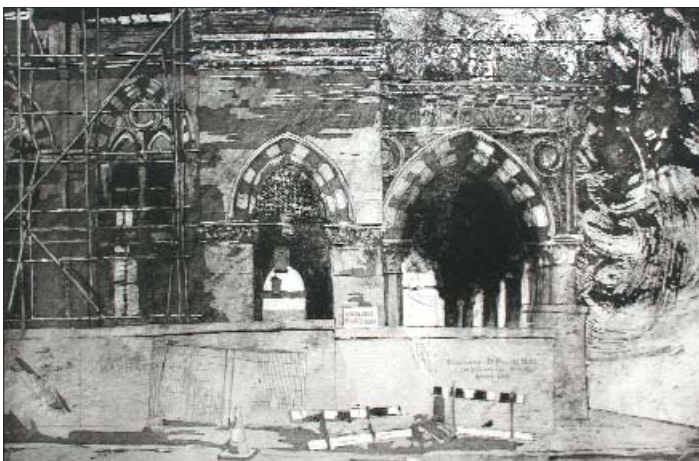
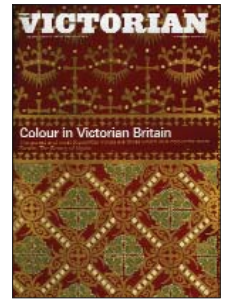
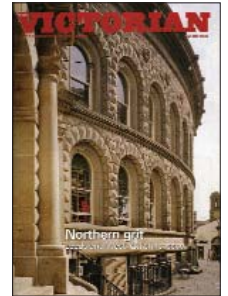
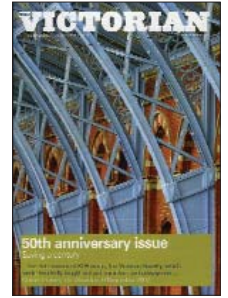




**THE VICTORIAN
SOCIETY**

Summary Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008



Top left: Ian Dungavell at Batley Baths, Leeds, having completed the first part of our 1,000 year swim campaign to highlight the importance of historic pools around the country.
Top right: We published three issues of *The Victorian* during the year.
Above: At our 50th birthday exhibition, Jane Fawcett explains some of the Society's early achievements to our Patron, HRH the Duke of Gloucester.
Above left: Our President, Lord Briggs, gave a special lecture at the Royal Institute of British Architects, London, to mark the Society's 50th birthday.
Left: The Society commissioned a limited edition print of St Pancras Chambers from Alan Powers to mark our 50th birthday.

The Victorian Society
1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London W4 1TT

Patron
HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO

President
Lord Briggs of Lewes

Vice Presidents
Sir David Cannadine
Simon Jenkins
Griff Rhys Jones

Trustees
Dr Colin Cunningham, Chair
Dr Sue Berry, Membership (resigned 26 July 2008)
Andrew Coleman, Vice Chair, and Finance
Kate Davey, Legal
Alasdair Glass, Non-executive
Rosemary Hill, Non-executive
Stephen Johnston, Fundraising (resigned 8 September 2008)
Dr David Low, Non-executive
Ken Moth, Casework
Steve Roman, Membership (elected 26 July 2008)
Roy Williams CB, Non-executive

Regional Group Chairs
Birmingham Stephen Hartland
Leicester Jon Goodall
Liverpool Graham Fisher
Manchester Edward Livesey
South Wales Elaine Davey
South Yorkshire Valerie Bayliss CB
West Yorkshire Peter Hirschmann

Events Committee
Michael Hall, Chairman
Dr Geoff Brandwood
Dr Steven Brindle
Maya Donelan
Dr Kathryn Ferry
Yvonne Pines
Jane Wainwright OBE
Michael Whitaker

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
Mark Watson

Southern Buildings Committee
John Scott, Chairman
Dr Steven Brindle
Dr Timothy Brittain-Catlin
Humphry Crum Ewing
Dr Edward Diestelkamp
Dr Brent Elliott
David Evans
Dr William Filmer-Sankey
Alec Forshaw
Maggie Goodall
Elain Harwood
Peter Howell
Charles Lawrence
Beverley Mogford
Brian Morton MBE
Mark Price
Professor Andrew Saint
Teresa Sladen

