ground. From the top of the Baskerville Arms, another Union Jack flag floated in the breeze and in near proximity to the entrance to the Hotel was a very nice arch (which had been erected by Mr T Thompson Evans).

Over the entrance to the village were the words ‘GOD SAVE THE QUEEN’ printed in gold letters on a blue ground, and along the wall of the Vicarage was a fine variety of flags. The decorations over the entrance gate to Mr Morrell’s carriage drive were most appropriate. A portrait of Her Majesty formed the centre piece. On either side of the portrait was the motto – ‘God Save the Queen’ (in Welsh and in English) and the decorations comprised several Jubilee flags. Strings of flags spanned the road near the School, and also a handsome arch which had been erected by Mr Morrell.

A very pretty flag was hung out of an upstairs window of the house occupied by Mr Jones, grocer. The flag bore a portrait of the Queen surmounting the motto, ‘God Save the Queen’ in white letters on a crimson ground with a blue border. The lower part of the village and the Church were decorated by Mr T Thompson Evans, the arch over the Church entrance gate being under the superintendence of the Vicar (the Reverend T Macfarlane).

At 10.30am the parishioners and school children formed into processional order, carrying flags and banners, and headed by the Band of ‘A’ Company Breconshire Volunteers (under the conductorship of Mr E Griffiths) marched to Church, where an excellent address was delivered by the Vicar (the Reverend T Macfarlane), who, in the course of his remarks, referred to the great progress made during the 50 years of Her Majesty’s reign, in science, in education, in the amelioration of the Criminal Law, the improvement of prisons, etc. The address was of about 20 minutes’ duration. The Reverend T Williams also took part in the service. The *Te Deum* was Tours in ‘C’. Mr Barnfield who accompanied

the musical portion of the service on the harmonium, played two voluntaries, one being 'Gloria' from Mozart's first Mass. The hymns were from the collection dedicate to the Queen (for use in her Jubilee Year).

After the service the procession proceeded to Mr Bishop's farm (Clyro Court) where a splendid spread for between 400 and 500 was provided in the barns, etc., all of which had been neatly decorated with flags, banners and portraits of Her Majesty and so on.

The tables were all very nicely laid out and choice flowers and exotics were placed at intervals along them; in each flower pot was a small flag bearing the letters 'V.R.' The buildings had been decorated by Mrs H B Morrell; the flowers and exotics being lent by Mr Baskerville, Mrs Morrell, Mrs Crichton and Miss Macfarlane.

The ladies who had charge of the tables were Mrs Morrell, Mrs Macfarlane, Mrs Crichton, Miss Havard and Miss Evans. Valuable assistance was rendered at the tables by a number of other ladies and gentlemen. The Band played during the luncheon. The whole of the arrangements were made by Mr T Thompson Evans; in fact he had the supervision of the whole occasion. Colonel Baskerville, Mr H B Morrell, Mr Dyke and Mr Morris worked very hard in getting funds for the event. Mr Baskerville kindly lent seats and also got his men to put up tables, etc. In addition to these arrangements, Mrs Morrell, at her own expense, fed 200 children at Caemawr, and the youngsters thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Subsequently Mrs Crichton kindly presented the children with a Jubilee medal each. The following was the general committee: Reverend T Macfarlane (Chairman), Mr H B Crichton (Churchwarden), Mr F W Dyke (Churchwarden), Colonel Baskerville, H B Morrell Esq, Mr Egglestone, Mr Hamar, Mr Edward Morris, Mr T Thompson Evans (hon.sec.).

The ladies' committee were: Mrs Morrell, Mrs Baskerville, Mrs Crichton, Mrs Macfarlane, Miss Harvard and Miss Evans.

THE JUBILEE ATHLETIC SPORTS:

In the afternoon Jubilee athletic sports took place on the Moors (kindly lent by Mr Bishop), when prizes to the amount of £10 were competed for. The locale was a very delightful one, and the field arrangements were excellent. The following comprises the Stewards' Committee: Mr H S J Morrell (Chairman), Mr Reginald L Morrell, A and C Macfarlane (2), Arthur and Willie Crichton, the Messrs Bishop (2), Pritchard, Vaughan, Parton and T Thompson Evans (hon.sec.). The chairman and treasurer, Mr H J S Morrell deserves the highest praise for the excellent arrangements of the course etc. The gentlemen who officiated as judges on the ground were – Judges: Colonel Baskerville and Mr Aline Bushell (Hay): Starter, Reverend W Trumper: Handicapper, Mr Morrell: and Clerk of the Course, Mr Barnfield.

Amongst the visitors present on the ground we noticed: the Hon. Mrs Geoffrey Hill (Maesluch Castle), Mr Penry Lloyd (Glanhenwye), Mr and H B Crichton, Mrs H B Morrell, the Reverend Mr Seacombe, Mr and Mrs R T Griffiths, (Hay), Dr and Mrs Shepherd (Hay), Mr, Mrs and Miss Bishop, Mr Hamar (Boatside), Mr W M Williams and Miss Williams (Llowes), Mr Powell (Brilley Court), Mr Evans (Bridge St., Hay), Mr Prosser (Trewithel) etc.

Some wagons were drawn up close to the track answering the purpose of grandstands. The appearance of the ground was greatly enhanced by the variety of flags placed about it. All kinds of refreshments were supplied in a large marquee by Mr Evans of the Baskerville Arms Hotel. The sports began at 4pm and were witnessed by a very large number of spectators. The proceedings were enlivened by the spirited playing of the Band.

After the sports, dancing was kept up for some time, and the whole of the proceedings were of a most orderly and enjoyable nature. The prizes were distributed by the Hon. Mrs Geoffrey Hill and at the end of the distribution three hearty cheers were given for Her Majesty the Queen and also for the Hon. Mrs Hill.

