

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2014

**THE VICTORIAN
SOCIETY**

Contents

3	PEOPLE
5	ANNUAL REVIEW
5	WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?
6	CONSERVING
7	INVOLVING
9	EDUCATING
10	TRUSTEES' REPORT
10	STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
11	FINANCIAL REVIEW
14	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
15	BALANCE SHEET
16	NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
21	INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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Registered Charity
No 1081435

Company Registration
No 3940996

People

Patron

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO

Life President

The Lord Briggs

Vice Presidents

Sir David Cannadine

Harry Handelsman

The Lord Howarth of Newport CBE

Sir Simon Jenkins

Griff Rhys Jones

Fiona MacCarthy OBE

TRUSTEES

Professor Hilary Grainger, *Chair*

Kate Davey, *Legal*

Alasdair Glass, *Non-executive*

Professor Rosemary Hill, *Non-executive*

Dr David Low, *Non-executive*

Robert McCarthy, *Finance*

Ken Moth, *Casework and Vice Chair*

Steve Roman, *Membership*

Roy Williams CB, *Non-executive*

REGIONAL GROUP CHAIRS

Birmingham Stephen Hartland

Leicester Jon Goodall

Liverpool Tony Murphy

Manchester David Harwood

Wales Elaine Davey

South Yorkshire Valerie Bayliss CB

West Yorkshire Peter Hirschmann (*until October 2014*)

West Yorkshire Janet Douglas (*from October 2014*)

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Michael Hall, *Chairman*

Dr Geoff Brandwood

Dr Steven Brindle

Maya Donelan MBE

Dr Ayla Lepine

Michael Pearson

Yvonne Pines (*until September 2014*)

Jane Wainwright OBE

Kit Wedd (*from July 2014*)

Michael Whitaker

NORTHERN BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

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Jules Brown

Alan Davies

Andy Foster

Michael Green (*until April 2014*)

Dr Chris Hammond

Sharman Kadish

John Prichard (*from February 2014*)

Kirsten Ryan

Dominic Roberts
Kathryn Sather
Richard Tinker
Mark Watson

SOUTHERN BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

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Dr Timothy Brittain-Catlin
Dr Edward Diestelkamp
Dr Brent Elliott
Alec Forshaw
Maggie Goodall
Elain Harwood
Peter Howell
Charles Lawrence
David McDonald
Beverley Mogford
Brian Morton MBE
Benedict O'Looney
Hannah Parham
Heloise Palin
Mark Price
Dr Aileen Reid
Professor Andrew Saint
Teresa Sladen

STAFF

Director Christopher Costelloe
Conservation Advisers
Tom Ashley (*Senior Conservation Adviser*)
Tim Bridges
Sarah Caradec (*from November 2014*)
Kathy Clark (*until September 2014*)
James Hughes
Media Officer Joe O'Donnell (*from August 2014*)
Administrator Richard Seedhouse
Events Administrator Jane Jephcote

BANKERS

Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HB
COIF Charities Funds, 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DZ
Principality Building Society, Queen Street, Cardiff CF10 1UA

AUDITORS

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

What's the problem?

Architecture suffers more from change than other art forms, for it has to satisfy practical needs as well as aesthetic ones. Buildings must earn their keep. Rooms are subdivided or knocked together, access ramps built, whole new wings added, or whole buildings demolished. And sometimes changes are made purely as a matter of taste or expediency, when no one would dream of treating paintings or sculpture in a similar way.

In providing for seemingly urgent but often short-term requirements, much can be lost. The Victorian Society wants people to take a long term view about their buildings, and pause to appreciate what is special about them, so that future generations can enjoy them as we do.

People today are more likely to understand the quality of Victorian and Edwardian architecture, thanks partly to our campaigns over the past fifty years. It is rare to hear Victorian buildings thoughtlessly denigrated as they once were, but still their very ubiquity can blind us to their virtues.

In the past, great Victorian buildings such as the Foreign Office in Whitehall, Albert Dock in Liverpool and the Manchester Town Hall were all threatened with demolition. But still today many good buildings such as schools, hospitals and ordinary houses are being lost or insensitively altered. Local people may stand up for them, but they benefit enormously from the knowledge and expertise of the Victorian Society.

What are we doing about it?

