

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2009

**THE VICTORIAN
SOCIETY**

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THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

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Registered Charity

No 1081435

Company Registration

No 3940996

Welcome

Following the excitement of our 50th birthday in 2008, you might have expected the pace to slacken a bit in 2009. But it didn't. Despite the recession, there has been much to keep our caseworkers busy. We advised on hundreds of proposals to alter or demolish listed buildings. While private developments have slowed, churches seem relatively immune from the downturn, universities still have money for building programmes and there is no shortage of local authorities proposing terrible fates for their Victorian school buildings.

Over 75,000 people visited our website and we offered over 110 events around the country. We produced three new books in addition to the regular issues of our magazine, *The Victorian*, and another issue of our journal will appear shortly. Meanwhile, our *Saving a Century* birthday exhibition continues to tour libraries and museums across the country, and we have had to reprint the accompanying catalogue.

Our membership numbers remain stable, and we now have five Vice-Presidents as ambassadors for our work. Sir David Cannadine, Lord Howarth, Sir Simon Jenkins, Griff Rhys Jones and Fiona MacCarthy will share with us their experience and, we hope, enhance our public profile.

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. We are grateful to all of you for your efforts.

Dr Colin Cunningham, Chairman

Dr Ian Dungavell, Director

People

Patron

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO

Life President

The Lord Briggs

Vice Presidents

Sir David Cannadine

The Lord Howarth of Newport CBE

Sir Simon Jenkins

Griff Rhys Jones

Fiona MacCarthy OBE

TRUSTEES

Dr Colin Cunningham, *Chairman*

Andrew Coleman, *Vice Chair, and Finance*

Kate Davey *Legal*

Alasdair Glass, *Non-executive*

Rosemary Hill, *Non-executive*

Dr David Low, *Non-executive*

Ken Moth, *Casework*

Steve Roman, *Membership*

Roy Williams CB, *Non-executive*

REGIONAL GROUP CHAIRS

Birmingham Stephen Hartland

Leicester Jon Goodall

Liverpool Graham Fisher

Manchester David Harwood

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*

Jules Brown

Jennifer Chambers

Alan Davies

Merial Evans

Andy Foster

Michael Green

Dr Chris Hammond

Ruth Harman

Kirsten McKnight

Dominic Roberts
Kathryn Sather
Richard Tinker
Mark Watson

SOUTHERN BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

John Scott (*Chairman*)
Dr Timothy Brittain-Catlin
Humphry Crum Ewing (to 14 August 2009)
Dr Colin Cunningham
Dr Edward Diestelkamp
Dr Brent Elliott
Maggie Goodall
Elain Harwood
Peter Howell
Charles Lawrence
Beverley Mogford
Brian Morton MBE
Benedict O'Looney
Mark Price
Dr Aileen Reid
Professor Andrew Saint
Teresa Sladen

STAFF

Director Dr Ian Dungavell

Conservation Advisers

Alex Baldwin
Tim Bridges
Heloise Brown
David Garrard (to 23 January 2009)
Kristian Kaminski (from 4 March 2009 to 17 March 2010)

Campaigns Officer Katie Gunning

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

Trustees' annual report for year ending 31 December 2009

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

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This report looks at what we achieved in 2009 and considers the success of each activity. We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when planning our future activities to ensure that they are carried on for the public benefit. Everyone can benefit from the conservation of the Victorian and Edwardian historic environment, both this and future generations. It is all around us, and contributes to the distinctiveness of places and our own sense of identity.

Our aims are linked, and through involving and educating the public, we can increase the likelihood of conserving buildings. And anyone can join the Victorian Society to help support our work, but you do not have to be a member to benefit from our campaigns.

Conserving

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

Headline numbers

4,102 listed building consent applications received

1,292 identified as our period

376 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. Unfortunately, due to the reduction in income earned from the legacy, this will shrink to two days a week in 2010. Our regional groups in Birmingham, Leeds and Leicester respond to applications for listed building consent in their areas, buoyed by considerable local knowledge.