Staff
Director Dr Ian Dungavell
Conservation Advisers
Alex Baldwin, North East, East and London
Tim Bridges, Birmingham and West Midlands
Heloise Brown, South and South West, and London
David Garrard, Historic Churches Adviser (to 23 January 2009)
Kristian Kaminski, North West, West and Wales, and London (from 4 March 2009)
Community Engagement Officer Ann Morgan (to 7 October 2008)
Campaigns Officer Katie Gunning (from 1 December 2008)
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 and 16, 7 Wenlock Road, London N1 7SL

Registered Charity No 1081435
Company Registration No 3940996

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.

In 2008 we marked the 50th birthday of the Victorian Society with a year of celebrations around the country. We acquired three new Vice-Presidents as ambassadors for our work. We advised on hundreds of proposals to alter or demolish listed buildings. Over 85,000 people visited our website, and we took over 3,000 bookings for 50 events, without counting those organised by our regional groups.

Our strength still today is how we unite experts and enthusiasts convinced of the worth of conserving Victorian and Edwardian architecture for the future. Volunteers contributed countless hours to our many activities: organising and leading events, writing for our magazine and journal, giving lectures, keeping our regional groups running smoothly, not to mention as trustees and members of our buildings committees.

While the major monuments of Victorian and Edwardian architecture now seem safe or, at any rate, much safer than they were fifty years ago, many fine buildings remain in danger of neglect or outright destruction. The commemorative medal struck on the Society's 25th anniversary stated: 'The Battle Is Not Yet Won'. As our campaigns to save schools, swimming pools and Victorian terraced houses remind us, that is still the case today.

Dr Colin Cunningham, Chairman
Dr Ian Dungavell, Director



Right: We pursued our objections to the removal of the font by William Burges from St Peter's Church, Draycott, all the way to the Court of Arches. Thanks to David Garrard and Mark Blackett-Ord, permission was refused.



Celebrating

We made sure that nobody could forget it was our 50th birthday in 2008.

The celebrations kicked off around the country in February with simultaneous competitive dinners and toasts: a glamorous group dined al fresco on the steps of the Albert Memorial in London, an impressive array of puddings was consumed in the Douglas railway station on the Isle of Man, and over 300 people sat down to a three-course meal in EW Pugin's Gorton Monastery in Manchester, while a 'temperance toast' and fast was held outside the former Thomas Cook Hotel in Leicester.

Our 'Saving a century' exhibition opened in May at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London, and is now travelling to a number of regional venues. Curated by Gavin Stamp, it presents a photographic overview of the buildings we have fought for over the years. Every member of the Society received a copy of the

commemorative catalogue, which was also available free at the exhibition venues. All this was made possible by a generous bequest from Eliot Hodgkin.

Our patron, the Duke of Gloucester, was our special guest at Lord Briggs's lecture on *Three Jubilees* held at the RIBA in May. Our Birmingham and West Midlands Group organised a high-profile study day on Victorian heritage in Birmingham at the Council House in January, while in May we held *Saving the Victorians*, a residential weekend conference in Oxford in association with the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education which was oversubscribed.

The big celebration was part of our annual general meeting weekend in July, our largest ever, when three coach-loads of members visited Leeds and West Yorkshire, the programme organised by Colin Cunningham and our West Yorkshire Group. A gala dinner was held in Leeds

Town Hall, one of the most striking Victorian buildings in the country, with the Lord Mayor of Leeds as our special guest and Gavin Stamp our speaker.

We also commissioned a commemorative limited edition etching and aquatint of St Pancras Chambers by Alan Powers, the subject chosen in recognition of our long but ultimately successful campaign for the building. A few copies are still available.

