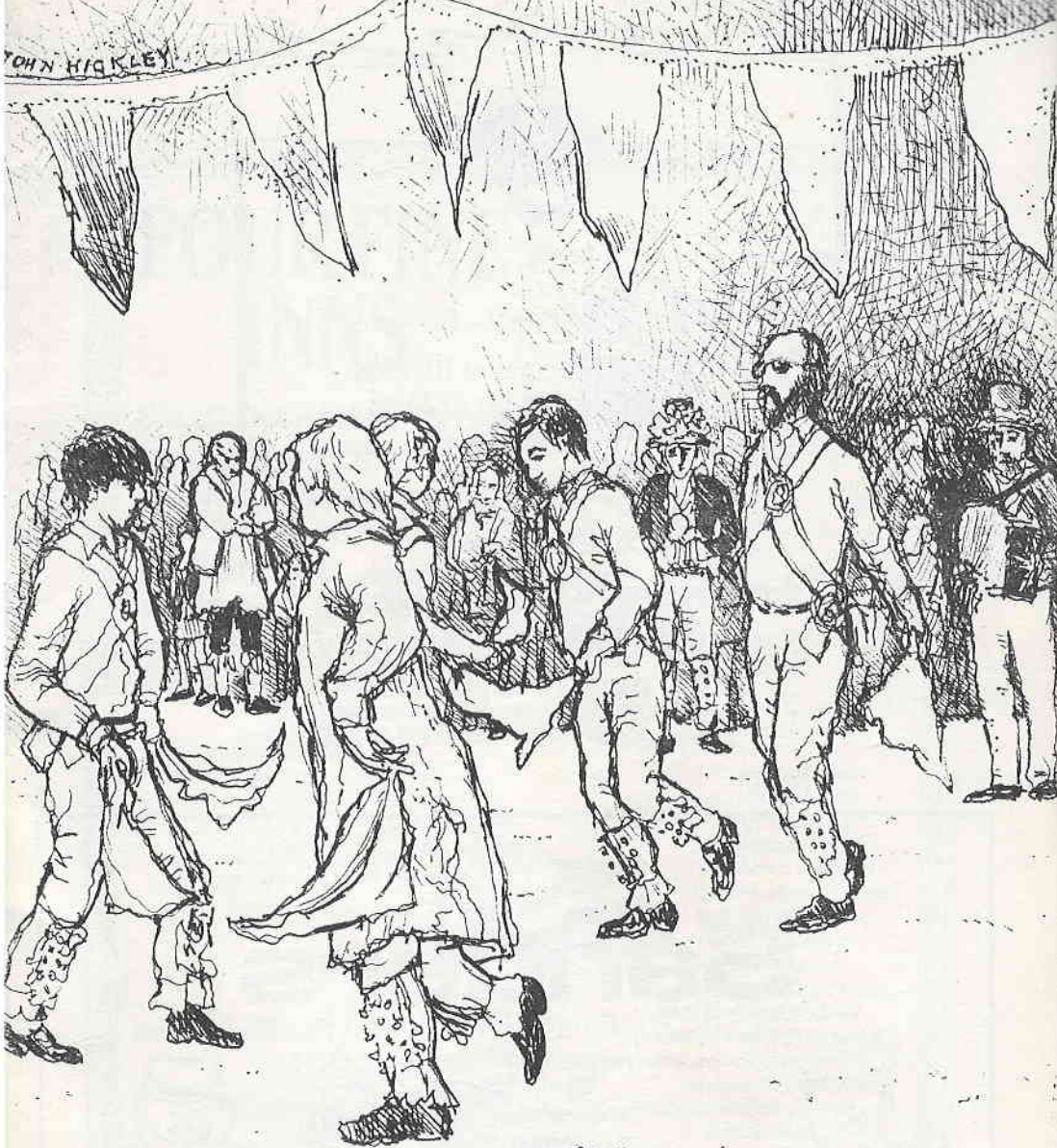


JOHN HICKLEY



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VILLAGE  
NEWS 3



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dishes - highly  
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good value.

