

Cake and Cockhorse

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On 24 April 1564 the Banbury Corporation ordained four places for ‘the laying of filth and dung’: in St John’s Street [South Bar] ‘against the house where the wife of Hugh Slee now dwells’, [two other places] and ‘next the house where William Perkyns dwells...’ Whether Mistress Slee and William Perkyns were consulted or given any option is unknown. But Ruth Brown has shown that whilst the smell might be obnoxious, its origin could be profitable.

Local history tends to be confined to recent centuries, from the Tudor period on. The reason is obvious: only for the past six centuries are records relating to ‘ordinary’ people abundant and in English. In all the forty-five years of *Cake & Cockhorse* we have only had a handful of pre-1500 articles (archaeological reports excepted). So it is with delight that we are able to reprint from *Warwickshire History*, published by our friends the Warwickshire Local History Society, Philip Tennant’s article on an obscure (and unknown to most of our readers) ‘rebellion’ in 1321, which, though relating to Warwickshire and Worcestershire, must have had repercussions in Oxfordshire and even more so in Banburyshire.

Philip is a member of our Society and members will recall his *Edgehill and Beyond* (B.H.S. 23, 1992) (itself stemming from an article in *Warwickshire History* which we were allowed to reprint). He has a wonderful knack of presenting national history as it reacted on the ordinary people who got caught up in its tumult. The research involved is evident from the footnote references.

Cover: Middens and Miasma (a woodcut reproduced in *The Oxford Illustrated History of Tudor and Stuart Britain*, ed. Morell, and appearing in many other publications).