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5 October 2026

Happy World Architecture Day! Don't Miss the Remaining VANBRUGH300 Events...



Welcome to the latest Vanbrugh300 newsletter from The Georgian Group, rounding up the final events, talks and highlights as our year-long celebrations draw to a close.

Today is World Architecture Day - a fitting occasion to celebrate Vanbrugh's enduring architectural legacy! To mark the day, we're delighted to share our new video from the National Portrait Gallery Vanbrugh300 Celebration. [Click here to watch.](#)

There's still plenty to discover this month, with [talks at Seaton Delaval Hall](#), [Stowe House](#) and [London](#) exploring Vanbrugh's theatres, architecture and interiors.

We also look back at our [final Vanbrugh300 weekend at Kimbolton Castle](#), and share a new article by [Dr Frances Sands](#), [Vanbrugh's Reception: The First Century](#), exploring how Vanbrugh's work and reputation evolved in the century after his death.

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

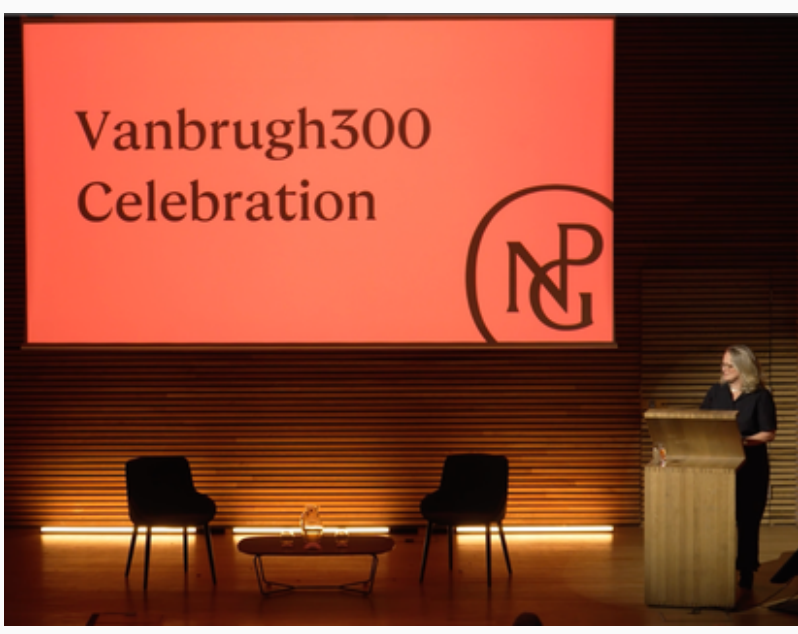
[Visit the VANBRUGH300 Website](#)

Vanbrugh300 Celebration with the National Portrait Gallery.

This sell-out event, presented 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.

The afternoon began with a fascinating lecture from Ophelia Field, exploring the importance of Vanbrugh's membership of the Kit-Cat Club, before moving into the dramatic exchange between Vanbrugh and the Duchess.

Thanks to the generous support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, we were able to film the event and make this recording available to watch for free, allowing the event to reach audiences beyond those who were able to attend in person.



[Watch the Recording](#)

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](#)

Sir John Vanbrugh and the Making of Stowe

On Thursday 15 October, Michael Bevington will explore Sir John Vanbrugh's role in shaping Stowe, examining the archaeological evidence for his buildings at Stowe House and in the gardens. The lecture will consider how Vanbrugh and Charles Bridgeman helped Lord Cobham develop a new architectural and landscape vision, reflecting his political and philosophical outlook. Tickets are £3.50.



[Book Tickets](#)

Rory Fraser on Vanbrugh

As playwright, soldier, spy and adventurer, Vanbrugh is one of the most colourful architects in English history, yet relatively little is known about him. On Thursday 15 October, at Seaton Delaval Hall, Historian Rory Fraser will give a sense of the character that lies behind his legendary facades. Tickets are £15.



[Book Tickets](#)

The Interiors of Sir John Vanbrugh's Houses

How much was Vanbrugh involved in the layout of the rooms at Castle Howard? Was he responsible for the selection any of the furniture and tapestries at Blenheim? Did he have any interest in the way the interiors of his houses worked, including in his own houses, Goose-Pie House in Whitehall and Vanbrugh Castle in Greenwich?



On Tuesday 20 October, Sir Charles Saumarez Smith, as part of the Furniture History Society's Annual Lecture, will look back on what has been learned about Vanbrugh as a result of the festivities surrounding his tercentenary, with particular attention paid to the furniture and interiors of his houses.

[Book Tickets](#)

Kimbolton Castle's Vanbrugh300 Weekend

On Saturday 3 October, a large group of Brownies descended on Kimbolton Castle for a day of fun, creativity and discovery, learning about Sir John Vanbrugh in one of the very places he designed and rebuilt.



The Brownies took part in action-packed drama workshops, bringing Vanbrugh's extraordinary story to life through storytelling and performance. They also put their building skills to the test by creating their own 'castle'-inspired hats.

The enthusiasm and excitement on the children's faces, combined with the magnificent setting, made for a truly special day.

On Sunday 4 October, Kimbolton Castle opened its doors to the public, giving visitors the opportunity to discover the history and splendour of this remarkable building through a self-guided tour of its magnificent state rooms. Highlights included the Queen's Room, where Katherine of Aragon died in 1536, as well as the story of Vanbrugh's ambitious rebuilding project and tales of the castle's resident ghosts.



The day also featured the special Rockstar of the English Baroque display, exploring the relationship between Vanbrugh and Charles Montagu, 4th Earl of Manchester, and offering fresh insights into the castle's design and history.

[Book Tickets for Kimbolton's Open Day on 7 March 2027](#)

As our final Vanbrugh300 weekend, it was wonderful to see so many people engaging with Vanbrugh, his architecture and his extraordinary legacy. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our celebrations throughout the year - we hope you have enjoyed discovering more about the remarkable 'Rockstar of the English Baroque'!

Vanbrugh's Reception: The First Century.

By Dr Frances Sands FSA

During the last decade of Vanbrugh's life, neo-Palladian architects, led by the 3rd Earl of Burlington, began disparaging Vanbrugh's work. With their monotonous, dogmatic adherence to Palladio, they found Vanbrugh's buildings too chaotic. They were particularly scathing about his use of proportion, citing Goose Pie House as evidence of his lack of... [\[READ MORE\]](#)



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