

## 1959 opening of Fakenham Secondary Modern School in Field Lane.

By Hubert Dunthorne

'In the 1950's the post war 'baby boom' was imposing a severe strain on schools everywhere. I first saw the effects of this in 1951 when I was appointed to Little Snoring Primary School. Two new 'temporary' classrooms (which lasted to the end of the century!) had been provided to cope with the influx of children resulting from so-called squatters occupying the service living quarters of the recently closed R.A. F. station. The little Victorian two teacher school, adequate for the thirty or so village children suddenly had well over a hundred on roll, completely overcrowding the building.

By 1956 the pressure had eased at Snoring but the problem was shifting to the secondary stage and I was transferred to Fakenham Secondary Modern School in Queen's Road where class sizes of 45+ had become the norm. With the overall shortage of teachers nationally, staff changes were far too frequent, adding to the difficulty of maintaining a good standard of education.

It was therefore a relief when we learned of the building of the new school in Field Lane and even more of a relief when after Easter 1958 the move to the new site took place.

At last there was room to move and staff and pupils alike were able to enjoy the spaciousness of the new buildings. There was so much that we had not had before - the gym the assembly all with stage, the kitchen and dining hall, science labs, needlework and domestic science rooms for the girls, acres of playing fields and indoor toilets!

But still the numbers grew. Before long instead of a four-form entry year there were up to six forms entering in one year and mobile classrooms were required!'