

Mentions of the Lanes and Kings Bromley in Anne Bagot's Diary- an Appendix to 'Agnes, The Little Queen of Kings Bromley'

Anne Bagot's diary covers the twenty-two-year period from May 1819, when she was 45, to June 1841. She never married, and died in 1847. During this time she lived in the Cathedral Close, Lichfield, in a substantial house with up to four servants. Latterly she could afford to keep a horse and a small carriage. She had been provided for, most probably by her father, with a comfortable income from an annuity; on her death she also owned some consols (bonds) and railway shares and her sister Honora gave her money enough for an extra servant. These provisions she called her 'competence', which she did not ever consider to be an entitlement but rather a piece of fortune for which she was most grateful. She was the eldest daughter of Walter Bagot, vicar of Lichfield and Leigh - the brother of Agnes Lane's grandfather, the first Lord Bagot of Blithfield. Walter had eight children, including Anne, by his first wife, Anne Swinnerton, who died when Anne was just twelve. He remarried and had another eight children. Anne was brought up at Blithfield rectory and always regarded Blithfield as home, which she did not leave until she was thirty-two, two years before her father's death.

Anne enjoyed a full social life, her immediate family was large and her extended family huge. She was well educated, spoke French and Italian and maybe more languages. Her family was engaged with the cultural life of the times, for instance her father was a good friend of the poet Cowper and she herself met Wordsworth and Southey. She tells many anecdotes about Dr. Johnson and her visits to the 'Ladies of Llangollen'. As might be expected she was resolutely Tory, Royalist, Anglican, anti-reform and anti-Catholic. She resolved at the start of her diary to use it in a positive way and not to be critical of others and most of the time she lived up to this principle - her lapses must be due to what she would think of as extreme provocation. She was fully self-aware, making many jokes at her own expense in the diary.

I will produce a much fuller account of the diary later, but for now here is a record of her interactions with the Lanes of Kings Bromley. Anne was particularly friendly with John Lane, whom she refers to as 'dear friend' and 'cousin' (although the Bagots and Lanes at this time had only been joined in marriage once - back in the 17th century). Anne was godmother to John's second son, Leveson Lane, and Anne refers in the diary to the many good times she had at Kings Bromley before the diary started. After John Lane died she remained on very good terms with his sons John Newton and Leveson, and this relationship was cemented when John Newton Lane married Agnes Bagot in 1828. Anne appeared to be genuinely fond of 'dear' Agnes, whom she had known from a child. By the time Anne died, the Newton Lanes had five boys, described as 'nice boys' and a 'happy family'.

Anne was particularly friendly with Mary Howard of Elford, her super-rich cousin, and her sister Louisa Levett of Milford. Kings Bromley was right in the middle of the diamond made by Lichfield, Blithfield, Elford and Milford, which made it a natural stopping off place for Anne when she was visiting. She visited a lot. As well as the Bagots and Lichfield, the Howards of Elford, and the Levetts and Milford, she regularly visited the Sneyds of Byrkely, the Gisbornes of Yoxall Lodge, the Levetts of Wychnor, the Levetts of Packington, the Levetts of Whittington, the Halls of Holly Bush (Newborough) the Talbots of Ingestre, the Vernons of Sudbury and the Ansons of Shugborough. Her circle was the high society of Staffordshire, and it can be seen so was that of the Lanes. She also travelled considerably outside of Staffordshire.

The handwritten diary was originally in four volumes. It was transcribed by Dyonèse Haszard, née Levett (historian grandmother of the present owner of Milford, Richard Haszard), and given to Nancy Bagot, who gave it to the Staffordshire Record Office. The transcription runs to 155 pages. The original cannot be traced. 'The solid book [she] wrote cannot be found today'.

