

Preparing for the Ball: Party Planning



On 10th December 1897, Wilbraham Egerton and his second wife Alice, Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, hosted a lavish costumed ball at Tatton. The ball was described in the press as, “the principal event of the season in Cheshire” with 250 guests in attendance.

So hurry...there’s no time to lose! We need your help preparing for this most fantastic event...

Activity 1: Choose the Theme

You are going to help Wilbraham and Alice plan their costumed ball. First of all, pick a theme for the party. As this is a fancy dress party, everyone will dress up for your theme.

My theme is _____

Activity 2: Invited Guests

Make a list of 10 people you would invite to your costumed ball. Think about why you would like them to be there and why they might be a fun person to have at your party.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



Next, have a go at making a party invitation for your guests. Remember to tell them when and where the party is and what the theme is. Also, remind them that it is fancy dress!

TIP: Make sure your invite looks the part too! Decorate it how you like and be creative.

Activity 3: Floral Decorations

For the costume ball, the Egerton's had the rooms in the Mansion decorated with beautiful flowers, which smelt lovely and looked exquisite.

Make some floral party decorations of your own. Below are instructions to make two types of decorations – choose one or try them both! Of course, you could also make your own party decorations, if you prefer.

1. Cotton Bud Daisies



- a) Take a handful of cotton buds and cut them in half
- b) Take a small piece of modelling clay, roll into a ball and then flatten
- c) Insert the plastic end of the bud into the edge of the clay with the cotton tip pointing out
- d) Continue all the way around to form a full head of petals
- e) Add a pipe cleaner into the bottom to form the stalk. You could also use a straw or twisted piece of card

2. Cupcake Case Garland



- a) Collect together cupcake cases. Try to choose ones of different sizes and colours
- b) Use scissors to shape the edges to look like petals. They could be round, pointed or shredded
- c) Using a dab of glue, layer a few cases one on top of the other. Put the smaller ones inside the larger
- d) Stick something in the middle to be the centre of the flower, or colour in a circle with felt tip pen
- e) Personalise your flowers by adding extra embellishments e.g. glitter on the petals
- f) Make as many flowers as you would like and then stick them to a length of ribbon or string to form the garland