Local authorities are required to notify us of the decisions they take on listed building 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 owners 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.

The sorts of proposals on which we often find ourselves commenting at present include: the 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. Rather than pick out one or two cases here, our work is best understood by reading the reports which are published in each issue of our magazine, *The Victorian*.

However, one remarkable victory for 2009 was that in the case of the proposed removal of the William Burges font at St Peter's Church, Draycott, Somerset. Having at first been unsuccessful in the consistory court, we appealed to the Court of Arches where, very kindly represented *pro bono* by Mark Blackett-Ord, permission was refused. It was held that no compelling need to dispose of the font had been demonstrated and, had removal been allowed 'much of which adorns and adds interest, both historically and architecturally, to our churches would be lost to future generations'. Victory came with a sting in its tail: court costs of over £3,000 which we were required to pay, despite winning the case.

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 2009 we received more than 4,102 notifications of proposals for

works to listed buildings (5,003 in 2008). Of the notifications received and logged, 1,292 related to Victorian or Edwardian buildings (2,066 in 2008), and we gave detailed responses to 376 (445 in 2008).

We receive a grant towards our listed buildings 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. Our conservation adviser Heloise Brown has reduced her hours to three days per week from March 2010, allowing her to take another part-time job as a local authority conservation officer, which has also reduced our casework salary bill. This will allow us, we hope, to recruit a caseworker for Wales to be paid for one day a week, provided that we can establish a local casework committee in Wales to oversee their work.

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 The Heritage Alliance (the new name for Heritage Link), as well as through direct engagement when appropriate. We also 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.

In 2009 we responded to consultations on the Ecclesiastical Exemption Order, the new Planning Policy Statement on the historic environment, since released as PPS 5, and Cadw's *Conservation Principles*.

Involving

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

Headline numbers

3,336 members

90,176 visits to our website

1,240 downloads of our factsheet on listed buildings

403 press articles covering our campaigns

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 3,336 members (3,323 in 2008). While the number of members has remained constant over recent years, with a low turnover, we are always considering ways to attract more, while retaining those 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 2009, Gift Aid added £21,368 (£22,052 in 2008) 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. In addition to underwriting the publication of our journal for up to three years, the Hodgkin bequest has funded our 50th anniversary exhibition *Saving a Century*, which continues to tour the country. In 2009 we received a legacy of over £18,000 from Jeremy Black, for many years our honorary legal advisor, and we were notified of a legacy from Edward Livesey, also a long-time member and recently chairman of our Manchester Group. We also received a legacy of £2,000 from Charles Branchini.

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. In 2009 we launched a legacy campaign with a leaflet to all members, and we will repeat this at intervals in the future. 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 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 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. 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, 1,240 people read our factsheet on listed buildings (1,209 in 2008), 634 on conservation areas (675 in 2008) and 381 our campaigning guide (465 in 2008) – 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. We worked with the Montpelier and Clifton Hill Association in their fight to save the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton and, to mention only a few other examples, also with people trying to save Clitheroe workhouse, Sale Hotel, Greater Manchester; Lewisham Bridge School and Greenwich Market, and the Leas Lift in Folkestone. Together with the Churches Conservation Trust we held a 'Victorian fun day' to celebrate the 150th anniversary of All Souls, Haley Hill, Halifax, which was very well-attended.

We look forward to further opportunities to work with the Churches Conservation Trust to highlight their Victorian churches, and 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 third 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. The positive effects can be seen quite quickly: following the publication of our list, a study of Oldham Town Hall has been commissioned to investigate options for the future, while Network Rail postponed demolition of Trimley Station in Suffolk to give local people time to work up a scheme to convert the redundant building into a business centre. Our listing application for Stonebridge School, which appeared on our 2008 list was successful and it looks for the moment to be safe from the wrecker's ball.