In December, the London Society invited our director to give their annual Banister Fletcher lecture at the Royal Society as their contribution to our 50th birthday celebrations. His topic was 'London as it might have been', that is, without the Victorian Society.

'Above: Thanks to a generous bequest from Eliot Hodgkin, our 'Saving a century' commemorative exhibition was mounted in 2008 at the Royal Institute of British Architects, London, and is still touring the country.

Conserving

'Saving from needless destruction or disfigurement Victorian and Edwardian buildings or groups of buildings of special architectural merit'

5003 listed building consent applications received
2066 identified as our period
445 detailed responses made

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 them 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 and directions by the Secretary of State* (ODPM Circular 01/2001) 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 advice into account, but they are not obliged to follow it. 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 conservation advisers, our buildings committees and other specialists to bear on each case to deliver considered responses which draw on an exceptional breadth of knowledge.

We employ three full-time conservation advisers based in London, but we rely on volunteers around the country for a great deal of our work. A legacy from Mary Heath, a former member, enables us to employ a Birmingham and West Midlands Conservation Adviser for three days per week to work alongside volunteers in that area. Our regional groups in Birmingham, Leeds and Leicester respond to applications for listed building consent in



Above: Rowan Roenisch explains why our Leicester Group took to the streets to marshal support for Thomas Cook's Temperance Hotel in Leicester.

their areas, buoyed by considerable local knowledge.

We would like to thank Rowan Roenisch who stepped down after many years as the honorary caseworker for our Leicester Group. We have benefited greatly from her energy and expertise over the years, and the care she took to involve other group members means that she leaves Leicester group casework in strong form. Early in 2009 our Historic Churches Adviser David Garrard left us to join the heritage protection team at English Heritage and we welcomed in his place Kristian Kaminski, who came to us from the London Borough of Lambeth where he was a senior conservation and urban design officer. We took the opportunity to reassign casework territories, meaning that we have now split England and Wales into three and our conservation advisers now cover both secular and ecclesiastical buildings.

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*.



Far left: St John the Baptist, Tidebrook. This view will be obscured by an ugly access balcony.
Left: St Mary of Eton, Hackney Wick, will have a stylish modern extension.
Above: Looking to the future: Greening your Victorian house.
Below left: Thanks to a generous bequest from Eliot Hodgkin, a new archive store replaced our ruinous asbestos garage (below far left).



The sorts of proposals on which we often find ourselves commenting include

- demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas
 - redundancies of churches, schools, pools, hospitals and town halls and subsequent neglect or alteration
 - church extensions, re-orderings and subdivisions
- as well as making spot listing requests for unlisted buildings.

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 2008 we received 5,003 notifications of proposals for works to listed buildings (5,292 in 2007). Of these 2,066 related to Victorian or Edwardian buildings (2,107 in 2007), and we gave detailed responses to 445 (346 in 2007).

We receive a grant towards our statutory casework from English Heritage, which has recently committed funding until March 2012. However there is no allowance for inflation and we are concerned that future government spending cuts may affect our grant when we next apply. We had planned in 2008 to begin investigating ways in which we may better report on the outcomes and impact

of our conservation advice. Though we made no progress on this, it is now a condition of our new English Heritage grant and we look forward to working with them on this task.

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 as 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, is also Secretary of the Joint Committee.

Once again the draft Heritage Protection Bill took up much of our time. Ian Dungavell spoke on whether the Bill would make it easier for the public to engage in heritage issues at *The Future of Heritage Protection: Understanding the new*

proposals conference at Bircham Dyson Bell LLP London. He also participated in a Heritage Bill debate for Montagu Evans LLP and spoke about its implications for the national amenity societies at an Archaeology Forum conference at the Society of Antiquaries in October. He drafted evidence for the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's inquiry into the Draft Heritage Protection Bill on behalf of the Joint Committee. After all that it was disappointing that the Government dropped the Bill from its legislative programme. It is now a matter of seeing what progress can be made without the need for primary legislation.

