



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Summary Annual Report
and Accounts 2003



The Victorian Society is the champion for Victorian and Edwardian buildings in England and Wales.

- We fight to preserve important Victorian and Edwardian buildings and landscapes so that they can be enjoyed by this and future generations
- We provide expert advice to churches and local planning authorities on how Victorian and Edwardian buildings and landscapes can be adapted to the way we live now, while keeping what is special about them
- We provide advice to members of the public about how they can help shape the future of their local Victorian and Edwardian buildings and landscapes
- We provide information to owners of Victorian and Edwardian houses about how they can better look after their precious buildings
- We help people understand, appreciate and enjoy the architectural heritage of the Victorian and Edwardian period through our publications and educational programmes

We want people to enjoy their fine inheritance of Victorian and Edwardian buildings, both now and in the future. Victorian and Edwardian buildings are irreplaceable, cherished, diverse, beautiful, familiar and part of our everyday life.

They contribute overwhelmingly to the character of places people love and places where people live. They belong to all of us. Their owners are really only custodians for future generations. Victorian and Edwardian buildings are part of our collective memory, and central to how we see ourselves as individuals, communities and as a nation.

When decisions are taken which affect their future, the debate must be open and informed. We need to understand what is special about Victorian and Edwardian buildings and landscapes so that any necessary changes can be incorporated without damaging them forever. We don't want to lose our past through ignorance.

That's where the Victorian Society comes in. As a reservoir of expertise, as energetic campaigners, and as a community organisation bringing together individuals from all round the country, we have helped people save the buildings they value. Sometimes it has been major national monuments such as the Albert Memorial in London or the Albert Dock in Liverpool, but more often nowadays it is local churches threatened with closure or good houses flattened to make way for undistinguished offices.

Together we really can save the past for the future.

Dr Geoff Brandwood *Chairman*



Conserving

Planning application review

We aim to help churches and local planning authorities make better decisions about how Victorian and Edwardian buildings and landscapes can be adapted to the way we live now, while keeping what is special about them. This is a major area of our work, and we do this by commenting on applications for listed building consent or faculty. We do not attempt to comment on every notification received. Instead, we respond when we consider that the proposals are damaging to the historic character of the property concerned, and where our expert input might result in a less destructive outcome. Our responses highlight the historic and architectural importance of each site and explain in what way the proposals are detrimental. We bring the experience of our caseworkers, our casework committees and other advisers to bear on each case to deliver considered responses which draw on an exceptional breadth of knowledge. We employ three full-time caseworkers based in London, but we rely on volunteers around the country for a great deal of our work.

Some of our regional groups respond to applications for listed building consent in their areas, buoyed by considerable local knowledge. A legacy from a former member enabled us to employ a Birmingham and West Midlands Architectural Adviser for two days per week to work alongside volunteers in that area, and our groups in Leicester and West Yorkshire also do casework.

Mere counting of cases does not reveal the true extent of our work, as some cases can be dealt with quickly while others require many meetings and site visits to be resolved. Nevertheless the figures are impressive. In 2003 we received 6,310 notifications of proposals for works to listed buildings (6,419 in 2002). Of these 2,308 related to Victorian or Edwardian buildings (1,966 in 2002), and we gave detailed responses to 635 (601 in 2002). Reports on current cases are published in each issue of the *Victorian*, and a detailed list is available on our website or on request from the Society.

There are some big challenges ahead for us. English Heritage has new plans for dealing with casework, predicated on the importance of pre-application discussion. They will become involved earlier on in fewer cases, hoping to achieve successful outcomes by helping to shape developments from the start, rather than

stopping projects at planning application stage once a lot of time and money have been spent. As there is no obligation to notify the Victorian Society until listed building consent applications have been submitted, there is the danger that we will be marginalised by coming in at a late stage.

We are also concerned about the advent of 'e-planning', part of the 'e-government' initiatives under which we may receive planning applications in digital form instead of on paper. Quite how this will work in practice we are not sure: how easy will it be to look at large drawings? Can we see plans as existing and as proposed side by side? How will this work with our casework committees and regional groups? We are liaising with the 'Planning Portal', part of the Planning Inspectorate which is leading the way forward, and we are planning to upgrade our computer facilities to cope.

We are extremely disappointed that our grant from English Heritage to support our churches casework has been reduced by £5,000 for 2004-5 and that it will be cut altogether by 2007. Despite repeated representations to English Heritage they have not yet felt able to reverse this unpopular decision which has been widely criticised. As English Heritage generally do not get involved with Grade II listed churches this leaves a crucial part of our work without funding.

Supporting local campaigners

We aim to provide advice and support to local groups undertaking campaigns to save buildings they cherish. We do this by referring them to sources of advice on how to mount campaigns, by advising them on how to get buildings spot-listed and, where appropriate, supporting applications for listing. Frustratingly, lack of resources prevents us from becoming more closely involved or taking up many other cases. In 2004 we will be appointing a Community Engagement Officer, made possible by legacy income, for a trial period of two years. The Officer's job will be to help local people stand up for the buildings they value by encouraging them to work in alliance with other local organisations, through dissemination of best practice guidelines and, where appropriate, collaborative working.

