



ROTHSCHILD
FOUNDATION

GRANTS REVIEW



rothschildfoundation.org.uk

2024/5



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Sarah Lucas, *Percival* ©
Sarah Lucas, courtesy of
Sadie Coles HQ, London.
Photo: Chris Lacey.

Back cover: Xavier Veilhan, *La Carrosse (Red Carriage)*, 2013-14 © Veilhan / ADAGP, Paris, 2013. Photo: Darren Merriman.



Opposite: Dame Hannah Rothschild, Art History Link-Up Chief Executive Rose Aidin and Waddesdon School Head Teacher, Matthew Abbott at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Jacob Rothschild Sixth Form Building. Photo: Ben Crowther.

Introduction

The Rothschild Foundation, rooted in over 70 years of family leadership, is dedicated to making long-term impactful contributions to the arts, local communities, and the environment, with Waddesdon Manor as the emblem of our mission. The Annual Review of the Rothschild Foundation’s investment in Waddesdon Manor can be found at <https://waddesdon.org.uk/>

This review covers grants awarded between March 2024 and February 2025 in Buckinghamshire and wider England.

The Rothschild Foundation’s programme of grant-giving is guided by our ambition to raise standards, create opportunities and effect positive change. This is reflected through our support of local charities, our commitment to the arts and our solution-driven exploration of environmental challenges.

Over the past year we have stepped up our support of the arts, recognising the significant financial challenges experienced by the sector. Locally, this includes investing in sector support organisation, Bucks Culture, whilst continuing to provide vital multi-year, flexible core funding to our local arts organisations.

Our philanthropy is driven by the conviction that, to make a real difference, it must play an active part in shaping the future. With our national arts funding, this is seen in support of a new Art and Tech Hub at Somerset House and our collaboration with the Art Fund to address the lack of diversity in curatorial leadership.

In relation to the environment, where climate change poses the future at significant risk, we continue to interrogate where our philanthropy can add value. Building on the Rothschild legacy of nature restoration, our exploration of how best to support the transition to nature-friendly farming practice has been a key focus over the past year. With partners such as the Royal Agricultural University and the University of Leeds, we are supporting the development of skills and knowledge in this area, including our own.

One of our central aims is to invest in the next generation. This shines through in our support of the Screen Academy Foundation, where we have expanded funding to include East London Arts and Music while continuing the relationship with London Screen Academy.

To demonstrate our dedication to making a difference, we awarded a number of exceptional grants at the end of year, beyond our usual yearly budgetary allocation. These grants marked the next generation of Rothschild family leadership at the Foundation.

Sir Roger Wright



Sir Roger Wright was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Rothschild Foundation in October 2024, following an extensive international search.

Sir Roger was previously Chief Executive of Britten Pears Arts (“BPA”), a music, visual arts and heritage charity based in Suffolk, from 2014 until he stepped down in July 2024. During his decade at BPA he oversaw significant transformation of the organisation, including acquisition of the Snape Maltings site and the development of its creative campus, and the merging with Britten Pears Foundation to create Britten Pears Arts. His steering of the organisation through the Covid-19 pandemic was critically acclaimed and for which he received a special award from the Association of British Orchestras.

Prior to his role at BPA, Sir Roger was the award-winning Controller of BBC Radio 3 from 1998 to 2014, and Director of BBC Proms from 2007 to 2014. He is widely regarded as one of the UK’s most experienced cultural leaders.

Dame Hannah Rothschild, Chair of the Rothschild Foundation, commented: “Sir Roger brings immense gravitas, inspiration and experience to the Rothschild Foundation. The Trustees have been overwhelmingly impressed by his deep-rooted love of the arts, his commitment to charitable causes, his management prowess and his track record of inspiring and transformational leadership. Sir Roger will help shape and realise the organisation’s ambitious new targets and projects.”

Sir Roger Wright, incoming Chief Executive of the Rothschild Foundation, added: “I am honoured and hugely excited to have been appointed as Chief Executive of the Rothschild Foundation. This is a significant time in the Foundation’s history as it furthers its mission to deliver positive change and meaningful impact for the benefit of future generations. I look forward to working with Dame Hannah, the Trustees, staff and volunteers to continue the Foundation’s remarkable philanthropic purpose.”



North front of Waddesdon Manor. Photo: Darren Merriman.

End of Year Grants

These exceptional grants awarded at the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 marked the start of the next generation of family leadership at the Rothschild Foundation, led by our Chair, Dame Hannah Rothschild DBE. Grants align to our core aims of supporting arts and heritage, and the environment, and to enabling innovation and excellence.

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM (THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD)

Core funding for the Ashmolean Museum's exhibition, learning and public engagement programmes.

ASPIRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Capital funding to support development of the Shortenills outdoor learning site which is run by Aspire Alternative Provision for children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

THE AUCKLAND PROJECT

Core support to the Auckland Project's development of museums, galleries, and open parkland which enliven the local community and economy.

COURTAULD INSTITUTE OF ART

Funding to support the development of 'Courtauld Connects'.

FEEDING BRITAIN

To support the expansion of Affordable Food Clubs and Pathways From Poverty programmes.

THE HOUGHTON ARTS FOUNDATION

Support for an exhibition of Stephen Cox's work at Houghton Hall in spring 2025.



HOUGHTON ARTS FOUNDATION

Clockwise: Stephen Cox, *Interior Space*, 1995. Carved Egyptian breccia; *Flask II*, 2002. Hand-carved Egyptian breccia; *Yoginis*, 2000/10. Charnockite (basalt).



Dr Tilly Scantlebury teaching an Art History for Everyone class at the Courtauld. Photo: Ed Hands.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Funding in support of the re-development of the Natural History Museum at Tring.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Core funding for the Fitzwilliam Museum’s exhibition, learning and public engagement programmes.

ROYAL DRAWING SCHOOL

Celebrating the Royal Drawing School’s online and in-person education programmes in its 25th Anniversary year.

