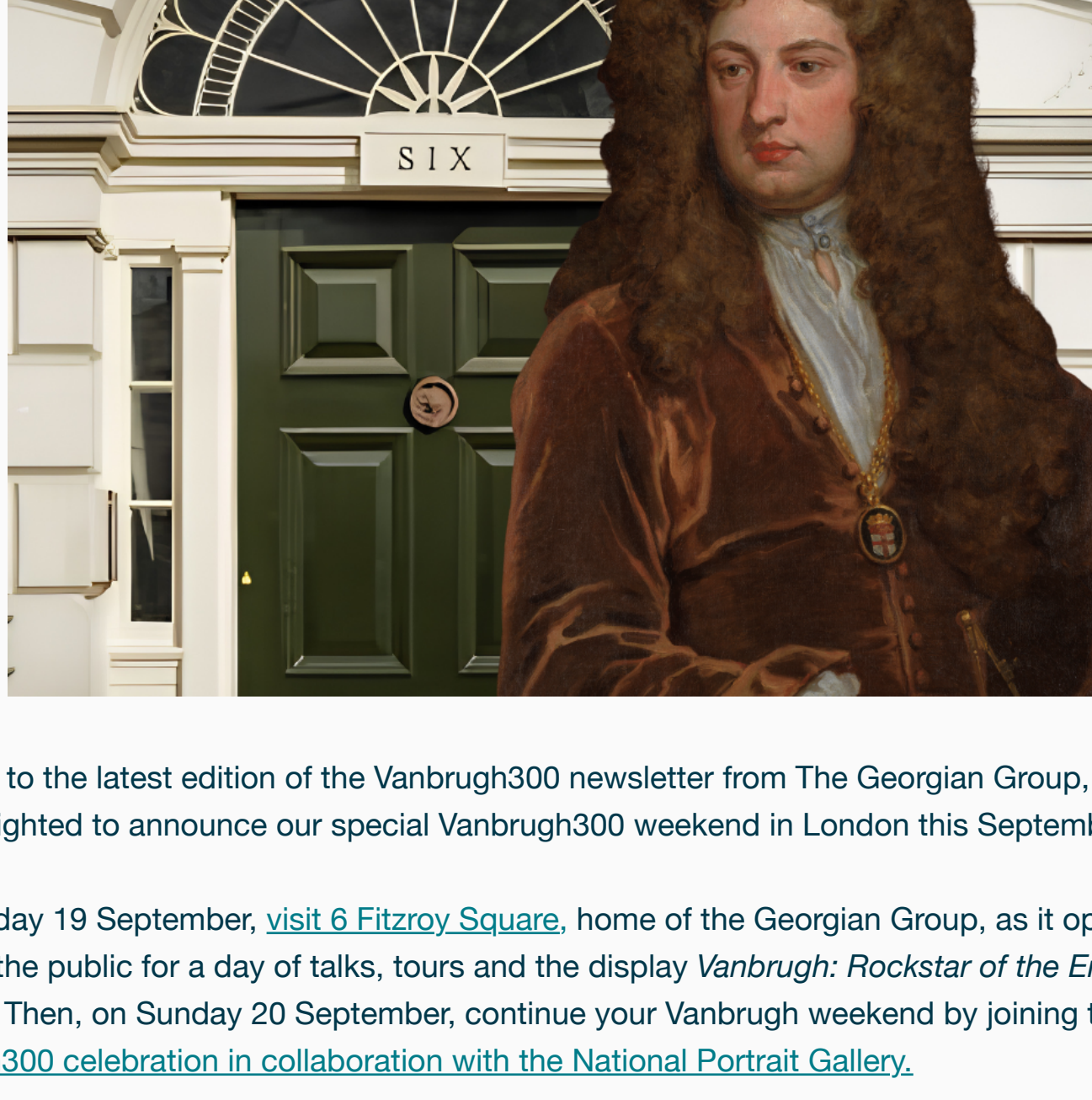


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5 September 2026

VANBRUGH300 Weekend in London: Visit 6 Fitzroy Square and the National Portrait Gallery



Welcome to the latest edition of the Vanbrugh300 newsletter from The Georgian Group, where we're delighted to announce our special Vanbrugh300 weekend in London this September!

On Saturday 19 September, [visit 6 Fitzroy Square](#), home of the Georgian Group, as it opens its doors to the public for a day of talks, tours and the display *Vanbrugh: Rockstar of the English Baroque*. Then, on Sunday 20 September, continue your Vanbrugh weekend by joining the [Vanbrugh300 celebration in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery](#).