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finding!*

Dear Parishioner,

As Chairman of your Parish Council for the next twelve months, I shall do all in my power to ensure the smooth-running and well-being of Bleadon.

The turnout of 16 at the Annual Parish meeting leads me to believe that all is well within the village as this was the opportune moment for you to express an open view on what is going on around you.

Such a small representation is discouraging to Councillors who work so hard on your behalf. Their enthusiasm needs stimulation, but I would thank those who did support us.

At our monthly meetings decisions are taken, and if they do not represent your views, it is because your views have not been made known to us, or you have not attended meetings.

The Parish Council is saddened that the complaints of Parishioners were directed at a prospective candidate and not a serving Councillor, for the nature of our existence is to serve the people of this village.

I would urge all of you who are interested in what happens, not just in Bleadon, but around it also, to come to a few meetings. At the end of the agenda there is provision for public participation, and under planning, an opportunity to state your views.

Please help US to help YOU.

M.E. Sheppard.

\*\*\*\*\*

Parish Councillors May '89 - May '90

Sub Committees

Chairman.	Mrs M.E. Sheppard	812921	
Vice-Chairman.	Mrs M.B. Corder	814719	Planning, Open Spaces
	Mr M. Doolan	814104	Footpaths
	Mrs J. Wilkinson	812427	A.L.C.A., Open Spaces.
	Mr G. Wall	812203	Churchyard, Open Spaces
	Mrs R. Ham	813444	Coronation Hall, Churchyard.
	Mr R. Goodman	812079	Coronation Hall, Churchyard
	Mr R. Strode	815141	Open Spaces, Youth Club.

The appointment of a second representative to the Youth Club has been deferred to the June meeting.

## Planning Applications

- 3692/88 War Games, Shiplait Slait.
- 3831/88 Alterations and additions to the Model Racing Circuit,
- 3832/88 Accommodation Road.
- 2887/88 Scrapyard at Wayacre Drove. Lost its appeal.
- 0211/89 Extend and restore house & outbuildings, Hillfield Farm,  
Shiplait Slait.
- 0411/89 Alterations & extension, Bridge Garage.
- 0477/89 Annexe to 16 The Veale.
- 0589/89 Extension, Padwells, Celtic Way.
- 0793/89 50+ Static Caravans, Purn Caravan Park.
- 0769/89 Mobile Home, 5 Bridgwater Road.
- 0907/89 10 houses, Sunnymead, Purn Way.
- 0768/89 Erection of workshop, The Wharf, Lympsham.

\*\*\*\*\*

Individual planning applications are considered by the Parish Council with the utmost care, and in the majority of cases, a site meeting is held.

We take into account the views of those who are most affected by the proposed application, and would urge objectors to make their reasons clear to both the Parish Council and Woodspring's Planning Department.

In protecting our village, we must also recognise the fact that the Parish Council has no powers. It can only recommend to the South Area Planning Committee a grass roots' viewpoint, and we can see all too plainly by the random development which has taken place in Bleadon over the past ten years, that the S.A.P.C. in its wisdom, has overruled the Parish Council's objections in the majority of cases.

The overloading of the foul sewerage system is not confined to Purn Way solely. It affects the whole village, so naturally we have been endeavouring to halt the development programme. A major concern, is of course, the disposal of excess surface water which affects so many dwellings, particularly in The Veale, Birch Avenue and Bridge Road.

Properties lying outside the Village Fence are not connected to the main sewerage system.

In order to protect the rural areas, especially the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this Parish Council has fought strenuously

to oppose any development outside the Village Fence with a 95% rate of success. Manor Grange is the exception to the Parish Council's policy. It was felt that this development was more acceptable and more in keeping with a village than the proposed industrial use.

You may have been misled recently to believe that the fields alongside Bridge Road (Purn Way doesn't enter into it) are destined to become a recreational area. Short of a compulsory purchase order, this land is not available at the present time, and the Parish Council, in any event, does not have the capital.

