

Summary Annual Report and Accounts 2000

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY (founded 1958)

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SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

Introduction

The Victorian Society is a Charity (no 210707), conducted as an unincorporated association and governed by a constitution.

Casework

During 2000 the number of notifications of applications for listed building consent received by the Society as a result of the Secretary of State's Direction was 8396 (9119 in 1999). Of the proportion of these notifications (approximately 40%) that related to buildings built or extended between 1837 and 1914, many were uncontroversial and our architectural advisers Richard Holder and James Darwin, together with Regional Group volunteers, gave detailed responses to approximately 350 secular cases and dealt with a large number of more minor cases. We still need to develop meaningful indicators for casework performance, which is proving to be a difficult task. Mere counting of numbers, which gives the same weight to a minor, uncontroversial alteration as to a major scheme which goes to public inquiry, can be very misleading.

In parallel with the notifications of applications for listed building consent, the Society also receives notifications of proposals for works to buildings in religious use belonging to the six exempted denominations (the Church of England, Church in Wales, Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic and United Reformed Church). Some 659 notifications were recorded in 2000 (954 in 1999). In addition to the formal notifications, the Society now receives minutes and agendas from many English and Welsh Diocesan Advisory Committees — and numerous tip-offs from concerned worshippers.

In addition to individual cases, the Society comments on matters of general policy affecting the historic environment. Early in 2000, the Government asked English Heritage to co-ordinate a strategic review of policies relating to the historic environment. Our chairman, Dr Chris Brooks, was a member of the Working Group on 'Understanding', which developed a definition of the 'historic environment' and categorised the forces of change operating on it, and the threats to it. The report was published on 14 December as *Power of Place: The future of the historic environment*. It emphasised that people value places, not just individual monuments, gardens and buildings, and that care for the quality and character of everyday environments is central to creating a better quality of life. There are important implications for amenity societies, and the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies has already begun considering a response.

Activities

Our activities programme is a key part of our educational mission; knowledge is key to understanding and appreciation. Again there was a lively programme of walks, visits, lectures and conferences only some of which are mentioned here. A summer weekend in Devon with Chris Brooks looked at work by J D Sedding, Henry Wilson, William White, William Butterfield, and A W N Pugin; while a later weekend in Devon with Anne Anderson, organised by the Leicester Group, looked at work by Butterfield, Burges, and Lutyens. Stephen

Howard led a day in Dorset, and Roderick Gradidge's trip to Alsace and the Moselle was provocatively titled 'The Kaiser's France'. The AGM weekend was based in Bristol with trips as far afield as Rodmarton Manor and Clevedon.

The 2000 Summer School took place in July, under the leadership of David Crellin as Director and Liz Robinson as Assistant Director. Gavin Stamp led the tour of Manchester and Liverpool.

A lecture series on *Victorian Entertainment* looked at the most popular forms of entertainment from a social and often architectural viewpoint. Later in the year, a series on *Unfashionable Architects* examined the careers of seven architects who have rarely received critical acclaim from historians: Herbert Baker, Rowand Anderson, E W Pugin, S S Teulon, Francis Fowke, Aston Webb and T G Jackson. We held study days on the *Victorian Country House*, *The Victorian Face of London*, *All About Victorian Churches* and *London 1900*. There was a conference on *Ruskin and Architecture* to mark the centenary of his death, and one *Oscar Wilde and the Aesthetic Interior* in conjunction with the Geffrye Museum to coincide with their exhibition.

The net surplus from events and the Summer School dropped to £27,523 (£44,569 in 1999), due to the unusually good performance of the Summer School in 1999 versus the loss incurred in 2000.

Linley Sambourne House

A major conservation project began at the end of October funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Society's lease expired at the end of October, providing an opportunity for the Society to hand over its executive responsibilities for the opening of the house to the Royal Borough. A function was held in November to thank those who had contributed so much of their time and energies over the years.

Website

Our website was re-launched late in 2000 with a new look and expanded contents, including the opportunity to join an electronic mailing list with news about the Society and its events.

Membership

The Society's membership continues to be stable around the 3,200 mark.

The Society was saddened by the death of one of its very prominent members. Roderick Gradidge, who died at the age of 71, was an architect, and a member of the Activities and Southern Buildings Subcommittees. He had been involved with the Society for a great many years and his wit and forceful personality will be sorely missed.

Personnel

There were a number of changes in staff at the Society during 2000. The Director, Dr William Filmer-Sankey, left at the end of August to take up a post with Alan Baxter and Associates, and was replaced by Dr Ian Dungavell from October. Valerie Scott, the Churches Officer, handled English ecclesiastical casework until October, after which Teresa Sladen kindly stepped in until the end of the year. Hannah Padley took over in January 2001. The Northern and Welsh Architectural Adviser, James Darwin, left us at the end of the year to take up a position with the Georgian Group, and was replaced by David Crellin in January 2001.

Casework 2000 Appeal

Almost £6000 was raised from donations and a special event at the Lord Chancellor's residence to help sort and index the casework archive and to provide essential equipment for caseworkers: a laptop and a digital camera. By improving efficiency in the office we can increase the amount of time caseworkers devote to their core activity — saving buildings.