We feature a recent episode of [Open City's podcast](#), where Matthew Lloyd Roberts is joined by the architect Piers Gough to discuss Vanbrugh Castle, one of the few surviving buildings in London designed by John Vanbrugh. Vanbrugh designed numerous buildings and architectural features across London, so make sure to explore [beyond the partner houses](#) and discover more sites to add to your itinerary.

Not in London at the weekend? You can still visit the College of Arms, where the [Earl Marshal's Court is hosting a special display](#) until the end of the year, exploring Vanbrugh's work as a herald and his role as Clarenceux King of Arms.

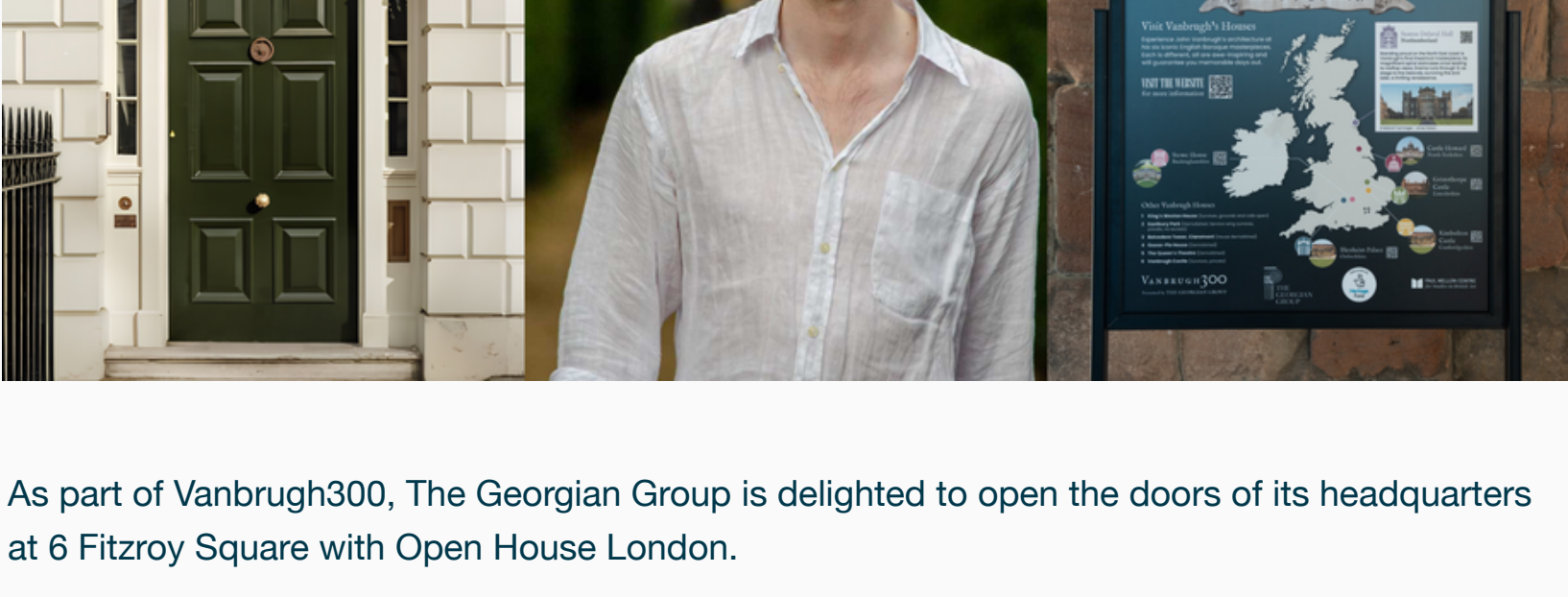
This issue also features Francis Terry's article, [What Was Vanbrugh's Relationship to Hawksmoor?](#) Don't miss Francis's forthcoming lecture at Stowe on 17 September, where he will explore Vanbrugh's architectural contribution to the house.

Finally, there's still time to get involved in our 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 the deadline just around the corner, 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](#)

VANBRUGH300 at 6 Fitzroy Square - Saturday 19 September



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

Throughout the day, visitors can drop in and discover Sir John Vanbrugh, one of Britain's greatest creative figures, through talks and displays.

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*, a display celebrating Vanbrugh's many achievements as an architect, playwright, soldier and spy.

