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8 August 2026

Reconstructing Stowe House: Vanbrugh's Alterations and Additions



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

In this issue, we highlight the final Vanbrugh300 partner house of the year: Stowe House. We are delighted to feature an article by Francis Terry, *Reconstructing Vanbrugh's Lost Vision for Stowe*, alongside details of his *forthcoming lecture at Stowe in September*, where he will explore Vanbrugh's alterations and additions to the house.

Much of Vanbrugh's work at Stowe extended beyond the house itself, shaping an ambitious new landscape through the creation of temples, monuments and garden buildings. Discover more about this remarkable vision by following *Stowe's new garden trail* during your visit this Summer, or join us in October for Michael Bevington's lecture, *Sir John Vanbrugh and the Making of Stowe*.

We are also delighted to announce that, as part of Vanbrugh300, The Georgian Group is delighted to open the doors of its headquarters at *6 Fitzroy Square with Open House London* on Saturday 19 September!

Finally, don't miss our two summer competitions! *Responses to Vanbrugh* and *Hats Off to Vanbrugh!* invite you to celebrate this extraordinary architect, playwright and polymath through your own creative response. We look forward to seeing your entries.

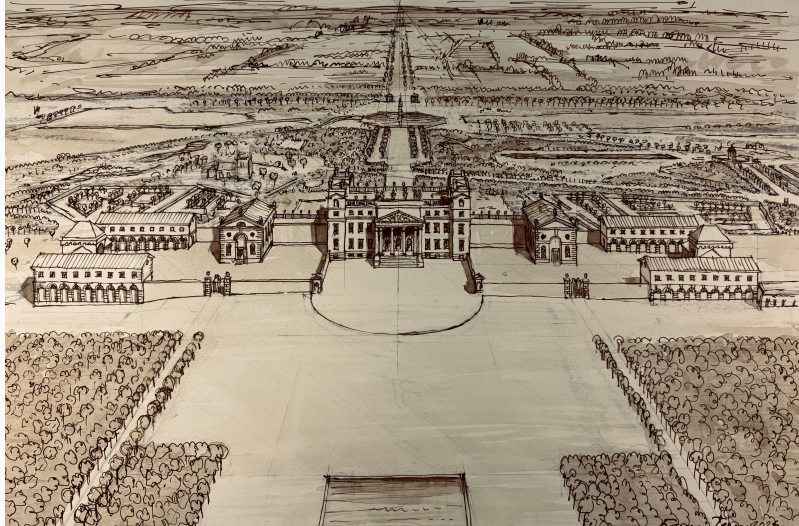
To learn more about VANBRUGH300, [visit our website](#) and explore the [What's On](#) page to see upcoming events and activities.

Visit the VANBRUGH300 Website

Reconstructing Vanbrugh's Lost Vision for Stowe

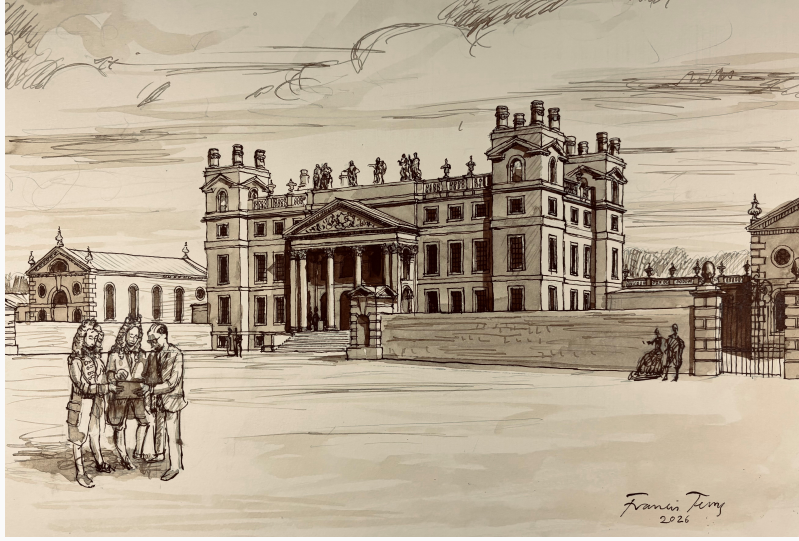
By **Francis Terry**

Sir John Vanbrugh has long been associated with Stowe House, yet the extent of his contribution remains elusive. Unlike his great, fully realised country houses, such as Castle Howard or Blenheim Palace, Stowe presents a far more complex and fragmentary story. By piecing together architectural drawings, engravings, and documentary references, this study aims to work out... [\[READ MORE\]](#)



Vanbrugh's Alterations and Additions to Stowe House

If you enjoyed this article, don't miss Francis Terry's lecture on Thursday 17 September, where he will present research into Sir John Vanbrugh's architectural contribution to Stowe House. Re-examining the scale and ambition of Vanbrugh's designs and how they were subsequently altered, Francis will explore the ideas and influences behind a series of recently completed drawings that investigate and reconstruct Vanbrugh's original vision for the architecture of Stowe House. **Tickets are £3.50**



Book Tickets

Stowe Garden Trail

If you're planning a visit to Stowe this summer, don't miss the new Vanbrugh300 Garden Trail, created to guide you through the remarkable landscapes shaped by Sir John Vanbrugh. From the elegant Lake Pavilions and the Rotunda to Stowe House itself, the trail reveals how Vanbrugh's bold architectural vision helped transform the estate into one of Britain's most celebrated eighteenth-century landscapes. Along the way, you'll discover the stories behind surviving buildings, monuments and garden features, while also uncovering the lost temples and structures that once formed part of Vanbrugh's original masterplan. Whether you're exploring the gardens for the first time or returning to discover them from a new perspective, the trail offers a fascinating insight into the architect's enduring legacy at Stowe!



Download the Garden Trail

Sir John Vanbrugh and the Making of Stowe

On Thursday 15 October, Michael Bevington's lecture reviews Sir John Vanbrugh's time and work at Stowe, examining the archaeological evidence for his buildings both at Stowe House and within the garden. It considers how Lord Cobham drew upon the talents of Vanbrugh and Charles Bridgeman to shape a new landscape vision that reflected his political and philosophical outlook. **Tickets are £3.50**



Book Tickets

Vanbrugh300 at 6 Fitzroy Square

As part of Vanbrugh300, The Georgian Group is delighted to open the doors of its headquarters at 6 Fitzroy Square with Open House London on Saturday 19 September.

Join historian, documentary presenter and co-host of *The Country House Podcast*, Rory Fraser, for an introductory talk at 11am or 2pm. Rory will explore Vanbrugh's extraordinary life and legacy, introducing his work as one of Britain's most celebrated architects and the creator of iconic buildings including Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard.

Visitors can also explore *Vanbrugh: Rockstar of the English Baroque*, display panels celebrating Vanbrugh's many achievements as an architect, playwright, soldier and spy.



Find Out More

OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL

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

Dates for your Diary

- **19 September** - [Vanbrugh300 at 6 Fitzroy Square - Open House Festival](#)
- **20 September** - [Vanbrugh300 Celebration at the National Portrait Gallery](#)
- **1 October** - [Talk with Sandy Nairne, Charles Saumarez Smith and Mark Newman](#) at Seaton Delaval Hall
- **4 October** - [Vanbrugh300 at Kimbolton Castle](#)
- **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** - [Historian Rory Fraser on Vanbrugh](#) at Seaton Delaval Hall

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



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