Colonel Baskerville, Mr Morrell, senr, Messrs Morrell, junr, Reverend T Macfarlane, Messrs Dyke, Morris and T Thompson Evans (hon. sec.) are to be congratulated upon the success which attended their efforts in so thoroughly celebrating the Queen's Jubilee at Clyro."

From: BRECON COUNTY TIMES, Friday 10th January 1890

"GLASBURY:

The second in the series of popular entertainments in connection with the Reading Rooms was held on Saturday evening last when the Vice-President of the Institute, Penry Lloyd, Esq., Glanhenwye, presided. Among the company present we noticed Mr, Mrs and Master BATTISCOMBE, Mr and Mrs EVANS, Glasbury House, Mrs and Miss Lloyd, Glanhenwye, Mrs H B MORRELL, Clyro, Mrs NOTT, The Grange and Mrs CLAY, Glasbury.

The entertainment opened with a pianoforte solo by Miss MORRELL, Mr HALSTEAD sang 'Maggie' and was loudly applauded, Mr MACFARLANE scored highly by his rendering of 'My First Cigar.' A prize was offered for the best impromptu speech on 'Steam.' There were only two in the audience who ventured to display their readiness of thought and speech – Mr G C BUTCHER and Mr Fred M BROOKS the latter gentleman taking the prize. Mr Butcher spoke humorously while Mr Brooks was decidedly practical.

The next entertainment will be held in three weeks hence, when there will be a display of whistling talent, a prize being offered to tempt the artistes forward."

From: BRECON COUNTY TIMES, Friday 6th June 1890

"FATHER IGNATIUS at the DRILL HALL, HAY:

The Hall was crowded long before his arrival – the notice of his intention to preach drawing very large crowds in the street outside hoping to hear through the open windows and the staircase to the Hall was also crowded with people standing. At twenty to eight he arrived with Brother David. He had driven from Llanthony in an open carriage and as he passed along the country lanes wearing the habit of his Order and bare-headed, passers-by were moved with feelings of reverence and respect. Amongst the very large audience that had assembled were the Reverend W E T MORGAN (Llanigon), Mr Hopewell B MORRELL, (Clyro), Mr and Mrs STOKOE, Mrs GILES, Mr T B COOP (Bank), the Reverend – DAVIES, (curate of Hay) etc, etc.

The service commenced with the singing of the 176th hymn, the Rev. Father himself leading the singing. Afterwards Father Ignatius offered up prayer, his deep emotional voice making a great effect upon the people assembled. The Lord's Prayer was then recited after which Father Ignatius preached, his forceful power of pleading moving some of his hearers to tears. He took for his text the 16th chapter of John and the 3rd verse, 'God so loved the World that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

Our representative afterwards in conversation with Brother David, learned that Father Ignatius is shortly to leave England for New York, where he will commence a mission tour around cities and towns in North America. He anticipates being away for at least 12 months. The names of those who will accompany him on his journey westward, are – Brother John, Brother Henry, Brother David and Sister Annie."

Who's Who in Kilvert's *Diary*: the Morrells

Recent research by Teresa Williams adds to and corrects the Morrell family entry in *Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary*. Some of the information comes from a letter Mrs Morrell wrote to her son Charles in Australia in response to a letter from him after a gap in communication of up to ten years. Some details Teresa reports as unconfirmed – “research continues”, she says.

The exact date when Hopewell and Louisa Morrell took up residence in Clyro is not yet confirmed but it was by the end of 1865 since Hopewell dined at the vicarage on 1 January 1866 (p49, *Oswin Prosser Memorial Booklet*).

Of the eleven children who grew to adulthood, four predeceased their parents, two in the same year. Seven sons emigrated, to America or Australia.

HOPEWELL BAKER MORRELL died at *The Retreat*, Reading on 31 March 1908, aged 72. He and Louisa had moved from Clyro in 1892/3. There is a hint of some trouble in Louisa's letter to Charles: ‘...for 16 years since leaving Clyro he has been my constant and care and for the last 10 years he wd not let me out of his sight, all his irritability gone & in its place grateful love and kindness.’

LOUISA (or Louise) FOOTE MORRELL underwent an operation for breast cancer in 1906. She made a good recovery and spent her widowhood at *The Retreat*, dying on 5 June 1920 aged c 80/1 years. She and Hopewell are buried in Reading Cemetery.

HOPEWELL JAMES SHULDHAM was born 22 December 1860 in London and baptised in St John's Paddington on 1 January 1861. As Lord of the Manor of Moulsoford, Berkshire, and patron of the living “he was owner of the whole Parish” according to his death notice in the *Newbury Weekly News and General Advertiser*. He died of cancer on 21 March 1906, aged 45, and was buried at Moulsoford. He was married with stepchildren.

LOUISE FLORENCE (Lulu or Louie) was born at *Forthampton House*, Gloucestershire on 25 March 1862 and baptised there on 14 June. She died in London on 23 June 1933, aged 71, having previously lived in Bournemouth.

ARTHUR FREDERICK WAY was born at *Forthampton House* on 27 June 1863. He is thought to have married Josephine M F Farrell (1866-1939). He died aged approx 86/87.

CHARLES SCONCE stated he was born in Hay in 1864, but census returns give Belgium in 1865. *Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary* gives Belgium on 14 May 1864. He left home at the age of 16 to enter the Merchant Navy. His name appears in the *United Kingdom Apprentices Indentured in the Merchant Navy, 1824-1910*, gaining a Second Mate Competency Certificate on 12 April 1889 at the Port of London. He later emigrated to Australia, where, in 1900, he married Blanche Upton in the State

of New South Wales. They had five children, including a son named Charles Hopewell. He died in Leeton, NSW, in 1948, aged c84 years, and was buried in the Leeton Cemetery.

HERBERT HUGH was born at Cae Mawr on 7 May 1866 and baptised on 17 June by the Revd R L Venables. He died in America in January 1908, aged 41.