The Rothschild Foundation has had a longstanding partnership with the Royal Drawing School, most recently supporting the Living Library, an online resource and archive for those wishing to benefit from the school's expertise. It is a cornerstone of the Royal Drawing School’s digital transformation which also includes a new website, home to online courses, exhibitions and a digital studio.

In recent years, our connection with the Royal Drawing School has been strengthened through Founder Catherine Goodman’s exhibition at Waddesdon. The school’s supporters and students have participated in drawing sessions in the Manor and its formal gardens. The School currently teaches 2,400 people a year, both in-person and online, connecting with students in 25 countries. All courses are supported by scholarships and bursaries, ensuring high-quality tuition in drawing remains financially accessible.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Funding to support Professor Dame Molly Steven’s research programme, the Translational Hub for Scalable Innovation in Nanomedicine.

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Unrestricted funding to support children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD TRUST

Core funding to support accelerating a sustainable food and farming transition.

ST JAMES'S PICCADILLY

Funding towards St James’s Piccadilly’s Changemakers programme.

THE WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE OF BRITISH JEWS

Support for the synagogue’s sanctuary restoration project.



Thought of the Week - Changemakers Programme.
Photo: Ian Jones.

Arts & Heritage



Culture, heritage and the arts are cornerstones of the Rothschild Foundation's grants programme. Our core ambition is to increase access to the arts, through collections development, cultural education and participation opportunities. The Foundation's funding supports a range of cultural organisations from leading cultural institutions to small to medium sized cultural organisations embedded in their local communities. We believe by supporting the sector to be more sustainable, we can provide space to innovate and experiment in approaches that make the sector more inclusive.



Art History Link-Up student speaking with Jeremy Deller at the Advocacy Event at Dulwich Picture Gallery. Photo: Hikaru Funnell.

Grants Awarded National

240PROJECT

Core funding for 240Project to deliver creative and well-being support to vulnerable adults in west London from 2024-2027.



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Funding to support the acquisition of Amy Levy's archive for Cambridge University Library.



A glimpse into the diary of trailblazing poet, novelist, and feminist Amy Levy – part of a remarkable collection of her letters and papers now held at Cambridge University Library.

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONS' LIBRARIES

Enabling Salisbury Cathedral to acquire a Bible illuminated by the Sarum Master in the 13th century.

GLYNDEBOURNE

Funding RESOUND: a participation and audience outreach project that connects the performing company and communities that might not otherwise engage with Glyndebourne's work



'It was fabulous to see the pupils so engaged in an activity that was really out of their comfort zone, and completely alien to them too! Their feedback was really positive.'

Cavendish Primary School (One Voice Festival of Singing project)

Clockwise: Singing Schools, Glyndebourne Productions Ltd. Photo: Sarah Hickson; One Voice © Glyndebourne Productions Ltd. Photo: Sam Stephenson; Pit Perfect, Glyndebourne Productions Ltd. Photo: Sarah Hickson.



HUGUENOT MUSEUM

Towards the operating costs of the Huguenot Museum in Rochester, Kent.

Sarah Lethieullier's Doll's House, England, 1730 image courtesy of National Trust.
Photo: Nadia Mackenzie.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Supporting schools activity, widening access to high quality music education for 40,000 children and young people.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Consultancy support for the Fixing Our Broken Planet exhibition.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Funding for salary and exhibition costs.

SCREEN ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Funding key programmes at LSA (London Screen Academy) and ELAM (East London Arts and Music) with a focus on helping to spread the impact the schools are making, enabling more young people from traditionally underrepresented communities to benefit.



LSA LONDON SCREEN ACADEMY

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM

Support for the production costs of the Annual Review 2023-24 at Sir John Soane's Museum.



'The Soane Museum's Annual Review is unlike anything produced by the other UK national museums - for its combination of beautiful photography and fascinating, original content illuminating different aspects of John Soane's collections. We could not continue the publication without specific support.'

Chairman, James Sassoon

SOMERSET HOUSE

Support for the Studios' Art & Tech programme at Somerset House, which will build a centre of research and artistic development promoting the role of artists in contemporary technological and industrial evolution

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TATE GALLERY

Funding to acquire and catalogue the archives of Duncan Grant including material relating to Vanessa Bell and David Garnett.

TEAMWORK FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Funding the Jaipur Literature Festival at the British Library.

THE ART FUND

Research into museums’ digital projects: providing case-studies and opportunities to learn from the range of activities across the sector.



JLF London at the British Library.
Photo: Marcin Nowak.



The Studio, Charleston in Fife. photograph by Lee Robbins, © The Charleston Trust

The support from The Rothschild Foundation has been instrumental in shaping Charleston’s legacy as a globally recognised cultural centre. Your generous contribution has allowed us to commission more new work than ever before, expand access to our collection through international loans, and increase the number of people who can engage with our offer for free.’

Nathaniel Hepburn MBE, Director and Chief Executive, The Charleston Trust

THE CHARLESTON TRUST

Core funding to support Charleston's dynamic artistic programme and audience development initiatives, including free exhibition access to under-18s.

THE QUEEN'S READING ROOM

Enabling The Queen’s Reading Room to extend research, campaigns and events, which demonstrate the value of reading.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

A loan of a nineteenth-century replica of the Holy Thorn Reliquary housed in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna as part celebrations for the tenth Anniversary of the Waddesdon Bequest Gallery in Summer 2025.



