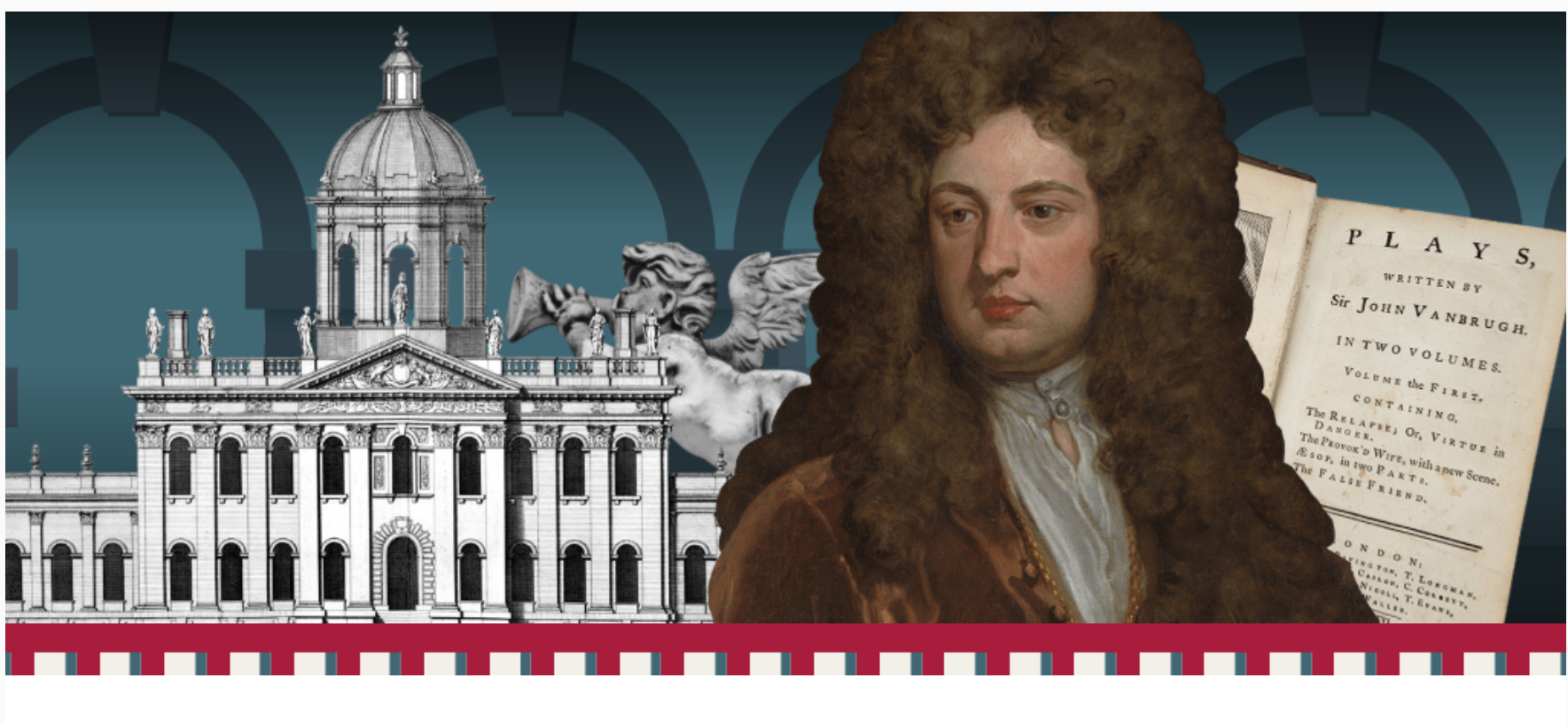