VIOLET WINIFRED was born at Cae Mawr on 31 December 1869 and baptised by Kilvert on 7 March 1870. She died in Paddington, London on 17 February 1896, aged 26.

REGINALD LISTER was born at Cae Mawr on 22 December and baptised on 3 March 1869, the baptism conducted by Kilvert. His mother's 1908 letter says of him ‘I am sorry to say that Reggie is doing very badly does not seem to be able to get into a berth he can keep & has as the Americans call “A Champagne taste and a Beer income”. Ada is a thoroughly good loving little wife and I am very fond of her.’ This was Ada Florence Brown, whom he reportedly married in Australia. He died on or about 13 April 1927, aged 59.

LEONARD CYRIL was born at Cae Mawr on 26 December 1870 and baptised on 1 March 1871 by Mr Venables. He married Mary Florence Armitage in 1893 and they had eight children. One of the sons who emigrated, he died in the State of Victoria, Australia on 28 February 1939, aged 69.

GEORGE DEACON was born at Cae Mawr on 7 May 1872 and baptised on 7 July by Kilvert. *the Christening of Morrell's seventh son in the afternoon.* (Vol 2, p233). He emigrated to America and died there c 20 September 1938, aged 56.

NOEL HAY was born at Cae Mawr on 16 December 1874 and baptised on 18 April 1875 by the Revd J F W Trumper. He died in an accident whilst shooting at Llanbedr on 15 September 1906, aged 31. He was buried at Moulsoford. Correcting the *Who's Who* entry, he was married and his widow attended his funeral. The *Berks and Oxon Advertiser* reported on Friday 22 March 1907: “The estate of Mr NOEL HAY MORRELL of ‘The Sporting Nook’, Moulsoford Berkshire, who died through a gun accident on 15 September 1906 at Llanbedr near Barmouth, has been entered at £80. The Widow having renounced, Administration has been granted to HOPEWELL BAKER MORRELL, of ‘The Retreat’, Reading, father of the deceased.”

WALTER (Wallie) was born at Cae Mawr on 26 August 1876 and was baptised on 10 December 1876 by the Revd W E Prickard. He died in Chicago, Illinois, USA, on 27 September 1945, aged 69.

GWENDOLEN was born, privately baptised and died at Cae Mawr on 18 February 1880, aged 12 hours. Her funeral took place at Clyro on 20 February, conducted by the Revd J D Williams.



Violet Morrell.

Photo: Courtesy Teresa Williams

Francis Kilvert on the Isle of Wight – Part 2

By Jeremy Archer

Part 1 of this article was published in *Journal 55*. We take up the story on Wednesday 17 June 1874, when Kilvert went to Yaverland, the house of his dreams.

To-day was fulfilled the dream of a quarter of a century. To-day I went to Yaverland. Yaverland to my imagination has always been a romance and a paradise since a quarter of a century ago I read a beautiful and touching story of the old manor house.

The Reverend Legh Richmond, curate-in-charge of St. John the Baptist, Yaverland jointly with St. Mary's, Brading 1797-1805, wrote *The Annals of the Poor*, a collection of stories based on his experiences on the Isle of Wight, published by the Religious Tract Society in 1814. The earliest story, originally printed in the *Christian Guardian* in 1809, was *The Dairyman's Daughter*, based on the short life, Christian beliefs and tragic sufferings of Elizabeth Wallbridge, daughter of Jacob, the eponymous dairyman. Translated into no fewer than nineteen languages, more than four million copies of the story had been sold by 1849. Elizabeth's grave in the churchyard at Arreton became a place of pilgrimage. It was visited by HM Queen Victoria, who spent most of her life, after the death of Prince Albert on 14 December 1861, at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.



The grave of 'the Dairyman's daughter', St George's Arreton.
Photo: Jeremy Archer

And this, my soul is Yaverland. Yaverland at last. The dream has come true. An old gray house with a steep roof of ochre tiles mossed red and yellow, low broad windows with heavy mullions and transoms painted white, tall red rounded chimney stacks and four gables in the long front, the two end gables projecting beyond the two others in the centre. Such is the old house of Yaverland as it appears from without.

The porch was a superb Norman or Saxon arch, massive, simple, but richly carved, and the chancel arch was its twin sister, equally grand. All else in the church was wretched and squalid, the walls covered with whitewash and green mould, an enormously high wooden box pulpit in the N.E. corner of the nave, and a square hole broken through the wall hard by that the people might hear the sermon. The pews were high straight-backed boxes, a hideous wooden gallery disfigured the west end of the church, and the Communion Table was bare and unsightly.

I asked the girl if the manor house was shown to visitors. 'No,' she said. No one was admitted, for such numbers of strangers came to see Yaverland during the summer, that if they once began to let them in the family would have no peace. I begged her to go and ask if a single visitor, a clergyman, might be allowed to see the hall and staircase.

The *Diary* records that permission was granted for a brief entry to the house.

Evensong and a sermon from the Vicar, Mr Burland. At the Wednesday evening services at St Saviour's, there is a charming choir of ladies.

The Reverend Charles Isherwood Burland MA, the first Vicar of St. Saviour-on-the-Cliff, was born on 24 December 1830, educated at Lincoln College, Oxford and died on 16 February 1898.

Friday 19 June 1874

By ten o'clock train from Shanklin to Ventnor, where I joined my Mother and Dora in an expedition by coach to Freshwater Bay. After we had taken luncheon and looked across the bright blue waters of the bay at Freshwater Cliffs and caves and the Arched Rock, we drove in a break to Alum Bay, glimpsing by the way Hurst Castle and the lighthouses and the roof of Farringford, the house of Tennyson the Poet Laureate. This house was built by Mr. Pearson, Mrs. Cowper Coles' father.

