



Summary  
Annual Report  
and Accounts 2004

**THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY**





## 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*

**Cover** A fire that could have been prevented? Hafodunos in ruins



## Conserving

### *Listed building consent and faculty 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 the 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 enables 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 2004 we received 6,509 notifications of proposals for works to listed buildings (6,310 in 2003). Of these 2,373 related to Victorian or Edwardian buildings (2,308 in 2003), and we gave detailed responses to 521 (635 in 2003). 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. It is a very sensible way to work, though 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 very grateful to English Heritage for a grant of £16,500 towards helping us cope with 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. We used this to replace our antiquated computer network and to equip our caseworkers with dual computer screens so they can look at plans, as existing and as proposed, side by side, without having to add to our mountains of paper by printing them off. We also purchased a digital camera. However, we still need more money to buy a data projector so that all these digital images can be used in presentations to our building committees and others. Donations are welcome!

We remain extremely disappointed that the grant from English Heritage to support our churches casework has been reduced to £5,000 for 2005-6 and that it will be cut altogether by 2007.

### *Supporting local campaigners*

We have now employed Ann Morgan as our new Community Engagement Officer, a post made possible by legacy income, for a trial period of two years. Her job is 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. We also refer them to sources of advice on how to mount campaigns, advise them on how to get buildings spot-listed and, where appropriate, we support applications for listing.

We also held two training days for regional group caseworkers and members of our buildings committees. The first, held at our office in West London considered such issues as burial law and the impact of the internet on the planning process, while the second was hosted by our Leicester group and was followed by a tour of the city looking at current conservation issues.



#### *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 Amenity Societies where broader policy issues form a major part of the discussions. From April 2005 onwards we will be even more closely involved with the Joint Committee as Dr Ian Dungavell takes over as its Secretary. We are also a member of Heritage Link. In 2004, we responded to the *Review of Ecclesiastical Exemption*, though we, like many others, thought that the consultation document was lacking in clarity to the point of being incomprehensible in places.

## 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. Our director, Dr Ian Dungavell, gave conservation advice on BBC TV's *Restoration Nation*, for Channel 4's *Streets Ahead*, and also on *Our House 2* for UKTV Style. Dale Dishon, our Northern and Welsh Architectural Adviser, was interviewed for an *Archive Hour* programme about workhouses (BBC R4) and has in 2005 appeared on BBC TV's *The Culture Show* about Liverpool.

It is important to point out that all of those who lecture for us and lead visits do so without payment except for their expenses, seeing this as a way of contributing to the work of the Society. Our events programme is important in itself, and also for the financial support it provides to our casework.

#### *Lectures, conferences and study days*

Our lecture series on *Great Cities*, organised by Michael Hall, and *Celebrating Ingenuity* (looking at various building types such as fortifications, mausolea, farm buildings and public libraries), organised by Geoff Brandwood, were very well attended. In association with the Friends of the Union Chapel, Islington, we held a study day on

*Dissent and the Gothic Revival*, and Clive Bettington organised another one on *The Jewish East End*, and Anne Anderson presented *A Beginner's Guide to the Aesthetic Movement*.

#### *Visits*

One of the highlights of the events programme was our *Palaces of the East Midlands* weekend, led by David Crellin, during which we visited a number of large country houses enlarged or rebuilt in the nineteenth century, including Welbeck, Thoresby, Harlaxton and Belvoir. Another, Stoke Rochford, has since been extensively damaged by fire. There was also weekend in Brussels, led by our Director, Dr Ian Dungavell, during which we saw many buildings not normally open to the public including Victor Horta's Tassel House. In May, Michael Hall led a day trip looking at Victorian churches in Brighton and Hove, some of which had been threatened with closure. Our annual general meeting weekend, expertly organised by our Chairman, Dr Geoff Brandwood, was based in Ironbridge, looking at its remarkable industrial heritage, and also included a visit to Norman Shaw's Adcote (now a school) and a private house designed by Aston Webb, both near Shrewsbury. We were honoured to be addressed by Sir Neil Cossons, Chairman of English Heritage. Other events included: a tour looking at the Victorian and Edwardian aspects of St Paul's Cathedral, walks in Loughton, Canonbury, Mornington Crescent, Holborn, tours of London statues and Thames bridges, visits to Oswestry, Liverpool, Eastnor Castle, Leek and Cheddleton, Fishguard, Todmorden, Tyntesfield, Huddersfield, Rugby School, the Victoria Baths in Manchester, and a tour looking at the work of John Douglas. Many of these were organised by our regional groups.