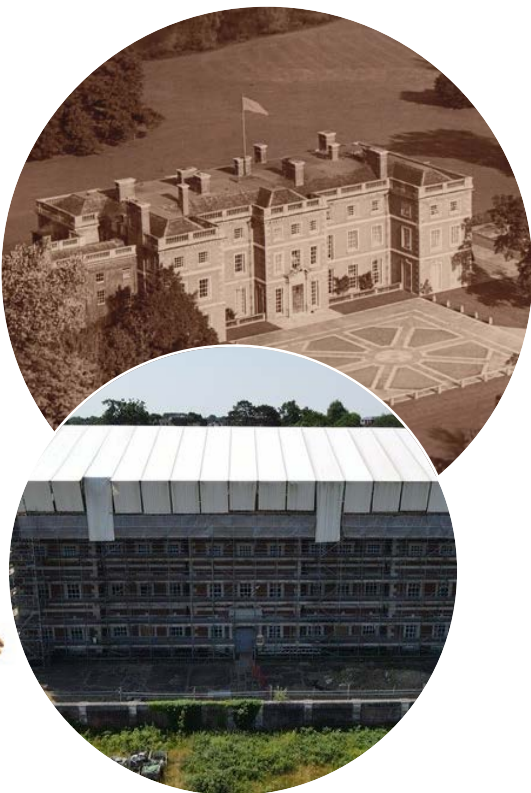
The Waddesdon Bequest Gallery at the British Museum
© Hufton+Crow; Erasmus Hornick Sea-dragon 1880-1883; The Holy Thorn Reliquary.

TRENT PARK MUSEUM TRUST

Funding to restore and open the lower floors of Trent Park House as a museum exploring the building’s heritage and role in World War Two espionage.

WILTSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Funding to transform Wiltshire Museum by restoring the derelict Devizes Assize Court as a community hub and cultural destination.



Historic shot, from Sassoon's day (1920-30s); House undergoing roof and restoration work in 2023. Photo: Good Egg Media.

Buckinghamshire



In line with our national funding in the cultural sector, our Buckinghamshire grants contribute to a local cultural sector that is inclusive, vibrant and resilient. Removing barriers to participation has been a recurring theme this year. Our funding has supported individuals of all abilities and backgrounds to participate, focusing on cultural activity that meets them where they are, whether adapting to their needs or based in their community or educational setting.

ALINA ORCHESTRA

Funding for outreach activity: community music sessions for children and families, care homes and educational concerts, and workshops for GCSE students in Buckinghamshire.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Match funding for an Arts Council England ‘Place Partnership’ programme to significantly enhance cultural provision in High Wycombe.

ART HISTORY LINK-UP



Funding in support of additional evaluation of an ‘Introduction to Art History’ course including collaboration with Waddesdon Manor.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Funding for the food component of ‘Wycombe Celebrates’, a free programme of co-produced community activities which celebrate the culture and heritage of High Wycombe.



Chief Executive Rose Aidin teaching Summer School at Waddesdon Manor.
Photo: Jo Selman-Smith.

‘With the generous support of the Rothschild Foundation we have been able to develop new Introduction to Art History courses for younger secondary students, aged between 13-15, including an accredited GCSE-level award in Art History, which we believe will be a game-changer for the future of Art History. The courses have been extremely popular and well-attended, have brought us our most diverse group of students to date, and connected us to new schools across the UK.’

Rose Aidin - Chief Executive



Wycombe Celebrates.
Photo: Mark Page.



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CULTURE

Core funding to strengthen the cultural sector which will develop the resilience and accessibility of Buckinghamshire’s creative organisations.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE MUSIC TRUST

Bursaries for children from low income families wishing to access music lessons.

CATCH 22 JAMS

Funding to support a programme providing trainee positions in 3 key roles within the music and cultural sector.



‘Our trainees Emily (sound engineering) and Taryn (front of house, social media/PR) from Bucks New Uni have been an invaluable asset to us. Having a staff member dedicated to performing these roles has meant that our jazz evenings are not only friendly and welcoming, but also run more smoothly and sound better than ever. The quality and professionalism that they bring to our events all contributes to our mission of building a performing arts scene that High Wycombe can be proud of!’

Stephanos, Catch 22 Jams

Music Industry trainees Emily and Taryn with the rest of the Catch 22 Jams team.
Photo: Stephanos (Catch 22 Jams).

CHILTERN MUSIC ACADEMY

Support for ‘Find Your Forte’, offering weekly music lessons and participation in ensembles and choirs to children in High Wycombe.



‘I don't think I would be able to access such quality of teaching anywhere else. The teacher is excellent. He praises their efforts and is so positive and brings a lightness to learning in a style that really benefits my daughter.’

Parent of a Chiltern Music Academy student



FISHEYE FILM FESTIVAL

Core funding to promote and deliver a festival showcase of emerging filmmaking talent.



Winners of the Awards for Best Local Film (Beds, Bucks, Herts & Oxfordshire) and Best UK Film (Steph Leigh and Mo Bayliss).

GOOD VIBRATIONS

Core funding to deliver gamelan music workshops in HMP Grendon.

IKON GALLERY

Funding to establish Art at HMP Spring Hill – an artist residency, education programme and new art studio based at a men’s open prison in Buckinghamshire. The project extends Ikon’s Art in Prisons programme from neighbouring HMP Grendon and draws on the Birmingham-based gallery’s expertise and network of professional artists.

Within the prison, the men have identified and fitted out an art studio with work-benches, creative resources and ad-hoc display space. This first stage of the project has helped them acquire knowledge and skills in support of a journey towards release. Ikon is building connections with Buckinghamshire-based educational and cultural partners for commissioning and exhibiting prisoner artwork. Local contacts were invited to Art at HMP Spring Hill’s first exhibition, called ‘Tread the Blue Causeway’, celebrating the appointment of artist Jessica Ostrowicz, showcasing the new studio and remarkable work of a prisoner.



NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

Funding for a consultation on literacy programmes at HMP Grendon and HMP/YOI Aylesbury, along with author events, book distribution and writing workshops.

NEW MOZART ORCHESTRA

Funding a series of orchestrally-inspired concerts in 36 Buckinghamshire primary schools in partnership with Buckinghamshire Music Trust.