In fact, *Farringford* was not built by Henry Shepherd Pearson, although he did indeed own the property for a very brief period. He purchased the estate from Robert Gibbs of Thorley Farm in 1821, before selling it to John Hambrough of Pipewell Hall, Northamptonshire just two years later. In later life, Henry Pearson lived in Boulogne-sur-Mer, typically the abode of 'remittance



St George's Arreton.

Photo: Jeremy Archer

men' who could no longer afford to live in England but lived instead on funds remitted to them by their family. This supposition is supported by the first codicil to his will, written in France and dated 14 January 1840: he wished to be buried where he died in the plainest manner possible. Alfred, Lord Tennyson purchased *Farringford* in 1853 and died there in 1892. The property remained in the Tennyson family until 1945. Having been an hotel for many years, *Farringford* has recently returned to private ownership and has been extensively restored.

Saturday 20 June 1874

This morning I left with a sorrowful heart hospitable Newstead and all its dear faces and the beautiful Island, the Garden of England. As the Island receded more and more dim across the sea, I became more and more sad. Ten days ago all fresh, strange and unknown. But now, the lessening shores seemed like the face of a dear friend.

The following year, Kilvert was once again invited to join a house party at *Newstead*:

Monday 5 July 1875

Left Chippenham by 10.20 train for the Isle of Wight. It was very pleasant seeing all the dear Newstead faces again, Mrs. Cowper Coles, Gussie, Alice, my own darling Minna, Sherard and Commerell. Minna was just as nice and loving as ever. I went down on to the beach with her and Alice and Miss Deason before dinner and helped her to dig and build a sand castle.

Baptised at St. Thomas's, Portsmouth on 2 March 1859, the eldest daughter, Fanny Augusta (Gussie) Cowper-Coles, married, on 31 October 1877 at St. Augustine's, Queen's Gate, London, Lieutenant (later Vice-Admiral) Sir Baldwin Wake-Walker CMG, CVO, 2nd Baronet of Oakley House, Suffolk. The ceremony was conducted by the Reverend Richard Lister Venables. He died on 28 June 1905 and she died on 13 August 1951 having had one daughter. Alice Mary Cowper-Coles was born on 21 April 1861, became a dance teacher, lived at 31 King's Road, Chelsea and died unmarried at 52 Draycott Place, Chelsea on 5 September 1910. On 30 October 1892 at Newbridge-on-Wye, Radnorshire, Minna Spenser Cowper-Coles, who was born at Southsea in 1863, married Captain Walter Vernon Anson RN, baptised on 4 November 1855 at Sudbury, Derbyshire, third son of Canon Frederick Anson, Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford Rector of Sudbury and Canon of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and his wife The Hon. Caroline Maria, daughter of George John Warren, 5th Baron Vernon of Sudbury Hall. They lived after his retirement at Clayton Windmills in Hassocks on the South Downs above Brighton. He died on 8 June 1921 and she died on 21 December 1948; there were no children.

The fourth son, Sherard Osborn Cowper-Coles, who was born in 1866 and partly brought up at Arundel Castle, married, on 2 August 1919 at St. James's, Piccadilly, Constance Hamilton, daughter of Henry Hamilton Watts. Described by his grandson, Sir Sherard Louis Cowper-Coles KCMG LVO, British Ambassador to Afghanistan 2007-09, as a 'gentleman inventor', he patented 'sherardizing', a method of electro-deposition of



Yaverland Manor from an old engraving.

Photo: Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Record Office



Yaverland Manor today.

Photo: Jeremy Archer

zinc, thus improving rust-proofing, in 1901 and also metallic reflectors, for which he sought a US patent in 1909. He died at Rossall House, Sunbury-on-Thames on 9 September 1936, aged 69, leaving just £103 12s to his widow, who died on 28 February 1965, leaving three sons. The youngest son, Commerell Markham Cooper-Coles, who was just one year and ten days old when his father drowned, was born on 17 September 1869 in Streatham and baptised at Old St. Boniface, Bonchurch on 1 November 1869. He was living with his elder brother, Thomas, at 46 Morpeth Mansions, Victoria Street, London in 1901 and died at Kisumu, Nyansa, Kenya in 1906.

Eliza Deason, elder daughter of William Deason, a timber merchant, of Cross Row, Mile End, Stepney, was born in Poplar, trained as a teacher and was governess to the Cowper-Coles children. She never married and lived later with her younger sister, Emma, at 7 Eastwood Road, Goodmayes, Ilford, where she died on 18 May 1916, at the age of eighty-five.

A Mr. St. Ledger was calling at Newstead when I arrived and Mrs. Powles is staying in the house, a very charming person, the widow of the Chaplain of the ill-fated Captain. She has been a widow five years and is only 25 now. She had been married two years when she lost her husband.



St John the Baptist, Yaverland, from an old engraving.

Photo: Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Record Office

Tuesday 6 July 1875

In the afternoon Mrs. Cowper Coles, Mrs. Powles, Minna, Sherard and I went to Sandown in Roberts' waggonette with his well-bred pair, a chestnut and a black. Roberts drove us himself. The two elder ladies got down at Mrs. Boxer's, all three being widows of the Captain.

Wednesday 7 July 1875

To Matins as usual at St. Saviour's on the Cliff. After dinner we went to Church and heard a roaring sermon about Abraham from a strange American clergyman. There was a new and pretty hymn tune composed by Miss Anson.

Monday 12 July 1875

This morning I walked to Luccombe, sweet Luccombe, and descended the steep flight of steps to the beach where the little cascade fell murmuring and plashing down the rocks and dripped upon the shore. I went up from the shore and shingle and the fishermen's cottages by a winding path that took me up into the Landslip and to the Bonchurch gate. I sat awhile on the grassy slope that crowns the cliff looking out on to the glorious blue sea and watching the naked bathers whose voices came up clear from the little beach and the blue water below.