The Victorian Society is the champion for Victorian and Edwardian buildings in England and Wales. We have two main tasks. The wider one is to promote understanding of Victorian and Edwardian architecture as a cultural achievement which should be valued in its own right, as well as its virtues in creating a sense of place and local distinctiveness. Secondly, we try to influence the decisions made about individual buildings so that as they are changed to suit modern requirements we do not lose what is special about them.

We report on this work under the three charitable objects set out in our constitution. These are linked, as through involving and educating the public, we can increase the likelihood of saving buildings.

- **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

It would be nice to think that, one day, these buildings would be so highly valued and their qualities so well understood that our work would no longer be necessary. But immediate needs are often felt to be so pressing that it is expedient to sacrifice what is special about a building to satisfy them. Buildings need an advocate who can take the long-term view.

It is difficult to quantify how successful we are in these tasks. An aim so grand as changing public taste is not easily measured, and neither is the effect of our input on individual decisions about buildings. It is not as simple as counting the number of people helped by some medical treatment or the number who use our services. Numbers cannot meaningfully encompass the difference that the survival of Victorian buildings makes to our lives, but we know that many people feel enriched by the historic environment. Details of many individual cases are set out in our magazine, *The Victorian*, and this report gives a good idea of the scope of our work.

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This report looks at what we achieved in 2014 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.

Conserving

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

Headline numbers

4,682 listed building consent applications received

1,800 identified as our period

313 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 in England & Wales 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 2.6 full-time equivalent 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 two 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.

Local authorities are required to notify us of the decisions they take on listed building consent applications that they have consulted us on. 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*.

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 2014 we received more than 4,682 notifications of proposals for listed building consent (4,743 in 2013), each of which has to be investigated by our staff to see if it is of concern to us. Of the notifications received and logged, 1,800 related to Victorian or Edwardian buildings (1,914 in 2013), and we gave detailed responses to 313 (326 in 2013).

We also received 577 notifications for proposed works to listed religious buildings that fall under the ecclesiastical exemption, the overwhelming majority of which have some element within our period of interest. Of these 166 became active cases, receiving a detailed response.

We receive a grant towards our listed buildings casework from Historic England (formerly English Heritage), which has recently extended this funding until March 2016. However there is no allowance for inflation and we are concerned that government spending cuts may affect our grant when we next apply. We also receive a small grant from Cadw.

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. If there are particular points we can make which relate specifically to Victorian and Edwardian buildings then we will do so directly.

Involving

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

Headline numbers

3,071 members

100,461 unique visitors to our website

9,119 followers on Twitter

A focus for interested people

The Victorian Society provides a focus for everyone interested in Victorian and Edwardian architecture and related arts. We maintain our loyal base of 3,071 members (3,132 in 2013). While the number of members has remained constant over recent years, with a low turnover, we are working on 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 2014, Gift Aid added £20,079 (£20,155 in 2013) to our funds.

Legacies are also tremendously important. In 2014 we received two legacies (zero in 2013). The Eliot Hodgkin bequest continues to fund our 50th anniversary exhibition *Saving a Century*. In 2014 it was shown at the Surrey History Museum, Woking; Chelmsford Library; Hughenden Manor; Walthamstow Library; Tyntesfield; St Mary's church, Shewsbury; Dundee Central Library; Slough Library and Chipping Barnet Library. Thanks to our membership trustee Steve Roman for organising such an impressive touring schedule.

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 2015 we will repeat our campaign to encourage members to leave us legacies. If you would like to support our work by joining, making a donation, or remembering us in your will, please telephone 020 8747 5890 or email admin@victoriansociety.org.uk.

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. 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 hundreds of 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 Media Officer 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, and increasingly social media plays an important role. We now have more than 9,119 followers (6,960 in 2013) reading our updates on Twitter, the social networking site.

Community Engagement: Contributing a national context

In the last year we have worked with local campaigners to try to save large parts of Smithfield Market from destruction. We have continued to press Cornwall Council to carry out emergency repairs on *William White's* Old Rectory at St Columb Major. On the Isle of Wight we have worked with campaigners pressing for a repairs notice to be served on the owners of *Somers Clarke's* Frank James Hospital, and we have helped many other local campaigns, particularly with our work on social media. Our free e-newsletter has ensured that thousands of people have been kept up-to-date with the latest developments in our campaigns.