THE SHARE FOUNDATION AND THE AES TRING PARK SCHOOL TRUST

Together the Share Foundation and Tring Park School have developed Stepping Forward, an online introductory performing arts course for children with experience of the care system.

Stepping Forward supports personal development by offering workshops in performance skills and

backstage roles. It introduces creative resources and local cultural organisations, and can count towards the Arts Award qualification.

Scripts and filming for Stepping Forward were developed with guidance from a focus group of young people in care and presented by Tring Park School alumni and notable performers with experience of care. Already 13 local authorities are offering the course with more expected to come on board.



There is a financial incentive for working through each stage of Stepping Forward and a bonus for completing all six steps. This element is managed by the Share Foundation, a charity responsible for Junior ISAs and Child Trust Funds for children in care, meaning that there is some financial provision for their first steps into adulthood.

The Rothschild Foundation has supplemented the programme with a two-year bursary to Tring Park’s Sixth Form for a student from a low-income or care-experienced background.



Turn End Trust



VACHE BAROQUE

THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

Funding a collaboration between Waddesdon Manor and the University of Buckingham's graduate Art History programmes to produce exhibition interpretation to be published online.

TURN END TRUST

Employing a Community Engagement Lead to plan and deliver educational, community and outreach activities with local families, community groups and schools.

VACHE BAROQUE FESTIVAL

Visionaries: a workshop and performance programme exploring sensory engagement with music and singing inspired by local creative heritage and co-created with disabled people and carers.

VISUAL IMAGES GROUP (ORGANISERS OF BUCKS ART WEEKS)

Supporting younger and emerging artists developing a career in the visual arts through a public showcase and skills-sharing network.

Other Arts & Culture

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Donation in recognition of providing music for Lord Rothschild's Celebration of Life this funding will support future musical projects in 2026, which is embargoed at the time of writing until April 2026.



ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC
© Frances Marshall.

The following awards recognise the Rothschild Family's long held connection to the Island of Corfu, and surrounding area. In particular, our support of the Butrint Foundation, a UK registered charity founded by Lord (Jacob) Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury. Working closely with the Albanian Ministry of Culture, the Albanian-American Development Foundation and UNESCO, the Butrint Foundation aims to restore, develop and preserve the Butrint World Heritage site.

BUTRINT FOUNDATION

Core funding for excavating rooms within Santa Quaranta resulting in recorded details being published in international and local journals. Core funding for excavating rooms within Santa Quaranta resulting in recorded details being published in international and local journals. Funding to support the excavation at the site at Dobra (Livadhja) in southern Albania and archaeological survey of the wider surrounding area.

METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS FOUNDATION

Funding for the publication titled "Guilford – 1824" to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Ionian University in Corfu.



Top: Overall drone photograph of excavated site. Visible are the tomb and its terrace and enclosure wall (peribolos) dating to the third century BC. This seems to be the largest tomb of its type in Hellenistic Epirus. Photo: Anna Blomley.

Above: The tomb chamber under excavation. While damaged, the tomb would have had a massive stone vault and decorative architectural facade. Photo: Dobra Project.

Right: Clearing the northern wall of the peribolos. A great deal of effort was expended in building this very fine wall of limestone ashlar block. Photo: Dobra Project.

Environment



The Rothschild Foundation has funded significant nature restoration programmes at Waddesdon and the family’s environmental legacy includes founding the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves which became the Wildlife Trusts. Our exploration of food and farming in England builds on these achievements, to support nature restoration through soil health, habitat creation, water improvement and diverse farming techniques across national landscapes.

Over the past year we have refined our focus into two interconnected strands: enabling knowledge exchange and education for farmers; accelerating innovation through pilots and research. Alongside, we are working with a group of peers to build a funder network to increase investment in food and farming.

Locally, our work in Buckinghamshire plays a key role, testing practical activity with farmers and growers to deliver the benefits of nature-friendly farming, fresh food and shorter supply chains for our communities.



A newly created wetland habitat on the Waddesdon Estate

Grants Awarded National

NORTH EAST COTSWOLD FARMER CLUSTER CIC

Funding a regional farmer cluster to deliver nature-friendly farming at a landscape scale, to increase biodiversity and introduce natural flood management.



ORGANIC RESEARCH CENTRE

Funding development of their Agricology information hub: a free-to-access knowledge exchange platform for regenerative farming supported by a collaboration of 35 research and industry partners. This will enable ORC to link information on Agricology directly to government payments, develop a return on investment tool and provide more events and content for farmers.



Clockwise: Making traditional lazybeds with Uist seaweed. © Lucy Harding/The Organic Research Centre; Agricology at Groundswell and Agricolgoy farm walk. © Agricology.

‘Thanks to the Rothschild Foundation’s support, we are now able to reach more farmers than ever before, equipping them with the knowledge and resources they need to adopt sustainable farming practices. New funding has empowered us to deliver a far-reaching strategy that ensures farmers have access to the knowledge and tools they need to make informed decisions about the future of farming. By investing in farmer education, events, and decision-making support, this funding is accelerating the shift towards sustainable farming and creating real, lasting impact.’

‘Through this grant, we’ve been able to launch a full programme of four immersive, practical on-farm events hosted in partnership with outstanding agroecological farms across the UK. Through these workshops, we’re seeking to help those who believe in good food and farming to build the capacity, skills, confidence, and commitment they need to transform our food systems.’

PASTURE-FED LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

Match funding to support the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with Reading University, funded by UK Research and Innovation.

REAL FARMING TRUST

Funding towards the Oxford Real Farming Conference and fieldwork with farmers.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Educational support to strengthen learning and research in regenerative agriculture throughout UK universities, colleges and research institutes.

'Regenerative agriculture has been led by innovative farmers trying things out and sharing what they learn. Formal research has a crucial part to play in supporting this kind of practical experimentation, boosting rigour, strengthening confidence in what works, and deepening understanding. But that relies on researchers being good at working outside the lab, in the landscape, and on farmers' terms. This funding from the Rothschild Foundation, to train agricultural researchers across the UK in exactly these skills, could hardly be more timely.'

