



## **Local suicide prevention charity, Hector's House, chosen as Waddesdon and the Rothschild Foundation's 2021 charity of the year**

Staff and volunteers at Waddesdon Manor and the Rothschild Foundation have chosen Hector's House, which promotes open discussions around mental health to end stigma and prevent suicide, as their official charity of the year for 2021.

Founded in memory of Hector, who took his own life in 2011 at the age of 18, the Berkhamsted-based charity work to end suicide and mental health stigma through education, awareness and support. By delivering talks to local school and spreading awareness, the dedicated team hope to help save the lives of others contemplating suicide, believing that together, we can end suicide.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of mental health support, and since the start of the pandemic Hector's House have seen a significant increase in their work. The charity's online resources, such as the Library of Calm, helplines and meditation classes, help thousands of people, while their provision of tailored signposting for anyone who turns to them looking for support helps approximately 150 people each year. With more and more people needing urgent mental health care, Waddesdon and the Rothschild Foundation therefore hope this timely partnership can help direct more people towards the right care for them.

Simon Wales, Chief Executive Officer at Waddesdon, said *'I am thrilled to announce that, having received the most votes from staff and volunteers, Hector's House are Waddesdon's Charity of the Year 2021. Mental health support is crucial, and this has only become clearer following the difficulties of the past year. We look forward supporting this worthwhile charity and its incredibly important cause.'*

Robert Stringer, Chairman of Trustees at Hector's House, said: *"We were blown away by the news of becoming Charity of the Year 2021 - which we received the day before the 10-year anniversary of Hector's death. It really felt as though Hec was smiling down on us. The Stringer family and Hector's House team cannot thank everyone at Waddesdon and the Rothschild Foundation enough for this opportunity and awareness."*

As the winning charity, Hector's House will receive a grant from the Rothschild Foundation, a grant-making charity based at Waddesdon benefiting Buckinghamshire communities, and support from staff and volunteers at events throughout the year.

[High res images are available to download here.](#)

For more information about Hector's House please visit: <https://hectorshouse.org.uk/>

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### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

#### **The Rothschild Foundation**

The Rothschild Foundation was established in 2010 and allocates £10 million in grant making annually. This sum is shared equally between the preservation of Waddesdon Manor, where the Foundation is based, and grants for wider public benefit.



Lord (Jacob) Rothschild is Chair of the Rothschild Foundation and has been involved extensively in public service and philanthropic support of the arts throughout his lifetime. The Foundation is managed by a board of Trustees, including other members of the Rothschild family, and is run by a small professional staff team. Inspired by Waddesdon's cultural heritage, the landscaped gardens and farmland of the Waddesdon Estate along with the Rothschild family tradition of support for the local community, the Foundation focuses on policy areas in the arts, the environment and social welfare.

The Foundation's grant-making within Buckinghamshire supports the local third sector through a Covid-19 Support Fund, a small grants programme and strategic philanthropy through higher value grants. Beyond Buckinghamshire, the Foundation supports major initiatives which encourage enjoyment of the UK's rich cultural heritage.

Details of the Charity of the Year programme can be found here: <https://rothschildfoundation.org.uk/charity-of-the-year/>

### **Waddesdon, A Rothschild House & Gardens**

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 French 18th-century furniture, Sèvres porcelain, English portraits and other decorative arts.

When Ferdinand died in 1898, he left Waddesdon to his sister, Alice. 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, in order to ensure its future in perpetuity, Waddesdon was bequeathed to the National Trust. The Rothschild family continues to run Waddesdon through a family charitable trust under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild. More at <https://waddesdon.org.uk/about-us/press/notes-for-editors/>

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

### **Hector's House**

Hector's House is a suicide prevention and mental health awareness charity – set up by the family of Hector Stringer, who took his own life at just 18 years old.

At Hector's House, they know only too well the devastating impact that a suicide can have. Which is why the charity is determined to provide the necessary support for people at crisis point and anyone struggling with their mental health, as well as their friends and family.

It is their mission to stop suicide by ensuring everyone has access to the mental health services, and to encourage people to talk openly about how they feel through education, awareness and support.

The charity, made up of two members of staff and a number of incredible volunteers, are able to offer every brave person who turns to them for help tailored advice on how to get the mental health care they need and deserve. The team also attend schools and organisations delivering mental health and suicide prevention talks such as 'Eat Move Love'.

Hector's House offer a number of outstanding online resources, such as the Library of Calm, a free online meditation class every Sunday evening and more. Their text line – HECTOR to 85258 - in partnership with SHOUT is widely used and distributed within the community.

This work will not bring Hector back, but the family know Hector would be immensely proud of the countless lives saved in his name.