



Summary Annual Report and Financial Statements 2006

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

1 Priory Gardens
Bedford Park
London W4 1TT

Registered Charity

No 1081435

Company Registration

No 3940996

**THE VICTORIAN
SOCIETY**

The Victorian Society

The Victorian Society is the champion for Victorian and Edwardian buildings in England and Wales. Our aims are:

CONSERVING

To save Victorian and Edwardian buildings or groups of buildings of special architectural merit from needless destruction or disfigurement.

INVOLVING

To awaken public interest in, and appreciation of, the best of Victorian and Edwardian arts, architecture, crafts and design;

EDUCATING

To encourage the study of these and of related social history and to provide advice to owners and public authorities in regard to the preservation and repair of Victorian and Edwardian buildings and the uses to which they can, if necessary, be adapted

The aims are linked, and through involving and educating the public, we can increase the likelihood of conserving buildings.

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

Dr Ian Dungavell, Director

Patron

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO

President

Lord Briggs of Lewes

Trustees

Dr Geoff Brandwood, Chair

Dr Sue Berry, Membership

Jeremy Black, Legal

Andrew Coleman, Vice Chair, and Finance

Dr Colin Cunningham,

(co-opted 2 December 2006)

Kate Davey (co-opted 5 October 2006)

Alasdair Glass, Non-executive

Rosemary Hill, Non-executive

Stephen Johnston, Fundraising

Dr David Low, Non-executive

Ken Moth, Casework

Roy Williams, Non-executive

Events Committee

Michael Hall, Chairman

Dr Sue Berry

Dr Geoff Brandwood

Maya Donelan

Yvonne Pines

Jane Wainwright

Regional Group Chairs

Birmingham Barbara Shackley

Great Eastern John Shaw-Ridler

Leicester Jon Goodall

Liverpool Graham Fisher

Manchester Steve Roman

South Wales Elaine Davey

South Yorkshire Valerie Bayliss CB

West Yorkshire Peter Hirschmann

Northern Buildings Committee

Ken Moth, Chairman

John Archer

Jules Brown

Alan Davies

Merial Evans

Andy Foster

Michael Green

Dr Chris Hammond

Ruth Harman

Dominic Roberts

Rowan Roenisch

Kathryn Sather

Joseph Sharples

Richard Tinker

Rebecca Waddington

Southern Buildings Committee

John Scott

(Chairman from September 2006)

Dr Geoff Brandwood

Dr Steven Brindle

Timothy Brittain-Catlin

Humphry Crum Ewing

Dr Edward Diestelkamp

Dr Brent Elliott

David Evans

Dr William Filmer-Sanke

Alec Forshaw

Maggie Goodall

Elain Harwood

Peter Howell

David Lloyd

Brian Morton MBE

Jeremy Musson

Ken Powell

Mark Price

Professor Andrew Saint

(Chairman to August 2006)

Teresa Sladen

Cover: Undershaw, Surrey, the Grade II-listed former home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. An international campaign has scuppered plans to carve it up into flats, and Waverley Borough Council has used an urgent works notice to carry out repairs to make the building weathertight.

Top right: The East End funeral we organised for Bonner Street School, an unlisted Victorian board school much loved by residents of Tower Hamlets. To mark its quite unnecessary demolition, local MP George Galloway laid a wreath.

Below right: Victorian Society members enjoy themselves at a fund-raising party to celebrate the centenary of Debenham House, London, by kind permission of Mr Robert Wallace.



Staff

Director Dr Ian Dungavell
Senior Architectural Adviser
Dr Kathryn Ferry (to 30 April 2007)
Northern Architectural Adviser
Edward Kitchen (from 1 August 2006)
Historic Churches Adviser
Edward Kitchen (to 8 September 2006);
David Garrard (from 11 September 2006)
Birmingham and West Midlands
Architectural Adviser
Mary Worsfold (to 14 July 2006);
Tim Bridges (from 1 October 2006)
Community Engagement Officer
Ann Morgan
Administrator Richard Seedhouse
Events Administrator Jane Jephcote

