



WADDESDON  
Rothschild Collections

## **STEP BACK IN TIME AND ENTER WADDESDON AS A 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY GUEST**

**Wednesday 23 March – Sunday 23 October 2016**



*View from the Oval Hall, Waddesdon, The Rothschild Collection (The National Trust).  
Photo: John Bigelow Taylor ©The National Trust, Waddesdon Manor*

For the first time since 1957, when Waddesdon opened to the public, visitors can come into the Manor as a 19<sup>th</sup>-century house guest would have done. The Red Drawing Room is the central room of the house, connecting the main door with the formal gardens to the south. Baron Ferdinand's guests congregated there before going into dinner in the adjoining Dining Room.

For the 2016 season the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Savonnerie carpet, commissioned by Louis XIV, will be temporarily substituted with a reproduction allowing visitors to circulate more freely in the room and to see the magnificent paintings by Gainsborough and Reynolds and furniture close-up. New blinds bring light and the landscape back into the room while filtering out UV radiation. These developments in conservation technology bring the interiors of Waddesdon Manor back to life without damaging the precious textiles and light-sensitive materials. Elements of Baron Ferdinand's original arrangement of the room will be reinstated, including a folding screen painted with monkey scenes, an important set of tapestry seat furniture and a fireplace full of ferns.



WADDESDON  
Rothschild Collections

**Step this Way: the Red Drawing Room opened up, curated by Emily Roy**

Images available here –

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yshkfge99thhhf4/AACSab9F6NUmMI8zBQiJROjJa?dl=0>

**The Garden**

In the garden the theme this year for the carpet bedding on the Parterre is the Savonnerie carpet from the Red Drawing Room which will be planted with low growing plants to give the look of a carpet. This will be in place by mid-June and can be seen from the Red Drawing Room through the room.

---

-Ends-

---

**Vicky Darby**, Press Officer at Waddesdon Manor or **Catherine Conisbee**, Communications Coordinator

T: 01296 653231/259

E: [vicky.darby@waddesdon.org.uk](mailto:vicky.darby@waddesdon.org.uk) / [Catherine.conisbee@waddesdon.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.conisbee@waddesdon.org.uk)

**Visitor information and opening times:** [www.waddesdon.org.uk](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk)

Waddesdon Manor, Waddesdon, Near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP18 0JH

---

**Free bus service from Aylesbury Vale Parkway station**

To encourage the use of public transport, Waddesdon will start a free daily bus service open to all visitors to Waddesdon Manor. The bus will collect from Aylesbury Vale Parkway (AVP) train station at 11.03 each morning (Wednesdays to Sundays) to link up with the 09.57 train from London Marylebone.

The bus will depart from the Welcome Pavilion in the Waddesdon car park at 4.15pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in good time to connect with the 16.43 from AVP (which arrives at Marylebone at 17.48). On Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays the departure time is 4.45pm from the Welcome Pavilion as the train from AVP leaves at 17.15 (arriving at Marylebone at 18.20).



WADDESDON  
Rothschild Collections

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. Waddesdon Manor was built from 1874 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to display his outstanding collection of art treasures and to entertain the fashionable world. It combines the highest quality 18<sup>th</sup>-century French decorative arts, magnificent English portraits and Dutch Old Master paintings with one of the finest Victorian gardens in Britain, famous for its Parterre and ornate working Aviary. The house was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1957 and is now managed by a family charitable trust, The Rothschild Foundation, under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild.
2. Waddesdon is one of the most visited historic houses among England's National Trust properties. The collections are a reflection of the passions of the Rothschilds who created and have cared for Waddesdon, from Ferdinand de Rothschild, who built the Manor in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, to Jacob, the present Lord Rothschild.
3. In recent years, Waddesdon has hosted a vibrant and varied exhibitions programme which both reflects and complements the collections, history of the house and the Rothschild family. Recent highlights include *Predators and Prey: A Roman mosaic from Lod, Israel* (in partnership with the Israel Antiquities Authority and the British Museum), *Fame and Friendship: Pope, Roubiliac and the Portrait Bust in 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Britain* (in partnership with the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven), and *Waddesdon at War* (all 2014); *Sacred Stitches: Ecclesiastical Textiles in the Rothschild Collection at Waddesdon Manor* (2013); *Taking Time: Chardin's Boy Building a House of Cards and Other Paintings* (2012); *Playing, Learning, Flirting: French 18th-Century Board Games* (2012) and *Fantasy from the Fire: Sixteenth-Century Maiolica in the Waddesdon Collection* (2011-2013). The developing programme of contemporary art has encouraged artist responses to the historic collections and interiors as well as to the gardens at Waddesdon. In 2012, **Edmund de Waal** made new works for the historic ground floor rooms, including two large-scale vitrines, which have been acquired by The Rothschild Foundation for Windmill Hill. In 2013, Catalan artist **Joan Sallas** created *Folded Beauty: Masterpieces in Linen*, reviving designs for magnificent Baroque table centrepieces, but including his own contemporary versions. The 2013 carpet bedding and a contemporary wild flower planting scheme were designed by artist **Philippa Lawrence**, inspired by the collection of historic lace and textiles at Waddesdon, and in 2014 we worked with artist **Jan Dunning** on a trail inspired by the experiences of evacuee children and a collaboration with contemporary lace-makers, *Imagine...Lace at Waddesdon*.