

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2008

**THE VICTORIAN
SOCIETY**

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THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

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Registered Charity

No 1081435

Company Registration

No 3940996

Welcome

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

People

Patron

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO

Life 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, *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&16, 7 Wenlock Road, London N1 7SL

Trustees' annual report for year ending 31 December 2008

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.

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.

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 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*.

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 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 save the buildings they value. In this way, our 'national community' can help support local ones. We do this by providing advice and support through our Community Engagement Project and, where appropriate, we work directly with local people on their campaigns: 'capacity building' in vogueish government parlance. We have 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 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

<i>Incoming resources</i>	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.

<i>Outgoing resources</i>	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:

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>			
<u>Unrestricted fund:</u>			
Tangible fixed assets	186	113	Increase 65.6%
Short term deposits	397	333	Increase 19.1%
Other net assets	20	162	Decrease 87.8%
<u>Restricted and endowment fund:</u>			
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

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment	Total 2008	Total 2007
INCOMING RESOURCES						
From generated funds						
<i>Voluntary income:</i>						
Subscriptions		106,335	-	-	106,335	96,140
Donations		22,594	4,030	-	26,624	21,993
Grants		1,580	63,355	-	64,935	63,742
Legacies	2	10,000	-	-	10,000	153,000
<i>Investment income:</i>						
Dividends		2,459	-	-	2,459	2,105
Rental income		9,000	-	-	9,000	9,000
Interest		22,214	14,267	-	36,481	33,904
<i>From charitable activities</i>						
Educational events and publications		138,015	-	-	138,015	110,979
Other		1,780	-	-	1,780	868
Total incoming resources		313,977	81,652	-	395,629	491,731
EXPENDED RESOURCES						
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>						
Fund raising costs		6,257	-	-	6,257	6,142
<i>Cost of charitable activities</i>						
Architectural conservation		114,569	82,790	-	197,359	186,768
Education		191,653	4,303	-	195,956	137,757
<i>Governance costs</i>						
		6,736	-	-	6,736	6,191
Total resources expended	3	319,215	87,093	-	406,308	336,858
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		(5,238)	(5,441)	-	(10,679)	154,873
<i>Transfers</i>						
		-	-	-	-	-
<i>Other recognised gains/(losses)</i>						
Gains on investment assets		-	-	(17,493)	(17,493)	1,025
Net movement of funds		(5,238)	(5,441)	(17,493)	(28,172)	155,898
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Balance brought forward at 1 January		608,364	270,877	68,062	947,303	791,405
Balance carried forward at 31 December		£603,126	£265,436	£50,569	£919,131	£947,303

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

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment	Total 2008	Total 2007
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	5	186,459		-	186,459	112,597
INVESTMENTS	6	-	-	50,569	50,569	68,062
		186,459	-	50,569	237,028	180,659
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of publications		7,820	-	-	7,820	9,176
Debtors	7	43,573	-	-	43,573	200,607
Investments	6	396,879	265,262	-	662,141	603,292
Cash in bank and in hand		39,421	174	-	39,595	29,711
		487,693	265,436	-	753,129	842,786
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year:	8	65,071	-	-	65,071	69,427
NET CURRENT ASSETS		422,622	265,436	-	688,058	773,359
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		609,081	265,436	50,569	925,086	954,018
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after one year	9	5,955	-	-	5,955	6,715
NET ASSETS	12	£603,126	£265,436	£50,569	£919,131	£947,303
Represented by:						
FUNDS						
Unrestricted		603,126			603,126	608,364
Restricted	10		265,436		265,436	270,877
Endowment	11			50,569	50,569	68,062
TOTAL FUNDS		£603,126	£265,436	£50,569	£919,131	£947,303

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 18 April 2009

_____ Colin Cunningham (Chairman)
 _____ Andrew Coleman (Finance Trustee)
 on behalf of the Trustees

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 2008

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 1985. The charity has availed itself of Paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 4 of the Companies Act and adapted the Companies Act formats to reflect the special nature of the charity's activities.

(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. Income from legacies

A further distribution is due from the proceeds of sale of art works bequeathed jointly to the Society and the Georgian Group by Mr Eliot Hodgkin, after deduction of the expenses of the trust. Since this amount cannot be estimated with reasonable accuracy, it has not been recognised in these accounts.

3. Total resources expended

	Conservation	Education	Fundraising	Governance	Total 2008	Total 2007
Staff	125,274	37,795	4,923	1,791	169,783	164,983
Other direct costs						
Events	-	92,591	-	-	92,591	63,204
The Victorian	-	23,330	-	-	23,330	21,725
The Journal		12,922			12,922	-
Casework	13,409	-	-	-	13,409	16,916
Publication grants	-	-	-	-	-	2,556
Publications	-	3,242	-	-	3,242	2,988
Audit	-	-	-	2,883	2,883	2,438
Other	3,754	-	-	1,645	5,399	6,605
Allocated costs						
General office costs	14,244	4,197	465	145	19,051	12,533
Printing	4,859	1,432	159	49	6,499	6,018
Postage and telephone	5,193	1,530	169	53	6,945	6,379
IT	6,505	1,917	212	66	8,700	16,113
Depreciation	5,609	1,652	183	57	7,501	8,954
50th anniversary	11,992	11,992	-	-	23,984	-
Other	6,520	3,356	146	47	10,069	5,446
	£197,359	£195,956	£6,257	£6,736	£406,308	£336,858

