

successive headmasters moved the school on, improving the financial basis and developing it into a 'modern, progressive, comprehensive school'. That included, under the direction of Jonas Fielding (1963-1972), the introduction of a sixth form, as well as the development of numerous building projects to cope with the expansion of pupils – rising from 260 to over 350. The reason given for not introducing a sixth form earlier had always been that other Quaker schools were better equipped to offer education at this level, but it was a symptom of Sibford's growing confidence at this time that the staff were prepared to undertake this considerable expansion. Later development has included increased capacity for music and the performing arts, resulting in improved facilities and a growing reputation. The latest trends have been in line with many of those nationally, not least in increasing the number of day pupils in relation to the number of boarders.

Many of the questions which arise from this book are the result of the hard work undertaken by Michael Finch. With all this information available it would be interesting to know more about the pupils, where they came from and who they were; what did they go on to do, what was their influence in the Society of Friends (clearly many of the staff and members of the School Committee were well known Friends) and how was the school regarded within the Society and the wider educational establishment. Edward Milligan, who wrote the Foreword, suggests the possibility of further research based on the framework already constructed in this book; that is the value of histories such as this, that they suggest additional lines of research which can take the subject forward.

Helen Forde

Bygone Bartons, vol. 1, 32pp, full colour illus. 2011, £3,00 from Rosemary Wharton (tel. 01869 347638). <www.bartonshistorygroup.org.uk>

This Souvenir copy is the first in a planned series by the Bartons' History Group. The Group was revived in 2007 and has already produced or reprinted a range of booklets and leaflets, plus a DVD of films celebrating the 1977 Silver Jubilee. There are five articles in *Bygone Bartons*: 'From Saddles to School Meals' (Barbara Hill), 'Flint axe found near Leys Farm' (Christine Edbury), 'Postboxes from all reigns' (Rosemary Wharton), 'Looking backwards... and forwards' (Chris Jones) and 'The Methodist Chapel's 150th anniversary (the late Audrey Martin)'. Entertaining and well illustrated (I particularly liked that of the rare Victorian pillar box, dating from 1856, outside Banbury Town Hall), we look forward to future issues.

J.G.

An Historical Atlas of Oxfordshire, ed. Kate Tiller & Giles Darkes, Oxfordshire Record Society vol. 67, 2010. xii, 194pp. £20 (card-covered) or £35 (hardback).

With 74 subjects (all mapped), and 42 contributors, meaningful comment requires more time and space than yet available. For a (fairly critical) review, see Chris Hall (over nine pages) in *Oxfordshire Local History*. Nevertheless, the Atlas provides an invaluable overview of the county's history. A book to buy.