



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

10 December 2024



## **Over 15,000 local children help bring Christmas to life at Waddesdon Manor**

This festive season, Waddesdon Manor invites visitors to step into the enchanting world of "Once Upon a Christmastime," a community art display created by over 15,000 local children. Set in the Coach House Gallery at The Stables, this enchanting walk-through installation reimagines beloved fairytales and nursery rhymes through a myriad of vibrant, imaginative artworks.

Guided by Waddesdon Manor's Learning Team and a host of professional artists, children aged 2 to 18+ collaborated on this ambitious project. Visitors can expect to see classic tales, including *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Humpty Dumpty*, *Rapunzel* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* brought to life. Highlights of the installation include a large-scale willow dragon, a giant beanstalk and Cinderella's carriage.

Waddesdon's Learning Team, supported by talented local artists, worked with schools and youth organisations across the region, offering both in-person workshops and online sessions to bring this large-scale project to life. Preparations began in July, with workshops taking place across August, September and October.

Sarah Dewberry, Head of Learning at Waddesdon Manor, said: "We are delighted that so many local schools and community groups participated in our Christmas display this year. The creativity and enthusiasm expressed by the students was astounding, and we hope that our visitors will enjoy seeing fruits of their labours."

Jane Charles, one of the artists involved, said: "It's all so amazing, the attention to details is wonderful and everything is hand made by brilliant artists, children, community groups and volunteers. There is so much to see!"

### **More Christmas Magic at Waddesdon:**

"Once Upon a Christmastime" is part of the wider *Christmas at Waddesdon* experience for 2024. Alongside the children's artwork, visitors can enjoy:

- **Beautifully decorated interiors:** Taking Waddesdon's series of paintings by Russian designer Léon Bakst as inspiration, see the tale of *Sleeping Beauty* brought to life in the House with exquisite decorations, theatrical installations, projections and soundscapes.



- **Installation by Tom Piper MBE:** Don't miss a captivating installation in the White Drawing Room by theatre designer Tom Piper MBE, which responds directly to Bakst's artwork.
- **Illuminated projections on the Manor façade:** See the *Sleeping Beauty* story celebrated on the Manor's façade with projections by Jamie Shiels, renowned for his work at Buckingham Palace and the London Olympics.
- **Glittering light trail:** A new light trail transforms Waddesdon's spectacular landscape into a kaleidoscope of colour, lights and music.
- **Christmas Fair:** Enjoy unique seasonal shopping and festive food and drink as Waddesdon's ever-popular Christmas Fair returns (open until 22 December).

#### **Event details:**

- Events run until Sunday 5 January 2025.
- The Christmas Fair is open until Sunday 22 December.
- Entry to 'Once Upon a Christmastime' is included with Christmas Grounds admission and Christmas House & Grounds admission.

For detailed information on opening times, ticket prices and booking, visit: [www.waddesdon.org.uk/christmas](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk/christmas).

#### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

#### **HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES FOR MEDIA USE CAN BE DOWNLOADED BY CLICKING ON THIS LINK**

- Once Upon a Christmastime, Christmas at Waddesdon 2024 © Waddesdon, A Rothschild House and Garden.  
Photo by Ben Crowther Photography

#### **Artists Involved:**

This project involved contributions from local artists, including John Prowse (Norse Sky), Michelle Dufaur, Amanda Loverseed, Jane Charles, Olivia Davis, Woody Fox, the Aylesbury Yarn Bombers, Robert Batson and the Same Sky artists Jo Coles, Paul Render and Sandrine Case, and Waddesdon Learning Volunteers.

#### **Local Schools and Groups:**

The project brought together over 80 schools and community groups from across the region. A full list of participating organisations is available upon request.

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

All visits to the grounds and house must be pre-booked online to avoid disappointment, including for National Trust members. Visitors will need a Grounds ticket or House & Grounds ticket.

#### **Christmas at Waddesdon**

**Wednesday–Sunday, until 5 January 2025** (plus Mon 30 & Tue 31 Dec 2024)

Closed Monday 23–Thursday 26 December 2024

**Grounds: 12noon–7pm**

**House: 12.30pm–7pm**

#### **Christmas Fair**

**Until 22 December 2024, 12noon–7pm**

Included with Grounds or House & Grounds admission

#### **Late night openings**

**Friday 13 & 20 Dec 2024**

**Grounds (including Christmas Fair & Food Village): 12noon–9pm**

**House: 12.30pm–8pm**



**Prices from:** £22 Adult, £10 Child (Grounds only) | £35.50 Adult, £16.50 Child (House & Grounds)

**National Trust member prices from:** £11.50 Adult, £5 Child (Grounds only) | £16.50 Adult, £7 Child (House & Grounds)

Full details of prices and online booking information, here: [www.waddesdon.org.uk/christmas](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk/christmas)

**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. Baron Ferdinand was an inspired collector, and the house was designed to showcase his exceptional collection of English and Dutch paintings, French 18th-century furniture, Sèvres porcelain, and other decorative arts. When Ferdinand died in 1898, he left Waddesdon to his sister, Alice, who was also a great collector. Upon her death the house passed to her great-nephew, 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 the property through a family charitable trust, the Rothschild Foundation. Until February 2024, it was under the chairmanship of Jacob, 4th Lord Rothschild. His eldest daughter, Hannah Rothschild, is now the chair. [More here.](#)

For more information on Waddesdon and its events and exhibitions, visit [www.waddesdon.org.uk](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk), like @WaddesdonManor on Facebook, follow @WaddesdonManor on Twitter and @waddesdonmanor\_nt on Instagram.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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