

CIBSE HERITAGE GROUP

Newsletter No. 33 December, 2015

In May the Heritage Group visited landmark buildings in historic Dublin

On the opening day, the first visit was to Kilmainham Gaol the oldest parts of which date back to 1796. Originally, public hanging took place at the front of the gaol, but in 1891 a small hanging cell was built. There was no segregation of prisoners. Men, women and children were incarcerated up to five in a cell, with only a candle for light and heat. The gaol has featured in many films, perhaps the most famous being where Noel Coward was serving time in the Michael Caine film "The Italian Job."



Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin



Victorian Wing of Kilmainham



The National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, Dublin

The next visit was to Dublin's Botanic Gardens. The gardens were founded in 1795 by the Dublin Society. There are two architecturally notable glasshouses, the Palm House and the Curvilinear Range. The original wooden Palm house was constructed in 1862 but fell in disrepair being replaced by the cast iron structure of the ironmaster Richard Turner in 1881. He also built the Curvilinear Range in 1848. Both glasshouses have been extensively renovated. Reports suggest that both steam and hot water heating systems were once employed.

Around Dublin with the Heritage Group



The Heritage Group toured the glasshouses



The second day started at Dublin's Mansion house



The Heritage Group on the steps of the Mansion House

The Mansion House was built in 1710, in the Queen Anne style, by the merchant Joshua Dawson. In 1715, it was purchased by the Corporation and has recently celebrated 300 years as the official residence of the Lord Mayor. It has elaborate Waterford crystal and electric chandeliers.



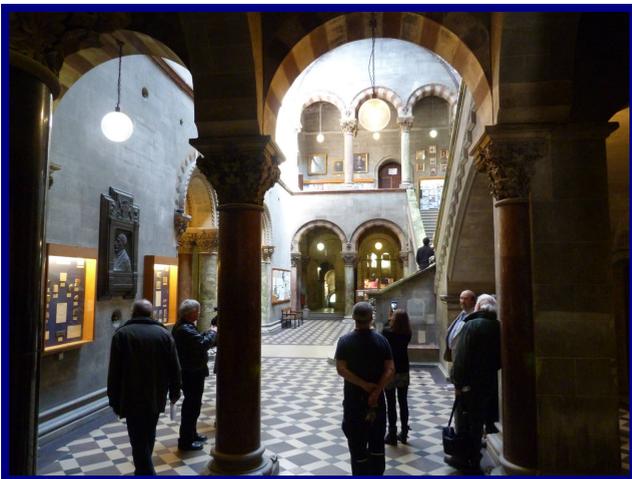
Gasworks Apartments, Alliance Building



At the centre of the circular building

This new apartment block was built as part of the redevelopment of a redundant gas storage facility, its principal feature being the retention and reuse of the frame of the 1885 gas holder.

The close of the Heritage tour at Trinity College



The Heritage Group inside the College



Visiting the famous Library "Long Room" and The Book of Kells

The College was founded in 1592 as the "mother" of a new university set up to consolidate the rule of the Tudor monarchy in Ireland. Many of its buildings are set around large quadrangles (known as "squares").

Many thanks to Edith Blennerhassett, Heritage Group member from Dublin, who organised the extremely successful two-day visit. A special thank you also goes to Arup of Dublin and to CIBSE Republic of Ireland for their hospitality, and to Christopher Sugg for his photographs of the visit.



W R Maguire



The 1901 IHVE Summer Meeting at Bray

Ireland has a long association with CIBSE. In 1901 the fourth President of the then newly formed Institution of Heating & Ventilating Engineers was W R Maguire of Dublin who held his Summer Meeting in Bray.

Looking again at historic ventilation systems

The Heritage Group has, over some forty years, visited behind the scenes at the Houses of Parliament on four occasions to look at the historic ventilation and sanitation systems and to view some of the important documents held in the Parliamentary Archive, which is housed in the Victoria Tower. At our September Meeting in London, Dr Henrik Schoenefeldt gave a talk on the history, development and analysis of the ventilation of the Temporary Houses of Parliament. A project to investigate the possibility of re-using the historic systems as part of a sustainable ventilation strategy for the Palace is being co-ordinated by Henrik, from the Kent School of Architecture (University of Kent), in partnership with the Parliamentary Estate Directorate and the Palace Restoration and Renewal Programme.

An early history is given by Henrik in his paper "The Temporary Houses of Parliament and David Boswell Reid's Architecture of Experimentation," Architectural History, 57, 2014.

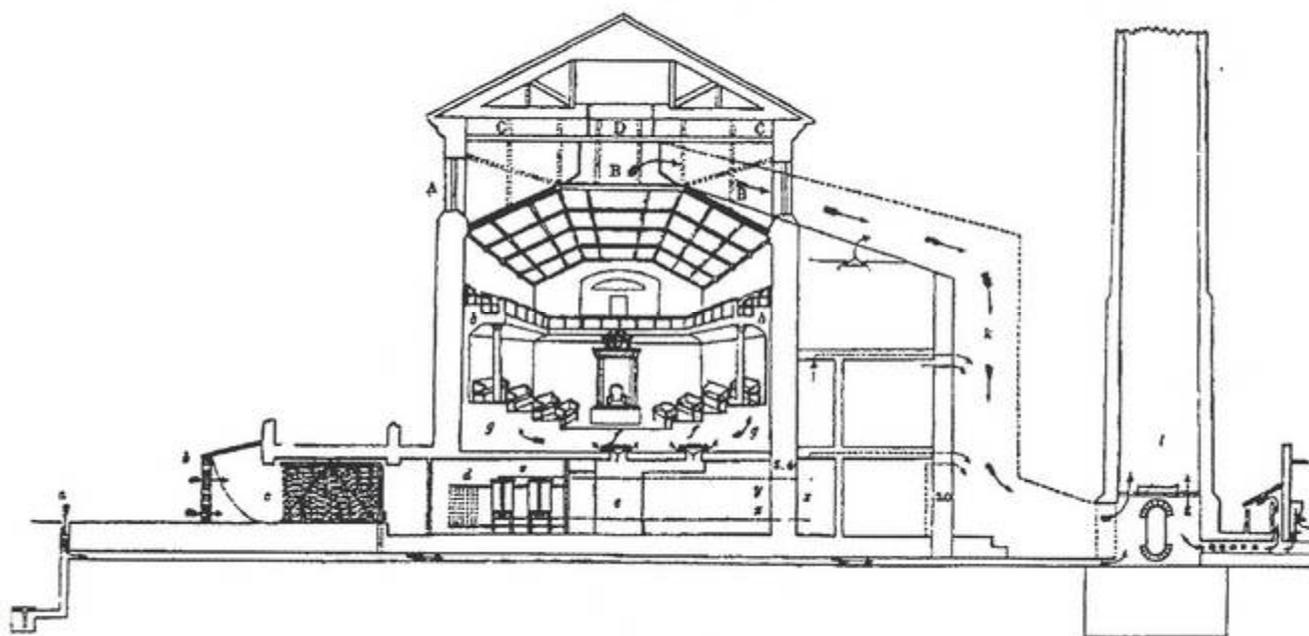


View of Parliament from the Victoria Tower, 1860



The Heritage Group on top of the Victoria Tower

Temporary House of Commons 1836 – 1852



Reid's method of air movement control was by applying power to the extract rate using a furnace and a high chimney

From "The Pioneer Who Rid Parliament of Hot Air," Dr Neil Sturrock (Heritage Group Chairman), CIBSE Journal, January 2015

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