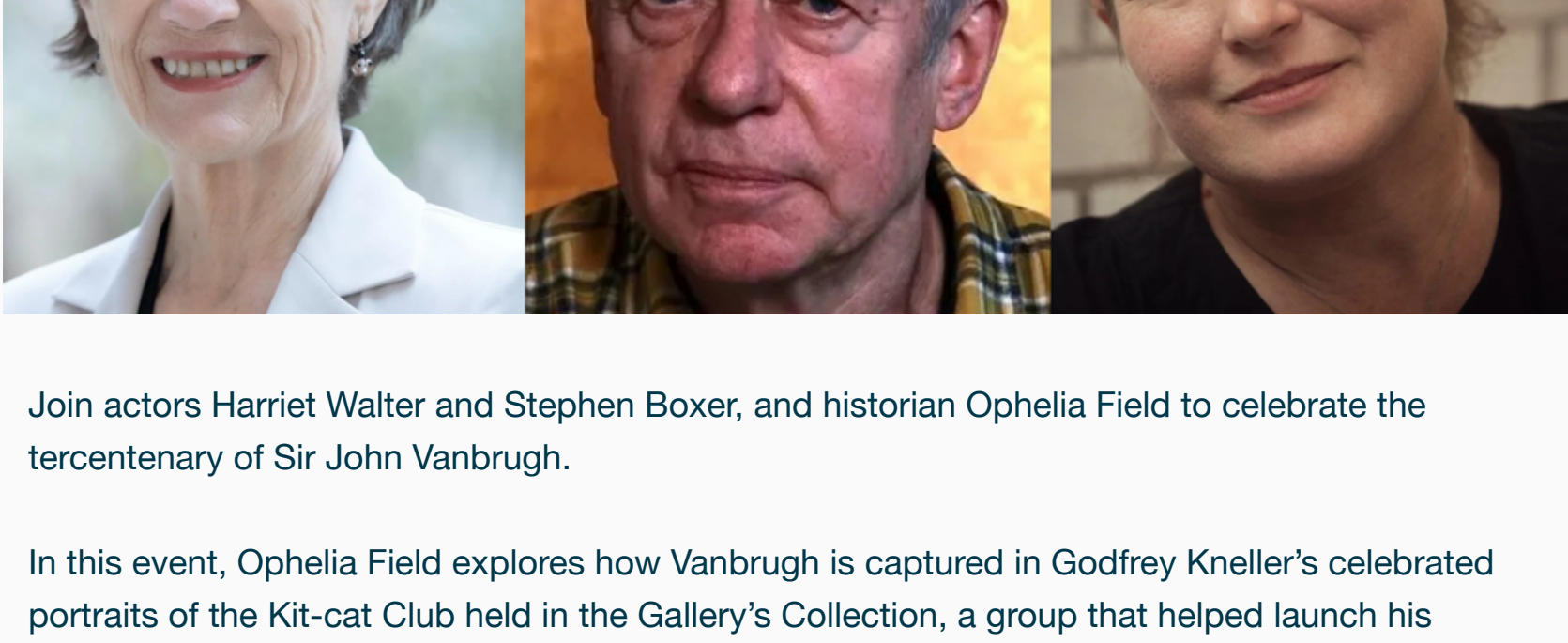
Your visit also offers a rare opportunity to explore 6 Fitzroy Square, the historic home of the Georgian Group, which is not normally open to the public. Wander through the library, home to a fascinating collection of books, browse the gallery space and enjoy one of London's finest Georgian squares.

Throughout the day, members of the Georgian Group team, including The Young Georgians, will be on hand to introduce visitors to the charity's work. Learn about the organisation's role in protecting historic buildings and designed landscapes across England and Wales, discover recent conservation projects, and find out how you can support its work.

Whether your interest lies in architecture, history or heritage, this promises to be a fascinating opportunity to celebrate Vanbrugh while enjoying the rare chance to step inside a classic Robert Adam building that is not normally open to the public.

[Find Out More](#)

VANBRUGH300 Celebration at The National Portrait Gallery - Sunday 20 September



Join actors Harriet Walter and Stephen Boxer, and historian Ophelia Field to celebrate the tercentenary of Sir John Vanbrugh.

In this event, Ophelia Field explores how Vanbrugh is captured in Godfrey Kneller's celebrated portraits of the Kit-cat Club held in the Gallery's Collection, a group that helped launch his unlikely architectural career and led to his first commission, Castle Howard, and ultimately to designing the monumental Blenheim Palace.

