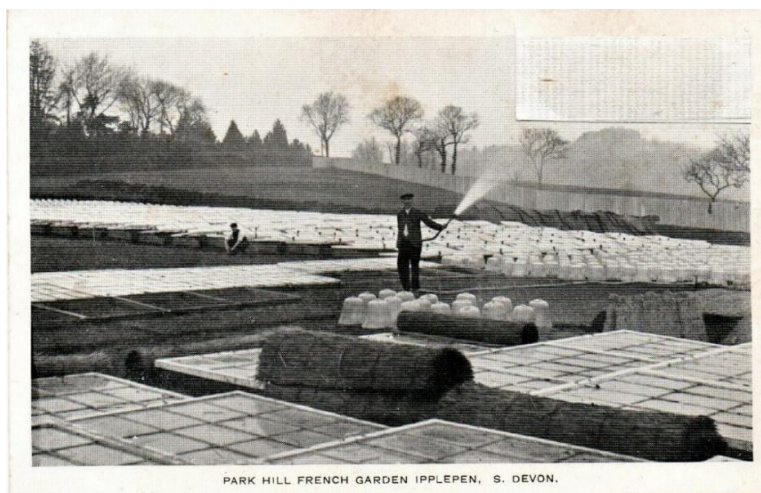


French Gardens

In the December issue of the magazine, we published our Christmas Quiz. I hope that many of you were prepared to have a go before looking at the answers, but I am guessing that the question that might have seemed most obscure concerned the whereabouts of the French Gardens in Ippepen. I thought it might be interesting to return to that topic and offer up a few more details. Below we have a picture of the Gardens which might help to shed some light.



Across the road from Park Hill, prior to the First World War, was a 'French Garden,' an experiment in intensive horticulture. The crops were sown under 'cloches,' (large bell-shaped glass covers), and transport around the garden was effected by light hand-propelled trucks on narrow gauge rail tracks.

Another of the questions in the Quiz referred to the changing names of roads coming into Ippepen. Just along from Park Hill we have Causeway Cross which became known as Ippepen Cross when the first buses began to ply between Newton Abbot and Totnes. They could not at that time be routed through the village because of the narrowness of the roads and of overhanging tree branches, and passengers had to alight here and walk to the village from this point.

A right turn at this Cross brings us into Causeway meaning a 'well-beaten track.' From the 'Elms' it was labelled East Street down as far as the Methodist Church. Prior to the Elms the Causeway was named Foredown Road. According to Reg Honeywill to whom I am indebted for the bulk of this information Foredown is a corruption of Fore Town and this fits in with Reg's theory that Ippepen was once known as a town – hence also Townsend Hill. Attractive as this concept is I have not seen any other evidence to corroborate this theory.