

*Mr. A.S. Bibby (1912 - 50), who taught Chemistry at the school, recalled early memories of the time when the school was in its original buildings in Throwley Road - it moved to its present site in 1928. The following graphic description of a 'fire' is amusing.*

*'But what about the morning break? The playground was a square of asphalt separated from Throwley Road by iron railings. There were five minutes for break proper, then the School drew up in squads and went through exercises, cheered on by remarks from the errand boys, and sweet smiles from the nurse-maids. Such was P.T. in those days - no games no "life," a daily monotony, and freezingly cold in winter.*

*But the open position on Throwley Road had its advantages. On Derby Days nothing could keep the boys within those railings. The High Street was a stream of horse-drawn traffic and donkey carts while the singing and shouting invaded our classrooms and reminded us that at 12.30 we too should be free to join the throng on the Downs.*

*Another excitement we looked forward to was a fire. We occupied a strategic position next door to the Fire Brigade. Arrangements were primitive. When the man on duty at the Fire Station heard there was a fire, he 'phoned through to Dendy Napper's, who sounded the Flour Mill siren. As soon as that signal was heard, the dustmen, who were out with their carts peacefully emptying dustbins, unharnessed their horses, climbed on their backs and galloped in a wild race to the Fire Station, where a crowd, which had had plenty of time to gather, cheered each arrival. The dustmen emerged resplendent in uniform, harnessed their horses to the fire engines and, to the clanging of a hand-bell, galloped off to their fire.*

*The School was small in those days. We all knew each other. It was young and growing and its youthful enthusiasms were allowed great freedom. With strong personalities on the staff such as Mr. Hensley, Mr. Horn, Mr. Birks and Mr. Rushworth - each an outstanding individualist - it is not to be wondered at that the generation of boys who came under their influence contained so many who made their mark in after life. E. G. Neate, E. C. Gardner, Val Dowson, the Waters brothers, the Goff brothers, Bedenham, A. F. B. Lloyd, Frank Everett, Evernden, K. W. Todd, Cecil Best, these names come to me as I write. Worthy is the school that can turn out men of this stamp.'*

*Mr. A.S. Bibby (1912 - 50),*