

Christmas Medieval Banquet - 1 December 2000

Our branch Christmas dinner was a Christmas medieval banquet for the millennium on Friday December 1st in the hall of the Old Bishop's Palace in Worcester. It's a lovely room - very plain, with timbers criss-crossing the ceiling, a stone-flagged floor and brilliant views out of the large window over the River Severn (much less of it than a few weeks ago!) With the tables decorated with candles and greenery all down the middle, and a huge Christmas tree in one corner of the hall, it was a perfect setting for a banquet. Pleasantly warm too.

Pat did all the cooking, ably assisted by two other members, and again provided a feast of wonderful variety. We began with a choice of thick pea soup or minted apples, then ate chicken and mushroom pasties with salad, fish with wild rice, beef casserole, and finished with Christmas pudding and/or cherry pudding, similar to summer pudding.

Pat tries to be as authentic as possible but we allowed an exception for the Christmas pudding - if Richard III didn't have this pudding he missed a real treat! Wild rice is black, and looked purple on the plates, but is very tasty and nutty.

We had a couple of portraits of Richard on display, and the shields and boar banner made by Rick completed the Ricardian atmosphere. The only drawback to this venue were the ancient ovens - no-one thought to tell Pat to double or treble the cooking time! But while we waited for the fish we did a round of Ralph's "Ricardian Many A Slip". I always find it difficult to do as I am laughing so much. He gives out the false facts so confidently we don't immediately realise we are being tricked!

Overall it was an overwhelming success and I'd like to say a huge thank you to Pat and her helpers for all their hard work in producing such wonderful food.