

THE DECIMUS BURTON SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1196703

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-11-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE LIFE AND WORK OF DECIMUS BURTON AND IN THE LIVES OF OTHER CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTS. TO IMPROVE AND DIFFUSE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LIFE, WORK AND INFLUENCE OF DECIMUS BURTON. THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED BY THE FOLLOWING MEANS:1.THE CREATION OF A CENTRAL RESOURCE POINT, CONTAINING A COLLECTION OF MATERIAL RELATING TO DECIMUS BURTON AND HIS WORK,WITH LINKS TO MATERIAL IN OTHER PLACES.2.THE HOLDING OF TALKS AND LECTURES RELATING TO DECIMUS BURTON AND HIS WORK.3.THE ARRANGEMENT OF VISITS TO BURTON DESIGNED BUILDINGS,PLACES AND LANDSCAPES4.THE PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH INTO DECIMUS BURTON AND HIS PERIOD.5.THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF STUDENTS AND OTHERS TO STUDY AND APPRECIATE DECIMUS BURTON'S WORK.

Activities: To promote interest in and educate the public in the life and work of the Victorian architect Decimus Burton

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£4,414	£3,883	-	-
2023-09-30	£1,638	£1,168	-	-
2022-09-30	£807	£239	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Paul James Avis	Chair	2021-11-22
Amanda-Jane Doran		2021-11-22
David Woosnam		2023-03-27
Dr Christopher Jones		2021-11-22
KEITH PORTER		2023-03-27
STUART PAGE		2021-11-22
Sheelagh Caroline Auckland		2021-11-22
William Guy Robert Fearon		2021-11-22

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Accounts



Charitable Objects

The advancement of education for the public benefit in the life and work of Decimus Burton and in the lives of other contemporary architects, to improve and diffuse knowledge of the life, work and influence of Decimus Burton. This will be achieved by the following means:

1. The creation of a central resource point, containing a collection of material relating to Decimus Burton and his work, with links to material in other places.
2. The holding of talks and lectures relating to Decimus Burton and his work.
3. The arrangement of visits to Burton designed buildings, places and landscapes.
4. The publication of research into Decimus Burton and his period.
5. The encouragement of students and others to study and appreciate Decimus Burton's work.

Establishment as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

The Society transferred its operations to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which became active on 01 February 2022.

Trustees of the Society for the period 01 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

1. Paul Avis (Chair)
2. Chris Jones (Secretary)
3. David Woosnam (Treasurer)
4. Guy Fearon
5. Stuart Page
6. Caroline Auckland
7. Amanda-Jane Doran
8. Keith Porter

Annual Report of the Trustees for the period ending 30 September 2024

2024 was a productive year for the Society. Membership currently stands at 72, slightly up from last year. The membership page on our website is being updated to make it easier for new members to join online (<https://www.thedecimusburtonsociety.org/>).

In February 2025, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council sold Nos 9 & 10 Crescent Road (by Burton), the site of what we had hoped would be the Decimus Burton Historic House Museum and Study Centre. Although we are understandably disappointed to have lost the site, we were nevertheless pleased to hear that the individual who had purchased the properties has submitted a Listed Building Application to restore them back to the original two-family dwellings, complete with the reinstatement of leaded verandas on the principal elevations with gardens in front.

The Society is now looking into creating a virtual museum to act as a platform making its growing archive available to the public. Having produced a lot of information for the museum business plan, it should be possible to make use of some of the visuals to create a virtual museum based on the two buildings. For an idea of what this technology can achieve,



the V & A and the Sir John Soane Museum are good examples. While not a replacement for a physical museum, it has merits of its own, not least being its wider accessibility.

Our friends in Fleetwood, who already offer a virtual tour of one of their exhibits, are continuing with the restoration of the adjoining Decimus Burton house and are planning to offer an exhibition of his work in one of the rooms when it opens to the public. As Fleetwood's main tourist offering, the museum has attracted a lot of attention, and recently there have been discussions over bringing coaches of tourists from Blackpool, which would undoubtedly increase the numbers of visitors to the museum.