Allan Howard

Annotations are given in italics [*thus*]

Diary Entries

December 1st 1819. [*At the start of the diary J.N. Lane was 19, Leveson Lane 17, John Lane 67, Rebecca Dalloway 47, Sarah Lane 54, Anne Bagot 45, Mary Howard 34*]

Very busy in the morning both with visitors and carpenters. At 2 o'clock the Gisborne carriage came for me; called at Kings Bromley. Mrs. Lane not well enough to see me – spent a few minutes with Newton and Mr. Lane came on to Yoxall Lodge where I found Mr. and Mrs. Gisborne and the Greatrex – spent a very satisfactory evening and had a great deal of good talk.

December 8th 1819. Mrs. Gisborne took me to Byrkley Lodge where we found Mrs. and Miss Sneyd – We then proceeded to Holly Bush and Hoar Cross but found nobody at either place. We were to have gone to Sudbury but were prevented. I went to Kings Bromley where I found Mr. and Mrs. Lane, Newton, Miss Dalloway and my old friend Dr. Parkinson with his thick black eyebrows got nearly white but still the same sensible kindhearted man.

July 30th 1820. Went to Kings Bromley where I found Sir Corbet and Lady Corbet [*of Adderley, Salop*], Colonel and Mrs. Madan [*of Ravenhill, Rugeley*], Miss Jenkins, Brother William and the four Lanes and we had a very sociable pleasant visit. Lady Corbet talked a great deal about Dr. Johnson who she thought was at times insane – his extreme oddities of manner as well as dirt must have made him a very inmate malgre his gigantic intellect. She said his absence of mind was so great as not infrequently put his teacup on his head. He wd mch have liked to have lived with them after Mrs. Thrale had left him but they could not undertake that. Lady Corbet visited him at Boltcomb in his last illness, his abode she described as wretched in an uncommon degree.

October 10th 1821. The Lanes sent their carriage for me and I went to Kings Bromley where I had the satisfaction of seeing Mrs. Lane much better than she had been but she has suffered sadly from the gout in her head. Newton and Leveson both at home [*20 and 18 respectively*]

October 15th 1821 Was a busy day. I went to the Palace, from thence to Stowe and proceeded to Kings Bromley where I had my luncheon found the Anson carriage waiting for me at Yoxall and a very kind and friendly reception from its owners at Sudbury also another invitation from the Halls [*Holly Bush, Newborough*] which, as they had taken so much trouble about me, Frederick and I determined to go. Anne not feeling quite equal to sitting up. We found a very good Quadrille Ball where I wished much for Jane and Agnes [*her half-sisters*]. I enjoyed myself very much, we returned to Sudbury about 12.

October 29th 1821. I left Sudbury called in at Kings Bromley in my way. Came home – felt that it was solitary.

December 10th 1821. Mrs. Bagot, Jane, Agnes and myself all went to Kings Bromley where we found a most hospitable reception and a pleasant party. Mr. Sparrow dead at the age of 85.

December 11th 1821. Sir Thomas Constable and his two daughters and General Dyott dined and slept.

December 13th 1821. Mrs. Bagot, Jane and Agnes went to Yoxall Lodge [*from Kings Bromley*] where I refused to accompany them and returned to my solitary home.

September 4th 1822. The 3 Mr. Lanes [*John, Newton and Leveson*] took Charlotte and myself to an Archery meeting at Holly Bush. Nothing could be more beautiful than the day or the meeting – Levett won the best prize a Russian leather writing case – everybody was in good humour. We were about 100 people at dinner which was not till 6 o'clock after the shooting was over. Bagots, Legges, Levetts, Ansons etc. etc. there – A few quadrilles were danced and we returned to Kings Bromley a few minutes after 12. Ed Monkton was also of our party.

September 5th. 1822. We returned home

September 16th 1822. Went with Levett and Lou to Wychnor. Mr. Lane and his two sons, Mrs. Wilmot. Mr. Horton and Mr. Parish dined.

September 19th 1822. The Levetts [*Anne's sister Louisa had married Rev. Richard Levett of Milford in 1804. He greatly extended Milford Hall in 1817 which may previously have been insignificant enough not to be included in Stebbing Shaw's Staffordshire. The gates of Milford Hall are those that were once on the south lodge of Kings Bromley Hall, the present owner confirms that they were bought, probably in the 1928 sale not only because of the connection with the Lanes, but also that the 'L' motif worked as well for Levett as for Lane. There were also branches of the Levett family at Wychnor, Whittington and Packington.*] took me to Kings Bromley where I lunched or rather dined parted with them and as usual went to work in my garden.