Bankers

Barclays, Hammersmith Business Centre
Group, London W6 9HY
COIF Charities Funds, 80 Cheapside,
London EC2V 6DZ

Auditors

Derek Rothera and Company,
Units 15&16, 7 Wenlock Road,
London N1 7SL



Conserving

SAVING FROM NEEDLESS DESTRUCTION OR DISFIGUREMENT VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN BUILDINGS OR GROUPS OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL MERIT

Saving buildings

Changes to listed buildings must be approved by local planning authorities or denominations that have been exempted from local planning control. We want to help local planning authorities and churches make better decisions about adapting Victorian and Edwardian buildings to the way we live now, while keeping what is special about them.

To do this, we comment on applications for listed building consent or faculty. We have a formal role in the planning system by virtue of the Secretary of State's direction in *Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications - Notification to National Amenity Societies* (ODPM Circular 09/2005) that we must be notified of all applications for Listed Building Consent that involve an element of demolition. When determining applications, local planning authorities must take our response into account, but they are not obliged to follow our recommendations. We also have a formal role in the various listed building control procedures set up by those Christian denominations which have chosen to retain their exemption from normal listed building regulations.

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 architectural advisers, our buildings 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 architectural advisers based in London, but we rely on volunteers around the country for a great deal of our work. Our regional groups in Birmingham, Leeds and Leicester respond to applications for listed building consent in their areas, buoyed by considerable local knowledge. A legacy from Mary Heath, a former member, enables us to employ a Birmingham and West Midlands Architectural Adviser for three days per week to work alongside volunteers in that area.

During the year our Senior Architectural Adviser, Dr Dale Dishon, left us to join English Heritage. Edward Kitchen, our Historic Churches Adviser, took over her role as Northern Architectural Adviser, while Dr Kathryn Ferry was promoted to Senior Architectural Adviser. We welcomed David Garrard as our new Historic Churches Adviser. We also bade farewell to Mary Worsfold, our Birmingham and West Midlands Architectural Adviser, who left us to become a conservation officer, and in her place we welcomed Tim Bridges. Our volunteers tend to change less frequently than our staff, but during the year Dr Sue Powell stepped down as West Yorkshire Group caseworker after many years, handing over to Richard Tinker.



Local authorities are required to notify us of the decisions they take on listed buildings consent applications. But so few do this that it is impossible for us to compile meaningful statistics on the results of those applications on which we comment. We try to influence proposals before they are submitted through pre-application discussions with developers and parishes and, when opposing a proposal, we try if appropriate to work in partnership with residents and other interested parties. Through publicising our position on individual cases, we hope to increase awareness of the need to work sensitively with historic buildings. Over 90% of applications for listed building consent are approved, so our success is not to be measured by counting the ones that are not; indeed, it may just be the opposite. Our work is best understood by reading the reports on current cases which are published in each issue of our magazine, *The Victorian*.

Some particular themes emerged from our casework during the year which we highlighted through wider campaigns as well as letters on individual buildings. These focused on Victorian and Edwardian swimming pools, schools and seaside resorts, all of which are in the public eye at the moment, and so received great attention in the media. Mere counting of cases on which we have commented 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 2006 we received 6,232 notifications of proposals for works to listed buildings (6,145 in 2005). Of these 2,179 related to Victorian or Edwardian buildings (2,226 in 2005), and we gave detailed responses to 343 (353 in 2005).

We receive a grant towards our statutory casework from English Heritage, which has committed funding until March 2009. We will review this programme at the time we reapply for the grant. In 2007 we plan to collect data about our response times in order to counter the erroneous view that consultation with amenity societies causes delay within the planning system.

Influencing policy

We also try to influence government policies on planning and the historic environment which have an impact on Victorian and Edwardian buildings and conservation areas. We do this through our participation in the Joint Committee of National Amenity Societies and as a member of Heritage Link, as well through direct engagement when appropriate. We usually respond to government consultations through the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies, where broader policy issues form a major part of the discussions, or through Heritage Link, but if there are particular points we can make which relate specifically to Victorian and Edwardian buildings then we will do so directly. The Society's Director, Dr Ian Dungavell, has also been Secretary of the Joint Committee since April 2005.