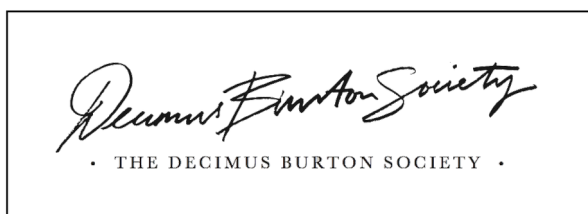
Trinity Theatre, the repurposed Trinity Church by Burton in Tunbridge Wells, opened its doors to the new Tower and Heritage Centre project in time for Heritage Open Days in September. The historical displays within the tower include the work of Decimus Burton. The Civic Society, meanwhile, is currently working on a panorama for the unique viewing platform, which will help to explain for visitors the main features of the town, including Decimus Burton's development from the 1820s and 30s.

On July 3rd, the Society hosted its very successful "Retrofit for Purpose" event at the Hotel du Vin in Tunbridge Wells, followed by a visit to Trinity Theatre. The event, aimed at encouraging students looking to enter the architectural and associated professions, was well attended by local 6th form students, parents, architectural students, award winning architects, as well as representatives from the Council and local interest groups and stakeholders. The morning workshop was followed by a debate with a panel that included Muyiwa Oki, the President of the RIBA, Sarah Robinson from The King's Foundation and Elsie Owusu OBE, RIBA, RA, as well as local conservation architect, Stuart Page and Mike Kaner from Kaner Olette, the architects of the Trinity project. The day was made a great success through the hard efforts of the staff at Kaner Olette, the West Kent RIBA branch, the team at Drawing Matter and a host of supporting crew.

The much-awaited Royal Academy exhibition of the students work from this event and the previous event of September 2023 at Fleetwood, is being planned for October 2025.

The Society's work with students continues to grow. Alongside the events aimed at students, they have continued to help with the archiving of material and have contributed articles to the journal. The archive, itself, continues to grow and regularly provides useful information for individuals and organisations carrying out research into the life and work of Decimus Burton. Some recent enquiries have focused on Burton's work at The Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park, his work with Charles Babbage, and his design of Bineham in Surrey, a private home.

Finally, the Decimus Burton Society supported residents of Calverley Park and Tunbridge Wells Civic Society in objecting to a proposed development on one of the historic buildings within the park that would have changed the character of the building and wider setting. The application was refused when councillors went against the advice of the planners, a decision upheld upon appeal.



ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 01 OCTOBER 2023 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Society operates as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which became active on 1 February 2022 (previously an unregistered charity).

THE DECIMUS BURTON SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 01 OCTOBER 2023 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Accrual Basis for Subscriptions	FY23/24	FY22/23
Received During FY	2,300	982
Prepayments (FY 24/25 Rcvd Sep)	-970	-250
Previous Year Prepayments	250	690
Adjusted Subscriptions	1,580	1,422
Donations	2,260	170
Grants	500	0
Other	74	45
Adjusted Total Income	4,414	1,637

Expenses	FY23/24	FY22/23
Printing	312	467
Website/Zoom etc	414	0
Postage/Office	258	106
July 3rd Event (Note 1)	3,174	0
Payables from This Year	320	595
Payables From Last Year	-595	-2
Total Expenses	3,883	1,166

Adjusted Surplus for the Year	531	471
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Balance Sheet	FY23/24	FY22/23
Cash at Bank (Year end)	4,180	3,203
Subscriptions Paid in Advance	-970	-250
Expenses Payable	-320	-595
Cash at Bank (Available) at YE	2,889	2,358

Notes to the Accounts

- The major movements relate to the "July 3rd" event which incurred £3,174.27 of expenses. These expenses were covered by a combination of donations of £1,850, £1,000 contribution from the Society and a grant of £500 from Kent Count Council, producing a surplus of £175.
- The Society has given no guarantees nor has any debt owing either during the year or at the year end. No security has been granted over the Society's assets.
- No transactions have been entered into with any Trustee or Related Parties of the Society.

Post balance Sheet Events

- As part of the July 3rd Event planning, a grant application to TWBC was made to cover the cost of one of the venues (£960) and this was received on 29th November 2024. Based on this increase to the surplus obtained on the event, a sum of £1,135 will be reserved to assist in the funding of any future educational ventures that the Society may undertake.
- On 23rd January 2025, £371.99 was received from HMRC by way of Gift Aid claimed on qualifying subscriptions since the society established itself as a CIO on 1st February 2022.