Prof Tom Macmillan, Elizabeth Creak Chair in Rural Policy and Strategy



SOIL ASSOCIATION

Funding towards the Innovative Farmers programme supporting two farmer-led learning networks and associated field labs.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD TRUST

Funding will support the Sustainable Food Trust to expand their influencing activity, making the case for regenerative farming and increasing the evidence base for the business and wider benefits of regenerative practice measured through their Global Farm Metric framework



Clockwise: Guests engage in discussion at the Holden Farm 50th Anniversary event. Photo: Bonnie Welch; Belted Galloway cattle at Treveddoo Farm. Photo: Christian Kay; Sheep at Pipers Farm in Devon. Photo: Steph French.



Farmer Ben Thomas at Treveddoo Farm in Bodmin. Photo: Christian Kay.

THE BIG GIVE

Funding towards the Green Match Fund supporting the Soil Association and Young People's Trust For The Environment.

'The 2024 Green Match Fund had a transformative impact, raising £6.4 million for 247 environmental charities and mobilising over 29,000 donations. We are proud to work with Champions like the Rothschild Foundation to drive positive change and empower organisations tackling some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time.'

Alex Day, Managing Director, Big Give



THE GAIA FOUNDATION

Enabling photographers to capture stories of regenerative agriculture for display in exhibitions, events and panel discussions, inspiring others to engage with the environmental transition.



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Continuation of the regenerative agriculture trial at the University of Leeds which will produce research and insights required to enable the transition to sustainable farming practices.



Buckinghamshire



GROW TO GIVE

Grow to Give brings together community groups and growers, enabling fresh surplus produce to get into the hands of people from low-income households. Through weekly collections in spring, summer and autumn, Grow to Give coordinates supply from local allotments. This network is due to grow from 18 to 26 allotments over the course of the Rothschild Foundation's support.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are packed into parcels for donation or cooked and consumed by community groups or charities. Grow to Give has developed recipe cards and online videos, offering guidance on trying and cooking new and seasonal produce. The charity has responded to requests from the community, for example growing and supplying more beetroot to a support group for Ukrainians newly settled in Bucks.



Grow to Give sums up their impact: 'zero food miles, ecologically grown food, increased nutrition for vulnerable groups, grown with love and shared with dignity.'

OAKLEY VILLAGE STORES LIMITED

Capital investment in Oakley Village Stores to support its sustainability ambitions and value as a community hub providing access to local food.

WILDLIFE TRUST (BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON)

Employment of a Farmer Cluster Networks Officer to build on local farm coordination, delivery of knowledge exchange workshops and distribution of a budget to trial and develop a shared approach to nature recovery.



Environmental (Other)

Funding has continued the Rothschild family legacy of environmental conservation both at Waddesdon and further afield through the support of the following.

CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE

Core funding for the Ionian Environmental Foundation which works in the Ionian Islands in Greece.

WADDESDON AVIARY

The Rothschild Foundation supports the Aviary at Waddesdon Manor, including maintaining its status as a zoo through the provision of grants to partner conservation organisations.

This year, grants were awarded to the Zoological Society London to support the expert based searches for the Tooth-billed Pigeon, as well as to the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation Universitas in Indonesia to support the critically endangered Banggai crow.

WADDESDON SUSTAINABILITY HUB

The Rothschild Foundation has worked closely on projects with Waddesdon Manor this year that included the development of a conservation and sustainability hub at the unused woodland café at Waddesdon Manor.



Aviary at Waddesdon Manor.
Photo: Derek Pelling.

Community

Guided by the motto of the Rothschild Family - integrity, harmony, and hard work, our funding recognises these qualities in the organisations we support.

Nationally, this means proactively identifying organisations, each dedicated to meeting the needs of the communities they serve.

Locally, we operate a Community Fund which supports organisations serving communities experiencing disadvantage and inequality in Buckinghamshire with multi-year and flexible funding. Whilst the fund responds to a broad range of needs there is a particular focus on homelessness, financial hardship, mental health and physical and learning disabilities. During this year, we provided funding to 33 organisations in the county.



Rothschild Family Coat-of-Arms, courtesy of Baron Élie de Rothschild.

Grants Awarded National

MAGGIE’S

Donation to the Building Hope Campaign in memory of Lord Rothschild.

PEWSEY VALE SCHOOL

Funding to coach year 10s to develop confidence, resilience and leadership skills through a training programme delivered by Thriving Through Venture.

ROYAL MARSDEN CANCER CHARITY

Support for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity Ever After Garden helping people affected by cancer both in the UK and around the world.

THE LISTENING PLACE

Core funding to provide free, face-to-face, confidential support for people who are feeling suicidal, delivered by highly-trained volunteers supervised by mental health professionals.



Photo: Dominick Tyler.

‘Through the support of The Rothschild Foundation, we can help ensure our nurses, doctors and research teams can provide the very best care and develop lifesaving treatments, which are used across the UK and around the world.’



Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, Ever After Garden

Buckinghamshire



AGE CONCERN FLACKWELL HEATH & LOUDWATER DAY CENTRE

Core funding to Age Concern Flackwell Heath which supports elderly local residents with a nutritious lunch and activity sessions, such as crafts or gentle physical exercise.

ASPIRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Funding towards Inspire Creative, a pilot programme of creative careers' focused activities and visits targeting young people at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

AUTISM BUCKS

Providing information, services, and social support to people with autism in Buckinghamshire, as well as offering advice to organisations looking to improve their understanding of autism.



Photos: Nancie, Ross Centre.



'Autism Bucks has been able to significantly expand its services for autistic adults in Buckinghamshire. The funding has enabled us to increase our membership, offer more tailored support, and provide a wider range of social activities that truly enrich the lives of those we serve. This support has not only strengthened our community but also created a more inclusive environment where individuals feel empowered, valued, and connected.'

