



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Summary Annual Report and Accounts 2001





From the Chair

The year 2001 marked the centenary of the death of Queen Victoria, and it was a very eventful one for the Victorian Society. We marked the occasion with wreath-laying ceremonies around the country, events which generated considerable interest in the local press.

Now that more people than ever realise the value of our Victorian heritage, and take a strong interest in it, the Victorian Society finds increasingly more to do. Our major activity is conservation, trying to prevent damaging alterations to buildings or, in the worst case, their demolition.

We have been very involved in fighting for a unusually-complete area of mill housing in Nelson, Lancashire, which has been slated for comprehensive redevelopment by the local council, but is now loved by its residents. Similarly our campaign for the Royal Pier Hotel in Clevedon, Somerset, has so far kept together a nationally-important ensemble of pier, toll-house and hotel.

But our conservation role also very often involves advising on how changes may be accommodated without damaging the historic importance of a building. Our caseworkers spend many hours on site visits negotiating with developers and considering alternative approaches. It is time-consuming, but very fruitful.

On a sad note, I am sorry to record the early death of my predecessor Chris Brooks, who died in February 2002. He made an enormous contribution to the Society, and will be sorely missed.

Dr Geoff Brandwood, Chairman

Conservation

Commenting on applications for listed building consent kept our caseworkers and regional groups very busy in 2001. We received 5963 notifications from local planning authorities and our churches officer recorded 980 notifications of proposals for works to buildings in religious use. Of these, 1414 related to Victorian or Edwardian buildings, and we gave detailed responses to 876.

In addition to the formal process, many members of the public contacted us about buildings under threat near them. We press for buildings of listable quality to be spot-listed, but lack of resources prevents us from taking up many other cases. Instead, we provide advice and support to residents mounting their own campaigns.

The challenges facing historic buildings do not disappear, whether it be conversion to a beneficial new use, or the alterations required for disabled access. Sometimes the greatest threat is a failure to understand what is important about a building in terms of history, design or associations. We play a crucial role in advising how the past may be shaped for the future.

The government's review of the planning system heralded in the recent green paper spells changes ahead for the Victorian Society. One thing is certain: we will increasingly be dealing with planning applications electronically. By 2005 local authorities will have all plans and application documents on their websites, and many already do. At the centre will be the 'Planning Portal' — a government website with information on planning applications and appeals as well

as advice and guidance.

There was some uncertainty about whether the national amenity societies would remain as statutory consultees for listed building consent. But we have since been reassured by Lord Falconer that 'the National Amenity Societies do an excellent job' and that there was no intention to remove our right of notification.

At present we are the only formal consultees for the vast majority of listed building consent applications: those which deal with Grade II listed buildings. English Heritage concentrate on Grade I and II* listed buildings, and usually see Grade II buildings only when the works are for total demolition, the removal of a principal external wall or the demolition of a substantial part of the interior. So responsibility for the protection of a vast swathe of English and Welsh listed buildings lies with us!

In December the government published *The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future*, its response to *Power of Place* and we were pleased to note the launch of a major new grant scheme to aid the cost of repairs and maintenance to listed buildings used as places of worship. It is intended to bridge the two year gap leading up to the 2003 review of the European Commission's 6th VAT Directive, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be pressing for a lowered rate of VAT (5%) for repairs and maintenance to listed buildings which are used as places of worship. But this is only a first step, and we firmly believe that the lowered rate of VAT should be extended to all listed buildings.

Education

The Victorian Society seeks to develop public knowledge and understanding of Victorian and Edwardian architecture and related arts through its educational programme, which includes walks, visits, lectures, conferences and publications.

Visits

Some of the highlights of our programme of visits include a visit to houses such as Minterne (Dorset), Westonbirt (Glos), and Osborne House. We visited a variety of buildings including Portsmouth Dockyard, Wormwood Scrubs Prison, Dulwich College and numerous churches. Foreign trips included one to Nice organised by the Manchester group, and another to Darmstadt, Lille and Antwerp.

Our annual Summer School ran again under the leadership of David Crellin and Liz Robinson, but from 2002 onwards it will be organised by the Victorian Society in America, which has always recruited most of the students and supplied most of the scholarship funds.

Lectures, conferences and study days

Our winter lecture series was on the *Victorian Country House*, organised by Michael Hall and Hermione Hobhouse, and the autumn lecture series on *The Power and the Glory*, organised by Geoff Brandwood, reconsidered the nineteenth-century monarchy from George IV to the death of Queen Victoria.