In 2009, we issued 109 press releases (117 in 2008), leading to over 403 articles in both national and local newspapers mentioning our campaigns (over 371 in 2008), and we made at least 36 appearances on television and radio. News of our campaigns is reported on our website, which attracted 90,176 visits in 2009 (86,132 in 2008).

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 possible alternative sources of funding for this essential work.

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'**

Headline numbers

**111 events in 2009, organised by volunteers
2,629 bookings taken for events**

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.

Lectures, conferences and study days

Our winter lecture series, *Architecture and the Pen*, organised by Michael Hall, took as its theme writers and writings about Victorian architecture, including figures such as Pugin, GG Scott, Owen Jones and Robert Willis. In September, our Birmingham and West Midlands Group hosted an impressive symposium on Birmingham's Victorian architects to launch their new book. The autumn series was on buildings associated with *Pleasure, punishment and protection*, organised by Geoff Brandwood, and generously sponsored by English Heritage. It included buildings as diverse as schools, beach huts, police stations and accommodation for working women. Kathryn Ferry organised a second symposium on provincial architects. Other lectures included topics as diverse as the founding of Handsworth Park, Joseph Hansom in Leicestershire and Rutland, Liverpool's historic institutional buildings, the architect Edward Salomons, and Victorian stained glass. The Brian Allison Memorial Lecture for the Leicester Group was 'Ruskin's architectural project: A great entail' by Dr Gill Chitty. We also hosted five supper lectures in our office: WA Nesfield by Nina James Antonetti, Paris in the nineteenth century by Andrew Sanders, Viollet-le-Duc by Colin Cunningham, Shanghai in the nineteenth century by Frances Wood, Stonehenge by Rosemary Hill. A convivial atmosphere is assured by Maya Donelan's excellent food.

Visits

One of the highlights of the events programme this year was our trip to France to look at Viollet-le-Duc and the Second Empire in Compiègne and Pierrefonds, led by Colin Cunningham. We also had weekends away on the Isle of Wight weekend led by Michael Whitatker and in Norwich and Great Yarmouth for our annual general meeting.

Some of the other visits and walks included Mentmore and Ashridge, a special private tour of Westminster Abbey, churches in Gospel Oak, works by Alfred Waterhouse in Cambridge, terracotta in Leeds, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Lancaster, Hull, Buxton, Heath House in Staffordshire, Chipping Campden, Nottingham, Stalybridge, and Radnorshire. Many of these were organised by our regional groups.

In 2009 the Society held at least 40 individual lectures (40 in 2008), 3 study days (4), 3 weekends away (4), 10 day trips (7) and 55 visits or walks (45), a total of 111 events (100) or on average two events per week around the country. We processed over 2,629 bookings for events (3,027 in 2008), 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.

The Victorian

We published three issues of our magazine, *The Victorian*, edited by Liz Robinson. In March it reviewed some of the restorations of great Victorian parks over the past fifteen years, and considered what still remained to be done. In July, taking the West Midlands as its theme, it looked at the lost buildings of Cradley Heath and celebrated the work of two arts and crafts architects. In November we looked at Victorian architectural ceramics, as well as featuring the top ten most endangered buildings for 2009, and looking at what had happened to those on our 2008 list.

Studies in Victorian architecture and design

Intended to stimulate research in our field by providing a good outlet for original research, each issue focuses on a particular theme. We published the first issue on the 1840s in 2008, and the next issue,

looking at changing attitudes towards Victorian architecture in the twentieth century, will be published in June 2010. The issue after that will cover late Victorian and Edwardian churches and should appear late in 2010. 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 2009, we sold 940 booklets (645 in 2008) and 27 copies of the book (26 in 2008). The *Victorian Society Book of the Victorian House* has now been republished in paperback at £20, making stiff competition for our *Care for Victorian Houses* booklets. As stocks diminish we plan to publish updated versions on the website instead.

