



Did people notice the smell? Was it so much part of everyday life that people were not concerned? There is some evidence of an awareness in the better homes at least. Sweet smelling herbs were employed to disguise the smell of rotting rushes on the floor. Perfumes and pomanders were in common use and we have seen that herbs were used to perfume soap and hide the smell of lye. Perhaps there was an inevitability to the middens and miasma of the seventeenth century that was accepted by the locals, for who is to say how the standards of hygiene in the twentieth century will be judged in three hundred years' time?

BANBURY MUSEUM – OUR NEW MEETING PLACE

After many years of meeting in the lecture hall at the North Oxfordshire College, our committee, with much discussion, decided (by majority vote, almost the first in our existence) to move to the new Banbury Museum. Whilst the N.O.C. hall was excellent for accommodation (up to a hundred) and being tiered provided good viewing of illustrated talks, access involved three sets of stairs, a confusing approach (at least for newcomers) and invariably full car-parks within the College precincts. Members attending meetings were asked to express their views, which gave no clear resolution for or against. At the A.G.M. some dismay was expressed at our proposed change of venue.

After this concern it is a great relief that the move has proved to be an almost embarrassing success, in that at the October and November meetings (perhaps because of popular subjects) we have been sore pressed to accommodate all attending – sixty or more each time. Moreover, for the first time, we have been able to welcome disabled members.

We must thank Simon Townsend, who stays on after hours to supervise our arrivals and departures, and juggles the seats.