We gave written and oral evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on *Protecting, preserving and making accessible our nation's heritage*. Among the consultations the Joint Committee responded to were *Conservation Principles* (English Heritage); *Listed Building Casework* (ODPM); *English Heritage Peer Review*; *Changes to the Mayor of London Order 2002* (DCLG). We have also been much involved in discussions about the Heritage Protection Review, which culminated in a white paper, *Heritage Protection for the 21st Century*, published in March 2007. We look forward to commenting on its proposals.

Coping with e-planning

We have continued our investigations into how best to work with 'e-planning'. In this brave new world, we will be notified of applications via email, and our responses will go back electronically. The huge postbag which arrives daily on our doorstep will be a thing of the past. But large drawings do not work easily on a computer screen, and hard copies will still be required for site visits, so document production will be a problem. We can see the many advantages of e-planning, but we worry that planning authorities may swamp us with notifications, now that it will cost them nothing to inform us.

Together with the other national amenity societies we conducted an 'e-planning trial' with a limited number of local authorities so as to be better prepared for the new system. It became clear that the biggest problem was that each local authority worked in a different way, and their systems had often been developed for their internal convenience rather than for their consultees. It is, for example, essential to us that local authorities include a copy of the list description with the notification.

As we deal with local authorities throughout England and Wales, our only hope of coping with the anticipated digital deluge is by agreeing workable national standards governing the content and format of 'e-notifications'. Unfortunately, government funds for e-planning arrived before the standards had been developed, but by being able to compare the approach of a number of local authorities it has become clearer what they should be. We have been closely involved with the Planning and Regulatory Services Online (PARSOL) Planning National Project which has been developing best practice guidance, and developing a business case for a national e-consultation service. We have also been involved in the E-Planning Statutory Consultees Group convened by the Environment Agency which hopes to agree a set of standards that will suit all the statutory consultees. We will continue this work in 2007.



Above: Llandudno, perhaps Britain's best preserved Victorian seaside resort, and the venue for our 2006 Annual General Meeting. As part of our *Holiday at Home* campaign we have been highlighting the attractions of coastal towns.

Left: One of the commended entries in our *Learning from the Past* drawing competition, held as part of our campaign to celebrate historic school buildings. It is the work of Jake Lamb, aged 9, of Charles Kingsley School, Hampshire.

Involving

AWAKENING PUBLIC INTEREST IN, AND APPRECIATION OF, THE BEST OF VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN ARTS, ARCHITECTURE, CRAFTS AND DESIGN

A focus for special people

The Victorian Society provides a focus for everyone interested in Victorian and Edwardian architecture and related arts. We maintain our loyal base of almost 3,300 members who support us by happily paying annual subscriptions, contributing £74,000 to our conservation and educational work in 2006. While the number of members has remained constant over recent years, with a low 'churn' rate, we are always considering ways to attract more, while retaining the ones we have got. We conducted a postal survey of members to which an amazing 16% responded, and during 2007 we will analyse the responses and consider what actions we might take as a result.

Engaging the public is about a lot more than just money, but financial contributions are one indicator of support for our work. 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. In 2006, Gift Aid added £19,283 to our funds. Our appeal to restore our headquarters raised over £74,000 since 2004.

Last year we reported that we had been notified that we were a beneficiary, jointly with the Georgian Group, in an art collection bequeathed by Eliot Hodgkin subject to the interest of a life tenant. We are thrilled to report that the life tenant generously decided to release her interest in the collection, most of which was sold at Christie's during the year, and brought us a net total of £169,980. The Society's trustees are carefully considering how best to apply this income in support of our charitable aims.

Legacy income is vital to the funding of special projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. That's why we need people to remember us when writing their wills. If you would like to support our work by joining, making a donation, or remembering us in your will, please telephone 020 8747 5890.

Volunteering

We recognise that individual circumstances may prevent people getting more actively involved in the Society, and are very grateful that they choose to support us financially instead. But donations of time and expertise are very valuable to us. As the expert voice of the community on Victorian and Edwardian architecture, we rely on volunteers around the country for their specialist knowledge and their willingness to help get things done.

