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Vanbrugh at Kimbolton Castle: The Earl of Manchester's Vision

Welcome to the latest edition of the Vanbrugh300 newsletter from The Georgian Group.

In this issue, we turn our attention to the fascinating history of Kimbolton Castle with an article by Andrew Bamford, *Kimbolton Castle, the Earl of Manchester and Sir John Vanbrugh*. We also highlight Andrew's forthcoming talk on the same subject, taking place on 13 July.

Kimbolton recently hosted a successful free Vanbrugh300 lecture with Dr Simon Thurley which you can find out more about here. We also preview the Vanbrugh300 Weekend at Kimbolton on 4 October, including what visitors can expect from this special celebration.

We've been delighted by the fantastic entries received so far for our two summer competitions, so don't miss your chance to take part. *Responses to Vanbrugh* and *Hats Off to Vanbrugh!* invite you to celebrate this remarkable polymath through your own creative response. We also shine a spotlight on Adam Dant's own creative response to Vanbrugh, with his print, *How to Be More John Vanbrugh*, now available to view on the Vanbrugh300 website.

Finally, don't miss the Vanbrugh300 celebration with Dame Harriet Walter at the National Portrait Gallery, presented in partnership with The Georgian Group. This special ticketed event is expected to be extremely popular, so we recommend booking early to avoid disappointment!

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

Kimbolton Castle, the Earl of Manchester and Sir John Vanbrugh

By Andrew Bamford

It is in Vanbrugh's political views that we first establish an affinity with Charles Montagu. The Earl of Manchester was following a similar political journey to Vanbrugh in finding his loyalty to the King at variance with his belief in constitutional government and the Church of England. Only two years older than Vanbrugh, by 1688 he had come a long way from his office of Carver to the Queen, when James and Mary of Modena were crowned in 1685, to one where he was contemplating rebellion. ... [READ MORE]

Vanbrugh and the 4th Earl of Manchester: Architect and Patron

On Monday 13 July, as part of the Huntingdonshire History Festival and Vanbrugh300, Kimbolton Castle Curator Andrew Bamford will explore the creative relationship between Sir John Vanbrugh and Charles Montagu, 4th Earl of Manchester, revealing how their collaboration helped shape the transformation of Kimbolton Castle. In this fascinating talk, Andrew will show that the connection between Vanbrugh and the Earl was far more than a conventional relationship between architect and client.

Reserve Free Tickets

Vanbrugh300 at Kimbolton Castle

On Sunday 4 October, discover the history and splendour of Kimbolton Castle. Enjoy a self-guided tour of the magnificent state rooms, including the Queen's Room, where Katherine of Aragon died in 1536. Along the way, uncover stories of the medieval castle, the English Civil War, Vanbrugh's great rebuilding project and even the castle's resident ghosts. The day also features a special display exploring the relationship between Vanbrugh and Charles Montagu, 4th Earl of Manchester, offering fresh insights into the castle's design and history. Tickets are selling fast, so be sure to book yours today.

Book Tickets

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

How to be more John Vanbrugh

By Adam Dant

View on the Vanbrugh300 Website

Vanbrugh300 Celebration at the National Portrait Gallery

On Sunday 20 September, join actors Harriet Walter and Stephen Boxer, alongside historian Ophelia Field, for a special event celebrating the tercentenary of Sir John Vanbrugh (1664–1726). Presented in partnership with The National Portrait Gallery and The Georgian Group, this promises to be a fascinating evening exploring Vanbrugh's life and legacy. This is a ticketed event and is expected to be extremely popular, so early booking is strongly recommended!

Book Tickets

Dates for your Diary

- **1-2 August** - Vanbrugh300 Weekend at Stowe House
- **17 September** - Vanbrugh's Alterations and Additions to Stowe House
- **19 September** - Claremont Mansion Heritage Open Day
- **1 October** - Talk with Sandy Nairne, Charles Saumarez Smith and Mark Newman at Seaton Delaval Hall
- **8 October** - Vanbrugh and the Queen's Theatre, Haymarket: A Free NLHF Lecture with Annette Rubery and Nicholas Helm at Seaton Delaval Hall
- **15 October** - Sir John Vanbrugh and the Making of Stowe with Michael Bevington
- **15 October** - Historian Rory Fraser on Vanbrugh at Seaton Delaval Hall

Explore the full programme at Vanbrugh300.co.uk

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