We provide a lot of information on our website. However, moving over to a new website in March 2009 has meant that detailed content statistics are not comparable, yet the most popular advice notes on our website related to fireplaces, decorative tiles and interior decoration. We will report on more detailed statistics next year.

Other publications

2009 was a bumper year for other publications. First to appear was *Powerhouses of Provincial Architecture 1837-1914*, edited by Kathryn Ferry, containing papers from our 2008 symposium on that subject along with some other new material, and dedicated to the memory of our former architectural adviser David Crellin. We sold 310 copies during the year. In September, our Birmingham and West Midlands Group launched *Birmingham's Victorian and Edwardian Architects*, edited by Phillada Ballard, a hefty hardback of 652 pages which will surely be the last word on the subject. The publication was made possible by the generous legacy of Mary Heath. Last to appear was *Manchester Board Schools 1870-1902* by Samantha Barnes, funded by the Alan Baxter Foundation also in memory of David Crellin. Launched in November, it has been selling well. Inspired by the Birmingham book, our West Yorkshire Group is planning a book on Leeds architects, and we will continue to be open to the possibility of other *ad hoc* publications.

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. The national events programme is planned by the Events Committee and each regional group is run by a committee and those which do casework also have specialist casework committees.

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	2009	2008	
	£'000	£'000	
Total incoming resources	377	396	Total income down 4.7%
<i>Principal components:</i>			
Subscription income	106	106	Unchanged
Grants	66	65	Increase 1.0%
Investment income	19	48	Decrease 60.1%
Educational events and publications	133	138	Decrease 3.6%
Donations	23	27	Decrease 14.8%
Legacies	29	10	Increase 188%

Subscription income was unchanged as subscription rates were held constant. Investment income decreased substantially as a result of the dramatic reduction in interest rates. Educational activities continued to be very successful and the small decrease is due to the impact of the very large AGM in 2008 to mark the Society's 50th anniversary. Excluding the AGMs in 2009 and 2008, income from educational activities increased by 18%. Donations decreased in 2009, as a result of the impact of the sponsorship income received in 2008. Excluding this, donations held steady. Legacy income increased substantially in 2009. 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 2009 was £348,000, a decrease of 1.1% on 2008.

Outgoing resources	2009	2008	
	£'000	£'000	
Total outgoing resources	383	406	Total expenses down 5.8%
<i>Principal components:</i>			
Architectural conservation	189	197	Decrease 4.3%
Educational activities	182	196	Decrease 7.3%
Fund raising and governance	12	13	Decrease 5.2%

Expenditure on the Society's charitable activities of architectural conservation and education amounted to 97% of total expenditure for the year. The decreases in expenditure year on year are attributable to non-recurring costs incurred in connection with the Society's 50th anniversary in 2008. Underlying costs increased largely as a result of increases in educational activities and publications.

Adjusting for one-off factors, expenditure on a recurring basis for 2009 was £375,000, an increase of 13.2% on 2008.

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

Net movement in resources	2009	2008	
	£'000	£'000	
Deficit on recurring items	(40)	5	
Annual fund appeal	13	15	
Result on recurring items after annual fund appeal	(27)	20	

Legacies (used for projects) and other non-recurring items	22	(31)	
Net movement in resources before valuation adjustments	(5)	(11)	

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.

Balance sheet

Net assets	2009	2008	
	£'000	£'000	
Total net assets	918	919	Total net assets down 0.1%
<i>Principal components:</i>			
<u>Unrestricted fund:</u>			
Tangible fixed assets	207	186	Increase 10.9%
Short term deposits	365	397	Decrease 8.1 %
Other net assets	46	20	Increase 134%
<u>Restricted and endowment fund:</u>			
Investments and short term deposits	301	316	Decrease 4.8%

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds represent the Society's day to day operating finances. Overall unrestricted funds showed an increase for the year of 2.4%. The increase in tangible fixed assets comprises a number of key additions substantially financed by legacy income, including a sound system for use on the Society's events programme, emergency lighting and some necessary refurbishment to the library and kitchen at Priory Gardens. 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 2009, and excluding the proceeds of legacies earmarked for future projects, the Society's cash and short term reserves were £54,000 in excess of this level (2008: £46,000). 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 restricted funds are invested in cash deposits. Restricted funds decreased during the year by 7.6% as a result of maintaining expenditure on casework and educational activities despite the reduction in income due to lower interest rates.

