

Wise Words & Country House Ways: House and Garden Tips from Upstairs and Downstairs

Ruth Binney

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This charming guide to the world of the English country house reveals all the essential hints and tips for living in and running a great house, whether you were lord, lady, maid or cook. By esteemed author Ruth Binney and with a Foreword by Julian Fellowes, creator of the much-loved Downton Abbey. Discover the rules of etiquette and manners that existed both 'upstairs' and 'downstairs', the daily routines of servants, bygone housekeeping maxims for everyone from the scullery maid to the gardener, and learn how to prepare for a grand ball. The intricate way in which the country house worked is reflected in the six chapters of this book, beginning with 'Keeping House' and progressing to 'The Daily Routine' and 'The Country House Kitchen'. Since correct behaviour was so important to all activities of the house, 'A Matter of Manners' addresses the essentials of etiquette, a theme that also extends into 'Leisure, Entertainment and Sport'. Finally 'Garden and Grounds' focuses on everything from the cultivation of exotic fruit for the table to brewing and the care of horses and other animals. 'This is the world that Ruth Binney has brought so wonderfully to life in her book' (Julian Fellowes, creator of Downton Abbey) With beautiful line drawings, Wise Words and Country House Ways will be fascinating for anyone who has wondered what it would be like to be served, or in service in a grand country house.

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