

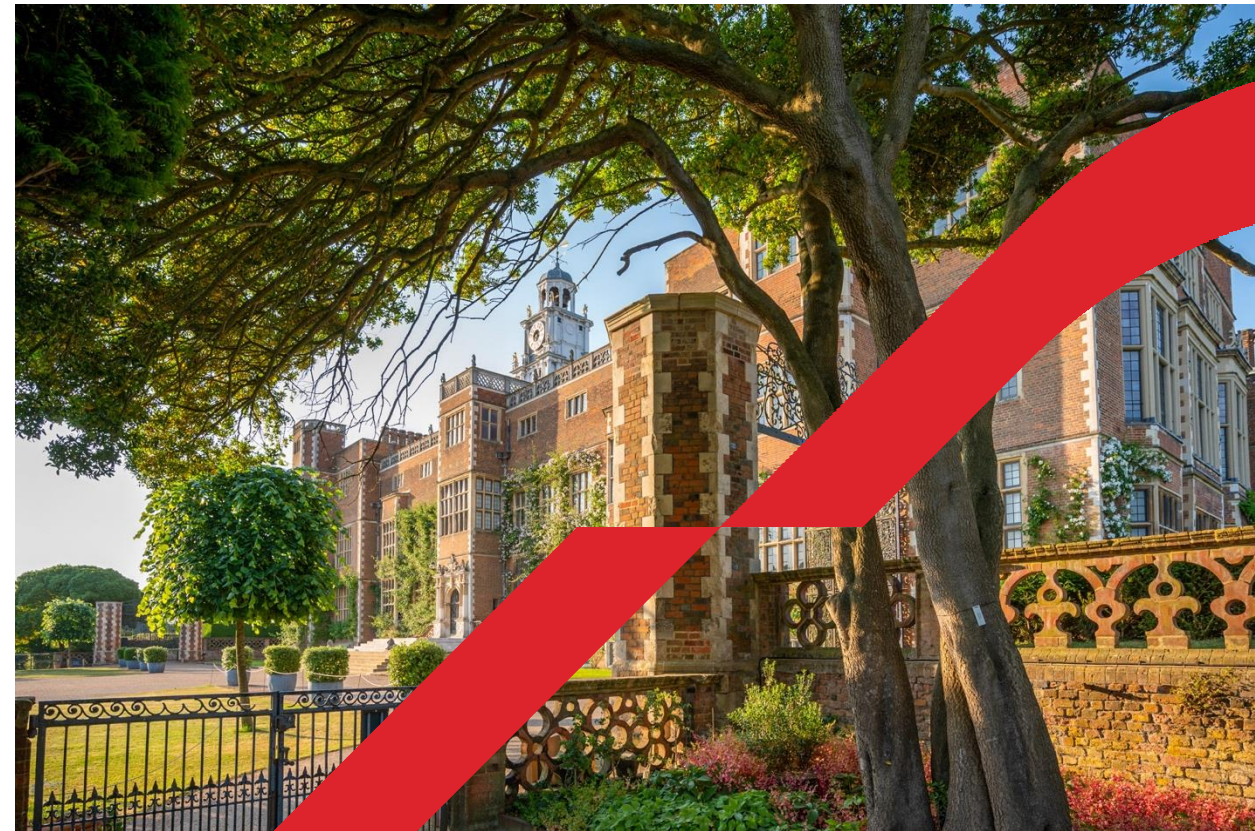
Presentation of the Bi-Annual Entente Cordiale Prizes Gala Awards Venue (United Kingdom): Hatfield House

The current Hatfield House was built in 1611 for Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury. The Royal Palace that formerly stood on the site was the childhood home of King Henry VIII's children, who would later be crowned as King Edward VI, Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I. It was in the gardens of Hatfield House, under what is today called the Queen Elizabeth's Oak, that Queen Elizabeth I famously heard the news of her accession to the throne in 1558. It is said that Young Princess Elizabeth was reading the Bible, fell to her knees and quoted a line from Psalm 118: **"It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."** The bricks of the Old Palace were used by Robert Cecil to build his new house, which, since the reign of Queen Victoria, has been visited by every reigning British monarch.

Queen Elizabeth II was a regular visitor, thanks to her close ties with the Cecil family. In an interesting analogy with Elizabeth, I acceding to the throne near a tree and ushering in the first Elizabethan Age, it is also near a tree that Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the throne and ushered in the second Elizabethan Age. Indeed, on February 5, 1952, while staying at Treetops Hotel in Kenya, as the legendary naturalist Jim Corbett, who accompanied the Royal party wrote:

For the first time in the history of the world, a young girl climbed into a tree one day a Princess, and after having what she described as her most thrilling experience she climbed down from the tree next day a Queen – God bless her.' In 1985, Queen Elizabeth II came to Hatfield House and planted a new tree to replace Queen Elizabeth I's Oak that had died and been uprooted in 1978 as the exact same place.

The house and its gardens have been used for some surprising activities over the years. During World War One the gardens were dug up and used as a testing ground for the first-ever British tanks. Hatfield House is a popular TV and Hollywood film location, and features in, amongst many others, Batman, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Shakespeare in Love, Tomb Raider, The Favorite, Harry Potter, Four Weddings and a Funeral, and, perhaps inevitably, The Crown. Hatfield House is the present home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury and has been the home of the Cecil family for over 400 years.



Presentation of the family of Entente Cordiale Day Co-Chair & Joint Honorary President: The Most. Hon The Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL

Members of the Cecil family have played key roles in British history since the Middle Ages. William Cecil was Chief Minister to Elizabeth I; his son Robert Cecil was Secretary of State and Spymaster to both Elizabeth I and James I. He notably played a prominent role in the Gunpowder Plot.

Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, usually known as Lord Salisbury served three mandates as Prime Minister between 1885 and 1902. While Prime Minister, he was also Foreign Secretary, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords. Lord Salisbury was the last Prime Minister in History to run the government from the House of Lords. Lord Salisbury eventually played an important role in improving relations with France which had cooled during the Boer War. This rapprochement led directly to the negotiation of the Entente Cordiale. Lord Salisbury died at Hatfield House in 1903, without seeing the culmination of his diplomatic efforts, his nephew, Arthur Balfour became Prime Minister and presided over the signing of the Entente Cordiale in 1904 under King Edward VII.

Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 5th Marquess of Salisbury, nicknamed Bobbety, played a significant role in politics during World War Two and British post-war politics. He served as Paymaster General, Minister of the Dominion Affairs, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords under Winston Churchill. He invented the Salisbury "Doctrine" or "Convention" as it is sometimes called to ensure that major Government Bills can get through the House of Lords when the Government of the day has no majority in the Lords.

The current and 7th Marquess of Salisbury, Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, was Leader of the House of Lords under John Major. He was summoned as Baron Cecil to the House of Lords by a Writ of Acceleration in 1992, the last in British History. Chairman of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Thames Celebrations in 2012, the Marquess of Salisbury was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and became a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO). In 2019, he was appointed Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Marquess of Salisbury was educated at Eton College and Christ Church, Oxford he is the Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire.

