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13 June 2026

At Home with Rome: Vanbrugh's Vision at Grimsthorpe



Welcome to the latest edition of the Vanbrugh300 newsletter from The Georgian Group. This month, we turn our focus to Grimsthorpe Castle and their exciting [Vanbrugh300 programme](#), including *In Conversation: Sir Charles Saumarez Smith and Jeremy Musson* on 19 June, followed by the Vanbrugh300 Weekend on 20–21 June, featuring a range of special activities and events. As part of the celebrations, the Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club will also present *An Evening of Vanbrugh* on 20 June, bringing Vanbrugh's theatrical legacy to life.

Featured in this issue is *Grimsthorpe Castle: At Home with Rome* - a fascinating article by Susie West exploring Vanbrugh's architectural vision and the classical influences that shaped this remarkable house. Feeling inspired? Why not enter our [Responses to Vanbrugh](#) competition and share your own perspective on Vanbrugh's life, work or legacy for the chance to win some fantastic prizes. For younger audiences, there's also our [Hats Off to Vanbrugh!](#) competition, inviting children to design their very own piece of wearable architecture inspired by Vanbrugh's extraordinary buildings.

We're also pleased to share details of forthcoming events, including a special panel discussion on [Vanbrugh300 at the Chalke History Festival](#), recorded live for The Country House Podcast, as well as an exciting [new installation by Es Devlin at Castle Howard](#).

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

Vanbrugh300 at Grimsthorpe Castle

In Conversation: Sir Charles Saumarez Smith and Jeremy Musson

Friday 19 June 6:30pm

Don't miss the chance to be a part of this conversational insight into all things Vanbrugh, with refreshments on offer throughout the evening. Visitors will also have the chance to take a stroll around the formal gardens before and after.

This event is almost sold out!



Vanbrugh300 Weekend

Saturday 20 - Sunday 21 June

Get ready for a celebration packed with creativity, discovery, and fun for all ages. Enjoy a lively storytelling performance that brings history and imagination to life, then roll up your sleeves in a hands-on workshop to create your own Vanbrugh-inspired wearable architecture. Families can also take part in an engaging interactive workshop, exploring the extraordinary life and buildings of Sir John Vanbrugh. Plus, be sure to visit *Vanbrugh: Rockstar of the English Baroque*, a special new display in the castle celebrating Vanbrugh's remarkable legacy. Whether you're discovering new stories, crafting something unique to take home, or simply soaking up the atmosphere, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

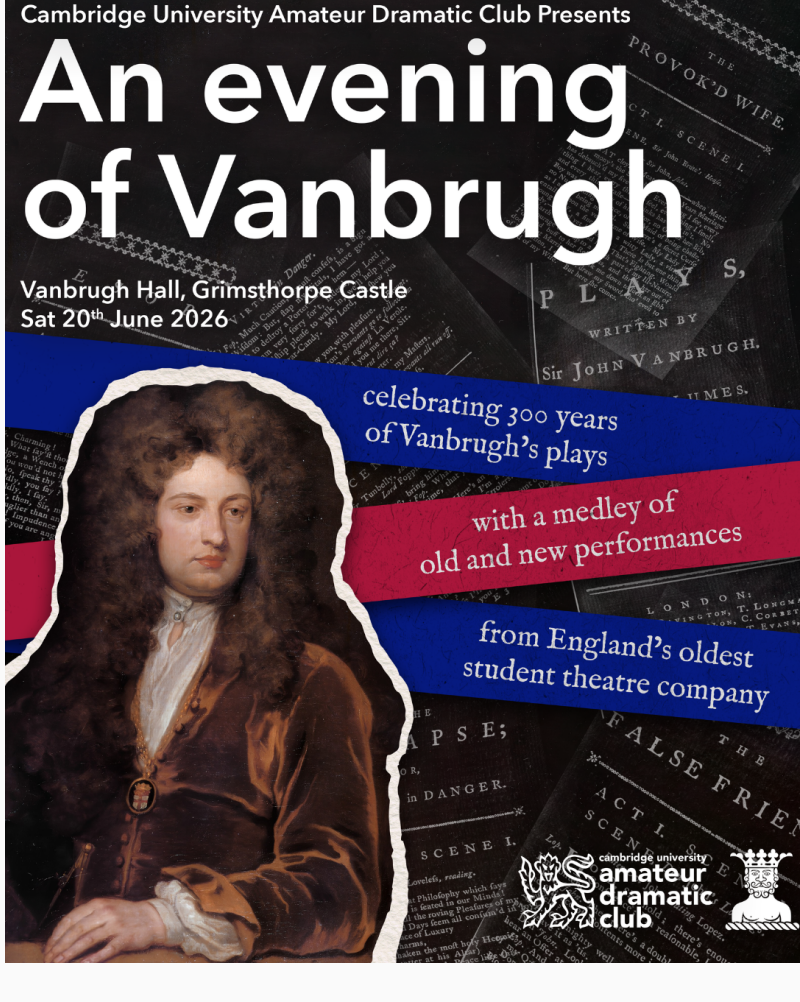


An Evening of Vanbrugh

Saturday 20 June 6pm

Grimsthorpe will be welcoming England's oldest student theatre company, the Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club, to celebrate the 300 year anniversary of playwright and architect Sir John Vanbrugh with a medley of his greatest scenes. Student actors, directors and designers from Cambridge will travel to the castle to perform highlights from across Vanbrugh's work, alongside newly-written responses commissioned especially for this performance.

Find Out More About C.U.A.D.C.