Neil Cary - Chair of the Trustees

AYLESBURY COMMUNITY PRIDE CIC

Support to produce the first free to attend LGBTQ+ pride event in Aylesbury with workshops, advice sessions and creative activities. Continuation funding will support future events at Pride in the Park, benefiting both LGBTQ+ community and local families.

Photo: Photohello.



'The funding enabled us to create a safe, inclusive, and vibrant event that brought our community together, offering both education and entertainment. We were able to celebrate our diversity and unity in a truly memorable way.'

AYLESBURY HINDU TEMPLE

Funding for cultural initiatives engaging young people and the wider community through inclusive events, assemblies, workshops that celebrate diversity and foster cross-cultural understanding.



AYLESBURY MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Capital funding to support Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre that provides halls and rooms for hire at a reasonable price to community groups. The groups who use the centre are varied, but all work with under-represented and vulnerable people in the local community.

BANBURYSHIRE CITIZEN PROJECT

Continued delivery of advice sessions for elderly residents and assisting with their physical and mental wellbeing.

BOPAG (BUCKS OLDER PEOPLE'S ACTION GROUP)

Funding for BOPAG's magazine, recognising that many older people are digitally excluded, and seeking information of local services and support groups.

Tai Chi at The Golden Years EventPhoto: Heather Wilde.



'The grant has enabled us to carry on our postal distribution of our monthly Hoot magazine, which is essential for the older community who either prefer hard copy or who have limited online access. BOPAG are hugely grateful that we have been able to increase our reach in Buckinghamshire thanks to the support of the Rothschild Foundation and we will continue with our positive mission of empowering older people in Bucks.'

BRIGHTER FUTURES TOGETHER

Core funding for the delivery of projects run from the Marlow Youth Hub, helping young people and their parents/carers benefit from fun social activities and mental health support.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Funding to secure Local Insight software for the Bucks Data Exchange platform providing up-to-date insights on the needs of local communities across the county.



CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB

The Caribbean Community Lunch Club is a thriving group offering a hot meal and regular social interaction at an accessible community centre in Aylesbury. It's a lively place where card games and dominoes are played alongside physical activity sessions to keep members agile in their later years. The club runs advice sessions, for example getting guidance on tackling the cost-of-living from Citizens Advice Bucks. They have partnered with Bucks Council to ensure everyone coming to the club can have their blood pressure taken each week with follow-up GP referrals when needed.



CHILTERN TOY BANK

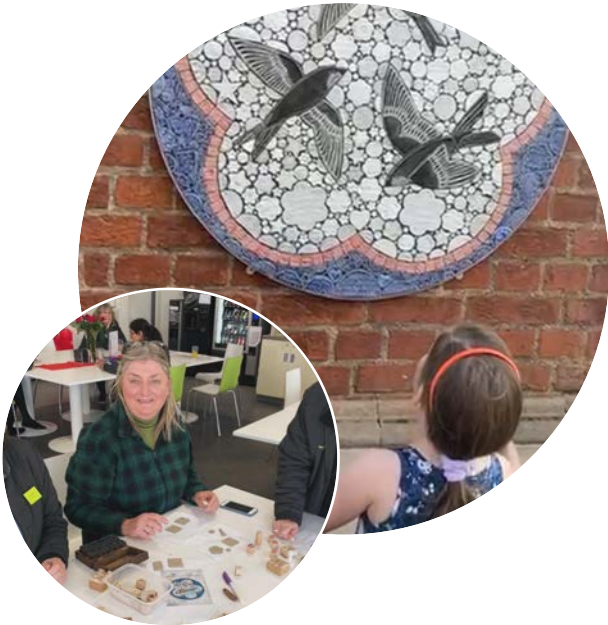
Providing toys and gifts to children that would otherwise not receive anything due to financial hardship.

CONNECTION SUPPORT

Funding to independently evaluate the Charities Together project, a collaborative approach delivered by Age UK Bucks, Carers Bucks, Citizens Advice, Connection Support and Youth Concern, to ascertain if the collaboration provided a larger safety net to tackle poverty.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BEACONSFIELD

Funding to continue the development of an arts-trail, featuring five mosaics made in community workshops by people of all ages and abilities.

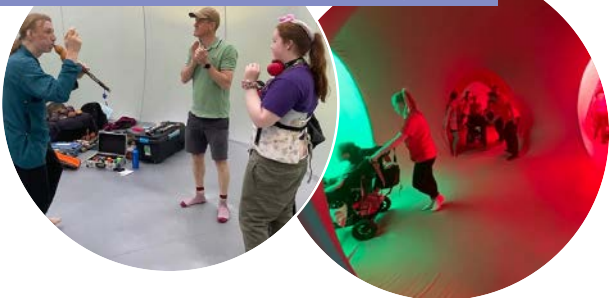


EYE MUSIC TRUST

Funding to support two days of Colourscape delivery for Special Educational Needs schools at Waddesdon, plus a week of workshops at The Pace Centre.



'It was motivating for our students to access the lighting and sounds, enabling students to control their environment and interact in a way that they never have before. Equipment was placed around the students based upon their access to the world and movements that they had control of. Colourscape provided amazing opportunities for Cedar class students and our students would love to access this again in the future.'



IN THIS TOGETHER BUCKS CIC

Project funding to support educational workshops, mentoring, and support services to at-risk youth in Buckinghamshire, aiming to reduce knife crime and promote community safety.



'Our Playgroup supports some very special 2 to 5 year old children - and helps prepare them for those first important steps into their educational journey from 5 years on. We help both children and parents face the challenges of dealing with significant special needs, and are recognised as a local centre of excellence in securing the EHCP status that secures statutory funding for the future.'

MOP (Marlow Opportunity Playgroup) Trustee John Prout



Photos: Marlow Opportunity Playgroup.