Tuesday 13 July 1875

This morning after breakfast I started to walk to Bembridge through Sandown and Yaverland. Yaverland, my own beautiful Yaverland.



The interior of Yaverland Church as Kilvert will have seen it.

Photo: Courtesy of Isle of Wight County Record Office

I missed the road by the windmill on the height and went too far round to the right, but at last returning by the Cross Roads I came to Bembridge, beautiful Bembridge, surely one of the loveliest spots in the whole lovely Island. Bosomed amongst green, pretty cottages peeped through the thick foliage and here and there a garden shone brilliant with flowers. A long beautiful road, dark, green and cool and completely overarched with trees, led towards the sea and in a high meadow the haymakers in their white shirt sleeves, the dark horses and the high loaded waggon out clear against the brilliant blue waters of the Channel... Spithead was full of great ships black and monstrous. The Channel Fleet had come in the day before and was lying off the opposite shore.

In the afternoon...Alice and I went down from Mrs. Harvey's to the beach and embarked in canoes with Mrs. Powles who was timid and afraid that Alice would upset her. We had a merry voyage and the tide was running out strong towards Dunnose Head. Coming back inshore Dora and Teddy hailed me from the beach and running the canoe ashore I landed and Dora embarked for the rest of the paddle. Then I went up again to Mrs. Harvey's and drew Mrs. Cowper Coles home, dressed and went to Mrs. Anson's to dinner. I met her three daughters, Miss Margaret Anson, a daughter of the late Sir John Anson, who was killed in the railway accident at Wigan, Mr. Burland, the Vicar of St. Saviour's on the Cliff, and Mr. Reece, a visiting Choir trainer who began the evening in lavender kid gloves. We had a pleasant merry dinner and a musical evening. I took in Miss Anson who sat at the foot of the table and I sat between her and her sister Lucy whom I like very much.

On 2 August 1873, Sir John Anson, 2nd Baronet of Birch Hall in the County Palatine of Lancaster, was killed, along with a dozen others, when the reserved carriage in which he and his valet were travelling from London Euston to Scotland ran up the ramp at the end of the platform at Wigan Station. In June 1875, the Anson family successfully sued the London and North-Eastern Railway for compensation.

The next day, the weather broke.

Wednesday 14 July 1875

Rain all day with a heavy gale of wind at night.

Saturday 17 July 1875

Farewell to Newstead and Shanklin and all the bright dear loving faces. I left them after breakfast and went to the Station for the 9.48 train. At the Station I found Dora come up in the rain to say 'Good-bye' and more than half inclined to come home with me. But Shanklin seems to be doing her good. The weather was miserable. It rained all the way across in the boat to Stokes Bay, and the beautiful Island was wrapped in a cloud of mist of tears. I felt very melancholy and had a sad journey. Sweet Island fare thee well.

This was almost certainly Francis Kilvert's final visit to the Isle of Wight. Mrs. Emily Cowper Coles, who had previously lived at *Mountfield*, 3 Miles Road, Clifton, died at *Newstead*, Queen's Road, Shanklin on 11 January 1876. In her will, which was proved little more than three weeks later by her executors – her brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Lyons Otway Pearson CB ADC JP, Grenadier Guards, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police 1881-90; and her brother-in-law, Charles Evan Thomas (Evan-Thomas from 1880), barrister-at-law, High



St Saviour-on-the-Cliff, Shanklin.

Photo: Jeremy Archer



The interior of St Saviour-on-the-Cliff.

Photo: Jeremy Archer



View of Sandown and Culver Cliff from Shanklin.

Photo: Jeremy Archer

Sheriff of Brecon 1888-89, of 98 Queen's Gate, Hyde Park – she left less than £800, which seems an extremely modest amount, bearing in mind that she appears to have been entertaining on an immodest scale. At the time of the 1871 Census, just fifteen months after her husband's untimely death, Emily is described as living on 'Income from Railway Shares'. Sadly, there is no mention either of her death or of her funeral in a surviving *Diary* entry. Sam and Minna both remained at *Newstead* after their mother's death, where they were looked after by their governess, Miss Deason. The 1881 Census records that a cook, a house and parlour maid and two ladies' maids were also in attendance.

Much has changed on the Isle of Wight since that final visit. The pulpit from which Francis Kilvert preached at St. Saviour-on-the-Cliff is now in St. John's, Bournemouth. The 'smooth blue harbour of Brading' no longer exists: after several attempts at reclamation, the embankment was finally built and Brading harbour drained in 1880. St. John the Baptist, Yaverland was remodelled in 1888-89 under the direction of Ewan Christian: some £2,200 of the total cost of £2,453 was paid by the Rector, the Reverend Nelson Palmer, and the church was reconsecrated on 9 July 1889. By the 1970s, *Newstead* had become *The Fairhaven*



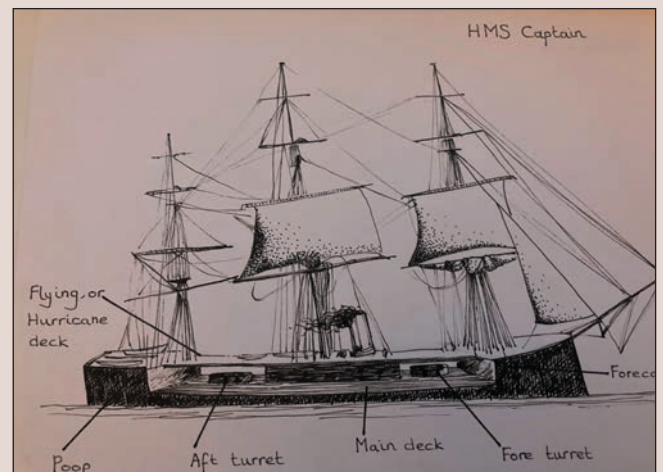
Modern flats on the site of Newstead.