Book Tickets for Vanbrugh300 at Grimsthorpe Castle

Grimsthorpe Castle: At Home with Rome

By Susie West

When Sir John Vanbrugh turned his thoughts to Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire, home of his friend Robert Bertie, 1st Duke of Ancaster, he was working with the oldest house in his career. The King John Tower dates back to the 1200s; the medieval house was hastily enlarged for a visit by Henry VIII in 1541, into the present...[\[READ MORE\]](#)



Responses to Vanbrugh

Have you visited one of the six remarkable Vanbrugh houses during Vanbrugh300? What did you learn from your visit? Do his bold buildings inspire you, or leave you unconvinced? However Vanbrugh has made you feel, we'd love you to tell us! We're inviting you to write around 400 words sharing your personal thoughts, reactions, or experiences of Vanbrugh's work. Whether reflective, critical, or imaginative - what matters most is your perspective. The most compelling entry, selected by the Director of the Georgian Group, will be awarded a family ticket to one of the six Vanbrugh300 partner houses of your choice and a complimentary one-year Georgian Group membership. [Find out more on the Vanbrugh300 website.](#)



Find Out More

Hats Off to Vanbrugh! Competition

We're inviting young designers, makers and imaginative minds to step into Vanbrugh's shoes and take part in our special Hats Off to Vanbrugh! competition. Create your own piece of wearable architecture inspired by one of Vanbrugh's incredible buildings - whether it's a house you've visited during Vanbrugh300, or one you've discovered through photos, videos or online research. Think big. Think bold. Think Baroque! There are two age categories: 5–7 and 8–11. Winners in each category will have their designs showcased online and will receive a family ticket to visit one of the Vanbrugh300 partner sites. [Find out more on the Vanbrugh300 website.](#)



Find Out More

Vanbrugh at Chalke History Festival

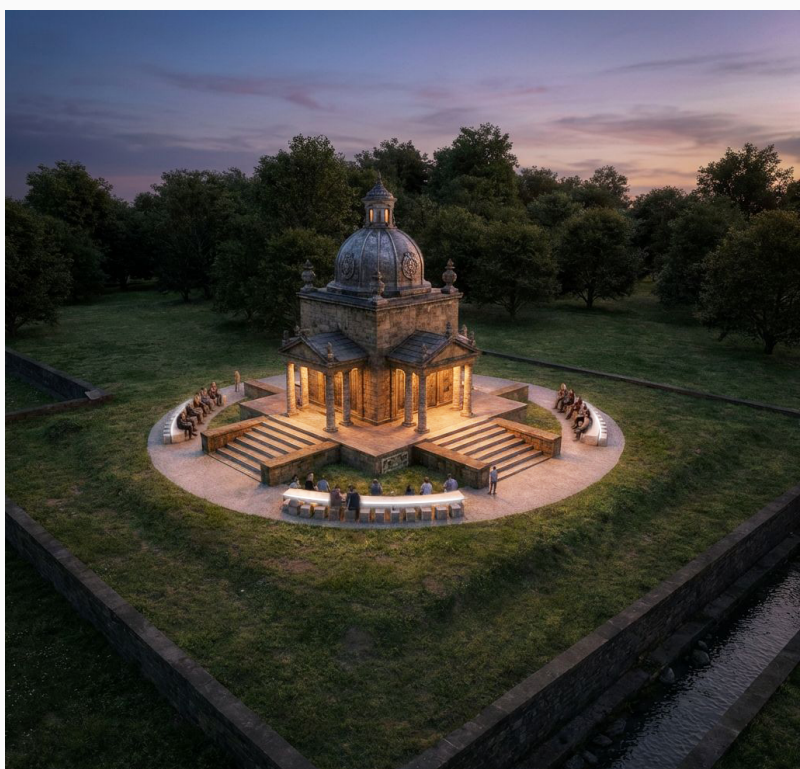
Vanbrugh at 300: The Rockstar of the English Baroque is a talk taking place on Thursday 25 June 2026, from 10am–11am, at the Chalke History Festival. Join a panel of leading experts - Rory Fraser, Ophelia Field, Geoffrey Heath-Taylor, and Charles Saumarez Smith - for a special live recording of *The Country House Podcast*. Together, they will explore Vanbrugh's remarkable life, from his dramatic adventures to his bold and unconventional path into architecture.



Find out more and book your tickets

Library of the Four Winds at Castle Howard

A luminous new revolving artwork is taking over the Temple of the Four Winds at Castle Howard from today until September 27, created by internationally renowned artist and designer Es Devlin. The artwork honours the National Year of Reading, and celebrates the Temple as a place originally designed by Castle Howard's architect Sir John Vanbrugh, as a place for reading and refreshments. The Temple, on the edge of Castle Howard's Gardens, will be surrounded by four concentric tables, where you can read, draw, talk, eat and listen. A magnificent sculpture made from hundreds of books is inside the Temple, with books curated from the personal libraries of Vanbrugh and Devlin.



Find Out More

Dates for your Diary

- **29 June** - *Vanbrugh: Rockstar of the English Baroque* opens at Stowe House
- **2 July** - *One in a series of free lectures*, Simon Thorley CBE discusses Vanbrugh at Kimbolton Castle. **This event is almost sold out.**
- **7 - 9 July** - *Castle Tours: Vanbrugh Revealed at Kimbolton Castle*
- **8 July** - *Conference: Vanbrugh in North East England*
- **13 July** - Talk: *Vanbrugh and the 4th Earl of Manchester* at Kimbolton Castle

Don't Miss: Exhibition *Vanbrugh The Drama of Architecture* at the Sir John Soane's Museum will be closing on **Sunday 28 June**

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



THE GEORGIAN GROUP

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Our mailing address is:
The Georgian Group
6 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 5DX

Vanbrugh300@georgiangroup.org.uk

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