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30 May 2026

Vanbrugh in the North: The Architecture and Influence of Sir John Vanbrugh



Welcome to this edition of the Vanbrugh300 newsletter from The Georgian Group. In this issue, we turn our focus to Vanbrugh in the North of England, featuring Matthew Wood's article, [Rome Under a Yorkshire Sky](#). We're pleased to introduce a new addition to the Vanbrugh300 Learning Hub: [free Castle Howard school visit resources](#) to support teacher-led visits to the site. We also spotlight [Durham University's conference](#), *The Architecture and Influence of Sir John Vanbrugh in North East England*, which brings together seven invited speakers to explore Vanbrugh's architectural legacy and his enduring influence across the region.

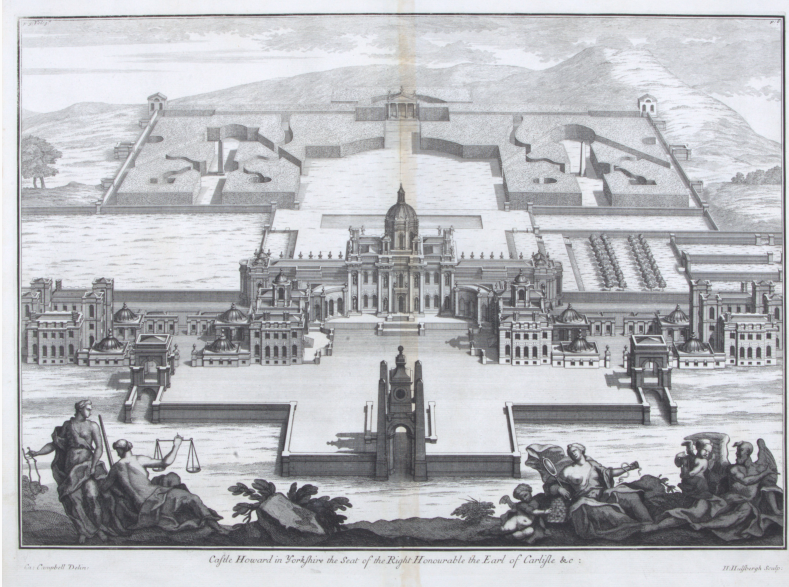
Looking ahead, we're pleased to share details of the [next events in our programme](#), including two upcoming lectures in the Vanbrugh300 series at [Grimsthorpe Castle](#) and [Castle Howard](#), as well as The Georgian Group's talk, [Vanbrugh's Country House](#), presented by Jeremy Musson.

To learn more about VANBRUGH300, [visit our website](#) and explore the [What's On page](#) to see upcoming events and activities.

[Visit the VANBRUGH300 Website](#)

Rome Under a Yorkshire Sky By Matthew Wood

In 1699, Charles Howard, 3rd Earl of Carlisle, resolved to build a new seat on his Yorkshire estate, and appointed Sir John Vanbrugh - who had never designed a building before - as architect. Castle Howard was conceived on a heroic scale, and, with the assistance of the ever-capable Hawksmoor, Vanbrugh's symbiotic design of both house and landscape drew upon a wealth of elements drawn from thousands of years of architectural history, forming a consciously eclectic yet unified vision. Vanbrugh was internationally orientated (perhaps the original Mr Worldwide) and consequently so was Castle Howard...
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Aerial View of Castle Howard from Volume III of Vitruvius Britannicus by Colen Campbell, 1725.
Castle Howard Archive.

Free Castle Howard School Visit Resources

More free educational resources are now available on the Vanbrugh300 Learning Hub, specially created to support teacher-led school visits to Castle Howard. Designed for Key Stage 1 and 2, the materials include engaging worksheets and supporting information to help teachers and pupils explore Vanbrugh's architecture and the history of Castle Howard before, during, or after their visit.



