

## Xmas dinner with Dr. Johnson Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December



For our annual Branch Christmas Dinner, we thought we would do something very different and special this year. We will be “taking over” the house of Dr. Johnson and having an intimate dinner for only 40 members and their guests.

Dr Johnson's House is one of the few residential houses of its age still surviving in the City of London. Built c.1700, it was a home and workplace for Samuel Johnson 1748-1759, and it was

here that he compiled the first comprehensive English Dictionary. Now restored to its original condition, the house contains panelled rooms, a pine staircase, and a collection of period furniture, prints and portraits. Situated to the north of Fleet Street, the house is found among a maze of courtyards and passages that are a reminder of historic London.

Samuel Johnson was born in 1709 in the cathedral city of Lichfield, Staffordshire. His father was a bookseller whose house is now the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum. From his earliest days, Johnson's life was blighted by ill health and poverty forced him to leave Pembroke College, Oxford without a degree. In 1735 he married Elizabeth Porter, a widow more than twenty years his senior and in 1737 moved to London. Johnson was commissioned by a syndicate of booksellers to write the first comprehensive Dictionary of the English Language in 1746. He rented 17 Gough Square and with the help of his six amanuenses compiled the Dictionary in the garret. It was published in 1755.



The kitchen has none of the modern cooking conveniences you would now expect. (Even the oven has to be brought in for the

evening). But you can expect a very special evening, surrounded by history.

We will start with a reception and a glass of “fizzy” at 18.30, the dinner commencing at 19.00 prompt.

The chosen menu is as follows (deliberately *not* standard Christmas fare), naturally accompanied by wine :

*Thai Prawm Salad with Glass Noodles*

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*Tagine of Lamb with apricots and almonds*

*Dauphinoise potatoes and seasonal vegetables*

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*Hazelnut Pavlova roulade with a raspberry coulis*

*Coffee*

**Please note we are asked to vacate the premises no later than 10pm**

Venue:	Dr. Johnson's House, 17 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE
Mobility Rating:	5 (steep stairs)
Nearest Tube:	Chauncery Lane
Time:	Reception 18.30, Dinner 19.00 prompt
Dress:	Black Tie
Price p/person:	£79.00 Members and first guest Additional guests £82.00
Organiser:	Roger Ellis Tel. 01494 837857 Email: roger.ellis@iwfs.co.uk