



■ Flashback to 1911...and the putting-up of a more impressive maypole.

# Cut down to size... the new vertically-challenged<sup>7/16/93</sup> maypole

A ONCE record-breaking maypole, which proudly stood 100 feet tall, has been reduced to a sorrowful stump.

The new 'vertically-challenged' pole has sent villagers in Paganhill round and round the bend.

The replacement short, fat maypole, which is painted patriotic red, white and blue, was installed recently on the traditional triangle outside Upfield School.

But residents have already expressed horror at the new pole, which was once in the Guinness Book of Records for towering almost 100 feet into the sky.

"Everybody is complaining about it," agreed maypole committee member Molly Roberts.

"I agree it is ugly. But the stump will have a plaque on it



## ■ The maypole today.

and is really just a token thing because we want to retain planning permission on the original site."

Mrs Roberts said a second far grander maypole was soon to be erected at the nearby Old Crown Inn car park.

That move was agreed, she

said, because insurance premiums at the traditional site were too high.

The new spot at the pub will mean people will actually be able to dance around the maypole for the first time in years because it will be in a safe spot instead of in the middle of a road junction.

The short maypole was the section salvaged after the last pole was considered unsafe because it was rotting and was taken down.

There have been public maypoles at Paganhill for more than 250 years and in 1804 a pole did in fact slip while being put up and killed two children.

As a result the village squire banned a maypole from the site but villagers stole a tree from Pen Woods and erected a pole on the green. They were sent to prison for their trouble.