The endowment funds are invested in a balanced managed fund which should, over time, generate both a steady income and some capital growth. The endowment funds increased during the year by 8.8% as a result of a recovery in stock market levels.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees who are directors for the purposes of Company Law are responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law require the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the company's financial activities for the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company 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 10 April 2010 and signed on its behalf by

Dr Colin Cunningham, Chair

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment	Total 2009	Total 2008
INCOMING RESOURCES						
From generated funds						
<i>Voluntary income:</i>						
Subscriptions		105,882	-	-	105,882	106,335
Donations		20,878	1,796	-	22,674	26,624
Grants	2	1,720	63,842	-	65,562	64,935
Legacies		28,795	-	-	28,795	10,000
<i>Investment income:</i>						
Dividends		2,448	-	-	2,448	2,459
Rental income		9,000	-	-	9,000	9,000
Interest		4,516	3,147	-	7,663	36,481
<i>From charitable activities</i>						
Educational events and publications		126,680	6,305	-	132,985	138,015
Other		2,228	-	-	2,228	1,780
Total incoming resources		302,147	75,090	-	377,237	395,629
EXPENDED RESOURCES						
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>						
Fund raising costs		6,064	-	-	6,064	6,257
<i>Cost of charitable activities</i>						
Architectural conservation		110,535	78,288	-	188,823	197,359
Education		164,615	16,994	-	181,609	195,956
<i>Governance costs</i>						
		6,259	-	-	6,259	6,736
Total resources expended	3	287,473	95,282	-	382,755	406,308
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		14,674	(20,192)	-	(5,518)	(10,679)
<i>Transfers</i>		-	-	-	-	-
<i>Other recognised gains/(losses)</i>						
Gains on investment assets		-	-	4,456	4,456	(17,493)
Net movement of funds		14,674	(20,192)	4,456	(1,062)	(28,172)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Balance brought forward at 1 January		603,126	265,436	50,569	919,131	947,303
Balance carried forward at 31 December		£617,800	£245,244	£55,025	£918,069	£919,131

The Accounting Policies and the Notes on pages 17 to 22 form part of these Accounts

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment	Total 2009	Total 2008
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	5	206,821	-	-	206,821	186,459
INVESTMENTS	6	-	-	55,025	55,025	50,569
		206,821	-	55,025	261,846	237,028
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of publications		3,473	8,040	-	11,513	7,820
Debtors	7	35,199	2,000	-	37,199	43,573
Investments	6	364,762	245,955	-	610,717	662,141
Cash in bank and in hand		79,378	3,695	-	83,073	39,595
		487,693	259,690	-	742,502	753,129
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year:	8	64,694	14,446	-	79,140	65,071
NET CURRENT ASSETS		418,118	245,244	-	663,362	688,058
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		624,939	245,244	55,025	925,208	925,086
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after one year	9	7,139	-	-	7,139	5,955
NET ASSETS	12	£617,800	£245,244	£55,025	£918,069	£919,131
Represented by:						
FUNDS						
Unrestricted		617,800	-	-	617,800	603,126
Restricted	10	-	245,244	-	245,244	265,436
Endowment	11	-	-	55,025	55,025	50,569
TOTAL FUNDS		£617,800	£245,244	£55,025	£918,069	£919,131

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 April 2010

_____ Colin Cunningham (Chairman)

on behalf of the Trustees

_____ Andrew Coleman (Finance Trustee)

The Accounting Policies and the Notes on pages 17 to 22 form part of these Accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been drawn up under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments to market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' published in March 2005, applicable UK accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006 .

