



## Christmas Carnival 2018 at Waddesdon Manor

*Saturday 10 November 2018 – Wednesday 2 January 2019 (11am-6pm, Wednesday to Sunday)*

Visit Waddesdon this winter for Christmas celebrations that are like no other you will ever see at a UK historic house. Decorated both inside and out with displays inspired by the wondrous festivities and celebrations conjured up by Waddesdon's sumptuous collections, there truly is something for everyone at *Christmas Carnival*.

Built in the 1880s by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild as a place to entertain, Waddesdon was made to dazzle and delight. Inspired by this history, visitors to Christmas Carnival are invited to step inside and explore the fantastical displays and unique decorations that bring Waddesdon Manor to sparkling festive life.

As much of the house is 'put to bed' for the winter months (rooms are closed off from the public to enable deep cleaning and conservation processes to take place), the Christmas period offers a different experience of Waddesdon. Drawing inspiration from books, prints, drawings and paintings from the collection, rooms within the East Wing and the Bachelors' Wing will be dressed to evoke the glitz and glamour of the festive season, featuring ten 15ft trees adorned with over 10,000 fairy lights, and 3,000 Harlequin, plaid, and jewel-themed baubles. The Armoury Corridor will be a sparkling affair with a fireworks theme, while the Breakfast Room will be reminiscent of Christmas celebrations in the 1930s and 40s, when James and Dorothy de Rothschild welcomed villagers, staff, friends and family to share in the festivities at Waddesdon.

Away from the Manor's lavish interiors, visitors will be able to enjoy state-of-the-art animations and light installations, taking them on an enchanted journey through the grounds. As daylight fades to dusk, one highlight will doubtless be the eminently Instagrammable neon portal of light, while the coloured lights illuminating the Manor's façade will see this distinctive Renaissance-style architecture come to life. For the first time, the exterior of the Stables will also be illuminated, with a wintry tale designed by Guildhall School of Music & Drama students.

Complementing the breath taking decorations will be a delicious assortment of festive food and drinks, including the Waddesdon Christmas lunch and handmade mince pies (the Manor Restaurant's chefs make more than 9,000 mince pies, filled with their own special recipe mincemeat that has been matured for over 12 months). The spectacular Wigwam Café will also be returning, offering a selection of toasty treats and winter drinks.

## Christmas Fair

Saturday 10 November - Sunday 16 December 2018

A week longer than ever before, Waddesdon's spectacular Christmas Fair, with 86 wooden chalets, is a shopping experience not to be missed. As befits the location, artisan producers, makers and craftsmen will be offering the very finest and, in many cases unique, gifts for friends and family.

The fair will be set against the backdrop of the floodlit North Front of the Manor, with 20ft Christmas trees and a magical light and sound show.

Christmas Carnival visitors will also find exclusive jewellery, homeware, fashion accessories and food in the Manor shop, while oenophiles will be delighted to receive a bottle, or indeed a case, from the world-famous Rothschild range of wines, and special festive selection boxes, available in the Wine Shop.

Pippa Shirley, Head of Collections & Gardens says *'Christmas is a magical time at Waddesdon, the house, its collections and its beautiful grounds come to life in an entirely different way, and we love seeing families and children enjoying its unique atmosphere, sparkle, glamour and fun. The Manor looks like a fairy-tale castle at the best of times, so at Christmas it is truly enchanting, and with its own special character. The great Rothschild traditions of hospitality and attention to detail are very much to the fore, from the welcome at the front door to the care and attention that the chefs put into making our own mincemeat.'*

For more information about Christmas at Waddesdon Manor, visit [www.waddesdon.org.uk](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk) and follow @WaddesdonManor on Twitter and Facebook.

### **OPENING DATES, TIMES AND TICKETS**

**Christmas Carnival at Waddesdon, Sat 10 Nov 2018 – Wed 2 January 2019. Closed 24-26 December.**

Grounds open, 11am-6pm, Wed-Sun

Gift aid prices: £12 Adult, £6 Child, £30 Family (up to 2 adults + 3 children)

National Trust members & Under 5: Free

**Decorated rooms in the House, open 11.30am-6pm (last entry 5.30pm)**

Gift aid prices for House + Grounds: £27, £13.50 Child, £67.50 Family (up to 2 adults + 3 children)

National Trust: £5 Adult, £2.50 Child, £12.50 Family (up to 2 adults + 3 children)

Under 5: Free

Advance booking of timed tickets is essential for all house visitors.

Bookings 01296 820414 or [www.waddesdon.org.uk](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk)

### **IMAGE CAPTIONS**

*Waddesdon Imaginarium* for Christmas 2017 by Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Waddesdon Manor.  
Photo Mike Fear © National Trust, Waddesdon Manor

**Media images can be downloaded here**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t06z94ljw91v781/AACKhQfTQRungp6WhYLUkW4la?dl=0>

**Watch or embed: Christmas at Waddesdon YouTube** <https://youtu.be/jrOkxwojLbU>

**For more information please contact: Chloe Wells | Communications Officer**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Waddesdon Manor** was built at the end of the 19th century by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the style of a French early 16th-century château, as a weekend retreat where he could entertain friends and family. Baron Ferdinand was an inspired collector and the house was designed to showcase his exceptional collection of English and French paintings, French 18th-century furniture, Sèvres porcelain, and other decorative arts. When Ferdinand died in 1898 he left Waddesdon to his sister, Alice. Upon her death the house passed to a French cousin, James de Rothschild, who inherited a substantial part of his father, Baron Edmond's, great collection. In 1957, to ensure its future in perpetuity, Waddesdon was bequeathed to the National Trust. The Rothschild family continues to run Waddesdon on behalf of the National Trust through the Rothschild Foundation under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild. More at [www.waddesdon.org.uk/about-us/press/notes-for-editors/](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk/about-us/press/notes-for-editors/)

**Guildhall School of Music & Drama** is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London. Rated Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and ranked as the UK's top conservatoire in the Guardian University Guide 2019 for Music, the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 1,000 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world.

The School delivers a BA in Video Design for Live Performance programme for students interested in the fast-changing and exciting world of digital video design and production. Led by multi award-winning director, designer and audio/visual specialist Dan Shorten, the programme specialises in large format projection shows within Guildhall productions and with external partners such as Waddesdon Manor, Glastonbury, Shakespeare 400 Festival, British Museum, Walthamstow Garden Party, Lux Festival and Tower Bridge. Part of the Production Arts department, the course has been shaped by the School's practical, hands-on ethos and is recognised as providing progressive vocational training through practical and production-based teaching. [www.gsmd.ac.uk/video](http://www.gsmd.ac.uk/video)