Photo: Jeremy Archer

Hotel; two decades later, it was derelict and the building was demolished in 2007. Sadly, the site is now occupied by as many houses as the developer was able to squeeze in. Nevertheless, as the photographs amply demonstrate, there is still much for a Kilvert enthusiast to enjoy on the Isle of Wight.

Hunting for the 'Captain'

The *Sunday Telegraph* reported on 22 December 2022 that funding is being sought for an expedition to a wreck off the Spanish coast, that is thought to be the ill-fated 'Captain' (Vol 1, p226 and see Jeremy Archer's article in *Journal* 55). The *Telegraph* has also printed a letter on the same subject. The designer of the ship, Cowper Phipps Coles was the brother-in-law of Mrs Venables, wife of the vicar of Clyro. KS member Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles is a descendant of Captain Coles: he said that the memory of the ship was suppressed and the Navy has never called another ship 'Captain'. The project to identify the wreck is being led by Dr Howard Fuller of the war studies department at the University of Wolverhampton.



A sketch of The 'Captain' drawn by Sue Lacy.

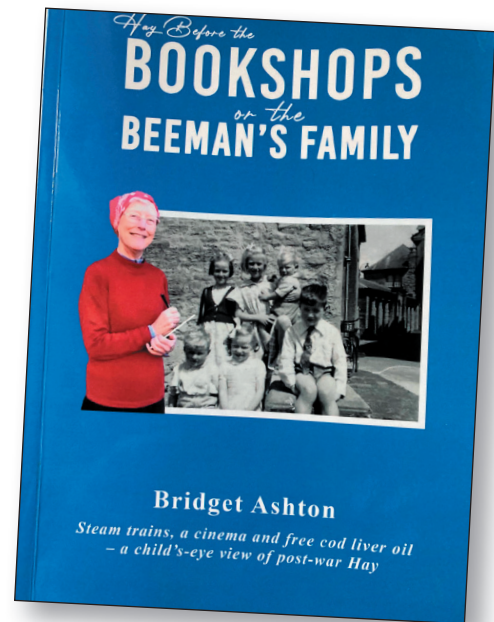
Photo: KS Archive

Hay before the Bookshops or The Beeman's Family

Reviewed by Mary Steele

HAY BEFORE THE BOOKSHOPS OR THE BEEMAN'S FAMILY by **Bridget Ashton**
Austin Macauley Publishers, 2022. £9.99
ISBN 978-1-3984520-6-0

In 1948, Bridget Ashton's family moved to the Welsh borders from Hertfordshire, in order for her father to pursue his unusual job as a professional beekeeper. At first, they lived in a tiny cottage on a smallholding near Painscastle, but after a year of Bridget's mother coping with three small children, Bridget being the eldest at 4, in basic and isolated conditions, the family moved to a 'ramshackle' old house in the Market Place at Hay, where their father could have his workshop next door but one, and the Catholic Church they attended was directly opposite their door. Mrs Ashton became caretaker and organist there, as well as managing a growing family on a small income. Mr Ashton kept his bees on the hills and sold 'Ashton's Welsh Honey, Well Worth Your Money' in jars with labels showing a red dragon to shops in the mining valleys of South Wales. The children (five and a foster son) went to the local county primary school until Bridget was 11, when they moved to Northumberland so that



her father could take up a better paid job as a beekeeping officer. Bridget still lives in Northumberland and has written several local history titles about the town of Morpeth, but for this book she has travelled south again to Hay.

Her inspiration is the diary her mother kept in 1953, detailing shopping, washing, menus, outings, holidays, church, shortage of money, family disputes and the daily workload that came with looking after her children. Life in 1950s austerity Britain is vividly evoked, and so is the town of Hay, as Bridget recalls where they walked and played, and their neighbours. Everything you needed could be bought locally but second hand clothes from relatives, and new queen bees for the hives, came by post. As the title of the book makes clear, this was before Hay's fame as the town of books, but a list of the books Mrs Ashton read in a year shows that, with the help of the local library, she could read widely and thoughtfully.

The author wonders why her mother kept the diary. We are aware of Kilvert's pressing need to be creative, and a writer. *Kilvert's Diary* is mentioned just a couple of times: Bridget Ashton is now exploring a comparison of people, events and places in both diaries.



1, 2, and 3 Market St Hay, photographed in 1959.

Photo: Courtesy of Bridget Gubbins

CORRECTION

In his article 'Kilvert: the Merewether and Awdry Connections' in Journal 55, Nicholas Green referred to the Awdrys as having lived 'some seven miles north-west of Langley Burrell'. He has asked me to point out that this should read 'some five miles **south-west**'. If, like Kilvert, you start a journey without first checking your directions, you might find yourself on the wrong side of the M4. Nicholas apologises, and explains that the confusion arose because Plomer referred throughout the three volumes to 'Norton' rather than 'Notton', the correct spelling as used in the article.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL MEMBERS IN OUR 75th YEAR

Contributions to the *Journal* are welcome, and check the Forthcoming Events column (inside front cover)

WHO'S WHO IN KILVERT'S DIARY

The last few copies of *Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary*, 2nd edition will be available at the AGM and seminar or can be ordered by post.

Teresa Williams has found an answer to the query about the link between Adelaide Cholmeley and the **Earl of Kintore**, who had given Addie's mother a wedding veil of Limerick lace (Vol 3, p64). As a child, the Earl (b 1828) had been educated by Francis Kilvert at his school at Claverton, Bath. In 1849, Francis and his three daughters were invited to Scotland for the Earl's 21st birthday celebrations.

Teresa also has more information about **Louisa Sheldon**. She was born on 30 January 1854 (not 1855 as stated in the Who's Who entry) at Llowes and baptised there on 14 May. Her parents were George, a coachman, and Mary Ann. She married on her 30th birthday; her husband was William Lewis, aged 31, also from Llowes.

