

Preparing for the Ball: Party Time



On 10th December 1897, Wilbraham Egerton and his second wife Alice, Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, hosted a lavish costumed ball at Tatton Park.

The day of the party is here and you are invited to enjoy the celebrations. Gather together some guests, wear your fancy dress and enjoy the ball!

Activity 1: Meet and Greet

Gather together anyone who is a guest at your party. Make a line and in a loud voice, announce each person in turn. For example: “Welcoming Lord Egerton of Tatton Park, Knutsford.” Take a photograph of each guest in their party outfit.

At the Egertons’ costumed ball, they asked all their guests to write their names in a special book, as a memory of who had attended.

Write the names of your party guests below. Don’t forget yourself!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Activity 2: Tasty Treats

At the Egertons' costumed ball, they had an extravagant meal with many different courses. Some of the dishes were: lobster salad, game pate with truffles, sweet pastries and fruit.

Make some special snacks for a ball supper. You could have sandwiches cut into interesting shapes, cupcakes decorated with sprinkles, or colourful fruit salad. Help to display the food and then eat it together with your guests.

Activity 3: Music and Dance

The guests at the costumed ball would have listened to music played by a band called the White Viennese Band. The musicians would have dressed in white uniforms, complete with gold braiding and buttons.



1901 • London, England

One of the tunes the band would have played is called 'Blue Danube' by a composer called Strauss. Find the song on the Internet or Youtube.

Before you play it, we are going to learn the steps to a ballroom dance called a 'waltz'. You can dance this with a partner, or practise the steps by yourself.

- a) Take a step forward with one foot
- b) Take a step to the side (either right or left) with the other foot
- c) Bring both feet back together
- d) Repeat

Practise this a few times to get used to the movements. Then turn on the Blue Danube and try to do the steps in time with the music.

Of course, this music is very different from what we play at parties today!

Now it's time for you to choose the music. Pick your favourite track and bust some moves! Have lots of fun with your party guests.

For the chance to win a visit to Tatton Park's Mansion and to see where the real costumed ball took place, send us photos from your party to tattoneducation@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