[Download and Explore the Free Resources](#)

The Architecture and Influence of Sir John Vanbrugh in North East England

Durham University is hosting a public conference bringing together seven invited speakers to explore Vanbrugh's architectural legacy and enduring influence across the North East. Taking place at Redhills Miners Hall, Durham, the event forms part of the Vanbrugh300 programme and offers a unique opportunity to hear from leading scholars and specialists in the field.



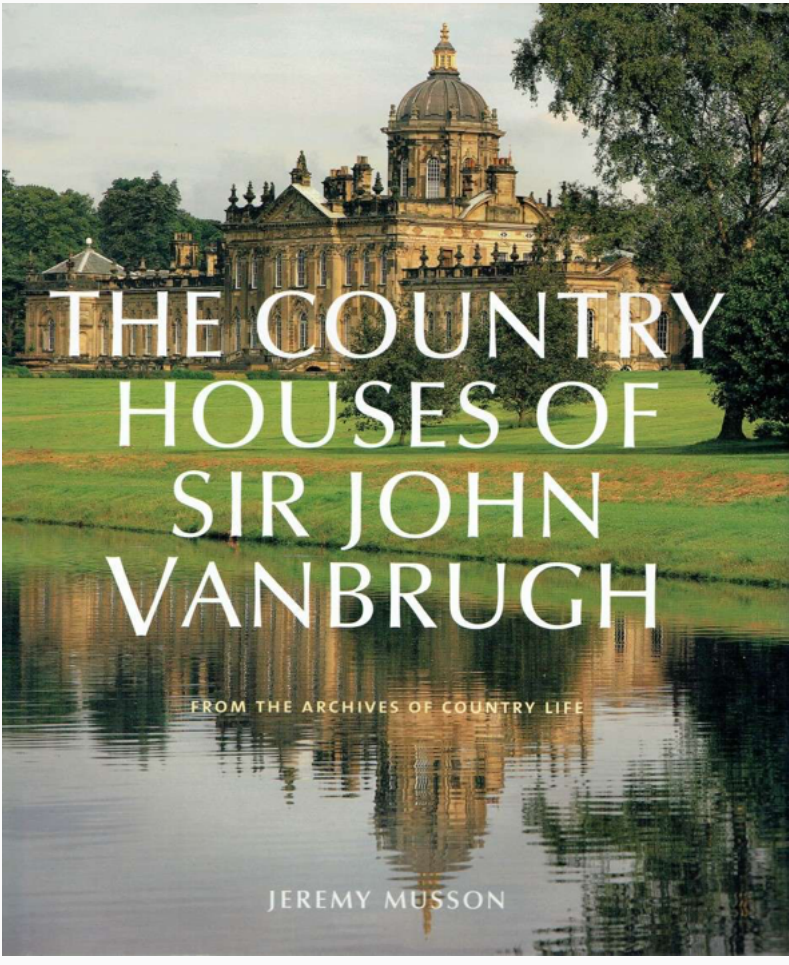
The registration deadline is 12 June.

[Find Out More and Book Your Place](#)

