The CIBSE Heritage Group, since its establishment in 1973, has had a continuing interest in Dr David Boswell Reid’s design for the ventilation of the Temporary House of Commons following the fire of 1834, researching contemporary documents and drawings, numerous books and articles, and visiting behind the scenes and the Parliamentary Archives.

The Heritage Group visiting Parliament (left 2004: In the Palace Yard; right 2006: On top of Victoria Tower)

The Houses of Parliament destroyed in the 1834 fire

The rebuilding of Parliament
Desaguliers hand-cranked Fanning Wheel
(Philosophical Transactions, 1735)

Basement fresh air inlet arrangement
(Ventilation & Warming, Wm Sugg, 1895)

The House of Commons (Painted by F Sargent, 1882)

Inlet air equalising chamber below the Commons
(Both diagrams from Sugg, 1895)

Extract through ceiling assisted by Argand gas burners
The temporary House of Commons and David Boswell Reid’s architecture of experimentation
(Ventilation: House of Commons, Henrik Schoenefeldt, CIBSE Journal, September 2016)

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