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Establishment as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

The Society transferred its operations to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which became active on 01 February 2022.

Trustees of the Society for the period 01 October 2022 to 30 September 2023

1. Paul Avis (Chair)
2. Aimee Felton (Vice Chair)
3. Chris Jones (Secretary)
4. David Woosnam (Treasurer - appointed 27th March 2023)
5. Guy Fearon
6. Stuart Page
7. Caroline Auckland
8. Amanda-Jane Doran
9. Keith Porter (appointed 27th March 2023)

Annual Report of the Trustees for the period ending 30 September 2023

On 25th April 2023, members of the Society, together with members of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society presented our business plan to re-purpose 9 & 10 Crescent Road in Tunbridge Wells, two villas designed by Decimus Burton in 1828, to provide a museum and study centre celebrating the life and work of the architect and the social history of the town in his lifetime. The aim is also to house the national Decimus Burton archive. The project has attracted considerable support from the public as well as local and national press, including the Times of Tunbridge Wells, The Guardian, Observer and Daily Mail. At present, the project team is still in negotiations with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, while at the same



time developing the additional information requested by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of an Expression of Interest application, which is the precursor to a formal grant application. While this work is in progress, we are also looking into the potential for private sponsorship to purchase the property from the council and provide the museum trust with a platform to apply for funding.

The town of Fleetwood in Lancashire was designed by Decimus Burton in the late 1830s. Fleetwood Museum is located in the old Customs House, designed by Burton, and in May of 2023, the Museum successfully purchased an adjacent house also designed by Burton. This is an exciting development for the museum and our members in Fleetwood, as the building in question retains many of its original features, including its kitchen range.

In Tunbridge Wells, Trinity Theatre is looking to open its new tower project either this Spring or early Summer which will exhibit the history of the church from its beginnings when Decimus Burton designed it in 1828, to the present day. The Decimus Burton Society is currently working with Trinity to provide Decimus Burton material for the exhibition.

In September, one of our members started work on a series of roadshows to encourage young secondary school students to enter the architectural and related professions. One of these projects will take place in Fleetwood and is being developed with Fleetwood Museum, The King's Foundation, The Decimus Burton Society, the Royal Academy, The Fleetwood Trust, and the RIBA. It is aimed at local schools and will feature an exhibition of some of Decimus Burton's early work.

The Society continues to help sort through Philip Miller's archive material on James and Decimus Burton held at the RIBA, and more recently, the society was donated Neil Cooke's extensive archive by his sister. The archive covers not only Decimus Burton, but also of other Burton family members. The Society was also donated the archive of Elizabeth Nathaniels, one of the founding members of the Society and a contributor of many articles to journals such as DECIMUS and The Apollo. Elizabeth has also donated her library of books relating to the architect's life, his work and times. The Society's main aim is to ensure that the archives and library are easily accessible to researchers.

One new area that the Society has been involved in is planning. There are many listed Decimus Burton buildings throughout the country and from time to time the Society gets enquiries about planning matters. In most cases, applications are often successfully dealt with by local Civic Societies, or other institutions such as the Georgian Group or Victorian



Society. We will, however, look at applications on an individual basis if approached, and decide if our involvement will add value to the proceedings. Such a case occurred recently, when the Society wrote to object to a planning and listed building application in Calverley Park in Tunbridge Wells. The application was refused at the planning committee meeting.

As at 30 September 2023 the Society had 60 subscriptions equivalent to 72 members and three corporate members.

Followers of the society's social media platforms have increased over the few years that the society has been going, such that we currently have 134 Facebook, 371 Twitter, and 381 Instagram followers. Our website, likewise, has recently seen 200 visitors per month and 2024 will hopefully turn out to be another productive year for The Decimus Burton Society.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 01 OCTOBER 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Society operates as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which became active on 1 February 2022 (previously an unregistered charity). The 2023 accounts below represent the first full year of operations as a CIO, with the figures for the previous year from incorporation on 1st February 2022.