MARLOW OPPORTUNITY PLAYGROUP

Core funding to continue delivery of childcare and wellbeing activities to children with acute disabilities in South Bucks.

MEDIATION BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Funding to support young people and families to resolve conflicts, improve communication, and build coping strategies, reducing family breakdown while enhancing well-being and resilience.

MORE HORIZONS

Project funding for group dance sessions to encourage physical activity and improve wellbeing.

© More Horizons Team.



NEURODIVERSE SELF ADVOCACY

Project funding towards the Pathway peer mentoring programme for autistic adults.

RED BALLOON AYLESBURY

Core support to an educational and therapeutic centre for local 11-18 year olds who are unable to attend school due to mental ill-health, trauma or SEND.

SOUND AND SONG CIC

Delivery of the "Signing Mamas Wycombe" project for postpartum women, alleviating social isolation and improving mental health through group singing.



'In the 2 weeks leading up to Christmas 2024; we fed 450 people, 145 Christmas parcels were given out, 130 children received toys, 138 people attended and were fed at our 'Bridge The Gap Extra' event, as well as 30 volunteers who helped out on the day. Without your generous support, this would not have been possible.'

SOUTHCOURT BAPTIST CHURCH

For the 'Bridging the Gap' food bank service, which offers food, toiletries and clothing to hard-pressed households in Aylesbury.

THE CHILTERN DIAL-A-RIDE

Providing transport for those with mobility issues in the South Bucks area.

THE FRIENDS OF LOWNDES PARK

Funding to replace the worn-out play equipment in Lowndes Park with an inclusive new playground for children aged 5-11.

© Love Lowndes.



THE LONGFORD TRUST

Funding to provide access to higher education to prisoners serving sentences at HMP Grendon, along with mentoring and financial support.

Photos: Russell Bruns for the Longford Trust.



'After delivering the annual Longford Lecture on prison reform and her experience of imprisonment in Iran, Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe met a group of past and present Longford Scholars – young men and women who are being supported by the trust to continue their rehabilitation by going to university – to explore their common ground.'

THE MASON FOUNDATION

Project funding to support young people aged 13-25 who are neurodivergent into meaningful, sustainable employment.

© The Mason Foundation.



'Through our innovative approach of building local inclusion networks, we're not only helping businesses embrace diversity but creating lasting partnerships that open doors to meaningful employment. By connecting mentors with young talent, we're building a thriving community where both businesses and neurodivergent individuals flourish together, creating a more inclusive future for our community.'

THE MONEYHEAVE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Financial coaching for young adults aged between 18 and 35 to enhance their financial literacy and resilience.



© MoneyHeave.

'Money isn't just about numbers; it's about people, life experiences, choices, and opportunities. Too many individuals feel overwhelmed, ashamed, or simply lost when it comes to their finances. At MoneyHeave, we break down barriers to financial confidence by making financial education accessible, engaging, and empowering.'

Roneish Myers, Director

WYCOMBE MULTICULTURAL ORGANISATION (WMO)

Core funding towards bespoke information and financial advice for older people from the African Caribbean community in Booker and Cressex area of High Wycombe.

THE PACE CENTRE

Funding towards the Early Intervention Programme which focuses on supporting children aged 0-3 who have or are at high risk of neurodisabilities.



© Pace Centre.

'The grant has been immensely valuable to both our organisation and the families we serve. It has helped us to provide sessions to over 130 children covering therapies such as speech and language, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy, while also providing expert advice and support to their parents and carers.'

YOUTH ENQUIRY SERVICE

Continued support for young people aged 11-25 who attend a drop-in centre in High Wycombe for counselling and advice.



© Eye Music Trust.

Community (Other)

WADDESDON MANOR

Based in Waddesdon's Learning Team, an Engagement Post will manage an education programme in partnership with Waddesdon School.



SCHOOLS ACCESS FUND

In Buckinghamshire we also have a focus on supporting our schools community, delivering a Schools Access Fund with the Learning Team at Waddesdon Manor. The Fund offers grants to cover the costs of school trips to the manor and gardens. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for transport and staff costs, workshop fees and National Trust Education Group Access Pass and are prioritised for schools with pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2024/25 the Schools Access fund supported 36 Buckinghamshire Schools to visit Waddesdon.

'We would not have been able to take our children to Waddesdon manor without the funding due to our school having such a high pupil premium percentage, the parents often do not have the money.'

'Many families are not National Trust members and could not afford to visit. It added to the children's cultural capital and a whole day outdoors was a benefit to all their mental health.'

Winslow Church of England

Roundwood Primary school



Dialogues

As well as funding, we look for ways for the Foundation’s wider assets to support our charitable objectives. This includes using the inspirational spaces we have on the Waddesdon Estate to convene around the topics of interest, stimulating discussion and debate which can lead to collective action.

This year many of our convenings focused on the future of food.

Tackling childhood obesity with Bite Back

This year, over a 100 students from local schools, who participated in the Bite Back Bucks School Food Partnership programme attended an event at the Dairy, Waddesdon to celebrate their progress in healthy eating projects, led by School Food Champions.

Students presented their campaigns for healthier options and reflected on discussions held with contractors, pupils and headteachers.

Later in the month, Bite Back hosted a Business Accelerator at Waddesdon. They brought together twelve businesses from across the UK’s leading food retailers, manufacturers to progress a healthier offer for consumers.

Philanthropy in regenerative farming with the Environmental Funders Network (EFN)

In June, we came together with EFN to host an event for funders at Waddesdon to explore how philanthropy can support farming for regenerative outcomes in the UK.



The event was overwhelmingly positive. Funders said they want to collaborate, to share learning and establish a strategic funding network to accelerate regenerative food and farming at scale. Several organisations are now discussing the potential to work together.

Chair of the Rothschild Foundation, Dame Hannah Rothschild, introduced the afternoon’s talks, highlighting the importance of collaboration and the power of collective effort.