#### *The Victorian*

We published three issues of *The Victorian* in 2004, increasingly using the magazine to support our campaigns to save buildings. And, for the first time, each issue was printed in full colour. In March we examined plans to close fifteen Anglican churches in Brighton and Hove, demonstrating that no account had been taken of their historic importance. In July, we focussed on the transformation of St Pancras station and its hinterland in London, an area of longstanding interest to the Society. In November we looked at the problem of buildings at risk of loss through neglect and



decay, despite many being capable of 'beneficial re-use'. Our first issue for 2005 looked at the crisis facing Victorian cemeteries today.

## 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 give much more to the Society than just their annual subscription. In 2004, Rowan Roenisch received our 'Volunteer of the Year' award in recognition of her many years' service doing casework for our Leicester Group. And, thanks to the Hounslow Volunteer Bureau, we have also recruited office volunteers from outside the membership of the Society. 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, and sign Gift Aid declarations to maximize the value of their donations and membership subscriptions. Having read of the loss of funding for our Churches Officer, one of our 'outraged members' (her own description) promptly sent us £5,000 towards churches casework. Our appeal to raise funds to restore our headquarters raised over £23,000; though tender prices came in at more than expected and another appeal will be held in 2005. Work will begin in Spring 2005. We hope people will remember us when writing their wills: in 2004 we received the final instalment (£6,468) of a legacy worth over £27,000 from Margaret Ramsden, and £10,000 from Dorothy Cathilda Fraser, which will be used to fund the first issue of our new journal. Legacy income is vital to the funding of special projects that would otherwise be unaffordable.

And still we maintain our loyal base of almost 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 2004.

### 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 £320,360 in comparison with £266,598 for the previous year, an increase of 20.2%. Subscription income remained stable year on year. Gift Aid was markedly up this year as a result of the impact of a special appeal and a further change in the timing of claims. Restricted donations were up this year as the Society raised £23,182 in a very successful appeal to carry out overdue and important work on the Society's headquarters in Priory Gardens. This work should hopefully commence in 2005. In addition we received a very generous and unsolicited donation of £5,000 towards the Society's casework from a member concerned about the cutback of our Churches Officer grant from English Heritage. Grants were up 27.9% but this is as a result of a one-off grant of £16,105 from English Heritage for re-equipping the Society's computer network offsetting a decline in the Churches Officer grant. Income from educational events and publications was up by 4.2% principally as a result of a welcome increase in advertising revenue from *the Victorian*, and higher income from the programme of activities offsetting a decline in sales of publications. Investment income increased as a result of higher deposit balances and higher interest rates. Excluding legacy income and other one-off items, total income rose by 8.6%.



Expenditure was £273,276 in comparison with £257,705 for 2003, an increase of 6%. As members will recall, the total was inflated last 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 9.3%. Over half of this increase relates to increases in employment costs. Two factors are at work here. Firstly it has become clear that the Society's salaries were falling behind levels in the conservation sector and some modest adjustments have been made to address this. Secondly the employment costs reflected the additional cost of having staff in place for a full year in two posts. Other factors that led to an increase in costs year on year were the impact of enhancing the Victorian by using colour printing and outsourcing the editing and an increase in the cost of the Society's programme of activities.