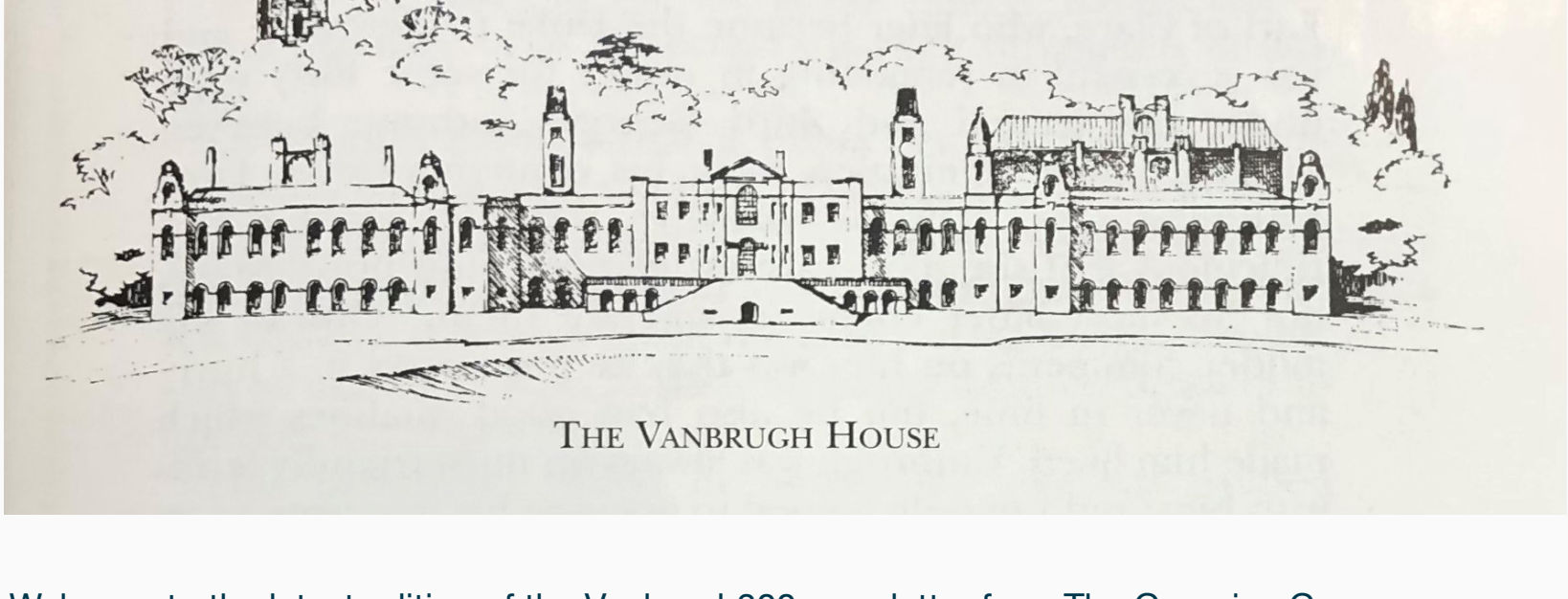


