

## NOTES AND QUERIES

*Suffering of early Quakers: West Midlands 1650-1690*, Facsimile of 1753 text by Joseph Besse. Ed. by Michael Gandy. York: Sessions Book Trust. 2008.xx + unnumbered pages. £12.

This is the ninth to appear of the series of regional facsimile sections of Joseph Besse's 1753 *Sufferings of the People called Quakers*. It has an introduction and indices of place and personal names compiled by Michael Gandy. The series is very useful to those without ready access to the original and enables local historians and genealogists to purchase the part or parts relevant to their research economically.

*David J. Hall*

St. Albans Quaker Meeting House in *Quaker Meeting Houses in Britain* by David Butler

As a result of a printing error which repeats part of the text and ambiguous phraseology in an article in *The Friend*<sup>1</sup> the entry on St. Albans Meeting<sup>2</sup> suggests that there were more Meeting Houses than there actually were.

The original Meeting House built in 1672 stood until 1835 when the meeting was laid down and the building was demolished. More recent investigation shows that some of the timbers were then used in the construction of 40 Verulam Road; beams with wooden nails and old brickwork can still be seen in the cellar<sup>3</sup>. The adjacent burial ground was sold in 1962 and is commemorated in a plaque on the surrounding wall.

A second larger plot was purchased by Friends in 1676 in what is now Victoria Street and was used as a burial ground. The city council hold this on a peppercorn rent and maintain it as a garden.

The present Meeting House, formerly a Victorian schoolroom in Upper Lattimore Road, was purchased in 1912 following the revival of the Meeting at the turn of the century.<sup>4</sup>

1. *The Friend* Vol. 49 p.874 23.4.1909
2. Herts p.16
3. Copy of deeds in St. Albans Meeting Library
4. *Where God Had a People: Quakers in St. Albans over Three Hundred Years*. Clifford T. Crellin. 1999

*Clifford T. Crellin*