Coping with e-planning

We have once again been closely involved in the Department of Communities and Local Government *e-Consultation Hub* Statutory Consultees Group to make sure as best we can that the new hub will suit our needs. We provided many suggestions about how it could be improved, and it was promised that these would be incorporated in the final release of the system due to launch in the middle of 2008. We volunteered to participate in a trial but all went quiet at the DCLG as they concentrated on signing up larger consultees and local authorities. We hope that progress may be made in 2009.

Involving



Awakening public interest in, and appreciation of, the best of Victorian and Edwardian arts, architecture, crafts and design

3,323 members

86,132 people visit our website

1,209 downloads of our factsheet on listed buildings

371 press articles covering our campaigns

100 book reviewers in our magazine 2005-8

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 3,323 members (3,276 in 2007). 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.

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 2008, Gift Aid added £22,052 (£19,340 in 2007) to our funds.

Legacies are also tremendously important. Last year we reported on the generous legacy from Eliot Hodgkin which has enabled us to do a number of otherwise impossible things. We replaced our decaying asbestos garage with a new archive store designed to the high specification everyone would expect next to our Grade II-listed building and in the Bedford Park Conservation Area. As well as attracting much favourable comment from all who have seen it, the value it has added to our property shows it also to be a good investment. The Hodgkin bequest also allows us to underwrite the publication of our journal for up to three years without an impact on subscription rates. We published the first issue in October 2008. Our 50th anniversary exhibition, also funded by the Hodgkin bequest, is described elsewhere.

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. In 2009 we will launch a legacy campaign with a leaflet to all members.

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 volunteers in the office outnumber the staff. This work, together with those organising events for us, comes to many more hundred hours a year.

Community Engagement: Supporting local campaigners

As well as our own work, we also want to help people fight their own campaigns to value 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 vogue in government parlance. We have helped many local campaigners with media advice, campaigning tips and link-building between their campaigns and other organisations. Some of this is available in the campaign guide on our website – for example, 1,209 people read our factsheet on listed buildings, 675 on conservation areas and 465 our campaigning guide – but a lot is done individually.

Community Engagement: 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. One campaign that did just this in 2008 was

the *1000 year swim* which highlighted the very few listed Victorian and Edwardian pools in which it is still possible to swim. If maintaining its original use helps to maintain a building's historic significance, then keeping swimming going at our historic pools is an important part of their conservation. During the campaign Ian Dungavell, our director, swam a lap in each listed pool for each year the pool had been open, a total of 1,543 laps or just over 22 miles, the equivalent of a channel swim. The event attracted much local and national media attention.

In 2009 we plan to work with the Churches Conservation Trust to involve local people in discussions about future uses for All Souls, Haley Hill, Halifax. We will develop other campaigning opportunities as they arise.

Community Engagement: 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.

For the second time, our top ten endangered buildings campaign provided people with an opportunity to tell us of buildings at risk they were concerned about. Some were already the subject of local campaigns, while others needed our efforts to highlight their plight.

In 2008, we issued 117 press releases (117 in 2007), leading to over 371 articles in both national and local newspapers mentioning our campaigns (over 392 in 2007), and we made several appearances on television and radio, in particular relating to our *1,000 year swim* campaign.

We plan to continue developing our relationships with journalists and working on other ways of attracting public attention to our campaigns. Unfortunately our grant for this project is being phased out, meaning a reduction from £17,000 for 2008/9 to nil in 2012. The project will be reviewed before the grant expires. We are always on the lookout for alternative sources of funding.

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



100 events in 2008, organised by volunteers
3,027 bookings taken for events
1,198 visitors to our 1000 year swim website
8,850 downloads of our decorative tiles factsheet

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 Victorian buildings that changed the world, organised by Steven Brindle and Kathryn Ferry, and was enormously popular just like the buildings themselves. The autumn series was on the 1870s, organised by Michael Hall. Kathryn Ferry organised a symposium on provincial architects, which has since been turned into a book, published in memory of our former architectural adviser, David Crellin. Other lectures included Joseph Sharples on Culshaw & Sumners, Robert Thorne on the Forth Bridge and Kathryn Ferry on Owen Jones. We also hosted four supper lectures in our office: George Audsley by Joseph Mirwitch; Brunel as architect by Steven Brindle, Inside London's Victorian Pubs by Geoff Brandwood; and Lewis F

Day by Joan Maria Hansen. A convivial atmosphere is assured by Maya Donelan's excellent food.