(b) Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

(c) Fund accounting

The charity has three types of funds, unrestricted, restricted and endowment. The unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the providers of the funds. Endowment funds are intended to be used primarily to generate income. In accordance with the widely used method of presentation, the income from the investments in the endowment fund is shown as unrestricted income. Details of the restricted and endowment funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements below.

(d) Recognition of income

Subscriptions, donations, grants, legacies and other forms of voluntary income are dealt with when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Legacies and gifts of property, furniture and reference books are recorded at their value at the date of receipt. Sales of literature and advertising are dealt with on an accruals basis. Subscriptions are due on 1 March each year. Subscriptions are recognised as received. Life subscriptions are treated as covering a period of 20 years. The element of subscriptions received relating to future periods is carried forward. Income from events is recognised when the event takes place. Gift aid receivable is included in the category of income to which it relates. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(e) Recognition of expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Expenditure on future events is deferred until the event takes place.

(f) Depreciation

No depreciation is provided on freehold premises since this would be immaterial having regard both to the length of the useful economic life of the property and its estimated residual value. Depreciation is provided on office equipment at 20% on cost. Depreciation is provided on fixtures and fittings on the reducing balance basis at a rate of 25% of written down value on items acquired prior to 1999. For additions in 1999 and thereafter, depreciation is provided at the rate of 20% on cost. No depreciation is provided on antique furniture that is primarily decorative and is not subject to wear and tear. Where assets are not subject to depreciation, an annual impairment review is performed.

(g) Allocation of expenditure

Expenses have been allocated as between direct charitable expenditure, fund-raising, and governance on the basis of expenditure incurred, pro-rated where appropriate, using the proportions of staff time engaged in these functions.

(h) Assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Fixed assets with a cost of less than £500 are generally not capitalised. Donated assets of no functional benefit to the Society received prior to 2000 are not capitalised because it is not possible to attribute a meaningful value to them. Such assets are held for their lifetime and disposal would only take place in exceptional circumstances. Investments are stated at market

value. Stock of publications is stated at the lower of cost and realisable value. Debtors are stated at the amount expected to be recoverable.

2. Grants

	2009	2008
	£	£
English Heritage	61,842	61,301
CADW	2,000	2,054
Other	1,720	1,580
	<u>£65,562</u>	<u>£64,935</u>

3. Total resources expended

	Conservation	Education	Fundraising	Governance	Total 2009	Total 2008
Staff	126,322	41,755	4,640	1,805	174,522	169,783
Other direct costs						
Events	-	78,904	-	-	78,904	92,591
The Victorian	-	23,049	-	-	23,049	23,330
The Journal	-	-	-	-	-	12,922
Casework	11,049	-	-	-	11,049	13,409
Publications	-	22,891	-	-	22,891	3,242
Audit	-	-	-	2,750	2,750	2,883
Other	1,583	-	-	1,231	2,814	5,399
Allocated costs						
General office costs	13,883	4,158	397	132	18,570	19,051
Printing	4,475	1,340	128	43	5,986	6,499
Postage and telephone	5,963	1,786	171	57	7,977	6,945
IT	12,357	3,701	354	117	16,529	8,700
Depreciation	7,231	2,166	207	69	9,673	7,501
50th anniversary	-	-	-	-	-	23,984
Other	5,960	1,859	167	55	8,041	10,069
	<u>£188,823</u>	<u>£181,609</u>	<u>£6,064</u>	<u>£6,259</u>	<u>£382,755</u>	<u>£406,308</u>

Allocated costs are generally allocated on the basis of the proportions of staff time engaged in each aspect of the Society's work. For depreciation and other costs, these are partially allocated on the basis of directly attributable items and the balance is apportioned on the basis of staff time.