Talks, Lectures and Panel Discussions

Vanbrugh's Country Houses **Tuesday 9 June 6:30pm** **Fitzroy Square, London**

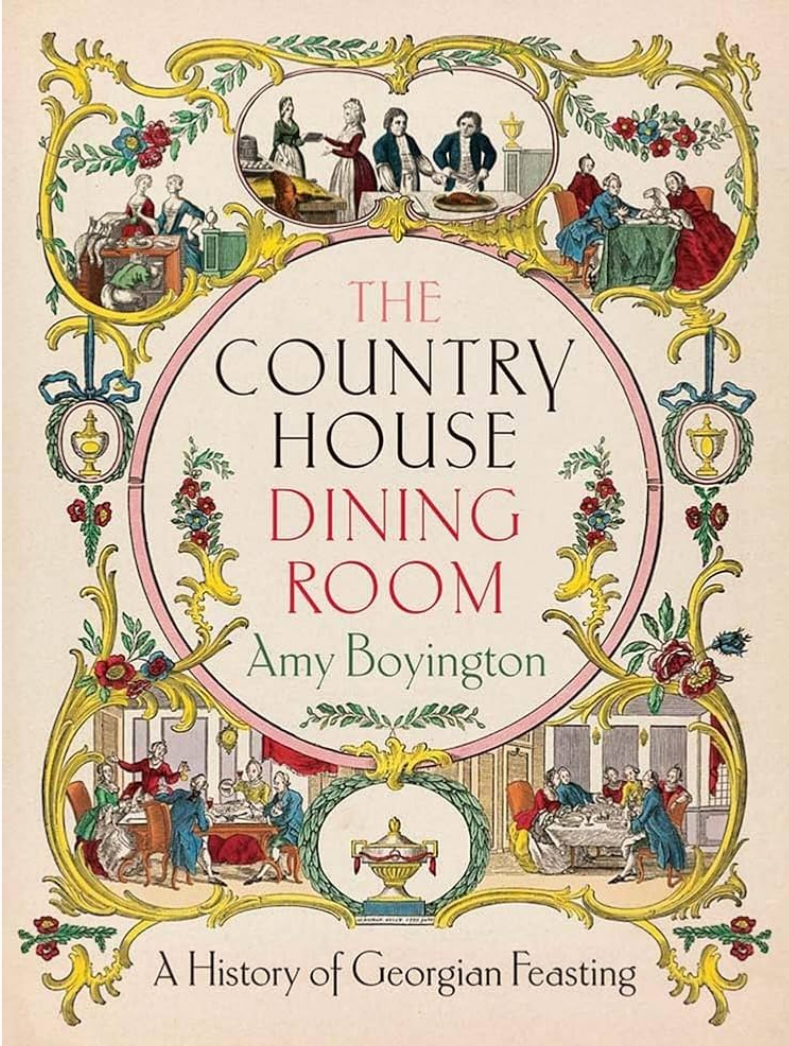
Jeremy Musson, author of *The Country Houses of Sir John Vanbrugh: From the Archives of Country Life*, 2008, explores the nature of Vanbrugh's great houses, shares his memories of his visits for his 2008 book, and reflects on Vanbrugh's continuing reputation, and his continuing admiration for the inventive and compelling language of Vanbrugh's letters on architecture.



[Book Your Tickets](#)

The Theatre of the Feast: Power and Excess in the Georgian Dining Room **Thursday 11 June 2:30pm** **Grimsthorpe Castle**

Step back into the 1700s and into the most important room in Britain: the country house dining room. Join Dr Amy Boyington as she reveals how the Georgian elite used architecture, art, and an almost religious devotion to excess to cement their social standing. Explore the high-stakes political dining of the Kit-Cat Club, where Sir John Vanbrugh's 'Castle Style' architecture provided a literal fortress for Whig power and legendary toasts.



[Book Your Tickets](#)

For a special discounted hotel offer at Rutland Hall for this talk and Grimsthorpe Castle's Vanbrugh300 weekend, please email Vanbrugh300@georgiangroup.org.uk for more information.

Responses to Vanbrugh **Saturday 13 June 5:30pm** **Castle Howard**

This is a panel discussion with the current custodian of the house, the Hon. Nick Howard, the award-winning artist and designer Es Devlin, and specialist architect Francis Terry. The conversation will look at how each person has responded to Castle Howard, whether through photography, installation or conservation.



[Reserve Your Free Tickets](#)

Dates for your Diary

- **13 June** - Opening of the installation [Story of the Four Winds at Castle Howard](#)
- **19 June** - [In Conversation: Sir Charles Saumarez Smith and Jeremy Musson at Grimsthorpe Castle](#)
- **20 June** - [Grimsthorpe Castle Vanbrugh300 Weekend](#)
- **20 June** - [An Evening of Vanbrugh performance](#) at Grimsthorpe Castle
- **25 June** - [Vanbrugh at Chalke History Festival](#)

[Explore the full programme at Vanbrugh300.co.uk](#)



VANBRUGH300
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