June 28th. 1823. I went to Miss Levetts at Whittington who sent for me – I found Miss Wilmot, who I met at Kings Bromley, at Whittington. Mrs. M. Dyott and her two nieces Miss Dale and Miss Barnaby dined.

September 1823 [*an illustration of the full social life of Anne and her set – the Bagots of Blithfield, the Lanes of Kings Bromley, the Gisbornes of Yoxall Lodge, The Halls of Holly Bush Newborough, the Levetts of Milford, the Curzons of Hagley, the Sneyds of Byrkley Lodge and Keele, the Talbots of Ingestre and the Legges. The best friend of Anne Bagot not mentioned here is Mary Greville Howard of Elford, Levens, Castle Rising and Ashstead, who must have had urgent business elsewhere to miss Lord Bagot's 50th birthday – but she may have been amongst the 138!! guests*] **4th.** Mrs Gisborne took me to wait upon Mrs. Hall at Holly Bush. We found a sumptuous collation and many people. We went to Byrkley where the young people shot [*archery*] and I marked for them. **6th.** Returned home -called at Kings Bromley. **8th.** Went to Milford called on Bess and Harriet by the way, went to Hagley where I found Mrs. Curzon and rejoiced to see her. I thought her altered and unwell. **11th.** Went with the Lanes etc. to Blithfield at 2 o'clock to celebrate Lord Bagot's 50th birthday. Many people were assembled the Day beautiful – I went into the church to see the restoration of the old window etc. Louisa and I dressed in Mrs. Sneyd's room – we sat down to a magnificent dinner at 7 o'clock in the Hall well lighted the fountains played and the painted glass in the old gallery also lighted looked beautiful- there was music and dancing. We returned to Kings Bromley about 2 in the morning. **13th.** Cousin Lane brought me home before breakfast. **17th.** Lou Levett and Dico [*Levett, Louisa's son*] came to dinner ditto Genrl: Mrs. And Miss Rose Mundy. We played at acting charades in the evening, Dico did very well. **18th.** We all went to the archery at Byrkley Lodge the day was beautiful and the scene pretty and cheerful to an uncommon degree. We were about 138 at dinner a greater number than has been assembled on a similar occasion though Lord Bagot, the Lady Legges and the Talbots [*missing word*] from the precarious state of Lady Dartmouth.

Sept 23rd 1824. Went to Yoxall Lodge. Found the Palmers, Milford Levetts and Leveson Lane beside the family party.

Nov 10th 1824. Kent took me back from Milford – spent an hour at Hagley. When I got home the Lane carriage met me and took me to King's Bromley where I had the comfort of finding my Kind old friend much better. [*she may here mean either John or Sarah Lane. John died on 21st December from a fall from a horse at the age of 72. It is possible that the fall occurred earlier, and that he died after a long illness resulting from the fall. There is no mention of John Lane's death in the diary, but then Anne was on a trip to London for five months from 30th Nov*] **Nov 14th.** Mr Lane Newton brought me home.

September 27th 1825. Returned home [*from Sudbury*], called at Holly Bush, Byrkley Lodge, Yoxall Lodge Mrs. Gisborne gave me a print of her husband which I much value, also called at King's Bromley but were not let in.

January 8th 1826. Leveson Lane and Arthur Talbot came from King's Bromley. I returned with them. Newton very poorly, the day too bad to go to church.

January 30th 1826 Newton Lane called, how differently do I spend this day now to what I did in my youth [when] my father took us twice a day to church. [*Anne is probably referring here to the anniversary of the execution of Charles I. She was an ardent royalist and believer in primogeniture and believed that the Stuarts were the true kings of England even after 1688. She was saved from traitorous thoughts by the extinction of the Stuart line. She was also fiercely anti Catholic. How she would have resolved these seemingly contradictory views is unknown.*]

September 13th 1826. ...we all went to the Ball which was the selectest race ball I ever saw and was quite well dressed assembly of nearly 300 people – the Stewards Newton Lane and Lord Chesterfield.