Volunteers are central to our work. They contribute their expertise by assessing applications for listed building consent in our buildings committees, they organise our educational programme and as trustees they oversee the strategic direction and day-to-day operation of the Society. They are also invaluable event stewards, letter-stuffers, stamp-fixers and washer-uppers. Thanks to the Hounslow Volunteer Bureau, we have recruited helpers from outside the membership of the Society, some of whom go on to join. Our committee members alone contribute well over 900 hours of free advice a year, and there are many days when the volunteers in the office outnumber the staff. This work, together with those organising events for us, comes to many more hundred hours a year. In 2007 we will work on further measures to help quantify volunteer input.



Above: Residents turned out in force to show their support for the restoration of Kentish Town baths at our memory day and market stall. Camden Council have since voted to spend over £25 million to restore the baths complex.

Right: Bonner Street School, London. This fine but unlisted example of a Victorian board school was demolished to make way for a playground and five car parking spaces. It's hard to believe this could happen, but it did. The demolition picture is on page 11.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Supporting local campaigners

As well as our own work, we also want to help people fight their own campaigns to save the buildings they value. In this way, our 'national community' can help support local ones. We do this by providing advice and support through our Community Engagement Project and, where appropriate, we work directly with local people on their campaigns: 'capacity building' in vogueish government parlance. We have written advice on how to mount campaigns and how to get buildings spot-listed, and we know from feedback that people find this guide more user-friendly than the official published advice. One example: our involvement with Bonner Street School in London helped draw national press and media attention to the campaign waged by local residents against its demolition, and we were very pleased that Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, mentioned it (as well as the campaign to save Kentish Town Baths) in his speech to launch the 2006 *Heritage Counts*.

As part of the redesign of our website in 2007, we plan to review our guidance notes with the aim of making them easier to find and even easier to use. We will also be able to monitor the number of times they are consulted.

Contributing a national context

We also try to support local people by helping to put their campaigns for Victorian and Edwardian buildings in a national context. In 2006 we concentrated on swimming pools and schools, organising two major national

conferences, *Making a Splash: the National Pool Campaigners' Conference* and *Learning from the Past: the future of historic school buildings*, both of which drew on individual campaigns to put the issues on the national stage. They also provided an opportunity for campaigners to meet each other and share their experiences. Reports of both conferences are available on our website. We also devoted issues of our magazine, *The Victorian*, to these subjects; pools in July 2006 and schools in March 2007. In 2007 we plan to continue our campaign for Victorian and Edwardian schools against the background of the government's *Building Schools for the Future* capital investment programme which favours new buildings over refurbished ones.

We will also consider new campaigns focusing on threats to the heritage arising from the disposal of public assets such as former town halls, hospitals and asylums.

Letting people know what's going on

We know that many people place a high value on the Victorian and Edwardian buildings around them. But they often find out about threats once it's too late to save a building, or they wrongly assume that they're a minority in caring. That's why it's so important to publicise campaigns to save these buildings, whether led by us or other groups. As soon as people hear about the threats to one building, half a dozen similar cases come to light. We have helped many people with advice on gaining media

attention and writing press releases, helped by our own experience. Our campaign to save Undershaw in Surrey, the home of Arthur Conan Doyle, shows how press coverage can kick start a campaign, drawing letters of objection from around the world. As well as the local press, it generated a full page article in the *Guardian*, mentions in all the national papers as well as articles in papers as far afield as *Pravda* and *Il Giornale* (Milan). In 2006, we issued over 70 press releases, leading to over 280 articles in both national and local newspapers mentioning our campaigns, and we made several appearances on television and radio.

We also held two 'Memory Days' in connection with the campaign to save Kentish Town Baths, London, during which we asked local people for their thoughts about the building. Having spent an afternoon at the baths and a whole day on a stall at the local street market, we were exhilarated at the level of support for the building. It proved to be an issue contributing to the overthrow of the council at the local elections. We plan to continue developing our relationships with journalists and working on other ways of attracting public attention to our campaigns.