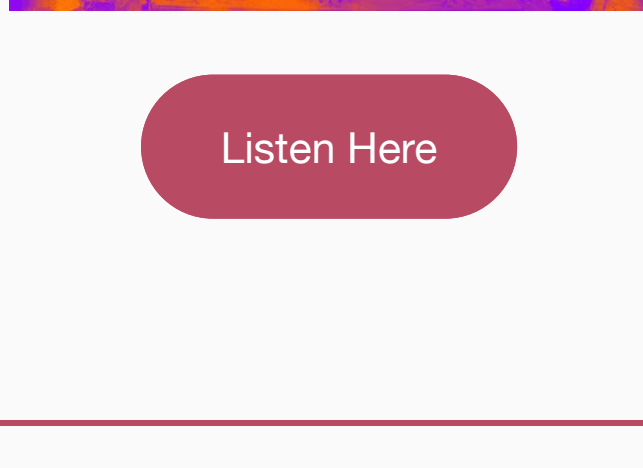
While Vanbrugh's relationship with the Duke of Marlborough was amicable and productive, his dealings with the Duchess, Sarah Churchill, became famously contentious in the building of Blenheim. Extracts of their surviving correspondence will be read by Harriet Walter as Sarah Churchill and Stephen Boxer as Vanbrugh, offering a vivid, often combative account of ambition, authority and competing artistic vision.

[Book Tickets](#)

Deconstructed: Vanbrugh Castle - Crenellations in Greenwich

In a recent episode of Open City's podcast, Matthew Lloyd Roberts is joined by the architect Piers Gough, co-founder of CZWG and a major figure in post-modern British architecture. They discussed Vanbrugh Castle, one of the few surviving buildings in London designed by John Vanbrugh.

The 'Castle' itself is a curious and precocious piece of medieval revival architecture, built by Vanbrugh towards the end of his life in 1719 alongside a compound of small buildings on the edge of Greenwich for his extended family. Piers suggests the connections between Vanbrugh's approach to architectural language and the post-modern architecture pursued in his own practice.

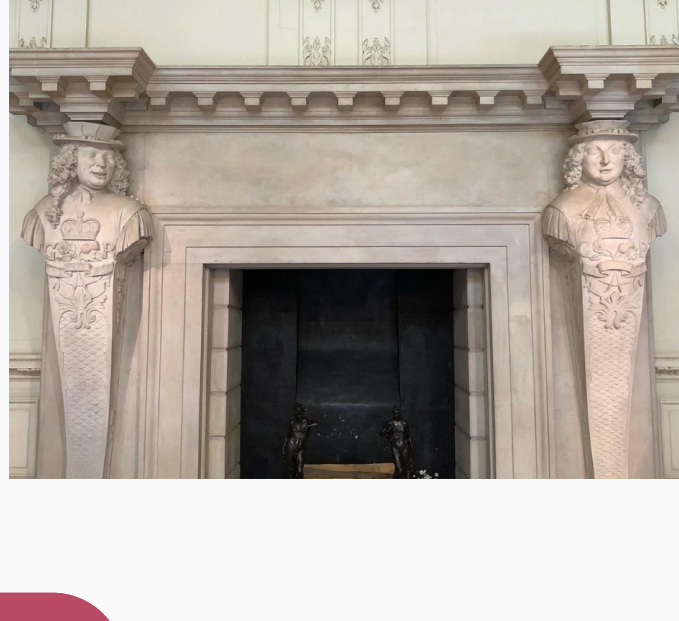


[Listen Here](#)

Discover More of Vanbrugh's London

Discover more of Vanbrugh's architectural legacy beyond the Partner Houses with three sites to add to your itinerary:

- **Kensington Palace Orangery** – One of Vanbrugh's early responsibilities as Comptroller of the Office of Works, the Orangery was built as part of alterations to Queen Anne's apartments at Kensington Palace.
- **Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich** – A masterpiece of English Baroque architecture, Vanbrugh worked alongside Christopher Wren and Nicholas Hawksmoor to develop this monumental riverside complex. Don't miss the spectacular Painted Hall, often described as Britain's 'Sistine Chapel'.
- **Hampton Court Palace** – As Comptroller of the Office of Works, Vanbrugh oversaw royal building projects at Hampton Court, including the richly decorated Guard Chamber and Presence Chamber of the Prince of Wales's apartments, and the magnificent chimneypiece in the Queen's Guard Chamber.