The result of these changes in income and expenditure was to increase the surplus for the year to £47,084 before unrealised gains on investments, in comparison with £8,893 in 2003. Excluding legacies and other one-off items the outcome was a deficit of £10,756 for the year in comparison with a deficit of £8,219 for the previous year. We were relieved to see a further improvement in the value of the Society's investments this year by £3,292.

Overall this result was a little better than we had expected but indicates the level of challenge in the years ahead to raise recurring income. 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. Members will have seen that the Society is seeking to recruit a trustee specifically to help with fundraising initiatives.

It is the Society's policy that legacy income will not be used to cover general expenditure but is regarded as available to meet the cost of projects that would otherwise simply not be affordable within the Society's resources. 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 7.9% during the year, nearly 2/3 of which represents an increase in restricted funds. Fixed assets increased by a net £4,999 with additions of £17,639 (principally the cost of upgrading the Society's computer equipment) less depreciation of £12,640. The increase in investments of £3,292 is due to an increase in their value during the year. Net current assets less liabilities due after one year increased by £42,085, principally as a result of the impact of the receipt of donations received for the repair work on Priory Gardens and legacy income which were not spent during the year.

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.

The Victorian Society  
1 Priory Gardens, London W4 1TT  
**Telephone** 020 8994 1019  
**Email** [admin@victorian-society.org.uk](mailto:admin@victorian-society.org.uk)  
**Web** [www.victorian-society.org.uk](http://www.victorian-society.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1081435  
Company limited by guarantee No. 3940996

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004**

	2004	2003
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<b><i>Voluntary income</i></b>		
Subscriptions	70,373	70,643
Donations	34,490	9,248
Grants	63,370	49,533
Gift Aid	19,011	4,752
Legacies	18,553	24,895
<b><i>Income from operating activities</i></b>		
Educational events and publications	80,787	77,560
Other income	2,073	2,976
<b><i>Investment income</i></b>		
Rental income	9,000	9,000
Investment income	1,869	1,900
Interest	20,834	16,091
Total incoming resources	<u>320,360</u>	<u>266,598</u>
<b>EXPENDED RESOURCES</b>		
<b><i>Cost of generating funds</i></b>		
Fundraising costs	8,430	8,919
<b><i>Cost of charitable activities</i></b>		
Education (including events and publications)	126,176	118,604
Architectural conservation	130,955	122,877
Management and admin	7,715	7,305
Total resources expended	<u>273,276</u>	<u>257,705</u>
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfer	47,084	8,893
Transfers	-	-
Unrealised gains/(losses)	3,292	4,924
Net movement of funds	50,376	13,817
Balance brought forward at 1 January	<u>637,298</u>	<u>623,481</u>
Balance carried forward at 31 December	<u>£687,674</u>	<u>£637,298</u>

**Trustees' Statement**

We confirm that the information contained in the summary financial statement on pages 7 and 8 is taken from the audited annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2004 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 23 April 2005 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 Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London W4 1TT (please send £1 donation towards postage and printing costs) or [www.victoriansociety.org.uk](http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk).

Dr Geoff Brandwood (Chairman)  
23 April 2005

Andrew Coleman (Hon Financial Adviser)

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible assets	133,128	128,129
Investments	52,565	49,273
	<hr/> 185,693	<hr/> 177,402
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Stock of publications	11,620	7,350
Debtors	25,545	6,968
Short term deposits	485,547	463,991
Cash in bank and in hand	16,595	17,960
	<hr/> 539,307	<hr/> 496,269
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year:	<hr/> 28,016	<hr/> 26,173
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	511,291	470,096
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<hr/> 696,984	<hr/> 647,498
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts falling due after one year	9,310	10,200
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<hr/> £687,674	<hr/> £637,298
Represented by:		
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted	326,840	311,208
Restricted	308,269	276,817
Endowment	52,565	49,273
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<hr/> £687,674	<hr/> £637,298

### **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 & Registered Auditors  
339/40 Upper Street, London N1 OPD

23 April 2005