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22 August 2026

Reconsidering John Vanbrugh: Beyond the Partner Houses



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

In this issue, we take a step back to reflect on Sir John Vanbrugh's remarkable legacy. We are delighted to feature [an article by Charles Saumarez Smith](#) exploring what it is about Vanbrugh that has captivated so many people during his tercentenary year, and why his life and work continue to resonate with audiences today.

We also explore Vanbrugh's lesser-known architectural legacy. From grand country houses to surviving fragments, our guide, [Beyond the Partner Houses](#), brings together ten further examples of his work, from surviving buildings that can still be visited to those that have since been demolished.

If you're keen to explore more of Vanbrugh's wider work, enjoy free entry to [Claremont Landscape Garden](#) over the weekend of 19-20 September, when for the first time in 6 years they will also be opening access to Vanbrugh's historic Belvedere Tower! Plus, in partnership with Claremont Landscape Gardens, [Claremont Fan Court School's mansion house](#) will be open on Saturday 19 September as part of Heritage Open Days.

Plus, reserve your free tickets for the final lecture in the Vanbrugh300 series. Taking place at Seaton Delaval Hall, the lecture will see Dr Annette Rubery and Dr Nicholas Helm discuss [Vanbrugh and the Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket](#).

Have you seen our [Vanbrugh300 short film](#)? With such a busy programme of events over recent months, you may have missed it. If so, now is the perfect time to sit back and discover the story of one of Britain's most extraordinary architects, playwrights and cultural figures.

Finally, there's still time to get involved in our summer competitions. [Responses to Vanbrugh](#) invites you to share, in around 400 words, your personal reflections on Vanbrugh and his work during this special tercentenary year. And with just one month to go before entries close, don't forget to submit your creations for our children's competition, [Hats Off to Vanbrugh!](#) 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

Reconsidering John Vanbrugh By Charles Saumarez Smith

Toward the end of the excellent conference Vanbrugh: From Stage to Stone organised by the Georgian Group and Ax:son Johnson Centre for the Study of Classical Architecture, Dr. Matthew Walker, an authority on the period, raised the question as to why the tercentenary of Vanbrugh is attracting more publicity than the tercentenary of Wren in 2023...[\[READ MORE\]](#)



Beyond the Partner Houses

Sir John Vanbrugh designed, contributed to and oversaw the construction of many remarkable buildings beyond the six Partner Houses featured in the Vanbrugh300 festival. We have put together ten further examples of Vanbrugh's architecture to explore, from surviving buildings that can still be visited to those that have since been demolished. Each entry includes information about the building, its history and Vanbrugh's involvement, alongside plans and images to help bring his work to life.



Read Here

Claremont Landscape Gardens Heritage Open Days

Enjoy free entry to Claremont Landscape Garden over the weekend of 19-20 September, when for the first time in 6 years they will also be opening access to Vanbrugh's historic Belvedere Tower! Steeped in nearly 300 years of history, this eighteenth-century garden is a green oasis in the heart of Surrey. Many of the great names in landscape design history played a part in the creation of the estate. Over the years Sir John Vanbrugh, Charles Bridgeman, William Kent and 'Capability' Brown all put their own distinctive stamp on the pleasure grounds.



Find Out More

Claremont Mansion Heritage Open Day

Plus, in partnership with Claremont Landscape Gardens, Claremont Fan Court School's mansion house will be open on Saturday 19 September. This remarkable 18th-century Palladian mansion is surrounded by 100 acres of historic parkland in Elmbridge. Once a royal residence, the estate welcomes visitors to explore at their leisure. Enjoy a self-guided tour of the mansion, follow the tree walk designed by Claremont's Head Grounds team and Noelle Leigh MBE of the Claremont Tree Society, or discover Claremont's onsite Vanbrugh remains.



Book Tickets

John Vanbrugh and the Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket

On Thursday 8 October, join Dr Annette Rubery and Dr Nicholas Helm at Seaton Delaval Hall for the final lecture in the Vanbrugh300 series. Discover Vanbrugh's ambitious plans for the Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket, which opened in 1705, combining drama and opera in a visually striking setting. Despite his vision, the theatre struggled to succeed, undergoing numerous alterations before finally finding its footing in the 1720s.



Find Out More

Vanbrugh300 Short Film

As Charles Saumarez Smith reflects in this issue, Vanbrugh300 has captured the imagination this year - not only through the extraordinary man himself, but through his remarkable life, his architecture, and the many events taking place across the country. If you'd like to discover more about it all, don't miss our Vanbrugh300 short film created by TNK Studios, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and presented by The Georgian Group.



Watch the Film

Responses to Vanbrugh

Throughout this year, Vanbrugh300 has explored, celebrated and reconsidered the life and legacy of Sir John Vanbrugh through talks, exhibitions, events and articles. Now we'd like to hear your perspective. Our Responses to Vanbrugh competition invites you to write around 400 words sharing your personal reflections on Vanbrugh and his work. Whether your response is reflective, critical or imaginative, what matters most is your own unique 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

- **17 September** - [Vanbrugh's Alterations and Additions to Stowe House](#)
- **19 September** - [Vanbrugh300 at 6 Fitzroy Square](#)
- **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](#)
- **15 October** - [Sir John Vanbrugh and the Making of Stowe](#)
- **15 October** - [Historian Rory Fraser on Vanbrugh](#) at Seaton Delaval Hall

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



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