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:

	2008 £	2007 £
Auditor's remuneration		
-Audit fee	2,627	2,300
-Accountancy fee for payroll services	211	208
Depreciation	7,501	8,954
Staff costs comprise:		
Wages and salaries	148,135	142,748
Social security costs	13,543	13,095
Pension costs	8,105	9,140

The average number of staff employed during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis, was 6.5 (2007: 6.4). 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

7 Trustees (2007: 7) received reimbursement of their travelling expenses totalling £860 (2007: £1,005) in relation to their role as trustees or on committees. No Mary Heath trustees received reimbursement either in 2008 or 2007.

5. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold premises £	Office equipment £	Furniture & fittings £	Total £
Cost:				
As at 1 January 2008	92,496	43,896	40,563	176,955
Additions	74,094	7,269	-	81,363
Disposals	-	(14,423)	-	(14,423)
As at 31 December 2008	166,590	36,742	40,563	243,895
Depreciation:				
As at 1 January 2008	-	30,326	34,032	64,358
Charge for the year	-	6,681	820	7,501
Disposals	-	(14,423)	-	(14,423)
As at 31 December 2008	-	22,584	34,852	57,436
Net book value:				
As at 31 December 2008	£166,590	£14,158	£5,711	£186,459
As at 31 December 2007	£92,496	£13,570	£6,531	£112,597

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

	2008	2007
Quoted investments:		
Market value at 1 January	68,062	67,037
Additions	-	-
Unrealised valuation (losses)/gains	(17,493)	1,025
Market value at 31 December	£50,569	£68,062

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

Current asset investments

Investments in 2008 and 2007 comprise cash on short term deposit with UK institutions.

7. Debtors

	2008	2007
Other debtors	1,826	1,036
Prepayments	14,644	6,601
Accrued income	27,103	192,970
	<u>£43,573</u>	<u>£200,607</u>

8. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2008	2007
Other creditors	-	3,838
Accruals	30,418	31,117
Deferred income	34,653	34,472
	<u>£65,071</u>	<u>£69,427</u>

9. Liabilities: Amounts falling due after one year

	2008	2007
Life members' subscriptions received in advance	<u>£5,955</u>	<u>£6,715</u>

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

Amount brought forward:

Due within one year	805	865
Due after one year	6,715	7,520
Additions for the year	-	-
Taken to income for the year	(805)	(865)

Closing balance

<u>£6,715</u>	<u>£7,520</u>
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The closing balance comprises:

Due within one year	760	805
Due after one year	5,955	6,715

<u>£6,715</u>	<u>£7,520</u>
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10. Restricted Funds

	Pevsner Memorial Essay Fund	Mary Heath Trust	Grants	Donations	Total
Balance at 1 January 2008	10,910	252,751	4,077	3,139	270,877
Received during the year					
Grants	-	-	63,355	-	63,355
Donations	-	-	-	4,030	4,030
Interest	491	13,776	-	-	14,267
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>11,401</u>	<u>266,527</u>	<u>67,432</u>	<u>7,169</u>	<u>352,529</u>
Applied during the year	-	(15,631)	(67,432)	(4,030)	(87,093)
Balance at 31 December 2008	<u>£11,401</u>	<u>£250,896</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£3,139</u>	<u>£265,436</u>
Comprising					
Current asset investments	11,401	250,722	-	3,139	265,262
Cash	-	174	-	-	174
	<u>£11,401</u>	<u>£250,896</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£3,139</u>	<u>£265,436</u>

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'.

Grants principally comprise amounts receivable from English Heritage towards the Society's architectural conservation work. A grant was also received from CADW.

Donations comprise amounts received in commemoration of David Crellin a former caseworker of the Society who died in 2006. The amount received has not yet been spent.

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 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.

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 2008**

	2008	2007
Gross income from continuing operations being total income of continuing operations	395,629	491,731
Total expenditure of continuing operations	<u>406,308</u>	<u>336,858</u>
Net income for the year before transfers and gains/losses on investment assets	(10,679)	154,873
Transfer from endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net income for the year after transfers	(10,679)	154,873
Unrealised gain/(loss) on fixed asset investments	<u>(17,493)</u>	<u>1,025</u>
Net income for the year	<u>£(28,172)</u>	<u>£155,898</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 2008 and 2007.

Independent auditors' report

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

We have audited the financial statements of The Victorian Society for the year ended 31 December 2008 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 Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. 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

As described in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant United Kingdom legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report, if, in our opinion, the Trustees' Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the charity has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and transactions with the charity is not disclosed. We read other information contained in the Trustees' Report and the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

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. 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. 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, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of affairs of the charity as at 31 December 2008 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 the Companies Act 1985.; and
- the Trustees' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

Derek Rothera & Co
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
Units 15&16, 7 Wenlock Road, London N1 7SL

Date: 19 April 2009