Contributing to policy development

We also aim to influence government policy relating to the historic environment, usually responding to government consultations through the Joint Committee of the National Amenities Association.



Societies where broader policy issues form a major part of the discussions. We are also a member of Heritage Link. We were of course heavily involved in discussions about *Protecting the Historic Environment: Making the system work better* and a similar consultation in Wales, and we co-ordinated the Joint Committee's response to the *Review of the Pastoral Measure*, and responded to the consultation on the future of the National Monuments Record. In 2004, we will be responding to the *Review of Ecclesiastical Exemption*.

Educating

We aim to help people understand, appreciate and enjoy the architectural heritage of the Victorian and Edwardian period as we believe that through knowledge comes care. We do this through our educational programme which includes walks, visits, lectures, conferences (many of which are organised by our regional groups) and publications. We also provide information to owners of Victorian and Edwardian houses about how they can better look after their precious buildings.

Lectures, conferences and study days

Our lecture series on *Great Foreign Architects*, organised by Michael Hall, and *The Forgotten Forties*, organised by Geoff Brandwood, were very well attended. The lecturers included not only established architectural historians but we were also delighted to be able to give recent graduates an opportunity to make public their work. We held a study day on the history and conservation of cemeteries in memory of our former Chairman, Dr Chris Brooks, who died in 2002. We also held many other lectures in Birmingham, Cambridge, Cardiff, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield.

Visits

One of the highlights of the events programme was a private reception at Debenham House, London, now beautifully restored by a sympathetic owner for use as a family home. Our annual general meeting weekend was based in Manchester, looking at the heritage of the cotton industry in Lancashire, expertly organised by our Manchester Group. Other events included: a day visiting buildings by TG Jackson in Oxford with Dr William Whyte, a visit to look at restoration works to All Saints', Margaret Street, London; a weekend in Bath, organised by Hermione Hobhouse; a trip round Anglo-Catholic churches

in Walthamstow led by Dr Julian Litten; a day looking at work by Bodley and Garner in London, led by Michael Hall; a visit to the Dukeries; a day looking at Pugin buildings in Staffordshire; a coach tour of the Lake District; and a walk around Buxton.

The Victorian

We published three issues of the *Victorian* in 2003. In March the theme was Oxford to promote new research on TG Jackson and Basil Champneys, and consider conservation at the coal-face in North Oxford. In July, the theme was South Kensington to promote two new books: Hermione Hobhouse on the 1851 Commissioners and Elizabeth Bonython and Anthony Burton on Henry Cole. In November we celebrated the publication of the *Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bath* with an article on Victorian and Edwardian Bath. We introduced a new section, 'House Notes' providing information for homeowners on how better to care for their Victorian and Edwardian properties. In 2004 for a trial period we will print the magazine in full colour throughout, increasing its attractiveness to both advertisers and readers alike. Our first issue for 2004 was on Brighton and Hove churches under threat, and we hope increasingly to use the *Victorian* to support our campaigns.

Involving

We aim to get people involved in the debates about their Victorian and Edwardian heritage, and in supporting the work of the Victorian Society. Volunteers continue to be central to our work. They contribute their expertise by assessing applications for listed building consent in our two buildings committees, 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 free advice a year.

As well as our trustees, officers and committee members, many others contribute much more to the Society than just their annual subscription. In 2003, Mary Prance received our 'Volunteer of the Year' award in recognition of her many hours of work helping with the casework archive, helping with events, and catering for committee and trustee meetings. We also recruited a volunteer recruiter of volunteers, Colin Bailey, who also helps us with human resource issues and many other tasks. There are now many days when the volunteers



in the office outnumber the staff, and 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 2003 we received £9,248), and sign Gift Aid declarations to maximize the value of their donations and membership subscriptions. Our 2004 appeal to raise funds to restore our headquarters has to date raised almost £21,000. We hope people will remember us when writing their wills: in 2003 we received the final instalment of a legacy worth in total about £78,000 from the Reverend Mr Schofield, £5,188 from Mrs M F E G Christiansen, and £1,500 from Diana Kurzman. Legacy income is vital to the funding of special projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. In 2003 the Society purchased a new membership and events management system at a total cost of £16,320. This long-overdue upgrading of our systems will enable us to improve significantly our efficiency and effectiveness.

And still we maintain our loyal base of over 3,300 members who support us by happily paying annual subscriptions in support of our conservation and educational work. Thank you! If you would like to support our work by joining or making a donation, please telephone 020 8747 5890.

Report of the Trustees

Introduction

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2003.