In the entry for **Michael Thomas**, the blacksmith, the name of his fourth daughter is given as Anne. Kilvert baptised her on 20 March 1870 with the names *Annie Madelina*. Having listened to a lot of Bach over Christmas, I was struck by the closeness of this name to JS Bach's second wife, Anna Magdalena. Was Mr Thomas musical, a 'harmonious blacksmith' [from the variations by Handel]?

SOCKS

Midsummer Day 1870 *We all dined together at Cae Mawr and I was not nearly so much tired as the last time we walked to Llanthony, my feet being, thanks to soaped socks, as cool and comfortable as when I started.* (NLW June-July 1870 notebook)

Socks (unsoaped) at Cae Mawr during the Society's visit, when we were asked to remove shoes before we went into the house.

Photo: editor.



LETTER

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed not to see in last September's Journal any explanation, apology for, or even a mention of, the failure to send members an agenda before last year's annual meeting, as our rules require – a failure jokingly dismissed at the agm by the secretary as "just one of those things".

Even notice of the meeting itself left much to be desired: its time and place was only to be found on the agm weekend's catering booking form enclosed with the Journal and where I spotted it by chance. No wonder the agm was thinly attended.

But even if we accept the chairman's comical claim that a mention on the catering form counts as formal notice of our agm, what about the lack of an agenda?

When I asked the chairman if our members did not deserve an explanation of why, once its accidental omission from the Journal mailing seven weeks before the agm had been noticed, the agenda had not been mailed in time to all members, he wrote: "I fail to see what explanation or apology they might require." He added: "I am not prepared to discuss this matter any further."

I replied: "I think it's reasonable to expect, and would be honourable of you to give, an explanation and an apology to members in the Journal for the fiasco. However, your petulant reply, particularly disrespectful to a member of nearly fifty years' standing, does not make me think you understand the importance of the office you hold."

This episode is bad enough, but it comes after another when a recent agm shamefully agreed to the chair's proposal to limit life members' rights even though, by mistake, some of them had not been given any notice of the meeting.

Some lessons are never learnt. In my long years of membership I have never witnessed events that reflect so badly on our Society as these.

Yours,

Charles Boase

Vauxhall House, Monmouth NP25 3AX. charles.boase@gmail.com

From the Editor,

Mr Boase complained to me in an email on 31 March 2022 that the full details of the AGM had not appeared in the *Journal* and I replied with an apology in an email on 2 April. The matter was not raised at the AGM on 22 April by any member attending. I had erred in not making sure that the complete notice was in the Forthcoming Events column. Time and location were printed on the sheet that members were asked to fill in if they wanted refreshments during the evening. The AGM was at its usual place and time and regular attendees were able to join us, but this was not helpful for members who wish to come to the AGM for the first time. To put this right for the future, the announcement of the 2023 AGM appeared in the September 2022 *Journal* and on the website at the same time, and it is intended that members will continue to have this much notice. New members will be warmly welcome, and if you have any enquiry, please note that contact details for Society officers are inside the front cover of the *Journal*, together with the Kilvert Society email address. The 2022 AGM agenda was given out at the meeting. The minutes of the last AGM will show that there were no agenda items beyond the usual AGM routine, the previous AGM having been only six months previously, catching up after lockdowns. Cancellations and postponements during the pandemic caused a great deal of extra administration and we are grateful for members' support as we came out of this difficult time.

This is an opportunity to alert you to the new email address for the Secretary: kilvertsociety@gmail.com Emails to the old address are still picked up.

OBITUARIES

Mr Ronald George BLYTHE

6 November 1922 – 14 January 2023

Mr Ronald Blythe has died at the age of 100. He had been President of the Kilvert Society since 2006. An obituary and a review of his last book appear on page 4-5 of this *Journal*.



Mr James ROOSE-EVANS

Mr James Roose-Evans died on 26 October 2022, aged 94. He was well-known as a theatre director, actor and writer over a long career. He loved the landscape of the Welsh borderlands and combined this with his deep interest in spirituality in 1974 when he founded the Centre for the Creative Spirit at Bleddfa near Knighton in Powys. His book *Blue Remembered Hills: a Radnorshire Journey* was reviewed in *Journal* 47. In 2008, he joined the Kilvert Society and provided the grand finale of the Kilvert Society's Jubilee Celebrations with a performance in St Mary's Church, Hay of 'The Clyro Diaries of the Reverend Francis Kilvert'.



Mr Thomas John Karl SHOWLER

Mr Karl Showler died in August 2022, aged 89. He had been a bookseller in Hay, owning B & K Books in partnership with his late wife Betty, and was twice elected Mayor of Hay. He and Betty were keen Kilvertians; Karl wrote articles for the *Journal* as well as a book about Bishop Atlay of Hereford.

Mr Showler was a national authority on bees, writing a number of books on the subject and serving as president of the British Beekeepers Association in 1989 and 1990. He was a Quaker: his ashes have been interred at the Friends Meeting House at Almeley Wotton, Herefordshire.



Mrs Angela DOGGETT

Mrs Angela Doggett of Oswestry, Shropshire died in May 2022. She had been a member since February 1984.



Mrs Nora JACKMAN

Mrs Nora Jackman of Ledbury, Hertfordshire died in 2014. She had been a life member since July 1997.



Mrs Joy McQUADE

Mrs Joy McQuade of Chertsey, Surrey died in March 2022. She had been a life member since 1982.



Mr William PARKER

Mr William Parker of Ellesmere, Shropshire died in December 2022. He had been a life member since 1976.