The following convenings were also supported with grant funding:

PASTURE-FED LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

In collaboration with Pasture for Life an event was funded to launch the report for the Food Ecolabel Review where key findings and implications were discussed to highlight the importance of the role of nature friendly farming in future food, socio-environmental, and finance policies, regulations and voluntary initiatives.

FRESHWATER HABITATS TRUST

Freshwater Water Habitats Trust held a Staff Away Day in July 2024 providing an opportunity to focus on the implementation of the Freshwater Network Strategy and their priorities for the forthcoming financial year. Staff development and training through site visits at Waddesdon were also arranged.



Staff and Volunteer Initiatives

CHARITY OF THE YEAR

As voted by staff and volunteers, the 2024 Waddesdon Charity of the Year was Aylesbury Women’s Aid.

AYLESBURY WOMEN'S AID

Funding to support women, children and young people in Buckinghamshire who are, or have been, affected by domestic abuse

Aylesbury Women’s Aid (AWA) is a registered charity working in the Aylesbury Vale District of Buckinghamshire and has been working with and on behalf of women and children since 1986, who are or have lived with domestic violence. Their purpose is ‘To exist for the benefit of all women and their children who are or have experienced physical, mental, emotional, financial or sexual abuse in their relationships and to offer support, information, advice, access to temporary safe accommodation and aftercare’.

They offer a range of services from a purpose-built refuge rented from a housing association as well as a smaller owned property with the capacity to hold 14 families/single women. AWA also offers outreach, Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) and counselling services from an office in Aylesbury Town Centre that clients can visit. This also includes the Freedom Programme, helping women who experienced domestic violence make sense of and understand what has happened to them, as well as a range of support services for children and young people, who have been affected by domestic violence.

AWA work from a feminist perspective and are committed to the principle of self-help, encouraging women to determine their own futures, making information available in an accessible way, and supporting women to make their own choices.



Left and above: Staff and volunteer Bake Off in support of the Charity of the Year.
Right: Funding from Spinathon held on 13th of January.

STAFF SPONSORSHIP AND NOMINATIONS

Staff and volunteers at Waddesdon and the Rothschild Foundation can apply for a donation of up to £500 in support of a chosen charity. Over the year, 21 staff sponsorship grants were made to organisations with challenges including a 3 hour Spinathon for Aylesbury Women’s Aid, half marathons for DENS and Scleroderma and Raynaud’s UK, the Great North Run for WECare Worldwide, 5k Races for Life for Cancer Research UK, 100km and 400km cycle challenges for Givingworks and Ordinary2Extraordinary, and a triathlon for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. There were also a number of sponsored walks for The Pace Centre and Prostate Cancer UK and swimming challenges for the Conservation Collection.



Above: A Giving Works duo.

Above and below centre: The Pace Centre.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

We are committed to developing and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion across all our work at the Rothschild Foundation.' - changing this as 'all that we do' is repeated in this sentence and then next at The Rothschild Foundation. We recognise the real benefits of a diverse community of applicants, employees, volunteers and visitors and we are working to build and maintain a culture which ensures that equality, diversity

ACCESS SUPPORT FUND

In 2024 the Rothschild Foundation created the Access Support Fund to enable the Foundation's resources to be accessible.

Access Support Fund grants are available for people with literacy, language, vision or other needs and that need support using our grants portal, writing applications and understanding the reporting guidance.

The fund may be used to pay for a support worker, scribe, translator, sign-language interpreter or other support service as required..

THE WADDESDON PATHWAY PROGRAMME

The Pathway programme offers fully paid (National Living Wage) internship opportunities for those interested in exploring a career in the heritage and conservation sectors. The internships provide a year long programme of training and development as well as living accommodation on site at Waddesdon.

During the year, seven internships were funded within departments such as Conservation, Sustainability, Hospitality and Marketing.

WADDESDON MANOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Foundation supports a community engagement programme at Waddesdon which aims to reach and engage priority audiences from communities in Buckinghamshire who face barriers to accessing Waddesdon Manor, Collection and Estate.



'The internship has been momentous. Last year, I was in a job I didn't enjoy. I knew I wanted to work in heritage, but I only had experience in Visitor Services and was struggling to secure a job in that field. The internship provided me with the skills and experience I needed to secure a job in conservation. My experience at Waddesdon has been invaluable. Without that year, I wouldn't be starting my new job as a Collections Assistant at Bletchley Park next week. In this role, I'll be working with collections and performing some tasks in the archive. Additionally, I have begun saving for a Master's degree, with the long-term goal of training to become a Conservator—all thanks to my internship at Waddesdon.'

Conservation Intern

Rothschild Foundation Trustees

The Foundation is run by a board of Trustees, a small professional staff team, and supported by a wider network of affiliated organisations and independent advisors.

Dame Hannah Rothschild DBE CBE, Chair

The Hon. Emmy Freeman-Attwood

Professor Deborah Swallow

Francesco Goedhuis

Peter Troughton CVO CBE

Christopher Mark Kemp

S.J.P. Trust Corporation Limited (corporate Trustee)

Rothschild Foundation Staff

Sir Roger Wright CBE, Chief Executive Officer

Pippa Shirley, Director of Waddesdon

Victoria Lovatt-Smith, Director of People

Ellie Stout, Director of Grants

Dave Silvester, Chief Financial Officer

Sophie Hedley, Marketing & Communications Director

Leona Forsyth, Senior Grants Manager

David Terrace, Grants Manager

Rowena Mitchell and Natalie Richards, Operations Manager

Monique Ricketts, Evaluation and Impact Manager

Karen Nicoll, Grants Officer

Christopher Campbell-Kelly, Executive Assistant to the Executive Board

Penny Makwana, Executive Assistant to the Director of Grants

The Rothschild Foundation Grants Team would like to thank all the organisations that we have worked with over the past year for their expertise and dedication.

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