

## Preparing for the Ball: Servants' Preparations



On 10<sup>th</sup> December 1897, Wilbraham Egerton and his second wife Alice, Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, hosted a lavish costumed ball at Tatton Park. The household staff were required to work harder and longer. Extra staff were also recruited to help with the ball preparations and to assist at the party.

**You have been recruited as the newest addition to Tatton Park's Housekeeping team.  
Now, get to work!**

### Activity 1: Who Are You?

**Choose a Victorian name from the list below. Did you know...these were all real people who worked at Tatton Park's Mansion in the past.**

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Female Servants

Clarrie Appleby	Olive Fenton
Edith Badrock	Mary Hope
Jane Barker	Elizabeth Hulme
Matilda Burton	Elizabeth Jennings
Annie Callister	Jane Johnson
Katy Carter	Noreen Kelly

#### Male Servants

Abraham Hitchens	George Chorlton
Alfred Lawrence	George Slaney
Charles Blake	George Worth
Charles Ealey	James Ashton
Charles Sibley	James Duckworth
Edward Mackroone	James Judson



### **Activity 2: Etiquette Training**

The Egertons wanted to be sure that all housekeeping staff behaved correctly during the ball. They wanted all of their friends to think they had the best servants in the land! New servants would be interviewed and given a trial period to ensure they were good enough.

**Make sure that you are behaving like an excellent servant by following these rules:**

- Always be clean and well presented with your hair combed and your hands washed
- Remember to call the Butler and Housekeeper, *Sir* and *Ma'am* at all times
- Let people go through doors and tight spaces ahead of you
- If you pass someone, boys should bow and girls should curtsy
- Be polite, respectful and as hard working and helpful as you can

### **Activity 3: Guest Bedrooms**

The servants would be responsible for preparing bedrooms for all the party guests. It was important that they were tidy and welcoming.

**Practise by making your own bed. Flatten the sheet, plump the pillows and smooth the duvet. Make sure it looks neat and then ask a senior servant to check it for you! It is important that you keep practising, so try making your bed every day to a standard Lord Egerton's important guests would be pleased with.**



### **Activity 4: Shining the Silverware**

The best silver would be used for special parties and it would have been the job of the servants to make sure it was clean and sparkling.

**Ask an adult's permission to have some cutlery to polish. Rub a small amount of toothpaste onto the piece of cutlery you want to clean. Then use a clean cloth to gently rub all over the surface. Once you have rubbed it thoroughly, rinse the item under warm water and dry with a towel.**