Costs include:

	2009	2008
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration		
-Audit fee	2,750	2,627
-Accountancy fee for payroll services	400	211
Depreciation	9,673	7,501
Staff costs comprise:		
Wages and salaries	152,792	148,135
Social security costs	13,860	13,543
Pension costs	7,870	8,105

The average number of staff employed during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis, was 6.5 (2008: 6.5). No staff member received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

The Society makes pension contributions to employees' personal pension schemes or to a stakeholder pension scheme. All of the schemes are defined contribution and the Society has no liability for the payment of pensions in the future.

4. Transactions with trustees

5 Trustees (2008: 7) received reimbursement of their travelling expenses totalling £1,469 (2008: £860) in relation to their role as trustees or on committees. No Mary Heath trustees received reimbursement either in 2009 or 2008.

5. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold premises	Office equipment	Furniture & fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost:				
As at 1 January 2009	166,590	33,405	43,900	243,895
Additions	1,455	19,114	9,466	30,035
Disposals	-	(17,203)	-	(17,203)
As at 31 December 2009	<u>168,045</u>	<u>35,316</u>	<u>53,366</u>	<u>256,727</u>
Depreciation:				
As at 1 January 2009	-	22,584	34,852	57,436
Charge for the year	-	7,063	2,610	9,673
Disposals	-	(17,203)	-	(17,203)
As at 31 December 2009	<u>-</u>	<u>12,444</u>	<u>37,462</u>	<u>49,906</u>
Net book value:				
As at 31 December 2009	<u>£168,045</u>	<u>£22,872</u>	<u>£15,904</u>	<u>£206,821</u>
As at 31 December 2008	<u>£166,590</u>	<u>£10,821</u>	<u>£9,048</u>	<u>£186,459</u>

The freehold premises are occupied by the Society as offices and surplus space is rented out. The market value of the premises is estimated to exceed substantially the book value in these financial statements. No formal valuation has been obtained since this would incur expense out of proportion to its benefit.

6. Investments

Fixed asset investments

	2009	2008
Quoted investments:		
Market value at 1 January	50,569	68,062
Additions	-	-
Unrealised valuation gains/ (losses)	4,456	(17,493)
Market value at 31 December	<u>£55,025</u>	<u>£50,569</u>

Investments comprise units in a UK common investment fund for charities with a historical cost of £65,897.

Current asset investments

Investments in 2009 and 2008 comprise cash on short term deposit with UK institutions.

7. Debtors

	2009	2008
Other debtors	4,974	1,826
Prepayments	3,781	14,644
Accrued income	28,444	27,103
	<u>£37,199</u>	<u>£43,573</u>

8. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2009	2008
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals	29,167	30,418
Deferred income	49,973	34,653
	<u>£79,140</u>	<u>£65,071</u>

9. Liabilities: Amounts falling due after one year

	2009	2008
Life members' subscriptions received in advance	<u>£6,715</u>	<u>£5,955</u>

The movement on life members subscriptions received in advance was as follows:

Amount brought forward:

Due within one year	760	805
Due after one year	5,955	6,715
Additions for the year	2,110	-
Taken to income for the year	(866)	(805)

Closing balance	<u>£7,959</u>	<u>£6,715</u>
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The closing balance comprises:

Due within one year	820	760
Due after one year	7,139	5,955

	<u>£7,959</u>	<u>£6,715</u>
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10. Restricted Funds

	Pevsner Memorial Essay Fund	Mary Heath Trust	Grants	Donations	Total
Balance at 1 January 2009	11,401	250,896	-	3,139	265,436
Received during the year					
Grants	-	-	63,842	-	63,842
Donations	-	-	-	1,796	1,796
Interest	109	3,038	-	-	3,147
Other income	-	6,305	-	-	6,305
	<u>11,510</u>	<u>260,239</u>	<u>63,842</u>	<u>4,935</u>	<u>340,526</u>
Applied during the year	-	(31,440)	(63,842)	-	(95,282)
Balance at 31 December 2009	<u>£11,510</u>	<u>£228,799</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£4,935</u>	<u>£245,244</u>