We held a number of study days which considered topics as diverse as Victorian furniture, interiors and collectors (in memory of Clive Wainwright), Victorian popular culture, the Victorian underworld, and a conference to coincide with the

'Victorian Vision' exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. A ground-breaking day on architectural writers of the nineteenth century, organised by Dr Alexandrina Buchanan, brought together an international group of speakers to reconsider a topic still dominated by Nikolaus Pevsner's famous book.

In association with the Institution of Civil Engineers Archives Panel and the History Study Group of the Institution of Structural Engineers, we organised a major conference bringing together speakers from Europe and the United States to re-examine the history and significance of the Crystal Palace in commemoration of its 150th anniversary.

Publications

In July we relaunched the *Victorian* with an issue on the influence of the Crystal Palace. It met with great approval from members who appreciated the cleaner look and the tighter focus. In November its theme was Manchester, to mark the publication of the new Pevsner volume.

Our website continues to grow in popularity, up from 31,000 hits in January 2001 to 67,000 hits in January 2002. In 2002 we will add a number of fact sheets about caring for Victorian Houses to complement the recorded information soon to be available on our telephone system, both part of an educational project funded by the Jonathon Vickers Trust. This will culminate in September with the *Victorian Society book of the Victorian house* by Kit Wedd.

The Mary Heath Trustees discussed various projects and made a grant towards the Birmingham Pevsner.



Supporters

Volunteers continue to be central to the work of the Society. They contribute their expertise by assessing applications for listed building consent in our two buildings subcommittees, they organise our educational programme and as trustees they oversee the strategic direction and day-to-day operation of the Society. Our committee members alone contribute well over 900 hours of advice a year.

As well as our trustees, officers and committee members, many contribute much more to the Society than just their annual subscription. Bernard Harrison and Jane Wainwright are making excellent progress sorting and cataloguing our library, for example, while another team including Jean Fryer, Mary Prance and Elizabeth Stamp are weeding and sorting our casework archive. This work, and that of those organising activities for us, comes to many more hundred hours a year.

Many members generously give us additional donations during the year (in 2001 we received £3,409), and sign Gift Aid declarations to maximize the value of their donations and membership subscriptions. We hope to be left legacies, too: in 2001 we received the first instalment of a legacy worth about £65,000 from the Reverend Mr Schofield, as well as another £3,000 from Colin Forster.

And still we maintain our loyal base of over 3,200 members who support us by happily paying annual subscriptions in support of our conservation and educational work. Thank you!

People

Patron

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO

President

Lord Briggs of Lewes

Chairman

Prof Chris Brooks (*until 3 November*)

Dr Geoff Brandwood (*from 3 November*)

Vice-Chairs

Marion Giles

Teresa Sladen (*until 3 November*)

Honorary Financial Adviser

Andrew Coleman

Honorary Legal Adviser

David Jefferson (*until 1 April*)

Jeremy Black (*from 1 April*)

SECRETARIAT

Director

Dr Ian Dungavell

Senior Architectural Adviser

Dr Richard Holder

Northern and Welsh Architectural Adviser

David Crellin (*from 8 January*)

Churches Officer

Hannah Padley (*from 1 January*)

Administrator

Richard Seedhouse

Activities Manager

Rebecca Daniels

Activities Assistant

Pam Gray

Financial Review

The Society's financial statements are prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' published in October 2000. The Society began to operate as a company with effect from 1 January 2002. Because the company was dormant until then there are no comparative figures for the previous financial year. In order to provide a basis for comparison, the results, assets and liabilities of the predecessor organisation (the Victorian Society, an unincorporated body) are presented as pro-forma comparatives, after adjusting the layout to comply with the Statement.

Income and expenditure

Total income for the year amounted to £295,136, in comparison with £382,555 for last year. Excluding legacy income, other one-off factors and the income from Linley Sambourne House, closed in 2000, total income amounted to £272,082, an increase of 8.7% over the previous year on a comparable basis. The increase is due to higher income from educational events and publications and interest income. Most of the increase was in restricted funds and not available to meet the general running costs of the Society.

Total costs for the year amounted to £256,338, in comparison with £284,571 for the previous year. Excluding one-off factors and the costs of Linley Sambourne House, expenditure amounted to £251,997, a decrease of 4.0% over the previous year on a comparable basis. This reduction was in

line with the Society's plans for 2001 to reduce expenditure slightly. The extent of the reduction is masked somewhat as a result of the inclusion of project expenditure (met by the very generous grant from the Jonathan Vickers estate) which is included in education costs this year.