It is much to the credit of English Heritage that they understood the importance of our Community Engagement Project, and we are very pleased that they will contribute half its funding up to a maximum of £17,000 a year until 2009. The project will be reviewed before the grant expires.

Educating

ENCOURAGING THE STUDY OF VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN ARCHITECTURE AND OF RELATED SOCIAL HISTORY

ADVISING OWNERS AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE PRESERVATION AND REPAIR OF VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN BUILDINGS AND THE USES TO WHICH THEY CAN, IF NECESSARY, BE ADAPTED





Left: Abbey House Hotel on the outskirts of Barrow, designed by *Edwin Lutyens* originally as a residence for the chairman of Vickers Engineering. Our base for a long weekend looking around Furness and South Lakes, organised by David Crellin, our former Northern Architectural Adviser who tragically died a week before the event. Thanks to his meticulous arrangements, the trip went ahead and was held in his memory.

Opposite: Stephen Humphrey leads a group on a walk around Southwark and Borough entitled *From Hats to Hops, to say nothing of Coal Hole Covers* in August 2006. Part of our educational programme, which also raises money to support the Society's conservation work.

We believe that the better people understand their Victorian and Edwardian heritage, the more they will value and seek to look after it. Our education programme includes walks, visits, lectures and conferences, many of which are organised by our regional groups, on an astonishing variety of subjects. Unfortunately limitation of space precludes us from mentioning all of them.

Lectures, conferences and study days

Our winter lecture series was on the architecture of the 1860s, continuing our decade by decade architectural progress through the reign of Queen Victoria, while in the autumn series organised by Andrew Saint and Teresa Sladen was on *Late Victorian and Edwardian Churches*. Dr Geoff Brandwood, our Chairman, proved he could organise a very successful study day in a brewery with *From Hop to Hostelry: the brewing and licensed trades 1837-1914*, while Dr Sue Berry led a day on *The Victorian and Edwardian Seaside*. Our Great Eastern Group organised a study day on *Victorian and Edwardian Suburbs* in Cambridge. Dr Martin Cherry gave this year's *Brian Allison Memorial Lecture*, organised by our Leicester Group, on the subject of Ewan Christian. As part of our campaigns, we also organised two national conferences: *Making a Splash*, to help establish a national network for pool campaigners; and *Learning from the Past*, exploring the future of historic school buildings in the face of the government's massive school building programme. There were many other lectures too numerous to mention

Visits

One of the highlights of the events programme was annual general meeting weekend in Llandudno, Britain's best preserved Victorian seaside resort, organised by Geoff Brandwood, Graham Fisher and Peter Howell. It was part of our *Holiday at Home* series of events designed to highlight the continuing delights of Victorian and Edwardian seaside resorts. This included excellent

weekends in Scarborough and Great Yarmouth expertly led by Dr Kathryn Ferry, our Senior Architectural Adviser. The series also included a trip to look at churches in Bournemouth led by Dr Simon Bradley, walks round Brighton and Hove led by Dr Sue Berry and around Eastbourne led by Richard Crook, not to mention the Liverpool Group's trip to Southport, led by Nick Roe, and Manchester Group's day trip to Blackpool with Peter De Figuereido.

Our planned weekend in Furness and the South Lakes was overshadowed by the untimely death of its organiser, David Crellin, a stalwart of our Events Committee and formerly our Northern and Welsh Architectural Adviser, but David's meticulous planning meant that Geoff Brandwood was able to take it over at the last minute and transform it into a memorial event. Other day trips were to the Derwent Valley Mills; Leek and Cheddleton led by Nick Roe; and to Bolton, looking at Lord Leverhulme's influence on its development, led by Michael Shippobottom and Matthew Hyde.

There were too many other events to mention, but some of the other visits and walks included: Paddington Station, Stonyhurst College, Caldey Island, the Speaker's House at the Palace of Westminster, Woodford Green, Birmingham, Streatham, Brompton Cemetery, Smithfield, Sheffield city centre, Richmond, Mapesbury, Southwark and Borough. Many of these were organised by our regional groups. In 2006 the Society held 39 individual lectures, six study days, five weekends away, nine day trips and 39 visits or walks, a total of 98 events or on average two events per week around the country.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help expand the range and quality of our events programme. Please contact Jane Jephcote, our Events Administrator, on 020 8747 5895 or email events@victoriansociety.org.uk.