Visits

One of the highlights of the events programme was a long weekend in his native Lancashire by Steven Brindle, with Geoff Brandwood showing us some of the masterpieces by Paley and Austin. There was also a weekend away on the Devon/Dorset borders organised by Michael Whitaker and Stephen Johnston.

Some of the other visits and walks included our second Water Industry trip led by Steven Brindle; 'Springtime on Bredon' led by Alan Brooks; a day in North-West



Essex led by Michael Pearson and James Bettley, a day looking at Guy Dawber in the Cotswolds led by Michael Whitaker; a day out in Berkshire led by Geoffrey Tyack; Dolgellau with Julian Orbach; Little Germany in Bradford with Chris Hammond; three London hospital chapels; many London churches; Victorian sports facilities in Harborne; Fleetwood; Watts & Co.; Kensal Green Cemetery; Bedford Park; the Bethesda Methodist chapel in Stoke on Trent; Doncaster; and Chester. Many of these were organised by our regional groups.

In 2008 the Society held at least 40 individual lectures (40 in 2007), 4 study days (5), 4 weekends away (4), 7 day trips (9) and 45 visits or walks (49), a total of 100 events (107) or on average two events per week around the country. We processed over 3027 bookings for events (2615 in 2007), not including regional group events or 'turn up on the day' events.

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 2008 we had 10 (9 in 2007) students registered under this scheme, many of whom were well advanced in their degrees.

We have also offered free membership for a trial period to students enrolled on the Conservation of the Historic Environment course at the College of Estate Management. By doing this we hope to increase awareness among future professionals about the Victorian Society and what we do. We have 23 students registered under this scheme.

The Victorian

We published three issues of our magazine, *The Victorian*, in 2008, edited by

Left: Members enjoyed their visit to Halifax Town Hall during our Annual General Meeting weekend in July.
Below left: Edward Akroyd looks out from his position in front of All Souls, Haley Hill, Halifax. Another of the places visited during our Annual General Meeting weekend.
Below right: Leeds Town Hall was the venue for the special gala dinner celebrating the Society's first 50 years.
Far right top: Our new website has been launched, with pages for regional groups.
Far right middle: Thanks to a generous legacy from Dorothy Cathilda Fraser we were able to publish *The 1840s*, the first issue of our journal *Studies in Victorian architecture and design*.
Far right bottom: Members enjoying one of our events.

Liz Robinson. In March we celebrated with a 50th anniversary issue, including recollections by Mark Girouard and Jane Fawcett, as well as six members writing about buildings of particular importance in the life of the Society. In July, we celebrated *Northern grit*, looking at Leeds and West Yorkshire as the background to our 50th birthday AGM weekend. In November we looked at colour in Victorian Britain, as well as featuring the top ten most endangered buildings for 2008, and looking at what had happened to those on our 2007 list.

Studies in Victorian architecture and design

We published the first issue of our new journal in October. Intended to stimulate research in our field by providing a good outlet for original research, each issue will focus on a particular theme. In the first issue we began at the beginning with essays on aspects of architecture in the first full decade of the reign. In the next issue we will look at changing attitudes towards Victorian architecture in the twentieth century, while in 2010 the issue will cover late Victorian and Edwardian churches. This year we will seek members' views of the journal to see if and in what form it should continue.

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 2008, we sold 645 booklets (1,974 in 2007) and 26 copies of the book (39 in 2007). The *Victorian Society Book of the Victorian House* has now been republished in paperback at £20, meaning that our *Care for Victorian Houses* booklets are less competitively priced. As stocks diminish we plan to publish them on the website instead.

