



Dazzle at Waddesdon – for a sparkling Christmas

9 November-2 January 2017, Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-6pm

Christmas is always a special time at Waddesdon in Buckinghamshire, and 2016 is no exception. The theme for the decorations in the House this year is magical materials from the earth and sea, and has been inspired by the rare, exotic and beautiful materials which can be seen throughout Waddesdon's collections.

Once again, visitors can enjoy Waddesdon's programme of winter light. Internationally recognised artist **Bruce Munro** is noted for immersive site-specific installations inspired by landscape that employ light to evoke an emotional response. *Field of Light*, returns in a new location, to celebrate 25 years since its conception. Munro will 'plant' 9,000 slender stems crowned with radiant frosted-glass spheres to populate the Aviary Glade. The spheres, illuminated by optical fibre, will 'bloom' as darkness falls taking visitors on a sensory journey through the gardens.

For the second year a light and sound show will also animate the house from dusk each day. *Dazzle@Waddesdon*, created by **Woodroffe Bassett Design**, will bathe the ornate façade in a rainbow coloured light show every 15 minutes, while the two giant candlestick sculptures, *Lafite*, by artist **Joana Vasconcelos** featuring 574 bottles each, will also be illuminated.

In the Coach House gallery at the Stables, visitors of all ages can marvel at the work of the extraordinary bakers, the **Biscuiteers**, who will make a dolls house model of Waddesdon constructed entirely from gingerbread. Over two meters in size, this will recreate the rich details of some of Waddesdon's most beautiful rooms, including its paintings, furniture and ceramics, modelled in icing. Taking over 500 hours, 240 eggs and 216kg of icing, visitors will be able to learn more about the design and making processes of this extraordinary creation on a video. There will also be a biscuit-baubled tree in the house and hand-iced Biscuiteer bauble biscuits inspired by Waddesdon's collections available in the gift shop.

Festive shopping will once again feature this Christmas. From the well-stocked and beautifully decorated Manor Shop to the Wine Shop, the perfect place to pick up a special Rothschild wine. In addition there will be two seasonal pop-up shops at the stables, continuing the winter light theme

with a neon shop we are calling Glow@Waddesdon, plus another shop offering more traditional gifts.

The **Christmas Fair** overlooking the parterre and with the illuminated house as its backdrop, will this year feature 60 exhibitors across four weeks, 16 November-11 December. With local artisan producers alongside some of the best loved independent traders from around the country, the fair will offer visitors a great selection of unusual Christmas gifts and festive foods.

Christmas at Waddesdon 9 November-2 January, 11am-6pm, Wednesdays to Sundays and additionally Tuesday 27 December. Closed 24-26 December.

Christmas Fair 16 November-11 December, 11am-6pm, Wednesday to Sundays.

Bachelors' Wing of the House decorated for Christmas, advance booking recommended, last entry 5.30pm

Bookings 01296 820414 or waddesdon.org.uk

Images available for download here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/oudant4na4dfqkz/AACku4pGqqDjXrCVYh6XlAwta?dl=0>

Video clips

Field of Light and other works by Bruce Munro at Waddesdon (2013):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACbjDvqIGJg>

Transformation lightshow at Waddesdon, by Woodroffe Bassett Design (2015):

<https://youtu.be/Acuehl2lzhY>

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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 18th-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. 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 and draws in international partners. Recent highlights relating to the historic collections 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 18th-Century Britain* (in partnership with the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven) and *Henry Moore: From Paper to Bronze*, which featured 100 drawings and major sculpture by Moore, in partnership with the Henry Moore Foundation. The developing programme of contemporary art at Waddesdon has encouraged artist responses to the historic collections and interiors as well as to the gardens. Collaborators have included Edmund de Waal, who created a major exhibition in 2012, Jane Wildgoose, Simon Periton and Joan Sallas, who installed sculpture inspired by historic prototypes made of intricately folded linen. The Rothschild Foundation has also commissioned site-specific additions to the permanent collections alongside other acquisitions, including major pieces by Richard Long and most recently, Joana Vasconcelos.

3. British artist **Bruce Munro** is best known for producing large immersive light-based installations, which often employ a massing of components by the thousands. An artistic diarist, he has spent over 30 years collecting and recording ideas and images in his sketchbooks, which he returns to over time as source material. His reoccurring motif is the use of light on an environmental scale in order to create an emotional response for the viewer. Munro's work has been shown at museums and botanical gardens internationally, most recently at Uluru in Northern Territory, Australia. www.brucemunro.co.uk

4. **Biscuiteers**, the celebrated hand-iced biscuit company, was founded in 2007 by Stevie Congdon and Harriet Hastings, husband and wife and co-directors of leading London catering company Lettice. Biscuiteers are currently stocked in Selfridges, Harrods, Fortnum & Mason and The Conran Shop among others. They opened Biscuiteers Boutique and Icing Cafe, at 194 Kensington Park Road, London, in 2012 which includes a drop-in icing cafe, hosts themed icing lessons, children's icing parties and is the home of the Biscuiteers School of Icing. A second Boutique and Icing Cafe at 13 Northcote Rd, SW11 opened in November 2014. www.biscuiteers.com