Corporate structure

The Victorian Society is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

Financial review

Income and expenditure

Income for the year was £266,598 in comparison with £305,420 for the previous year, a fall of 13%. Excluding legacy income and other one-off items, total income fell by 8.5%. Subscription income showed an increase year on year as a result of changes in membership subscription levels. Gift Aid was down this year as a result of a change in the timing of claims. Donations were down on the previous year's level as no general appeal was held in 2003. Income from educational events and publications was down by 16% principally as a result of changes in the programme of activities.

Expenditure was £257,705 in comparison with £237,434 for 2002, an increase of 9%. The total was inflated this year by nearly £8,000 in respect of some long overdue electrical re-wiring at the Society's headquarters and the costs of training on the new membership database. Excluding these one-off items, expenditure on a like for like basis increased by 6%. The majority of this increase was due to a planned increase in caseworker resources as the Northern Architectural Adviser was switched to a full-time basis and a caseworker was taken on to deal with Birmingham and the West Midlands. Changes in staff during the year also had the effect of incurring additional costs during the hand-over periods.

The result of these changes in income and expenditure was to reduce the surplus for the year to £8,893 before unrealised gains and losses on investments, in comparison with £67,986 in 2002. Excluding legacies and other one-off items the outcome was a deficit of £8,219 for the year in comparison with a surplus of £29,255 for the previous year. We were relieved to see an improvement in the value of the Society's investments this year after several

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

	Total 2003	Total 2002
INCOMING RESOURCES		
<i>Voluntary income:</i>		
Subscriptions	70,643	63,873
Donations	9,248	15,371
Grants	49,533	47,413
Gift Aid	4,752	16,533
Legacies	24,895	40,000
<i>Income from operating activities</i>		
Educational events and publications	77,560	92,651
Other income	2,976	2,660
<i>Investment income</i>		
Rental income	9,000	9,000
Investment income	1,900	1,902
Interest	16,091	16,017
Total incoming resources	266,598	305,420
EXPENDED RESOURCES		
<i>Cost of generating funds</i>		
Fundraising costs	7,305	7,805
<i>Cost of charitable activities</i>		
Education (including events and publications)	118,604	117,471
Architectural conservation	122,877	105,153
Management and administration	8,919	7,005
Total resources expended	257,705	237,434
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfer	8,893	67,986
Transfers	-	-
Unrealised gains/(losses)	4,924	(11,694)
Net movement of funds	13,817	56,292
Balance brought forward at 1 January	623,481	567,189
Balance carried forward at 31 December	£637,298	£623,481

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 2003 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 17 April 2004 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 auditors' report and the trustees' 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 Geoff Brandwood (Chairman)
17 April 2004

Andrew Coleman (Hon Financial Adviser)



BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2003

	2003	2003
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	128,129	123,233
Investments	49,273	44,349
	<u>177,402</u>	<u>167,582</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of publications	7,350	5,746
Debtors	6,968	10,341
Short term deposits	463,991	436,283
Cash in bank and in hand	17,960	33,318
	<u>496,269</u>	<u>485,688</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year:	26,173	21,019
NET CURRENT ASSETS	470,096	464,669
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>647,498</u>	<u>632,251</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due after one year	10,200	8,770
NET ASSETS	<u>£637,298</u>	<u>£623,481</u>
Represented by:		
FUNDS		
Unrestricted	311,208	294,207
Restricted	276,817	284,925
Endowment	49,273	44,349
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>£637,298</u>	<u>£623,481</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 OPD



years of decline and an unrealised gain of £4,924 was recorded.

Overall this was an acceptable result with lessons to be learned for the future. The continued threat to the Victorian and Edwardian built environment means that the Society must continue to increase the level of its expenditure on casework and educational activities even if this results in greater challenges in funding these costs. As in previous years, legacy income will not be used to cover general expenditure but is notionally set aside in reserves to meet the cost of projects that would otherwise simply not be affordable within the Society's resources. In the current year legacy income helped meet the cost of the new membership database which involved capital and revenue expenditure totalling £16,320 as well as essential rewiring of the Society's headquarters. 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 balance sheet comprises endowment, restricted and unrestricted funds. The endowment and the restricted funds are invested so as to fulfil the obligations the Society took on in receiving those funds. The endowment funds are invested in a balanced managed fund of equities, bonds and properties which should not only generate an inflation-proofed income but should over time also generate capital growth. The restricted funds are invested in cash deposits. Unrestricted funds finance the Society's general operations including the majority of its fixed assets and its stock and debtors (less creditors). Any surplus funds are invested in cash deposits pending their expenditure.

The Society's net assets showed an increase of 2% during the year. Fixed assets increased by a net £4,896 with additions of £14,423 (principally the capital cost of the new membership database) less depreciation of £9,527. The increase in investments of £4,924 is due to an increase in their value during the year. Net current assets less liabilities due after one year increased by £3,977.

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 and further details

can be found in Note 12 to these accounts.

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.

The Trustees approved this report on 17 April 2004.

Dr Geoff Brandwood
Chairman