

**21 September 2026**

# VANBRUGH300: Events & Talks This Autumn



Welcome to the latest edition of the Vanbrugh300 newsletter from The Georgian Group, with a look ahead to exciting events and talks taking place this autumn.

First, we wanted to highlight the fantastic Vanbrugh300 Weekend we've just celebrated in London, with the Georgian Group's Open House event at Fitzroy Square and our collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery.

This issue also explores Vanbrugh and the Haymarket Theatre, with a new article by Dr Nicholas Helm. Dr Helm will also join Dr Annette Rubery at Seaton Delaval Hall on Thursday 8 October for the final lecture in the free Vanbrugh300 series, exploring this topic in two parts.

Before then, don't miss the talk at Seaton Delaval Hall on Thursday 1 October, where Sandy Nairne, Sir Charles Saumarez Smith and Mark Newman will explore Vanbrugh and his links to the site.

It's also your last chance to get involved in our competition. Responses to Vanbrugh invites you to share, in around 400 words, your personal reflections on Vanbrugh and his work during this special tercentenary year. We look forward to seeing your entries and shortly announcing a winner once the deadline has passed on **Wednesday 30 September!**

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 London Weekend

On Saturday, as part of the Open House Festival, the Georgian Group welcomed more than 500 people to our base in Fitzroy Square to explore an exhibition on Vanbrugh's life and work and hear talks by his biographer, Rory Fraser. It was wonderful to open our doors to the public and celebrate Vanbrugh's remarkable legacy.




On Sunday, a sell-out event in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery saw Dame Harriet Walter and Stephen Boxer bring to life the extraordinary correspondence between Sir John Vanbrugh and Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough during the building of Blenheim Palace. Introduced by a fascinating lecture from Ophelia Field on Vanbrugh and the Kit Kat Club, it was an afternoon of history and drama.



If you missed the event in person, thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund, you'll soon be able to watch it for free on the Vanbrugh300 website.

Vanbrugh300 is presented by the Georgian Group, a charity which works across England and Wales to protect and promote Georgian heritage. If you would like to hear more about our work and get involved, please visit our website or join us as a member for as little as £5 a month.

If you do have any questions about membership of the Georgian Group, please contact our Membership Manager, David Berridge: david@georgiangroup.org.uk

Become a Member

## 'Van' and the Haymarket Theatre

## By Dr Nicholas Helm

In 1703, John Vanbrugh—dramatist and architect—described his design for a new theatre as "very different from any Other House in being…"



The design—a Royal Theatre for the public realm—was a project he conceived both to promote theatre as an art form and to demonstrate the unique range of his skills in a poetic synthesis: an expressive architecture for drama and scenic theatre, aligned with the political… [READ MORE]

## 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.



Reserve Free Tickets

## Vanbrugh at Seaton Delaval Hall - Panel Discussion

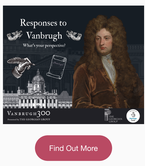
Don't miss this panel discussion taking place on Thursday 1 October. Introduced by historian, curator and National Trust Deputy Chair Sandy Nairne, the panel brings together Sir Charles Saumarez Smith and National Trust Consultant Archaeologist Mark Newman to explore Vanbrugh's later career and his links to Seaton Delaval Hall. Following the publication of his recent book, *John Vanbrugh: The Drama of Architecture*, Sir Charles will discuss Vanbrugh's later work and career, while Mark Newman will share how archaeological and historical research at Seaton Delaval Hall since its acquisition by the National Trust in 2009 has deepened our understanding of the hall, the estate and Vanbrugh's involvement. Tickets are £15 per person.



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

## Dates for your Diary

- **15 October** - Sir John Vanbrugh and the Making of Stowe
- **15 October** - Historian Rory Fraser on Vanbrugh at Seaton Delaval Hall
- **20 October** - The Interiors of John Vanbrugh's Houses

Explore the full programme at Vanbrugh300.co.uk




(c)2026 The Georgian Group | Registered Charity Number 258040

*Copyright © 2026 The Georgian Group, All rights reserved.*

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

Vanbrugh300@georgiangroup.org.uk

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.