

TUDOR CHRISTMAS

On the 5th December 2007 Year 5 had a fantastic Tudor day! I dressed up as rich lady. The lady who had come to help us was called Mistress Rachel.

In the morning there were eight different work activities. The barber surgeon (doctor) the apothecary, the candle making, the locket painting, the ink and writing, the scent bag making, the leather bookmarks and the sewing stall.

I went on the sewing stall and sewed a C for Connie; it was great fun. You had two wooden circles with a cloth in between; when you'd done that you sewed the first letter of your name.

At the scent bag stall, Rebecca and I made charming lavender, lemon plant and nutmeg scent bag with rose water.

To make a scent bag we sprinkled rosewater into a muslin square, and then we choose our three herbs which were nutmeg, lavender and rose petals. Then we ground them in a pestle and mortar until they were a fine powder and had a strong aroma; then we poured them in the muslin and tied it all up.

I also painted a locket by tracing a template onto gold card then folding it in half. I drew a Tudor lady on one side inside the locket and a Tudor rose inside as well. I wore it on a thread all day!

Being a patient in the apothecary or barber surgeon was also great fun as you got to scream at the barber surgeons and got scent bags at the apothecary. After we had finished our workstations we were all told about a typical Tudor Christmas.

Apparently they called it Yuletide and that twelve was a very special number at that time.

In the afternoon we had a real Tudor banquet. The entertainers consisted of four groups the servitors, the dancers, the singers and the actors. I was in the slow and stately Tudor dance which was fun!

I got to sit at the top table with Charlotte, Antonia, Megan and Molly. We ate out of real Tudor plates and were served by the wonderful servitors. The servitors were really good because they were quite quick and really good at acting.

We ate some "real" Tudor food: bread, green and red apples, "wine" (ribena) cheese and gingerbread. While we were eating, the Millie box came around and we had to sing a wassail song and pretend to put coins and jewels into it for the poor. After that we had a Tudor story about a murderer and Lady Mary, and then we went home.

I really enjoyed my Tudor day.

Here is a picture of me at the scent bag stall grinding lavender in a pestle and mortar.