Jonathon Vickers Charitable Settlement

The Jonathon Vickers Charitable Settlement gave the Society a grant of £27,000 for an Information Project aimed at owners of 'ordinary' Victorian and Edwardian houses. The project did not begin in 2000 due to the number of staff changes at the Society, but a revised project was agreed by the Trustees of the Settlement in April 2001 and will soon be underway.

Legacies

Legacies are of vital importance to the Society's campaigning work. During the year we received £1000 from J Godden, £3000 from J H Hubbard, and £5338 from Margaret Ramsden.

The Mary Heath Bequest

An offer of £140,000 for the four houses left to the Society for the benefit of the Birmingham Group was accepted, the sale was completed on 22 September 2000, and the proceeds have been received. The Birmingham Group is working on proposals to make good use of the money.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income rose 4% to £297,066 but, excluding one-off items, income on a comparable basis year on year was down by 2%. This decline is attributable to a number of factors but principally reductions in the surpluses from the Society's Summer School and from operating Linley Sambourne House (which closed in the autumn). These reductions offset slightly higher subscription income (due to higher numbers of members and to the impact of gift aid claimable), increased income from events other than the Summer School, increased investment income and more legacies.

Total expenditure rose by 1% to £199,082, comprising an increase in charitable expenditure of 3% and small decreases in expenditure on fund raising and publicity and on the management and administration of the charity. The increase in charitable expenditure reflects higher expenditure both on casework and on publications. Regrettably the decline in the Society's comparable year on year income means that these increased levels of cost are not sustainable and action has been taken to reduce the cost base for 2001. The result for 2000 was a deficit of £10,458 in comparison with a surplus of £24,695 in 1999.

The Society's balance sheet comprises endowment, restricted and unrestricted funds. Endowment and restricted funds are invested so as to fulfil the undertakings the Society took on in receiving those funds. Unrestricted funds finance the Society's general operations.

The Society's total net assets increased during the year by 21%. This was attributable to assets representing restricted funds which increased by 60% as a result of the gain of £80,000 on the sale of Mary Heath properties and the receipt of a donation of £27,000 unspent during the year. Assets representing unrestricted funds fell by 5% as a result of the deficit of £10,458 referred to above and the endowment fund fell by 5% as a result of a fall in the value of the underlying investments.

Transfer to company limited by guarantee

With effect from 1 January 2001, the Victorian Society transferred all of its assets, liabilities and operations to The Victorian Society, a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, which will continue with the Society's charitable activities. Members of the Society will automatically become members of the new organisation.

Dr Ian Dungavell
Director
28 April 2001

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2000

	Total 2000	Total 1999
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Subscriptions	66,170	63,955
Donations	34,819	91,512
Grants	45,919	43,894
Publications and advertising	8,551	9,687
Surplus from events	27,523	44,569
Surplus from Linley Sambourne House	(48)	5,486
Rental income	9,000	9,000
Investment income	15,793	11,839
Legacies	9,339	5,645
Sale of legacy property	80,000	-
	<u>297,066</u>	<u>285,587</u>

EXPENDED RESOURCES

Direct charitable expenditure	165,628	160,715
Fund raising & publicity	14,872	16,483
Management and administration of charity	18,582	20,113
	<u>199,082</u>	<u>197,311</u>

Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfer	97,984	88,276
Transfers	-	-
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(3,379)	2,597
Net movement of funds	94,605	90,873
Balance brought forward at 1 January	442,858	351,985
Balance carried forward at 31 December	<u>£537,463</u>	<u>£442,858</u>

Trustees' Statement

The information contained in the summary financial statements is taken from the audited annual accounts and includes details relating to both the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. The audited accounts were approved and signed by the Trustees on 28 April 2001 and were submitted to the Charity Commission for England and Wales within the relevant period.

The summarised statement may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society. For further information, the full accounts, the relevant Auditor's Report and the Trustees Annual Report should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from the Director, The Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London W4 1TT. Please send £1 donation towards postage and printing costs.

Dr Chris Brooks (Chairman)

**THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2000**

	2000	1999
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	110,776	171,628
INVESTMENTS	65,115	68,494
	<u>175,891</u>	<u>240,122</u>

CURRENT ASSETS

Stock of publications	8,369	14,052
Debtors	11,215	5,784
Funds on short term deposit	323,831	173,081
Cash in bank and in hand	41,912	45,929
	<u>385,327</u>	<u>238,846</u>

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year:	17,325	28,815
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NET CURRENT ASSETS

	368,002	210,031
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TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES

	543,893	450,153
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LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due after one year	6,430	7,295
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NET ASSETS

	<u>£537,463</u>	<u>£442,858</u>
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Represented by:

FUNDS

Unrestricted	182,043	192,501
Restricted	290,305	181,863
Endowment	65,115	68,494
	<u>£537,463</u>	<u>£442,858</u>

Auditor's Statement to the Members

The summary financial statements contain information derived from the audited annual accounts and are consistent therewith. Our opinion on the Society's financial statements is unqualified. The financial statements were prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and are in keeping with the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Derek Rothera and Company
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
339-340 Upper Street, London N1 0PD