In our 75th Year: remembering William Plomer

As the Kilvert Society celebrates 75 years, we should commemorate William Plomer (1903-1973) who was responsible for recognising the power of Kilvert's prose and editing it into the three volumes of *Kilvert's Diary*. As well as his work as a literary editor, he was a novelist, poet (winner of the Queen's Award for Poetry in 1963), and writer of a number of libretti for Benjamin Britten. Born in South Africa, he lived in Japan for three years in the 1920s, and settled in England in 1929. His last home was in Sussex. Once the Kilvert Society was formed, he was active in supporting it, attending events and giving talks at services and on visits. This photo from the KS Archive was taken in 1950.



List of Kilvert publications

FOR SALE FROM THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Three-Volume Diary, packed in slip case

Members price £60 post free in UK (£15 postage for non members).

Overseas postal rate will vary and will be notified to enquirers.

Enquiries and orders to the Secretary, 30 Bromley Heath Avenue, Downend, Bristol BS16 6JP. Email:

kilvertsociety@gmail.com

Who's Who in Kilvert's Diary, 2nd edition, fully revised.

A companion to the Diary.

450 entries; 7 Kilvert family trees. A4 format, 99 pages.

£10+£4 p&p (£8 overseas)

Cheque with order to the Journal Editor, 1 Saffron Rise, Eaton Bray, Dunstable LU6 2AY

Kilvert Society DVD A film depicting the early days of the Society £15+£2 p&p (overseas postal rate will vary). Orders to the Secretary (details above).

Overseas members please note that all drafts must be in sterling.

SOCIETY PAMPHLETS ON LOAN

The following pamphlets are now available as loan copies from the Secretary.

Collected Verse by the Reverend Francis Kilvert.

Kilvert's Poetry A study by Bernard Jones.

The Bevan-Dew Extracts Entries omitted from the published Diary.

Francis Kilvert Priest and Diarist by Frederick Grice.

More Chapters from the Kilvert Saga: memoirs of the Rev. Robert Kilvert (father of the Diarist): The School at Hardenhuish Rectory by Augustus Hare; The 'Rambling Recollections of the Diarist's Sister Emily (Mrs S J Wyndowe).

Kilvert's 'Kathleen Mavourneen' by Eve Farmery and RB Taylor.

Looking backwards... a Kilvert miscellanea. The Early Days of the Society; On Mrs Kilvert; On Kilvert at St Harmon; On the Homecoming to Bredwardine after the wedding; On the Death and Funeral of Francis Kilvert.

Kilvert and the Wordsworth Circle by R I Morgan.

The Other Francis Kilvert: Francis Kilvert of Claverton 1793-1863 by Teresa Williams and Frederick Grice.

The Oswin Prosser Memorial Booklet The Solitary of Llanbedr by Rev D Edmondson-Owen; Radnorshire Legends and Superstitions by Mrs Essex Hope (Kilvert's niece); Honeymoon Journal by Dora Pitcairn (Kilvert's sister); The Venables Diaries by Laurence Le Quesne; Memories of the Monk (Kilvert's niece) by Ann Mallinson.

The Frederick Grice Memorial Booklet Grice Articles by Frederick Grice including 'An Anglo-Welsh community in the 1860s; The Missing Year; Kilvert and 'Kathleen Mavourneen' by Laurence Le Quesne.

Jubilee Praise: the Tom Palmer Memorial Booklet. Articles from newsletters: The Poems of Francis Kilvert; Making the television series; Kilvert and Bettws; Gleanings from Glaschwim; Some reflections of an Irish Rectory Kilvertian; The Clerk and his Carriage; Kilvert- a neglected genius.

A Kilvert Symposium including Kilvert's Shropshire Ancestry, The Diary as Literature; The Manuscript of *Kilvert's Diary*.

BOOKS ABOUT KILVERT

East End, West End by John Toman: the story of a Victorian clergyman and his wife Bee Smallcombe, who was known to Kilvert. Kilvert Society 2016. £15 inc p&p Available from the Secretary.

The following books are available from booksellers or online.

Francis Kilvert by David Lockwood. Seren Books 1990.

Kilvert the Victorian by David Lockwood. Seren Books 1992.

After Kilvert by A L Le Quesne. OUP 1978.

Francis Kilvert and his world by Frederick Grice. Caliban Books 1980

Kilvert The Homeless Heart by John Toman. Logaston Press 2001.

Kilvert's Diary and Landscape by John Toman. Lutterworth Press 2009.

Kilvert's World of Wonders – growing up in Victorian England by John Toman. Lutterworth Press 2013

Growing Up in Kilvert Country by Mona Morgan. Gomer Press 1990

Exploring Kilvert Country by Chris Barber. Blorenge Books 2003.

Moods of Kilvert Country by Nick Jenkins and Kevin Thomas. Halsgrove 2006

A Deep Sense of the Uses of Money: Kilvert's forebears in Bath and India. True Heirs to Israel: Kilvert's theology. The Lost Photo Album (2nd ed) All available directly from John Toman john_toman@dymond.force9.co.uk

The Handkerchief Tree: the Journal of Frederick Grice 1946-83 edited by Gillian and Colin Clarke. Mount Orleans Press 2021 ISBN 978-1-912945-28-3

The three books below are the only surviving examples of complete notebooks from the original Diary.

The Diary of Francis Kilvert April-June 1870 edited by Kathleen Hughes and Dafydd Ifans. National Library of Wales 1982 ISBN 0-907158-020-1

The Diary of Francis Kilvert June-July 1870 edited by Dafydd Ifans, 1989 ISBN 0-907158-0201

Kilvert's Cornish Diary edited by Richard Maber and Angela Tregoning. Alison Hodge (Cornwall) 1989 ISBN 0-906720-19-2

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would prefer not to have your details stored on computer, the Hon Secretary will ask you to provide stamped self-addressed envelopes for your mailings.

Subscriptions The ordinary subscription is £18 (Joint membership £21), due on 1 January.

Cheques, payable to The Kilvert Society, should be sent to: Mrs Sue Rose, 57 Newbury Avenue, Calne, Wiltshire SN11 9UN.