Encouraging the next generation of experts

Our network of experts is important to us, which is why we offer free membership of

the Society to students registered for MPhil or PhD degrees on topics related to Victorian and Edwardian architecture. We want to be aware of current research in the field and give new scholars opportunities to disseminate their research to a wider audience. Current or former beneficiaries have lectured for us, organised visits and written articles for our magazine. At the end of 2006 we had 12 students registered under this scheme, many of whom were well advanced in their degrees. We hope to recruit a new crop in 2007 with a renewed publicity campaign, and we will consider extending the scheme to include students registered at institutions outside the United Kingdom.

The Victorian

We published three issues of our magazine, *The Victorian*, in 2006, edited by Liz Robinson. In March we asked whether the Victorian terraced house was again an endangered species, considering the government's *Pathfinder* programme of housing market renewal. In July, we looked at the history and future of Victorian and Edwardian swimming pools, and published a depressing survey of the state of listed pools in England: neglect by their owners (generally local authorities) was most often to blame for the appalling result. In November we took off to the seaside, trying to pin down just what it is that makes Victorian and Edwardian seaside resorts so special.

Advice to homeowners

We provide information to owners of Victorian and Edwardian houses about how they can better look after them through our publications, the *Care for Victorian Houses* series of booklets and the *Victorian Society Book of the Victorian House*. In 2006, we sold 892 booklets (1117 in 2005) and 513 copies of the book (657 in 2005). In 2007 we reduced substantially the price of the complete set of 9 booklets, leading to sales of 641 booklets in the first quarter alone.

Financial review

Income and expenditure

Income for the year was £489,315 in comparison with £309,971 for the previous year, an increase of 58%. The principal reason for the increase was the Society's share of proceeds of the Eliot Hodgkin bequest, amounting to £169,980. Excluding legacies, income for the year would have increased by 5%. Subscription income at £74,187 was about the same as the previous year. Donations at £25,032 were down by 5.2%, but members responded very generously to the Society's third appeal for funds to meet the cost of the external repair work on the Society's headquarters in Priory Gardens. Grants at £57,177 were up by 30.6% this year as a result of the revised grant from English Heritage which includes a contribution to the Society's Community Engagement Project. Gift Aid at £19,283, 3.8% down on last year, makes a valuable contribution to the Society's finances and we would encourage all members who have yet to complete a Gift Aid form in favour of the Society to do so. Income from educational events and publications at £106,648 was up by 2.3% principally as a result of higher income from the programme of events. Investment income showed a return of 3.1% on the Society's long term investments and a return of 4.5% on its short term deposits.

Excluding legacy income and other one-off items, total income on a comparable basis rose by 6.6%, primarily due to the effect of the increase in grant income.

Expenditure for the year was £315,411 in comparison with £394,616 for 2005, a decrease of 20%. The reason for the decrease was the one-off cost of major repairs to the Society's headquarters at

Priory Gardens in 2005. Excluding this, expenditure on a like for like basis increased by 1.9% in 2006. Staff costs account for nearly 50% of total costs and at £153,639 showed an increase of 1.3% in the year. This increase was below the level of the pay award during the year as a result of staff changes. The proportion of expenditure accounted for by charitable expenditure was over 96%, showing how efficiently the charity operates.

Taking into account income and expenditure, the Society realised a surplus of £173,904 for the year before unrealised gains on investments. This compares with a deficit of £84,645 in 2005. On a like for like basis, excluding one-off factors, there was a deficit of £18,013 for the year in comparison with a deficit of £30,758 in 2005.

We were pleased to see a further improvement in the value of the Society's investments this year by £6,143.