April 22nd 1827. I came back [from Elford] to Kings Bromley. **23rd.** A very bad account of poor Heneage and Aunt Betty. **28th** Came home. [*Henneage Legge died on 3rd March. The service that he did in making sure that the Newton fortune passed to the Lanes was never forgotten. It is significant that the Ardens of Longcroft, Yoxall, the sore losers in Elizabeth Newton's will, are not in Anne Bagot's social circle and are never mentioned in the diary, although she must have passed by Longcroft any number of times. This is Anne's first mention of staying at Kings Bromley since the death of her 'old friend' and 'cousin' John Lane, and shows that she still valued the friendship of John Newton, Leveson and old Mrs. Sarah Lane. In 18 months Newton was to marry Agnes Bagot, maybe Anne had seen the straws in the wind*]

July 10th 1827. Went with Mrs. Oldershaw [from Elford] to Kings Bromley they sent for us and the servants being after their time [late], to make up for it, drove us there in less than half an hour. We arrived however safely [*according to Google this is 9.2 miles by the A513, so the coach must have averaged about 20 m.p.h. , which is very good going*]. **July 11th.** The day being very hot spent most of it on the river – rowed by Newton – Arthur Talbot and Leveson in another boat smoking segars. **July 13th.** The Lanes sent me to Wolseley Bridge where the Levetts met me and I did go to Milford. [*Before Anne got her own carriage she was dependant on her friends and relations to provide transport like this. I wonder how the Lanes and Levetts communicated so that they could co-ordinate their carriages like this*].

January 8th 1828. Agnes Bagot Marries Newton Lane. Agnes, supported by her father and brother made her appearance – the road was boarded from the conservatory to the Church and strewn with flowers, the chancel all carpeted At the porch stood the Schoolgirls in 2 rows with Baskets of flowers – Agnes went first with Ld. Bagot and William one on each side then follow'd the six bridesmaids – Lady Cecil Talbot – Lady Anne Legge, her sisters Louisa and Ellinor and then Lizzy Sneyd and Ht. Bagot from the Parsonage. Then came Newton with Lord Talbot on one side and old Harry Legge on the other side by Newton's particular desire from his father's friendship for him – he was followed by the bridegroom's man Leveson then came the rest of the clan 2 by 2 to the number I was told of 49 but I did not count them all near relations – After the ceremony which was performed by Dick Bagot, alias, the Dean of Canterbury, we all returned to the house and talk'd and amused ourselves as well as we could for 2 or 3 hours when a beautiful collation was served in the Great Hall after which we separated the Bride and Groom going to Kings Bromley. God bless them and may they be as happy as I wish them. If dear cousin Lane had been alive how happy he would have been – In Charles 1st time a Lane came to bring his wife from Blithfield even the gallant Colonel who fought for the King and the brother of Mrs. Jane Lane who helped preserve him. [*part of this description appears in 'Agnes, the Little Queen ...'. I copied it from Historians publication 'Kings Bromley in the Time of the Lanes' but as I did not know at the time where it came from I could not give the proper reference. It is SRO D4752/2 'Anne Bagot's Diary'*]

February 11th 1828. A deep snow had fallen. Mary good nature'dly walk'd through it as my new maid was prevented by illness from coming. I took little Maria with me. The Howards sent for me I found Greville, Mary, Newton and Agnes, Levett, Lou and Frances all assembled at Elford.

February 18th 1829. Alas! Found an express from Blithfield with the sad intelligence that the evening before Louisa Bagot [*Agnes Bagot/Lane's sister, who was only 21*] after an illness, or rather not having been well for

two days, had expired without a groan, from “pure exhaustion” – Louisa – she that I had seen in youth and vigour with all that this world can give, under my roof so short a time since, she to whom in the course of nature would have mourned for me. She is gone!