Comprising

Stock	-	8,040	-	-	8,040
Debtors	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Current asset investments	11,510	231,510	(2,000)	4,935	245,955

Cash	-	3,695	-	-	3,695
Creditors	-	(14,446)	-	-	(14,446)
	£11,510	£228,799	£-	£4,935	£265,436

The Pevsner Memorial Essay Fund was set up to provide an Annual Prize for an essay on British architecture, art or the decorative arts in the Victorian or Edwardian period, by someone who has not been published before.

The Mary Heath Trust was set up according to the terms of the will of the late Mary Heath, who left her entire estate to the Society 'for the benefit of the Birmingham Group'.

Donations include amounts received in commemoration of David Crellin a former caseworker of the Society who died in 2006.

11. Endowment Fund

The Tom Greeves Memorial Fund was established in April 1999 following a generous gift from Eleanor Greeves in memory of her husband. The fund is constituted as an expendable endowment and is to be used to support the Society's casework. Movements on the fund are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities. The fund is represented by investments.

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

The levels of restricted and endowment funds are considered satisfactory to fulfil the obligations the Society took on in accepting those funds.

Much of the unrestricted funds represent fixed and working assets required by the Society in carrying on its day to day work. The remainder of the unrestricted funds comprises cash and short term deposits. 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 2009, and excluding the proceeds of legacies earmarked for future projects, the Society's cash and short term reserves were £54,000 in excess of this level (2008: £46,000). The excess fluctuates from time to time and the Trustees are presently satisfied that no further action is necessary.

13. Statutory and general information

This note contains information required to comply with statutory and technical accounting pronouncements:

(i) In relation to the statement of financial activities

None of the Society's activities was acquired or discontinued during the current or previous years. Accordingly all of the Society's results relate to continuing operations.

Save as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities, the Society has no recognised gains and losses. Accordingly a statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year would be the same as the statement of financial activities and has not been presented.

In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities', the Society is required to disclose a summary income and expenditure account prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard No 3:

**Summarised income and expenditure account
for the year to 31 December 2009**

	2009	2008
Gross income from continuing operations being total income of continuing operations	377,237	395,629
Total expenditure of continuing operations	<u>382,755</u>	<u>406,308</u>
Net income for the year before transfers and gains/losses on investment assets	(5,518)	(10,679)
Transfer from endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net income for the year after transfers	(5,518)	(10,679)
Unrealised gain/(loss) on fixed asset investments	<u>4,456</u>	<u>(17,493)</u>
Net income for the year	<u>£(1,062)</u>	<u>£(28,172)</u>

The income and the expenditure for the year comprises the income and expenditure on unrestricted and restricted funds as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

No taxation is payable as the Society is a registered charity and accordingly is entitled to exemption from taxation on its charitable activities under the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

(ii) Balance sheet

There are no pension or other contingencies at 31 December 2009 and 2008.

Independent auditors' report

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

We have audited the financial statements of The Victorian Society for the year ended 31 December 2009 which are set out on pages 17 to 22. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Sections 495 and 496 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report 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 audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and auditors

The trustees' (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). We have undertaken the audit in accordance with the requirements of APB Ethical Standards including *APB Ethical Standard - Provisions Available for Small Entities*, in the following circumstances: in common with many other businesses of your size and nature, you use our payroll services.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you whether, in our opinion, the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is consistent with those financial statements. In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made. We read the Trustees' Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2009 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements.

D Rothera Esq
Senior Statutory Auditor
for and on behalf of Derek Rothera & Co, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Units 15&16, 7 Wenlock Road, London N1 7SL

Date: 10 April 2010