Some of these community campaigns are still continuing, and we will continue to 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.

Our top ten endangered buildings campaign has been running for seven years now and continues to provide people with an opportunity to tell us about buildings at risk in their area. Sometimes we receive nominations for buildings that are already at the centre of a vibrant local campaign, but others need us to help highlight their plight. The burst of publicity that follows the publication of the list can lead to impressive results. Since our 2014 list was published, Swansea Council has spent £75,000 on carrying out emergency holding repairs to the roof of the Palace Theatre, to secure it while long term plans are made for its reuse. There are high hopes for Ancoats Dispensary, where an initial lottery grant has been awarded to enable more detailed plans to be drawn up for its repair, and match-funding has been successfully raised. From the 2010 list, the Prince's Regeneration Trust has completed initial repair works at the Wedgwood Institute in Burslem. As well as the extensive media coverage it generates, the campaign also raises our internet profile. Our website recorded a peak of 2,041 unique visitors on the day of the launch (871 in 2013).

In 2014, we issued dozens of press releases, leading to hundreds of articles in both national and local newspapers mentioning our campaigns, and we made a number of appearances on television and radio. News of our campaigns is reported on our website, which attracted 100,461 unique visits in 2014 (104,701 in 2013), an average of 275 per day.

We plan to continue developing our relationships with journalists and working on other ways of attracting public attention to our campaigns. The trustees view community engagement as an extremely important part of our work. 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

95 events in 2014, organised by volunteers

4,066 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, organised by Steven Brindle, looked at Masterpieces of Engineering, ranging as far underground as the Thames Tunnel and covering the lofty heights of the Eiffel Tower. Four great ships, the North Midland Railway, the Tube and the Skerryvore lighthouse completed the series. The autumn series, organised by Michael Hall, was the last in our popular 'decades' series, covering the Edwardian period. After a masterly survey of Edwardian London by Andrew Saint, lectures covered Structural Steel, Temple Moore, the Arts & crafts church, architectural education in the period, and Edwardian country houses. The Society's former Director, Ian Dungavell, brought the series to a conclusion by looking at how Edwardian buildings have fared over the years, and the role of the Victorian Society in protecting them. We also hosted several supper lectures in our office, including topics as diverse as the Battle of the Styles between Gothic and Classical architecture in Bombay and Calcutta, and McKim, Mead & White.

In November we organised a joint Study Day at the V&A with the Twentieth Century Society on The Shadow of 1914 – British architecture and design 1900-1925. And in October we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of William Butterfield with a Study Day encompassing every aspect of his achievement, held at St Alban's, Holborn.

Visits

One of the highlights of the events programme this year was the AGM weekend based in Bristol. Under cloudless skies, members explored the Bristol area from Clevedon to Tyntesfield, as well as the great commercial architecture of Bristol itself. Geoff Brandwood led a very successful weekend in Gwynedd, and we also organised day trips to the Farnborough area, concentrating on sites associated with the Empress Eugenie; Waltham Abbey; Wellington College & Sandhurst; and pubs of the Black Country.

Some of the other visits and walks included a tour of Bradford City Hall; Ernest Gimson's Stoneywell Cottage; a meal at the Hotel Russell in Bloomsbury; a walking tour of Peckham; Ewan Christian in north London; the Ironbridge gorge; Hull; Blackpool; and Usk. Many of these events were organised by our regional groups.

In 2014 the Society held at least 44 lectures (41 in 2013), 1 study day (1), 2 weekends away (3), 11 day trips (26) and 37 visits or walks (36), a total of 95 events (106) or on average two events per week around the country. We processed over 2,473 bookings for events (2,327 in 2013), 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 Michael Hall. In March we looked at Cornwall, to celebrate the publication of the revised and much-expanded volume of the Buildings of England for the county, including a discussion of Cornwall's great and threatened legacy of Non-conformist chapels. In July, the theme was changing views of the great William Butterfield, and we also covered the National Portrait Gallery's William Morris exhibition and the history of Watts & Co. In November we celebrated the Society's great success over the Smithfield General Market public inquiry, as well as featuring the top ten most endangered buildings for 2014, and looking at what had happened to those on our 2013 list.