In 2008 our website attracted 86,132 individual visitors (89,088 in 2007). The most popular pages were those concerned with Victorian houses: tiles (8,850), fireplaces (8,654) and interior decoration (7,855) to name the top three. We launched a new, re-designed website in March 2009 which will enable regional groups to maintain their own pages, and we plan to increase the amount of content available.

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.

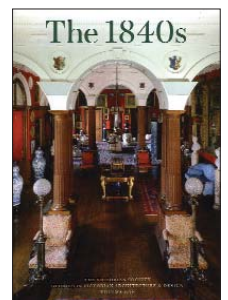
Trustees are given an induction pack on joining the Board and are encouraged to identify gaps in their knowledge, which are then addressed by briefings or other training delivered to some or all of the trustees as appropriate. The role of each trustee is defined in a job description.

Management

The Board of Trustees currently comprises nine 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.



Financial review

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Incoming resources	2008	2007	
	£,000	£,000	
Total incoming resources	396	492	Total income down by 19.5%
<i>Principal components:</i>			
Subscription income	106	96	Increase 10.6%
Grants	65	64	Increase 1.9%
Investment income	48	45	Increase 6.5%
Educational events and publications	138	111	Increase 24.4%
Donations	27	22	Increase 21.1%
Legacies	10	153	Decrease 93.5%

The increase in subscription income was largely due to an increase in subscription rates and a prior year element of Gift Aid recovery. Grant income from English Heritage and CADW was broadly constant. Investment income increased as a result of larger cash balances from legacies. Educational events continued to be very successful and increased as a result of the special events surrounding the Society's 50th anniversary. The increase in donations in 2008 was attributable to sponsorship income in connection with the Society's 50th anniversary. The decrease in legacy income reflected the exceptional level of legacies in 2007. Legacies are a vital source of income to the Society and allow us to undertake projects that would otherwise be unaffordable.

Excluding legacy income, which the trustees allocate for project funding, and after adjusting for one-off items, income on a recurring basis for 2008 was £352,000, an increase of 4.0% on 2007.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Outgoing resources	2008	2007	
	£,000	£,000	
Total outgoing resources	406	337	Total expenses up by 20.6%
<i>Principal components:</i>			
Architectural conservation	197	187	Increase 5.7%
Educational activities	196	138	Increase 42.2%
Fund raising and governance	13	12	Increase 5.3%

Expenditure on the Society's charitable activities of architectural conservation and education amounted to 97% of total expenditure for the year. The increases in both architectural conservation and educational activities year on year are primarily attributable to expenditure in connection with the Society's 50th anniversary but during the year the Society published the first of what it hopes will become a regular series of Journals.

Adjusting for one-off factors, expenditure on a recurring basis for 2008 was £345,000, an increase of 5.3% on 2007.

Taking into account the incoming and outgoing resources referred to above, the Society achieved the following outcome:

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Net movement in resources	2008	2007
	£,000	£,000
Deficit on recurring items	(8)	(7)
Annual fund appeal	15	17
Result on recurring items after annual fund appeal	7	10
Legacies (used for projects) and other non-recurring items	(18)	145
Net movement in resources before valuation adjustments	(11)	155

This shows how important the Annual Appeal is in bridging the gap between the Society's recurring expenditure and its recurring income.

Non-recurring costs are financed out of legacy income, including legacy income received in prior years. Legacy income also financed the production of the Journal.

BALANCE SHEET

Net assets	2008	2007	
	£,000	£,000	
Total net assets	919	947	Total net assets down by 3.0%
<i>Principal components:</i>			
Unrestricted fund			
Tangible fixed assets	186	113	Increase 65.6%
Short term deposits	397	333	Increase 19.1%
Other net assets	20	162	Decrease 87.8%
Restricted and endowment fund			
Investments and short term deposits	316	339	Decrease 6.8%

The decrease in net assets year on year is attributable to the deficit for the year and the loss on revaluation of equity investments at the year end.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds represent the Society's day to day operating finances. Overall unrestricted funds showed a small decline during the year. The increase in fixed assets is attributable to the cost of providing a very necessary archive store at Priory Gardens. The cost of this has been financed by the Hodgkin Bequest. The increase in short term deposits year on year reflects the receipt of the Hodgkin Bequest and the Holder Legacy in cash during the year. The decrease in other net assets is attributable to the reduction in debtors due to the receipt of the cash from the legacies.