February 19th 1829. Honora and Louisa are gone to Blithfield thinking it possible they might be of use. They are come back and had not seen poor Ld. Bagot. Honora and Louisa went round by Rugeley by Dick’s desire to stop Lady Dartmouth if they could be thinking it better she should go to Kings Bromley where Agnes Lane is return’d she having left it to be confined at Blithfield – they did see Lady Dartmouth who had set out upon the arrival of the bad account and had not known that it was all over -till Lord Dartmouth had met her at Lichfield to inform her. **Feb 20th.** A message through Mrs. Sneyd from Ld. B. the hearing of her kindness and reading her letter had moved him to tears which had been a great relief to him, a Hop pillow had also given him some sleep.

February 25th 1829. Louisa Bagot’s funeral. Levett [and I] went to Blithfield and attended funeral with Lds. Talbot, and Dartmouth. Greville. Dick Bagot. William Bagot. Ralph Sneyd. Newton Lane. The service performed by Mr. Inge of Rugeley, it was intended Lord B. should have been in ignorance but he unfortunately saw it from the back windows of the parsonage through the leafless trees. Agnes brought safely to bed before the funeral [*John Henry Bagot Lane had been born on the 24th, the day before. It appears that she always preferred to have her children at Blithfield rather than Kings Bromley*]

April 21st 1829. Miss Levett brought me back [*from Whittington*] after an early dinner and having spent some pleasant sociable hours with her. Lord Bagot’s Carriage came for me – I called in at Breton found Harriet Sneyd better – Went to Blithfield where I found poor Lord B. still a great invalid but better and met with a very cordial reception. – Agnes and Newton Lane and their boy there - Hervey, Alfred and Eleanor – John Sneyd, Miss Murray and Mr. Corey.

May 16th 1829. Anne Anson and Arthur took me [*from Sudbury*] to Yoxall where I met a Lichfield Chaise and sent maid and luggage in it. Anne and I going on to King’s Bromley. They were walking and I went back to find them. I spent some time declined staying dinner, found many improvements – Alas! For cousin Lane! Went home for dinner. [*Agnes appears to have been busy making changes to the hall at Kings Bromley which Anne thinks would not have been approved of by John Lane.*]

February 19th 1830. The Howards [*at Elford*] lent me their four horses. I took Ralph first to Lichfield and then proceeded to King’s Bromley and found Lord Bagot’s carriage waiting for me. Went in a snow storm to Blithfield but that did not prevent the look, smell and feel of HOME native home which I suppose inextinguishable.

March 1st 1830. Lord Bagot sent me [*from Blithfield*] to King’s Bromley where I found Mrs. Lane, Newton, Agnes and their boy – How many pleasant days have I spent at King’s Bromley! New generations are rising up around me – God bless them All.

Dec 28th 1830. [*At Elford*] A good deal of snow the 4 Levetts came. **29th** Newton and Agnes came, Hervey Bagot and Charles from the Hall at Drakelow John Sneyd dined.

August 12th 1831 [*At Ashstead, Mary Howard’s residence in Surrey*] The Howards return’d – we dined with them – Newton and Agnes Lane, Lady Frederick Bentinck who I knew and liked in the North and her son with the artists de Wynte formed the party.

December 27th 1832 [*Having spent Christmas at Milford*] Lou and I went to Tixall – found Lady Constable and her nice boy. She was very pleasant and had very good politicks [*sic*] unlike many in her set. We then went to the parsonage at Ingestre but Mr and Mrs. Talbot were gone to King’s Bromley then we proceeded to the Chetwynds at Brocton who we found [in].

April 25th 1833 [*Anne now had her own carriage*] Went with my humble-bee carriage to King's Bromley found Mrs. Lane, Newton, Agnes and their children [*John Henry, 4, and Sidney, 2: Agnes had already lost two children and was 7 months pregnant with Cecil*] **29th**. Left King's Bromley

May 18th 1833 Left my kind old friends [*the Vernons at Sudbury*] and went to King's Bromley ... Agnes Lane expecting every day to be confin'd. **20th**. Returned home.