Studies in Victorian architecture and design

Intended to stimulate research in our field by providing a good outlet for original research, each issue of our journal focuses on a particular theme. In the fourth issue, published in 2012, we focused on Ecclesiology and Empire, looking at the global influence of Victorian church architects. We are currently preparing for publication an issue focussing on Nikolaus Pevsner, which will appear in 2015.

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 2014, we sold 1126 booklets (740 in 2013) and 21 copies of the book (22 in 2013). As stocks diminish we will reconsider our publications strategy.

We provide a lot of information on our website. The most popular advice notes on our website related to house history, paintwork, decorative tiles, and fireplaces.

Other publications

During the year we published a revised edition of Ted Hubbard's book on *John Douglas*, and sales are going well. 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 three 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 Buildings Committee and a Southern Buildings Committee, both comprised 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

Income resources	2014	2013	
	£'000s	£'000s	
Total income resources	371	339	Total income up 9.3%
<i>Principal components:</i>			
Subscription income	144	128	Increase 12.7%
Grants	46	46	Increase 1.6%
Investment income	17	21	Decrease 17.5%
Educational events and publications	124	127	Decrease 2.1%
Donations	27	10	Increase 159.8%
Legacies	11	0	n/a

Subscription income was up by 12.7% as a result of a small increase in new members and an increase in subscription rates. Our grant income has remained steady. We are grateful to English Heritage for their continued support of the Society. Investment income decreased as a result of our investments being held in low risk but low interest bearing accounts. Educational activities continued to be very successful and the slight fall in gross income reflects a small change to the mix of events. Donations increased in 2014, largely due to the highly successful Smithfield Market appeal. Donations are a key element of the Society's fundraising programme and we are grateful to all members who support us. We received two legacies in 2014; in 2013 we had received no legacies. Legacies have in previous years allowed the Society to undertake extra-ordinary projects that are not affordable out of day to day resources. We will be seeking to ensure that all members are aware of the benefits of leaving a legacy to the Society.

Income on a recurring basis for 2014 was £360,000 (excluding legacy income) versus £339,000 in 2013 an increase of 6.1% on 2013 on a like for like basis.

Outgoing resources	2014	2013	
	£'000s	£'000s	
Total outgoing resources	366	355	Total expenses up 3.2%
<i>Principal components:</i>			
Architectural conservation	202	173	Increase 16.9%
Educational activities	149	170	Decrease 12.6%
Fundraising and governance	15	12	Increase 29.6%

Expenditure on the Society's charitable activities of architectural conservation and education amounted to 96.1% of total expenditure for the year. Overall expenses were up 3.2%.

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

Net movement in resources	2014	2013
	£'000s	£'000s
Deficit on recurring items on a like for like basis	(33)	(26)
Annual fund appeal	27	10
Result on recurring items after annual fund appeal	(6)	(16)
Legacies (used for projects) and other non-recurring items	11	0
One-off costs/income	0	0
Net movement in resources before valuation adjustments	5	(16)

Balance sheet

Net assets	2014	2013	
	£'000s	£'000s	
Total net assets	1,065	1,056	Total net assets increase 0.85%
<i>Principal components:</i>			
<u>Unrestricted fund:</u>			
Tangible fixed assets	177	190	Decrease 6.8%
Short term deposits	589	547	Increase 7.6%
Other net assets	16	44	Decrease 72.6%
<u>Restricted and endowment fund:</u>			
Investments and short term deposits	283	275	Increase 2.9%

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds represent the Society's day to day operating finances. Overall unrestricted funds showed an increase of 10.6 %. Tangible fixed assets include the cost of 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 a year's expected future expenditure plus an allowance for property refurbishment. At 31 December 2014, the Society's unrestricted cash and short term reserves were substantially in excess of this level. 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 increased during the year by 2.9% as a result of the interest earned on deposits.

The endowment funds are invested in a balanced managed fund which should, over time, generate both a steady income and some capital growth.

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 requires 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.