Tangible fixed assets include the cost of the Society's freehold headquarters at 1 Priory Gardens. The market value of this property is estimated to exceed the cost by a substantial amount. No formal valuation has been obtained because this would incur expenditure out of proportion to its benefit.

For the Society to function successfully, it must maintain an adequate level of unrestricted reserves that can be used to finance the Society's 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 2008, and excluding the proceeds of legacies earmarked for future projects, the Society's cash and short term reserves were £46,000 in excess of this level (2007: £55,000). The excess fluctuates from time to time and the Trustees are presently satisfied that no further action is necessary.

Restricted and endowment funds

The restricted and endowment funds are invested so as to reflect the Society's obligations under 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 which should, over time, generate both a steady income and some capital growth. The restricted funds are invested in cash deposits. The decrease in the total of restricted and endowment funds during the year is a result of expenditure on restricted funds exceeding income for the year by £5,000 and a deficit of £17,000 on revaluation of the endowment fund investment portfolio. Whilst the revaluation deficit is unwelcome, the Society is not immune from the global fall in Stock Markets that has occurred over the past few months. The Society will continue to monitor the position carefully but is presently satisfied that the investment portfolio should continue to be maintained since this is intended to provide a long term inflation proofed return.

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

A resolution proposing that Derek Rothera & Company be re-appointed as auditors will be put to the annual general meeting.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 18 April 2009 and signed on its behalf by Dr Colin Cunningham, Chair



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	Total 2008	Total 2007
INCOMING RESOURCES		
From generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Subscriptions	106,335	96,140
Donations	26,624	21,993
Grants	64,935	63,742
Legacies	10,000	153,000
Investment income		
Dividends	2,459	2,105
Rental income	9,000	9,000
Interest	36,481	33,904
From charitable activities		
Educational events and publications	138,015	110,979
Other	1,780	868
Total incoming resources	395,629	491,731
EXPENDED RESOURCES		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Fundraising costs	6,257	6,142
Cost of charitable activities		
Architectural conservation	197,359	186,768
Education	195,956	137,757
Governance costs	6,736	6,191
Total resources expended	406,308	336,858
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfer	(10,679)	154,873
Transfers	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(17,493)	1,025
Net movement of funds	(28,172)	155,898
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Balance brought forward 1 January	947,303	791,405
Balance carried forward 31 December	£919,131	£947,303

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	Total 2008	Total 2007
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		
	186,459	112,597
INVESTMENTS		
	50,569	68,062
	<u>237,028</u>	<u>180,659</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of publications	7,820	9,176
Debtors	43,573	200,607
Investments	662,141	603,292
Cash in bank and in hand	39,595	29,711
	<u>753,129</u>	<u>842,786</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year:	65,071	69,427
NET CURRENT ASSETS	688,058	773,359
TOTAL ASSETS		
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	925,086	954,018
LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due after one year	5,955	6,715
NET ASSETS	£919,131	£947,303
Represented by:		
FUNDS		
Unrestricted	603,126	608,364
Restricted	265,436	270,877
Endowment	50,569	68,062
TOTAL FUNDS	£919,131	£947,303

Trustees' Statement

We confirm that the information contained in the summary financial statement on page 12 is taken from the audited annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008 and includes details relating to both the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet.

The audited accounts were approved by the trustees on 18 April 2009 and will be 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 Colin Cunningham (Chair)
Andrew Coleman (Finance Trustee)
18 April 2009

Auditors' Statement on Summary Financial Information for the Victorian Society

We have examined the summary financial statement of the Victorian Society on page 12. 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 2008 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
18 April 2009