The net movement of funds for the year is a surplus of £29,726 in comparison with a surplus of £94,605 for last year. Excluding legacy income and other one-off factors, the surplus amounts to £20,085 in comparison with a deficit of £11,382 for 2000. This reflects the increases in income and the reductions in the level of expenditure explained above, but it should be borne in mind that nearly half of this surplus was on the Mary Heath fund, whose use is restricted.

All in all, this was a satisfactory result but the Society's plans continue to be constrained by its lack of additional sources of income. The legacy income received was most welcome and will be spent on projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. The Society greatly appreciates the thoughtfulness of those who remember the Society in their wills and members who are making or revising their wills are encouraged to consider leaving a legacy to the Society.

Balance sheet

The Society's total assets during the year increased by 5.5%. This reflects a 20.6% increase in unrestricted funds, largely due to the receipt of legacy income. Restricted funds were broadly flat reflecting the net income received on the

Mary Heath fund outweighing the net expenditure from the Jonathan Vickers fund. The endowment fund fell by 14% as a result of a fall in the value of the underlying investments. This fall is less than the fall in the benchmark index, and although disappointing, the Society believes that the value of the fund will rise as the stock market recovers.

For the Society to function successfully, it must maintain an adequate level of unrestricted reserves that can be used to finance its day to day operations. The trustees are satisfied with the Society's present position.

Risk management

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed during the year and the trustees are satisfied that systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Dr Ian Dungavell, Director
27 April 2002

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

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The Victorian Society is a Registered Charity No. 1081435 and a Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No. 3940996. Registered office as above.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

	Total 2001	Total Proforma 2000
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Subscriptions	67,906	66,170
Donations	3,409	34,819
Grants	45,406	45,919
Legacies	23,054	89,339
Income from operating activities		
Educational events and publications	123,522	106,374
Linley Sambourne House	-	15,141
Other income	3,288	-
Investment income		
Rental income	9,000	9,000
Investment income	1,965	2,076
Interest	17,586	13,717
Total incoming resources	<u>295,136</u>	<u>382,555</u>
EXPENDED RESOURCES		
Cost of generating funds		
Fundraising costs	6,571	14,872
Cost of charitable activities		
Education (including events and publications)	151,055	146,984
Architectural conservation	91,408	88,944
Linley Sambourne House	-	15,189
Management and administration	7,304	18,582
Total resources expended	<u>256,338</u>	<u>284,571</u>
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfer	38,798	97,984
Transfers	-	-
Unrealised gains/(losses)	<u>(9,072)</u>	<u>(3,379)</u>
Net movement of funds	29,726	94,605
Balance brought forward at 1 January	537,463	442,858
Balance carried forward at 31 December	<u>£567,189</u>	<u>£537,463</u>

Trustees' Statement

We confirm that the information contained in the summary financial statement above is taken from the audited annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2001 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 27 April 2002 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission and filed at Companies House.

The summarised statement may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Victorian Society. For further information the full accounts, the relevant auditor's report and the trustees' report should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from the Director, The Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, London W4 1TT. Please send £1 donation towards postage and printing costs. Alternatively, download a copy from our website, www.victoriansociety.org.uk.

Dr Geoff Brandwood (Chairman)

Andrew Coleman (Hon Financial Adviser)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2001

	2001	2000 Proforma
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	115,724	110,776
Investments	56,043	65,115
	<u>171,767</u>	<u>175,891</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of publications	5,816	8,369
Debtors	9,292	11,215
Short term deposits	370,408	323,831
Cash in bank and in hand	51,779	41,912
	<u>437,295</u>	<u>385,327</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year:	<u>33,368</u>	<u>17,325</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	403,927	368,002
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>575,694</u>	<u>543,893</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due after one year	8,505	6,430
NET ASSETS	<u>£567,189</u>	<u>£537,463</u>
Represented by:		
FUNDS		
Unrestricted	219,681	182,043
Restricted	291,465	290,305
Endowment	56,043	65,115
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>£567,189</u>	<u>£537,463</u>

Auditors' Statement on Summary Financial Statement for The Victorian Society

The summary financial statement contains information derived from the audited annual accounts and is consistent therewith. Our opinion on the Society's financial statements is unqualified. The financial statements were prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 and 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
339/40 Upper Street, London N1 0PD

27 April 2002