

Rather cloudy at first, perhaps with a spot or two of rain, but some bright or sunny spells are likely later today. Fine but cool overnight with periods of sunshine tomorrow. Light, perhaps locally moderate northerly winds. Maximum temperature today 18C (64F), tomorrow 17C (63F). Minimum tonight 5C (41F) with some ground frost.



Every Saturday the Place a regular

25 8th SEPTEMBER 1986

MYSTERY CIRCLES DECLARED 'A HOAX'

Special report from Paul Allen

JOHN DODD has the perfect evidence for his theory that those mysterious wheatfield circles are nothing more than elaborate hoaxes.

He has been out and made some for himself, armed with nothing more than a stake, a rope, a trowel and his feet.

"I'm amazed that no-one has actually tried to copy the rings before," said writer Mr. Dodd today.

"It seemed to me that everyone was overlooking the possibility that these are a hoax, and that someone somewhere is sitting back killing himself laughing at all the publicity."

John Dodd took two pals and carefully walked into the middle of a Petersfield wheatfield,



HOAX THEORY: The mystery circles at the Devil's Punchbowl.

using the tractor "tramlines".

He banged the stake into the ground, tied the rope to it, and wound

himself round to make a 50-foot diameter circle of trampled stalks.

Then, a longer length of rope and an anti-clockwise trample, made the distinctive second ring which has puzzled people at Cheesefoot Head near Winchester.

"We squared it with the farmer afterwards, and we're waiting for his bill for the flattened wheat," said John.

It's a blow for UFO theory, and a setback for those who hold that it's all down to electromagnetic forces.



robbery'

their income down by nearly £4 per week, according to a report by the affected groups singled out under 25s — who will lose their benefits next week unless they live with their parents and the chronically ill.

Alan Whitehead, a prospective leader of the Ipswich City Council, warned that the council would be forced to take new measures to prosecute those who failed to pay their rate bill.

Denham, the president of the Ipswich Labour Party who is to contest the constituency at the next election, said almost a third of the population were living below the official poverty

n after mercy flight

Tottenham: Both lanes of the A35 near Rushington roundabout were blocked today when a van crashed into a lamp-post injuring three people. All were taken to Southampton General Hospital. The accident caused chaos among commuter traffic to Southampton.

instrument and a large sandy-coloured bass. Police are investigating.

Shirley: Detectives appealed again today to residents in their area to secure all garden sheds and garages as a deterrent to