M.B. Corder.

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FOOTPATHS

~~It is the intention of the Parish Council to search for numerous other footpaths in the area.~~

AX6/14 A diversion is being created by Avon County at Riverside. Over the years, the public has created a right of way away from the original path which runs through privately owned gardens of adjacent properties. The proposed diversion will allow the path to be used at all states of the tide.

AX6/12 via Southill Farm. Mr. Hillier has expressed concern that the number of pedestrians and dogs passing through his farmyard is detrimental to his business. Whilst he has no wish to deprive the public of its walking rights, he has requested a diversion, and at the present time, the NFU is handling the matter.

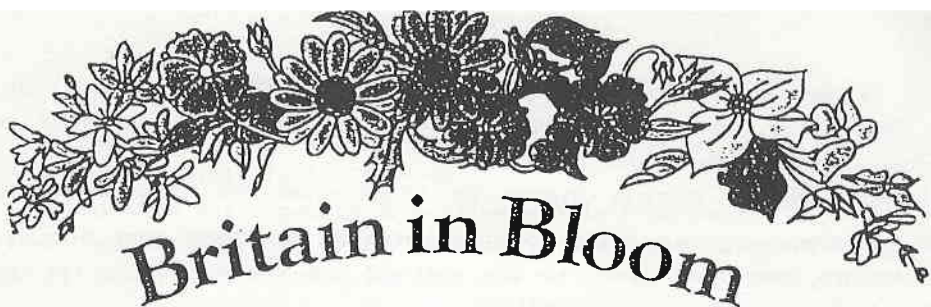
AX6/10 Between Purn Hill and Celtic Way. A small section of the Mendip Route was recently ploughed for re-seeding, which a landowner is entitled to do, but this has not prevented use of the footpath.

Please bear in mind when you are walking these paths, you have only a right of way over someone else's land. What the public may not realise is, that where a footpath crosses land where there is livestock, the law requires that dogs must be kept on leads.

The definitive map is in my safe-keeping. Anyone wishing to see it, please contact me.

M. Doolan.

\*\*\*\*\*



# Britain in Bloom

The Parish Council has agreed to enter the village in the above competition for 1989.

This is a reminder to readers that the aim of the competition is to encourage people to make our village as attractive as possible by the imaginative and decorative use of trees, shrubs and flowers to provide a floral welcome to those entering the village.

JUDGING will take place in Bleadon early in July, points being awarded for the following:—

- a) The general effect on entering the village.
- b) The extent of effort by:-
  1. Public Bodies - Council properties, Churches, Village Green, Village Hall etc.
  2. Business premises - Shops, garages, factories.
  3. Estate and house gardens generally - Council and private.
  4. General care and tidiness - use of window boxes, tubs, roadside displays etc.

Bleadon has been succesful in this competition in the past, and we hope you will help us to be succesful again.

Bleadon Parish Council presents an award for the best large and small gardens as seen from the road, and the best hanging basket.

M.B. Corder.

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We would like to thank John Hickley for yet another superb drawing for our newsletter cover. His work has received many compliments, and we are most grateful for his contribution.

\*\*\*\*\*

If anyone is able to offer assistance with photocopying for future issues, this would be a tremendous advantage.

It is due entirely to the generosity of our District Councillor, Ian Peddlesden, and Sanders Superstore, that we have been able to produce this edition of our newsletter.

Bleadon Parish Council wishes to thank them for this extremely kind gesture. We also take this opportunity to thank them for all the support they have given to the village and its activities in the past. It is greatly appreciated!

M.B. Corder.

\*\*\*\*\*

1st BLEADON GUIDES AND BROWNIES

This year the Guide movement is celebrating the centenary of the birth of Olave Baden-Powell, and Woodspring Parks Department is planting a flowerbed in Clarence Park to honour this occasion. The Brownie Guides are 75 years old, and all the Brownies in Weston are invited to a birthday celebration at Broadoak School on June 17th.