August 29th 1833 Drove to Blithfield where we found Lord Bagot sitting snug in the ci-devant pillar'd parlour emblazoning Newton's book of the British Squires [*she must mean the 'Lane Pedigree', now at Moseley Old Hall*] **30th**. Joseph and the horse contrived to break the shaft but it was mended time enough for me to get to King's Bromley by dinner.

April 28th 1834. Call'd at King's Bromley in my road to Sudbury [*from Lichfield*]

May 27th 1834. Took Mrs. Swinnerton to dine at King's Bromley found Lord Bagot. Took her to Pype found Egerton and Greville Phillimore.

September 12th 1834. [*a magnificent ball given to Lord Bagot by his tenants*] Louisa and I went to dine at Blithfield where we found Lady Dartmouth, Eleanor, Agnes Lane and Bess Sneyd – at 8 o'clock except Agnes who was not able [*Greville was born on the 4th Nov, so she was heavily pregnant*] proceeded to the Ball room at Bromley [*she must mean Abbot's Bromley*]. Lord Bagot ... his three sons, Sir Charles Bagot and one son, Lord Talbot and Levett, Lord Dartmouth, Ralph Sneyd and Newton Lane had been escorted from Blithfield by the Yeomanry there were 328 Freeholders with a small admixture of the neighbouring gentlemen.

February 14th 1835. Went [*from home*] to King's Bromley found Mrs. Lane Newton Agnes and their four boys. **26th** More people came to dinner – three times has the day been picked for my departure and twice man and horse have come for me, and as often at the wish of my kind friends has my return been deferred **28th** . Returned home [*after 2 weeks at King's Bromley*] – Bought an owl!

November 5th 1835 My new bookcases are up and the china arranged ... it is certainly very pleasant to spend money when particularly one has had so little for so many years. **6th**. Went in my little Bee to Sudbury spending an hour pleasantly at an Inn in King's Bromley [*why is this underlined, is it because it was unusual not to drop in on the Lanes, who may have been out*] – found my usual kind reception from the Ansons. **13th** Came home – I called at King's Bromley again

November 25th 1835. I received a note from Agnes Lane to put me off from going to King's Bromley on account of the illness of their servants.

April 27th 1836 [*Ernauld had been born on 3rd March*] Went to King's Bromley where I found Mrs. Lane, Newton, Agnes and their 5 boys, the last one new to me (they have christened him ERNALD)

May 3rd 1836. I was shocked to hear that poor Mr. Ellerton the Rector of Baswich had died suddenly – it is awful! I have written to Newton Lane in the hopes of getting the living to hold at least for my Brother Ralph – can but try.

May 9th 1836. Went to dine at the Palace [*the Bishop's palace in the Close, now the Cathedral School*]– met a large party amongst them Newton Lane and Alfred Bagot. Newton as kind as possible about the living but Leveson has a prior claim. [*Leveson Lane, Newton's brother became vicar of Baswich, Staffs in 1836. The living of Baswich was in the gift of Newton at the time*]

August 1st 1836. Went to King's Bromley, found the Lanes and a cordial reception Mrs. And Miss Sneyd of Byrkley Lodge staying there. Rowed on the River – the weather delicious. **6th**. Left King's Bromley.

October 3rd 1836 Came home. – Call'd at King's Bromley and found poor little Sydney with the scarlet fever ...I did not see him – he was kept in the bedroom under the stairs and the hall doors shut – quite apart from anybody but his solitary attendant. I offered to stay but Mrs. Lane would not let me ... promised to send for me if I could be of any help.

June 20th 1837. I went to dine at King's Bromley with Mrs. Lane – I took Trois [*a board game*] for the boys who seem'd highly delighted as well as the older boys their tutor and Uncle [*Leveson*]. I found a glow worm in my road home which I brought with me. Bessy when she opened the carriage door thought I had got a little lamp.

July 7th 1837. Went to Sudbury baiting at King's Bromley in my little carriage – Found F. and A. Anson, Ellen and her affianced husband Mr. Hillyard who is gentlemanlike and pleasant.