Overall the result for the year was a little better than our expectations. The Society continues to face a considerable challenge in raising sufficient recurring income to meet its recurring level of expenditure. There is no indication that the threats facing the Victorian and Edwardian built environment are likely to diminish and accordingly the Society must maintain and even increase its level of effort. Securing the funding necessary for this will not be easy.

It has been the Society's policy that legacy income is not 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 is in the process of evaluating how the Hodgkin bequest will be dealt with. 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 Society's investment policy for each fund is to seek to earn a good rate of return on its investments consistent with any obligations the Society has on each of the funds, as well as the requirements of liquidity management and wishing to accept limited financial risk. 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 29.4% increase during the year. This is largely the impact of the income from the Hodgkin bequest.

Fixed assets decreased by 3.6% as depreciation exceeded the cost of additions for the year. Fixed assets include our property at Priory Gardens used as the Society's offices. The market value of these premises is estimated to exceed substantially the book value in these financial statements. No formal valuation has been obtained since this would incur expenditure out of proportion to its benefit. The increase in fixed asset investments of 10.1% is due to an



Above: Bonner Street School, London. Despite the best efforts of local campaigners, nothing could be done to save it from demolition. This loss has energised campaigners for schools around the country, and we hope it will be more difficult for such things to happen in the future.

increase in their value during the year. Net current assets increased by 40.7% as a result of the Hodgkin bequest which is or is in the process of being invested in short term deposits.

For the Society to function successfully, it must maintain an adequate level of unrestricted reserves (ie available for the general purposes of the Society) that can be used to finance its day to day operations and provide a precautionary reserve in case of fluctuations in the future level of income. The Trustees consider it prudent that the level of precautionary reserve should not be less than six months' expected future expenditure plus an allowance for property refurbishment. At 31 December 2006 and excluding the proceeds of the Hodgkin bequest (since the Society has not yet concluded how this will be utilised) the Society's unrestricted cash and funds on short term deposit were £17,000 greater than this computed level of precautionary reserve (2005: £4,000). The excess fluctuates from time to time and the Trustees are presently satisfied that no further action is necessary.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

Legal regulations require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities for the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting

standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees confirm that, as far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware and that each trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

Recent changes in charity law mean that the Society would be entitled to dispense with the requirement to appoint auditors and instead to commission an independent examination of its accounts. This would require approval by the Society's members. Pending the trustees' decision whether to recommend this to members, a resolution proposing that Derek Rothera & Company be re-appointed as auditors will be put to the annual general meeting.



Structure, governance and management

Structure

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

Governance

The Society is managed by a Board of Trustees. The trustees are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act. Each Trustee has a designated executive or non-executive role. All trustees are required to be members of the Society. Trustees are recruited on the basis of skills needs identified by the Board of Trustees. A variety of methods is used to identify suitable candidates. Trustees are elected by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting normally for a term of office of 3 years. Trustees are automatically eligible for re-election for one further consecutive term and, if the Board of Trustees so approves their candidature, are eligible for re-election to further consecutive terms of office. The Board of Trustees has the power to co-opt members during the year but these members must stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.

Trustees are given an induction pack on joining the Board and are encouraged to identify gaps in their knowledge, which

are then addressed by briefings or other training delivered to some or all of the trustees as appropriate. The role of each trustee is defined in a job description.

Management

The Board of Trustees comprises 10 members and meets formally six times a year. Members of the Board individually or in small groups also act to take forward the Society's plans. Day to day management of the Society is delegated to the Director who attends meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Society benefits from a Northern and a Southern Buildings Committee of experts who meet to advise the Society on architectural and casework matters.