This year also marks 75 years of Guiding in the Weston area, and we remember with gratitude and affection those early pioneers.

The Guides at Bleadon have already enjoyed a long weekend camp at Clevedon, and their young Guiders are busy preparing for the International camp at Cheddar this Summer.

Four Brownies and their Guiders from Bleadon will join other Brownies from Uphill and Moorland Road for a pack holiday in Wedmore at half-term in May.

After a District Bar.B.Q. in July, 1st Bleadon company will be saying goodbye to their Guide Captain Jose Higgins and assistant Rachel Sainty. Jose has had very happy connections with the Bleadon Company since 1942, and all the Guiders thank her and Rachel for their enthusiasm and support. Clevedon will gain from our loss, as Rachel, who lives in Clevedon, hopes to help with a local Guide company. Both are sad to leave, but happy in the knowledge that the company will be in the capable hands of Mary Fisher (Tel: 815306) and Debbie Carter.

Pauline Peddlesden,

District Commissioner.

\*\*\*\*\*

A.L.C.A.

AVON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The mobile information service calls fortnightly, arriving at the car park on a Monday (next visit 12th June) at 11.40a.m.

The van carries informative leaflets on many subjects, including D.H.S.S. benefits, adult education, what's on in the locality and bus timetables. It also runs promotions on topical issues. At the moment, it is healthy eating!

J. Wilkinson.



BLEADON CORONATION HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At the A.G.M. held on March 30th. the committee voted unanimously to return the officers Of 1988-'89.

Thanks were expressed to Mr.L. Chamberlain (Chairman), Mr.P. Lindsay (Vice-Chairman), Mrs.S. Kelly (Secretary) and Mrs.P. Simmons (Treasurer), for all their hard work during the year.

The Chairman gave warm thanks to Mrs.J. Jones (Booking Officer) and Mesdames Griffiths and McKay (Caretakers) for undertaking their duties so ably.

The committee was rather disappointed at the lack of public attendance, but felt this indicated satisfaction with the Hall management.

As you may know, the Parish Council has precepted for £1,000 for anticipated maintenance, but in spite of this contribution, the hall needs as much support as it can get through fund-raising activities.

A building of this size is, as you will appreciate, very costly to run, and without the Coronation Hall, many activities and organisations would cease to exist.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 28.2. 1989

INCOME:	£	
Hiring Charges	3,430	
Fund Raising	861	
Parish Council	387	
Interest	70	
		£4,748

EXPENDITURE:

Salaries	1,575	
Rates, Gas, Electricity	707	
Maintenance etc.	1,459	
Rights & Licenses	108	
Printing, Sundries	110	
Accounting/Auditing	99	
		£4,058

Balance at 1.3. 1988	2,322	
Surplus income over expenditure	690	
	£3,012	
Balance at 28.2. 1989		R. Ham.

\*\*\*\*\*

In response to the interest in 'Short Mat Bowling' a follow-up meeting will be held in June. L. Chamberlain (814517)

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Members are delighted that the May Fayre bookstall raised £104, and wish to thank all concerned for their support.

At the A.G.M. in June, we shall look back over the past year and forward to two months holiday. August is expressed in family holidays and entertaining visitors.

Our new year starts on Tuesday, 26th September with our customary opening service in Church.

M.W. Cullen.

\*\*\*\*\*



BLEADON

June is the month when the W.I. holds its A.G.M. in the Albert Hall. Hearing 6,000 women singing Jerusalem accompanied by the great organ, is quite an experience. Each branch has the right to be represented, and this year, Hutton which is paired with Bleadon, will send a delegate duly briefed as to how each branch wishes to vote.

Bleadon W.I. voted to support the following four resolutions:-

1. Calling upon the Government to take action to ensure the strictest control over importation, treatment and disposal of toxic waste material to prevent pollution of the environment.
2. Genetic fingerprinting - calling for legislation to introduce compulsory D.N.A. testing in areas where violent crime has been committed.
3. Osteoporosis - urging the Government to improve advice and treatment for those most at risk.
4. Deforestation - urging all individuals & organisations to do all in their power to impress on Governments the need to halt the extensive damage being caused to the ecological balance of our planet.