Explore [Beyond the Partner Houses](#), our new webpage, to discover more Vanbrugh sites to visit.

[Find Out More](#)

Earl Marshall's Court Vanbrugh Exhibition Panels

To discover more about Vanbrugh's career as a herald, visitors can now explore three specially created exhibition panels in the historic Earl Marshall's Court. Open Monday to Friday, 10.00am–4.00pm, the display provides a unique opportunity to learn more about this lesser-known aspect of his life and work. Displayed alongside Jonathan Richardson's portrait of Vanbrugh, in a room that remains largely unchanged since his lifetime, the panels also introduces the history and work of the College of Arms and examines the influence of heraldry on Vanbrugh's architectural designs, revealing how his official duties and creative vision were closely connected.



[Find Out More](#)

What was Vanbrugh's relationship to Hawksmoor? By Francis Terry.

What was Vanbrugh's relationship to Hawksmoor? This question comes up whenever the two are discussed and is central to understanding the creative process behind the design of all their collaborations, including Castle Howard, Blenheim and all their other major commissions. Vanbrugh took to architecture late, starting with Castle Howard, his first commission at the age of thirty-five. At that point he would have known virtually nothing about architecture... [\[READ MORE\]](#)

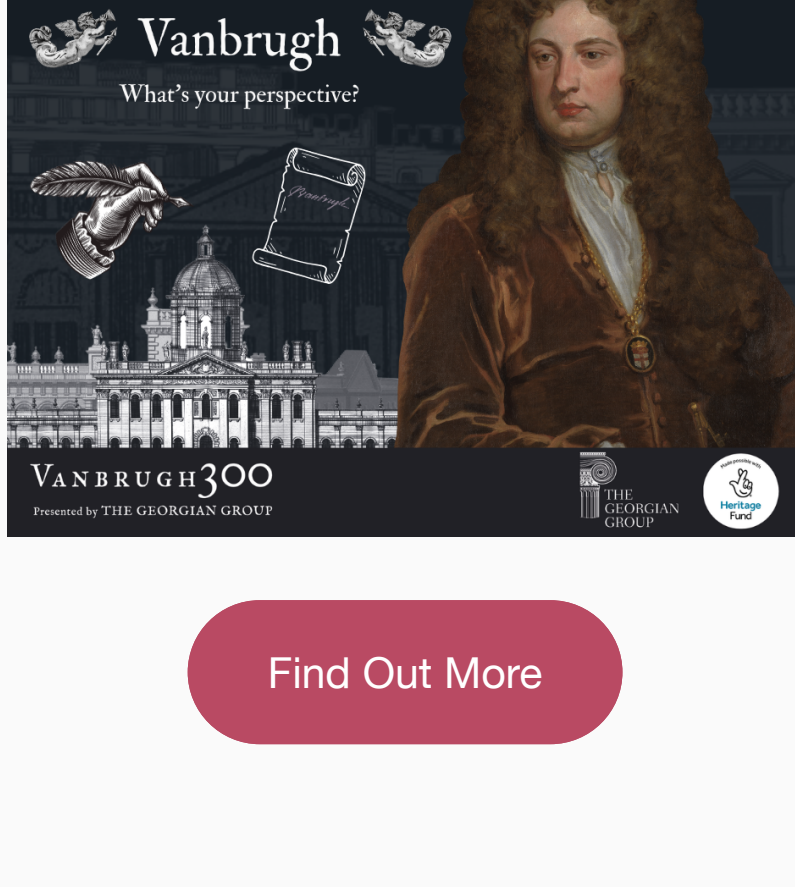


Don't miss Francis's forthcoming lecture at Stowe on 17 September, *Vanbrugh's Alterations and Additions to Stowe House*.