The report was approved by the board of trustees on 23rd April 2015 and signed on its behalf by

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Professor Hilary Grainger
Chairman

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment	Total 2014	Total 2013
INCOMING RESOURCES						
<i>From generated funds</i>						
<i>Voluntary Income:</i>						
Subscriptions		144,134	-	-	144,134	127,859
Donations		26,733	-	-	26,733	10,289
Grants	2	-	46,370	-	46,370	45,640
Legacies		10,500	-	-	10,500	-
<i>Investment income:</i>						
Dividends		2,554	-	-	2,554	2,002
Rental income		9,900	-	-	9,900	9,900
Interest		2,014	2,620	-	4,634	8,959
<i>From charitable activities</i>						
Educational events and publications		122,189	1,786	-	123,975	126,570
<i>Other</i>		1,831	-	-	1,831	7,942
Total incoming resources		319,855	50,776	-	370,631	339,161
EXPENDED RESOURCES						
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>						
Fund raising costs		6,561	-	-	6,561	5,754
<i>Cost of charitable activities</i>						
Architectural conservation		155,772	46,370	-	202,142	172,903
Education		137,535	11,317	-	148,853	170,226
<i>Governance costs</i>		8,410	-	-	8,410	5,798
Total resources expended	3	308,278	46,874	-	365,966	354,681
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfer		11,577	6,911	-	4,665	(15,520)
<i>Transfers</i>						
<i>Other recognised gains/(losses)</i>		-	-	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		-	-	4,472	4,472	7,226
Net movement of funds		11,577	6,911	4,472	9,137	(8,293)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2014		770,797	217,489	67,968	1,056,255	1,064,548
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2014		£782,374	£210,578	£72,440	£1,065,392	£1,056,255

**THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2014**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment	Total 2014	Total 2013
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	5	177,059	-	-	177,059	189,660
INVESTMENTS	6	-	-	72,440	72,440	67,968
		177,059	-	72,440	249,499	257,628
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of publications		3,508	-	-	3,508	2,896
Debtors	7	42,696	-	-	42,696	21,879
Investments		558,717	210,578	-	769,295	767,642
Cash in bank and in hand		29,996	-	-	29,996	54,957
		634,917	210,578	-	845,495	847,374
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year:	8	29,602	-	-	29,602	43,585
NET CURRENT ASSETS		605,315	210,578	-	815,893	803,789
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		782,374	210,578	72,440	1,065,392	1,061,416
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after one year	9	-	-	-	-	5,161
NET ASSETS	12	£782,374	£210,578	£72,440	£1,065,392	£1,056,255
Represented by:						
FUNDS						
Unrestricted		782,374	-	-	782,374	770,798
Restricted	10	-	210,578	-	210,578	217,489
Endowment	11	-	-	72,440	72,440	67,968
		£782,374	£210,578	£72,440	£1,065,392	£1,056,255

These financial statements have been audited under the financial requirements of section 144 of The Charities Act 2011.

Approved by Board of Trustees on 23 April 2015 and signed on its behalf by

..... Professor Hilary Grainger (Chairman)

..... Robert McCarthy (Finance Trustee)

The Accounting Policies and the Notes on pages 16-20 form part of these Accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

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 life 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 and on fixtures and fittings at 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

	2014	2013
	£	£
English Heritage	44,370	43,640
CADW	2,000	2,000
Other	-	-
	<u>£46,370</u>	<u>£45,640</u>

3. Total resources expended

	Conservation	Education	Fundraising	Governance	Total 2014	Total 2013
Staff	127,107	41,261	4,896	1,573	174,837	150,100
Other direct costs						
Events	-	63,813	-	-	63,813	80,031
<i>The Victorian</i>	-	19,634	-	-	19,634	35,253
<i>The Journal</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Casework	31,794	-	-	-	31,794	23,517
Publications	-	5,314	-	-	5,314	2,417
Other	-	4,794	-	6,301	11,095	7,981
Allocated costs						
General office costs	43,240	14,037	1,665	536	59,478	55,383
	<u>£202,142</u>	<u>£148,853</u>	<u>£6,561</u>	<u>£8,411</u>	<u>£365,966</u>	<u>£354,681</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:

	2014	2013
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration		
-Audit fee	4,194	3,172
-Accountancy fee for payroll services	1,154	848
Depreciation	12,600	11,000
Staff costs comprise:		
Wages and salaries	139,982	131,999
Social security costs	19,933	12,508
Pension costs	14,922	5,593

The average number of staff employed during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis, was 5.7 (2013: 5.9). 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 (2013: 5) received reimbursement of their travelling expenses totalling £1271.04 (2013: £1,395) in relation to their role as trustees or on committees. No Mary Heath trustees received reimbursement either in 2014 or 2013.

5. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold premises	Office equipment	Furniture & fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost:				
As at 1 January 2014	168,045	40,052	47,955	256,052
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2014	<u>168,045</u>	<u>40,052</u>	<u>47,955</u>	<u>256,052</u>
Depreciation:				
As at 1 January 2014	-	27,897	38,495	66,392
Charge for the year	-	7,600	5,001	12,601
Disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2014	<u>-</u>	<u>35,497</u>	<u>43,496</u>	<u>78,993</u>
Net book value:				
As at 31 December 2014	<u>£168,045</u>	<u>£4,555</u>	<u>£4,459</u>	<u>£177,059</u>
As at 31 December 2013	<u>£168,045</u>	<u>£12,155</u>	<u>£9,460</u>	<u>£189,660</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

	2014	2013
Quoted investments:		
Market value at 1 January	67,968	60,742
Additions	-	-
Unrealised valuation gains/ (losses)	4,472	7,226
Market value at 31 December	<u>£72,440</u>	<u>£67,968</u>

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

Current asset investments

Investments in 2014 and 2013 comprise cash on deposit with UK institutions.

7. Debtors

	2014	2013
Other debtors	20,595	3,178
Prepayments	3,569	5,601
Accrued income	18,532	13,100
	<u>£42,696</u>	<u>£21,879</u>

8. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2014	2013
Accruals	27,422	33,125
Deferred income	2,180	10,460
	<u>£29,602</u>	<u>£43,585</u>

9. Life members' subscriptions received in advance

No new life members were recruited in 2014

10. Restricted Funds

	Pevsner Memorial Essay Fund	Mary Heath Trust	Grants	Donations	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 01 January 2014	11,625	195,613	-	10,251	217,489
Received during year					
Grants	-	-	46,370	-	46,370
Donations					-
Interest	-	2,620	-	-	2,620
Other income	-	1,786	-	-	1,786
	<u>11,625</u>	<u>200,019</u>	<u>46,370</u>	<u>10,251</u>	<u>268,265</u>
Applied during the year	-	(11,317)	(46,370)	-	(57,687)
	<u>£11,625</u>	<u>£188,702</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£10,251</u>	<u>£210,578</u>
Comprising					
Current asset investments	11,625	188,702	-	10,251	210,578
	<u>£11,625</u>	<u>£188,702</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£10,251</u>	<u>£210,578</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'.

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 12 months' expected future expenditure plus an allowance for property refurbishment. At 31 December 2014, and excluding the proceeds of any legacies earmarked for future projects, the Society's cash and short term reserves were significantly in excess of this level. 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:

	2014	2013
Gross income from continuing operations		
being total income of continuing operations	370,631	339,161
Total expenditure of continuing operations	365,966	354,681
Net income for the year before transfers and gains/losses on investment assets	4,665	(15,520)
Transfer from endowment funds	-	-
Net income for the year after transfers	4,665	(15,519)
Unrealised gain/(loss) on fixed asset investments	4,472	7,226
Net income for the year	£9,138	(£8,293)

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 2014 and 2013.

Independent auditors' report

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

We have audited the financial statements of The Victorian Society for the year ended 31 December 2014 as set out on pages 11-20. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 16 and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

This report is made solely to the company'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 company's members those matters we are required to state to them in a Report of the Auditors and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of Directors/Trustees and Auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 13, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

It is our responsibility to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. We will form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on the financial statements and report our opinion to you.

This opinion has been prepared for and only for the Foundation's members in accordance with Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown and in whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior written consent.

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 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Report of the Directors/Trustees is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, if information specified by law regarding Directors'/Trustees' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Accounting (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 significant estimates and judgments made by the Directors/Trustees in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. We have undertaken the audit in accordance with the requirements of APB Ethical Standard- Provisions Available for Small Entities in the following circumstances: in common with many other organisations of your size and nature, in addition to audit services provided to you, we also assist with the preparation of financial statements and provide routine payroll services.

In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the charitable company's state of affairs as at 31st December 2014 and of its income and expenditure in the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to small companies, and the Report of the Directors/Trustees is consistent with the financial statements.

Derek Rothera FCA
Senior Statutory Auditor

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

23 April 2015
Date