\*\*\*

Mrs. Hillier reported details of the follow up to last year's resolutions. In each case, Government Ministers had met W.I. representatives to discuss the issues and consider possible action.

\*\*\*

June 13th - Mr. Jack Jones will speak on Gilbert & Sullivan.

July 11th - Mrs P. Dain - "More Inner City Anecdotes."

August - no meeting.

M.W. Cullen.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE ORIGINS OF BLEADON'S MAY DAY FAYRE

This was started when May 1st became a national holiday, and it was developed in order to bring everyone and all organisations together.

The majority of the proceeds go to the Church and assisting local organisations.

D. Osborne.

## Boyhood Memories of Bleadon in the '30's

by

Ken Durston

Bleadon was a small, close-knit community when I was growing up, most of the men employed either in the quarry (now ARC) or on the farms.

South Hill was the largest agricultural employer, a dairy farm which distributed the milk and cream it produced to Bleadon, Uphill and Weston by fleets of horses and carts, the latter running on car tyres for smoothness. Purn Dairy Farm used BSA motor cycles and side-cars whilst others used bicycles, the cans slung over the handle-bars. There were even Austin 7 vans in use!

There were no such things as battery hens. All were free range!

As the mechanised milking concerns took over the milk rounds, sadly, men drifted into employment outside the village, and the tied agricultural cottages still stand as a reminder that these men had to relinquish their accommodation also.

Hay making on Bleadon levels began each Summer, the hay brought back to the farms or the Barton by the wagon load to be stored in barns for the winter.

The cart horses were a magnificent sight in Accommodation Road, and 'Smiler,' the star of them all, was pure black with a white diamond on its nose.

The village boys were encouraged to 'pound at dawn,' in order that as much hay as possible was stored. Of course, it provided the opportunity for the lads to let off steam, but nevertheless, it was great fun.

Four grocery stores were patronised by the villagers who seldom shopped in Weston. These were located in Bridge Road, where the Post Office stands today, by the Queen's Arms and at Hillcote, known locally as 'Pussy Town.'

The bakery at Mulberry House provided a bread round which served the village until it was closed down by Birds of Winscombe.

Butchers at Uphill supplied the village's meat, whilst Bridge Garage recharged accumulators for wireless sets. A hardware store was next to the garage.

Central Garage lay opposite the new vicarage. It was a haulage contracting firm, giving employment to half a dozen men. The base of the old petrol pumps still exist, but now form part of a wall. Miss Taylor, a staunch Methodist, ran their bicycle accessory shop.

If all the Methodist children did not attend Chapel three times each Sunday, she was quickly on our doorsteps.

There were three other haulage contractors in Bleadon, one of whom was also the coal merchant. They were employed in hauling stone and gravel from the quarry.

On Roman Road, the bungalow with its tin roof, and its outbuildings which you may have noticed, belonged to Falstaff's, a coach builder and sign writer.

Yet another of the local services ceased when the grandson of the village undertaker died only two years ago.

Bleadon and Uphill station was always busy, used regularly by the villagers right up to the late '50's.

Gypsy Genty, who smoked a clay pie, lived with her sister in a traditional Romany caravan in Fakenham.

Coal ships sailed up the River Axe as far as Lympsham Wharf to unload their cargoes of Welsh steam coal destined for the local gas works.

In the long Summer holidays, the village boys, complete with a

picnic, would play on a shipwreck at Uphill Wharf, or take their little wheeled trolleys up Bleadon Hill to the then derelict house 'White Barns.'

The Anchor Inn, one of four public houses in Bleadon, was a proper spit and sawdust pub offering table skittles, but the Victoria Inn, a cider pub, was the most popular. Led by Bob Say and his squeeze box, the boys from the Ack Ack came down from Roman Road to join us in hearty sing-songs at weekends.