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.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

on 21 April 2007 and signed on its behalf

by Dr Geoff Brandwood, Chair

Above: Kentish Town Baths, London. Threatened with permanent closure, the efforts of local people combined with the campaigning expertise of the Victorian Society helped convince the council to restore the building instead.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006**

	Total 2006	Total 2005
INCOMING RESOURCES		
From generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Subscriptions	74,187	74,830
Donations	25,032	26,409
Grants	57,177	43,776
Gift Aid	19,283	20,053
Legacies	169,980	6,000
Investment income		
Dividends	2,014	1,885
Rental income	9,000	9,000
Interest	22,066	21,011
From charitable activities		
Educational events and publications	106,648	104,289
Other	3,928	2,718
Total incoming resources	489,315	309,971
EXPENDED RESOURCES		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Fundraising costs	5,900	7,906
Cost of charitable activities		
Architectural conservation	169,945	225,631
Education	134,244	153,979
Governance costs	5,322	7,100
Total resources expended	315,411	394,616
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfer	173,904	(84,645)
Transfers	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	6,143	8,329
Net movement of funds	180,047	(76,316)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Balance brought forward 1 January	611,358	687,674
Balance carried forward 31 December	791,405	611,358

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2006**

	Total 2006	Total 2005
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		
	118,214	122,664
INVESTMENTS		
	67,037	60,894
	<u>185,251</u>	<u>183,558</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of publications	9,726	10,199
Debtors	19,638	17,389
Investments	575,316	412,938
Cash in bank and in hand	60,838	26,619
	<u>665,518</u>	<u>467,145</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year:	51,844	30,960
NET CURRENT ASSETS	613,674	436,185
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	798,925	619,743
LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due after one year	7,520	8,385
NET ASSETS	791,405	611,358
Represented by:		
FUNDS		
Unrestricted	448,022	274,514
Restricted	276,346	275,950
Endowment	67,037	60,894
TOTAL FUNDS	791,405	611,358

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 April 2007 and signed on its behalf by Geoff Brandwood (Chair) and Andrew Coleman (Finance Trustee).

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

We confirm that the information contained in the summary financial statement on page 13 is taken from the audited annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2006 and includes details relating to both the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet.

The audited accounts were approved by the trustees on 21 April 2007 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.

Dr Geoff Brandwood (Chair)
Andrew Coleman (Finance Trustee)
21 April 2007

Auditors' Statement on Summary Financial Information for the Victorian Society

We have examined the summary financial statement of the Victorian Society on page 13. This statement is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 251 of the Companies Act 1985. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in such a statement and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our work, for this statement, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and auditors

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Victorian Society for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement with the full annual financial statements, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of section 251 of the Companies Act 1985 and the regulations made thereunder. We also read the other information contained in the Trustees' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our examination in accordance with 'The auditors statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom. Our report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our audit opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full annual financial statements of The Victorian Society for the year ended 31 December 2006 and complies with the applicable requirements of section 251 of the Companies Act 1985 and the regulations made thereunder.

Derek Rothera & Co
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
Units 15&16, 7 Wenlock Road, London N1 7SL
Date: 21 April 2007



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Mr S G Turner & Household
Canon W J Turner
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Mr R J W Utley
The Lady Vaizey
Mr J E Vaughan
Mr M J Vaughan
Dr W Vekeman
Mr P Velluet
Mr & Mrs M Venn
Mrs P A Venvil
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Victorian Society in America
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Professor D M Walker OBE
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Mrs V R Wallace
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Mr & Mrs D Warrell
Mr P B Warr
Dr T Watanabe
Mrs S Watchorn
Dame Rachel Waterhouse
Mr F Watkinson
Mr A G Watson
Mr M Watson
Mr M Webber & Household
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Mr B H Wildt-Meyboom
Mrs M Wilford
Mr R L Wilkins
Reverend J I Willett
Mr C Willey
Mr & Mrs D R Williams
Mr F Williams
Mr N Williams
Ms E A Williamson & Dr M Higgs
Mr M K Williamson
Mr O T Williams
Mr P & Mrs J E Williams
The Reverend Canon J R Williams
Mr & Mrs R Williams
Mrs E R Willis
Ms D Willment
Mr D J Wills
Mr A Wilson
Mr H W C Wilson
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Mrs M Wilson
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Ms D A Woodman
Mr & Mrs R Wood
Mr D J Woodruff
Mr R Woolnough
Dr R M Woolls
Miss V Worthington
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Mr F B Wright
Mr G J B Wright
Ms G Wright
Mr P A B Wright
Mrs A P Wrigley
Mr & Mrs A B Wyand
Mrs I Yates
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