August 12th 1837.Went to dine at King's Bromley meaning to return but it was so rainy I was persuaded to stay. Agnes lending me things. **13th** Went to church at King's Bromley in Agnes' bonnet. Returned home. Went to the Cathedral in the evening then dined with the Haworths.

August 19th 1837. Agnes Lane came and sat with me some time before Levett, Lou and Frances arrived – Then came Mrs. John Levett and her little girls and small Dick Levett. We had I hope a pleasant luncheon of Levetts.

December 6th 1837. I went to King's Bromley [*from Milford*] my man and horse coming for me ...it was dark before I arrived at King's Bromley where I found the usual kindly family party. Agnes just arrived from Blithfield where my Lord and Eleanor were come from London.

December 23rd 1837. Leveson Lane came. **24th** We all went to church where he preached an excellent sermon. I had never heard my godson do the duty before [*this is first reference I have seen to the fact that Leveson Lane was Anne's godson. It is a testament to the friendship between John Lane and her*]

August 26th 1838. Went twice to the Cathedral in the evening. Lord Bagot and Eleanor and a large party from Kings Bromley there also Lord and Lady Uxbridge [*maybe now forgiven by the female society of Staffordshire who had previously shunned her for eloping*]

October 30th 1838 Went in the evening to Mrs. Hamiltons [*don't know who she is*] met the Lanes, Deanery Howards [*the Hon. Henry Edward John Howard M.A. was Dean of Lichfield from 1833-1868*], Lords Harrowby and Sandon etc.

November 7th 1838 Took the Dean and Mrs Howard to dine at Lisways. **9th.** Went to Luncheon at King's Bromley and then proceeded to Uttoxeter and Abbots Bromley.

November 13th 1838. Went to King's Bromley ... found the Lanes and all their nice children well [*Henry 9, Sidney 7, Cecil 5, Greville 4 and Ernald 2*] **14th.** So deep a fog that I beg'd they would keep me. **15th.** Returned home.

March 12th 1840. Went to Milford found at Milford, Greville and Mary Howard, Agnes and Newton and George Gooch and a very happy party of cousins we were.

June 1st 1840 Return'd home – call'd at King's Bromley in my way the day was tremendously hot and Hincaster [*her horse*] as well as his mistress not at all sorry for a bait.

August 7th 1840. Spent the day at King's Bromley saw dear Agnes and her infant, her 8th son.[*Arthur Lewis Lane had just been born*]

December 29th 1840 We went mumming to Blithfield – Lou as nobody, Frances as a Swiss and very nice and pretty she looked. Miss Dyott very brilliant as Lady Capulet and I as Juliette's Nurse ... We were ushered into

the Hall into which Agnes as Queen of Beauty in a frightful mask entered (we were all mask'd) drawn by her attendant Knight and her train held by 2 pretty boys – little Cecil [7 *at this time*] held that of the Abbot – then the 8 Knights came in to fight on their hobby horses and a very good fight they made of it – the victor claiming the hand of the Q. of Beauty in the Quadrilles which with their respective partners they danced horses and all.

Feb 10th 1841 proceeded [*from Hagley*] to Kings Bromley.... I really ought to be very very grateful to be able to go in my own little carriage with two servants from the house of one kind friend to another.

June 17th 1841Went in an open carriage until my own cart is built, to King's Bromley. Lord Bagot, Eleanor, Alfred and Charles. We laugh'd very much at one old nonsense or another – we were very merry.

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The last entry in the diary is 20th June 1841. Dyonèse Haszard wrote 'On leaving Elford Anne came to Milford where she suffered a severe stroke – She died on April 29th 1847 after having lived 32 years in the Close and was buried with her ancestors at Blithfield. Memorial Tablet near North Door in Lichfield Cathedral'

After June 1841 Anne was quite capable of looking after herself as can be seen from her handwritten household expense book which covers the period 1843 to her death [Lichfield Record Office D15/12/5]. However, she may have stopped socialising and therefore stopped keeping her diary.