Bleadon boasted a blacksmith, a peg-legged cobbler, a school and three teachers. The farmers brewed cider and the lads got a good hiding for tasting it!

One of the best known characters of the day was Mr. Clogg. He lived in a hut in the grounds of the Mount, owned by Mr. Over. These men only used money as a last resort. They thrived on bartering their produce in exchange for labour provided by the local children. They were generous men, handing out punnets of fruit to children as they left school, and giving the surplus to hospitals in the area.

Deprived children spent holidays at the Mount, and Miss Dingwall who lived there, would load her 'Yankee Studebaker' with produce. Children piled into the car too and helped to distribute it all.

Mr. Over, an authority on bees, kept many hives, and Mr. Clogg, who hitch-hiked all over the country, sent the drivers honey as a token of his appreciation.

In the late '50's, Mr. Clogg attempted to rescue two boys from the River Axe. Mr. Clogg and the boys who had been camping at the Mount, were all drowned. His gravestone is in the Churchyard.

Alas, so much of Bleadon's past has been eroded in the name of progress. The Chapel, Mission House, British Legion, Sports Club, to name but a few.

In taking a walk down memory lane, I hope I have conjured up a picture of the community as it used to be, a happy village in which everyone knew everyone else.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are always pleased to receive tales, history, anecdotes etc. of Bleadon for inclusion in the newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### RETURN TO SOMERSET

Councillor Goodman and I recently attended a meeting on behalf of Bleadon Parish Council to hear the new developments in this campaign.

An association of British Counties has now been formed, and it is hoped that when further information is available, a meeting on a larger scale will take place in September.

RTS committee members attended a nationwide meeting in Monmouth this spring, and it was felt generally, that the Boundary Commission was now taking notice of the public's opinion.

As you will have seen in the press, one lucky village in North Avon has been returned to its native county of Gloucester.

The return to Somerset referendum held in Bleadon some years ago, showed that 97% of the residents were in favour of this move.

R. Ham.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The safety of the junction at Bleadon Road and Bridgwater Road has greatly improved due to the efforts of Bleadon Parish Council, Woodspring District Council, Avon County Council and the Police.

During the period of discussion, the management of Honda Garage also showed enthusiasm for the improvement of the junction.

It was felt by the authorities, that the Honda sign at the garage created a visual hindrance to cars leaving Bleadon Road and was a possible hazard.

An approach was made to the owners suggesting the sign could be resited and financial assistance would be given. The response has been somewhat muted.

Let us hope that it does not take another major accident at this junction to motivate the owners into action, although no accidents have yet been attributed to the sign.

Ian Peddlesden.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAY DAY FAYRE SUCCESS**

The Social Events Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make the Bleadon May Day Fayre such a successful and happy day.

This is an event which needs the co-operation of a large team. It was lovely to see so many people, both individuals and organisations, working together on the day.

Not only was it a happy event, giving pleasure to the many families who arrived to participate, it is also pleasing to report that it was a very successful day financially. After meeting all expenses, just over £2600 has been raised towards the day-to-day running of our church in Bleadon.

We would like to give special thanks to the local businesses who donated prizes:

Sanders Supermarket  
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Sainsburys  
Barclays Bank PLC  
Fundraisers

Jeff Browns Garage  
Marks & Spencer PLC  
Weston Decorators  
Carousel Hair Artist

**SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE \* NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

Following the resignation of our Chairman and Treasurer, there will be a Special Meeting on 29th June at 8.0.p.m. in the Church Room. If you are interested in the work of this committee, please come along.

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(Prop: Peter Briffitt)

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\*\*\*\*\*

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 JOHN MARTIN, 3,220  
 AN GARY ST JOHN 30,450  
 Farm House Cheese.

\*\*\*\*\*  
ADVERTISING CHARGES

Per annum: 7mm £10, 14mm £15, 21mm £30 (4 issues)

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Copy for this edition to be received BY the last  
 week in August for distribution in the first week  
 in September.

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 expressed in this newsletter are those of the con-  
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