FROM THE DESK OF

Marion Friend.

In 1958 when I started Courting my husband who was a Bere Ferrers Boy the last train up from St Budeaux was 9 o'clock which meant going to the pictures was out of the Question as you had to leave before the end, it was then decided that with a Season ticket and the last train down a huge hissing spitting steam train full of the Service People returning to Plymouth etc. Sometimes 11 Coaches long. was better, the Porter at St Budeaux Station closed down as that was the last train down with arrangements made that he would take me home in his motor Bike and Side car Safely.

The Station was thriving in those days with a waiting room huge fire, Ladies + gents toilets, and a ticket office there was a signal box., 2 Porters + a Station master in the House.

The little Bridge Spanning the two track rails, the train going up to Waterloo, we could go to Tavistock by train then there was a waiting room the other side and lovely flower Beds surrounded by white painted Stones there was a Sense of pride as station was Spotless.

Produce was taken there Fruit + Flowers on its way to the London Markets, weighed + Paid for then taken across to the opposite Platform to travel to London. It was a lovely atmosphere a very happy Place.

1961.

After our Plymouth wedding we boarded the train at Yad Station, passing through the Bere Ferrers Station to waves + good wishes from family + friends as we Journeyed to Brighton to spend a week at Butlin's Ocean Hotel. Even having a go at Ice Skating with very disastrous results.
We were amongst many Honeymoon Couples and the entertainment was great.
We were ale presented with an alarm clock which was used for many years.

1961

Starting married life in Bere Ferrers was so exciting although it was only a 10 minute ride away on the train, it was another world from my life in the town, Green fields flowers, Birds walking amongst cows and lambs as we went over the fields to Thorn Point, where we did most of our courting.
Watching my mother In Law Bless her she was lovely, Sitting with a bucket of Daffs trying to get them open by the fire to display in the Flower Show such an exciting event as everyone Putting their Blooms in and winning Cups that were donated for each different Catagory.
Fierce Competition in the Domestic Section
Both ends of the Hall were displayed by (2) Prominent growers who worked so very hard the Evening before to display magnificant varieties One experimented with Crossing Bulbs to get new varieties I absolutely loved going down to be part of the atmosphere + excitement. I was so pleased to be a part of it all as we prepared our flowers for display.
It was a massive event in those days.
Flower Show day I did a Buffet for family + friends they came to see the flowers.
16 of them for tea.