[Book Tickets](#)

Responses to Vanbrugh

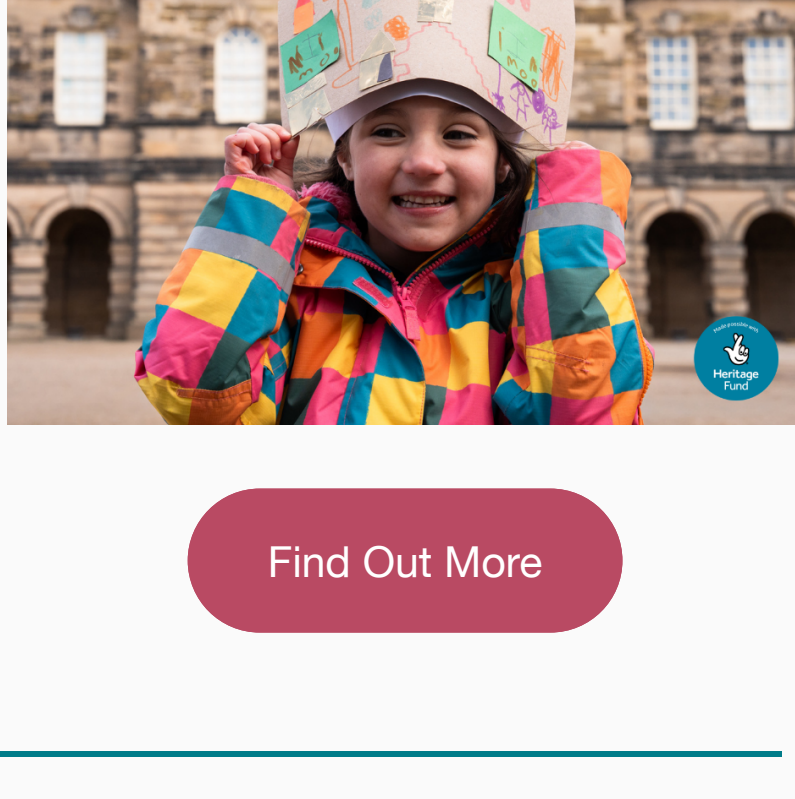
Throughout this year, Vanbrugh300 has explored, celebrated and reconsidered the life and legacy of Sir John Vanbrugh through talks, exhibitions, events and articles. Now we'd like to hear your perspective. Our Responses to Vanbrugh competition invites you to write around 400 words sharing your personal 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.](#)

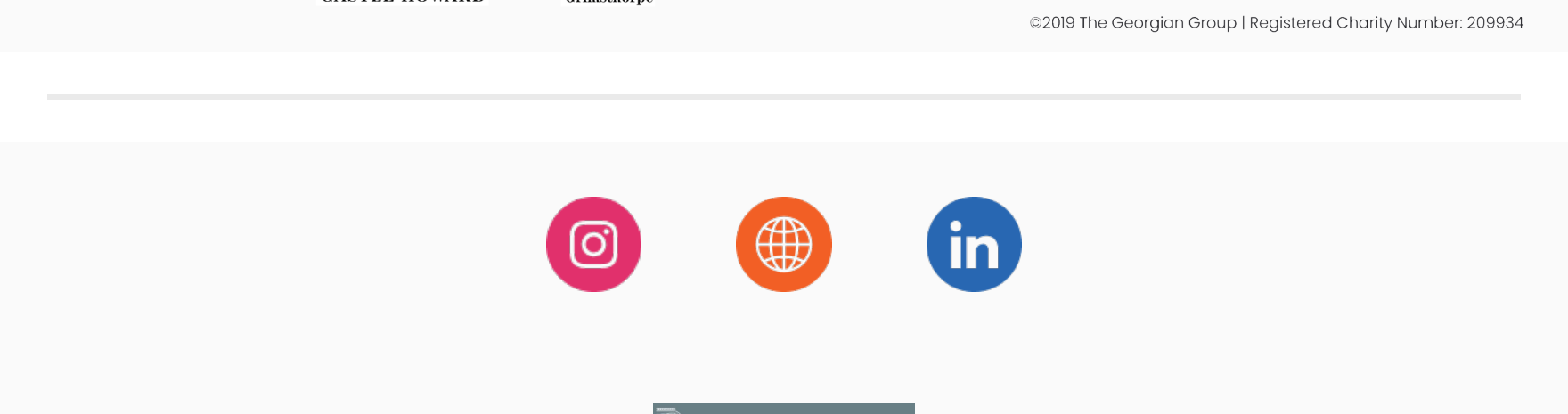


[Find Out More](#)

Dates for your Diary

- **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 NLH Lecture with Annette Rubery and Nicholas Helm at Seaton Delaval Hall
- **15 October** - [Sir John Vanbrugh and the Making of Stowe](#)
- **15 October** - [Historian Rory Fraser](#) at Seaton Delaval Hall
- **20 October** - [The Interiors of John Vanbrugh's Houses](#) talk with Charles Saumarez Smith

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



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