THE DECIMUS BURTON SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 01 OCTOBER 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 30 2023		
Stg £	01 Oct 2022 - 30 Sep 2023	01 Feb 2022 - 30 Sep 2022
Income and Expenses		
Subscriptions	1,422	807
Donations	170	0
Other Income	46	0
Total Income	1,638	807
Journal printing & postage & website	(1,168)	(239)
Total Expenses	(1,168)	(239)
Surplus for the Year	470	568
Surplus Brought Forward	1,888	1,320



Surplus Carried Forward	2,358	1,888
Balance Sheet		
Cash at Bank	3,203	2,580
Subscriptions Paid in Advance	(250)	(690)
Expenses Payable	(595)	(2)
Surplus	2,358	1,888

Notes to the Accounts

1. The Society has given no guarantees nor has any debt owing either during the year or at the year end. No security has been granted over the Society's assets.
2. No transactions have been entered into with any Trustee or Related Parties of the Society.

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Establishment as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

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Trustees of the Society for the period 01 February 2022 to 30 September 2022

1. Chairman: Paul Avis
2. Vice Chairman: Aimee Felton
3. Secretary: Chris Jones
4. Guy Fearon (descendant of Decimus Burton)
5. Stuart Page (conservation architect)
6. Caroline Auckland (Marketing)
7. Amanda-Jane Doran (Archivist)

Annual Report of the Trustees for the period ending 30 September 2022

Membership currently stands at a respectable 55 individuals and three corporate members, and continues to reflect a mixture of academics, professionals, Burton homeowners and others with a more general interest in the architect's life and work.

The Society's Committee has increased from 8 to 10 members, with recent additions that represent group interests from both Fleetwood and St Leonards. This has helped to give the committee a balanced representation from different parts of the country where Burton's work can be found.

DECIMUS, the Society's biannual journal, continues to receive positive comments from members as well as from individuals, organisations and institutions that occasionally receive them for means of promoting the work of the architect.



The Society's social media presence has also increased. The credit for this must go to Caroline Auckland, whose tireless effort in promoting the society continues to reap rewards.

In the field of education and the gathering of archive material, the Society continues to make progress. During the summer of 2022, as part of a secondary school work experience programme, a student from Tunbridge Wells and one of our members visited the RIBA archives and started to work on sorting through Philip Miller's collection of archive material that was donated to the RIBA on his death. In higher education, the Society has helped a University student with research for her thesis on the rise of the seaside towns, including Fleetwood, one of Decimus Burton's town planning successes. It is planned that this material will form the basis for a future article in our journal.

The Society also lent its expertise in helping to secure some important drawings and a watercolour by Decimus Burton at recent auctions - these have since been returned to Ven House and the RIBA respectively.

Our main challenge remains organising outings for members, and despite efforts to plan and organise a range of interesting events, this has proved difficult. With members throughout the country, it has not been possible to attract sufficient numbers to individual events to make them financially viable. The committee has therefore decided that we should open such events to other like-minded interest groups, such as the Victorian Society, that might have members close to the planned events. With this in mind, we will be planning visits to Kew, The Wellington Arch, Ven House, Grimston Park, Fleetwood and St Leonards. As part of the planning of these events, the Chairman, Paul Avis, visited Grimston Park, Fleetwood and Ven House.

The Society has worked with the Civic Society in Tunbridge Wells on the Decimus Burton Museum Project. Recent articles in the Guardian and Observer about Decimus Burton and the museum reflect the success of the Civic Society's campaign to try and save two of the architect's buildings, re-purpose them as a museum of national and local importance, while reinforcing one of the Society's goals of increasing the public's awareness of the important role that the architect played in the development of the country. Members of The Civic Society (some of whom are also members of the Decimus Burton Society) will present a business plan to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in the spring of 2023, hopefully securing the future of the two buildings as a local and national tourist attraction.



THE DECIMUS BURTON SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Society transferred its operations to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which became active on 1 February 2022. During the period, the only income of the charity was subscriptions with outgoings limited to the associated expenses of producing the Society's Journal.

THE DECIMUS BURTON SOCIETY	
ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 30 2022	
1 February 2022 to 30 September 2022	Stg
£	
Income and Expenses	
Subscriptions	807
Journal – printing and postage	-239
Surplus for the Year	568
Transfer from previous unregistered Decimus Burton Society	1,320
Surplus Carried Forward	1,888
Balance Sheet	
Cash at Bank	2,580
Subscriptions Paid in Advance	-690
Sundry Expenses	-2
Surplus	1,888