

Hustwaite Local History Society

Wed 8th September, 7.30pm, Hustwaite Village Hall.

Sir John Vanbrugh - A Life of Irony.

Written and performed by Ray Alexander (local resident)



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Sir John Vanbrugh led an extraordinary life; born the son of a seventeenth century businessman, he became a soldier, was imprisoned by the French as a spy, upon his release he became a playwright and his first play was an instant success. He turned to architecture and his first house was Castle Howard and his second Blenheim Palace. He was appointed Deputy to Sir Christopher Wren the Department for Royal Works; then, with no knowledge of Heraldry, he became the second most important Herald in the College of Arms. A change of government saw him cast into penury only to be revived by a new King.

When researching the life of Vanbrugh in order to tell his story in character in the Great Hall of Castle Howard, Ray Alexander discovered that Vanbrugh's life appeared to be made up of a series of ironies. His performance for the Hustwaite History Society will be in character and costume and a specially written, expanded version of the one he gave at Castle Howard.

Chairs will be separated but in case we have to restrict numbers attending, nearer the time please let Angela Ovenston know if you would like to come to this event (01347 868 347, or aovenston@btinternet.com). Tickets at the door £5 (free entry for children and students) will include a glass of wine or fruit juice (prevailing Covid restrictions permitting).