

annual report 2008

# CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

The Trust, founded in 1942, is a non-profit-distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, No 377108. Registered as a charity, No 502132. Registered with the Civic Trust

#### Founder:

The Very Revd Cyril A Alington, DD Dean of Durham 1933-51

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Sherban Cantacuzino, CBE, D.Univ, FRIBA Sir William Whitfield, CBE, FRTPI, ARIBA

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D C D Pocock, MA, PhD (secretary)
N J Ruffle, Bsc Eng, CEng, FICE, FRSA
(membership secretary)
Miss M E Sales, BA, BScEcon

#### Honorary Treasurer:

C.P.Green, BA, PhD 11 Priory Green Byker Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 2DW

#### **Honorary Solicitors:**

Blackett, Hart and Pratt, LLP Kepier House Belmont Business Park Durham DH1 1TW

#### **Examiners:**

Pullan Barnes Chartered Accountants 49 Front Street Framwellgate Moor, Durham DH1 5BL

# Registered Office of the Trust:

c/o Blackett, Hart and Pratt, LLP Kepier House Belmont Business Park Durham DH1 1TW

### Honorary Secretary:

D C D Pocock, MA, PhD c/o Blackett, Hart and Pratt, LLP Kepier House Belmont Business Park Durham DH1 1TW

#### Bankers:

Co-operative Bank plc 5-6 Saddler Street Durham DH1 3NP

# SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES 2007-2008

#### **DURHAM IN CONTEXT**

Durham District's acquiescence in its own demise, to be reborn as part of one large unitary authority, was finally accepted this spring when a legal challenge to similar proposals of central government elsewhere collapsed. Alleged financial benefit, however, cannot conceal the fact that different aspects of social and political life – as well a sense of well-being and distinctiveness – are played out on different scales.

Trustees have responded by conveying to the authorities concerned their full support for the establishment of a Town Council for the City. This would include retention of the symbolic features of the City's history or heritage, most notably the office of mayor – and accompanying ceremonial.

The practicality, or necessity, of retaining the existing sub-divisions, at least for accounting purposes, is shown by the continued use of districts in the Regional Spatial Strategy. The latter, issued in February, is now in its <u>fourth</u> consultative version since 2004 as a result of the Secretary of State having made *Further Proposed Changes*...following responses to her *Proposed Changes to the Draft Revision of the N.E. Regional Spatial Strategy*. In turn, one key response of Trustees concerned housing.

Along with other districts, the housing allocation for Durham for the period up to 2021 has been raised yet again. Even so, the accompanying text, based admittedly on central government policy, undermines any attempt to exercise constraint. (Durham overshot its Structure Plan allocation by 40%, and was deaf to any Trust criticism as it continued to approve a series of further major applications. These may now be disregarded, as 'counting' begins afresh.) The Regional Spatial Strategy now states that the allocated totals are "guideline figures and do not represent a ceiling; LDFs [= districts] may make the case for higher figures as appropriate." Where is the effective planning in such permissive language?

#### **MAJOR PROJECTS**

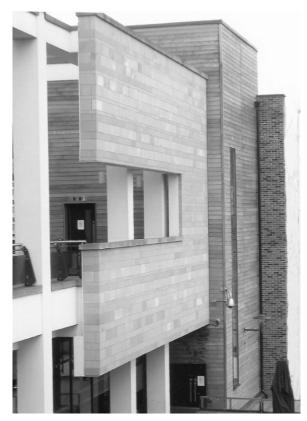
Walkergate is now complete, having been marked by an official opening in August. Conceived as a complement to Millennium Place, both in terms of content and design, it must be deemed a disappointment. Its series of eating and drinking places is thin gruel compared with the variety of commercial uses listed at the planning

stage. The architecture is no more meritorious. The structure does not descend to the river as promised. In fact the unexpected height of the block adjacent to Leazes Road required an additional retrospective application in order that plan and permission might conform. Surprisingly, the widely-illustrated view that was promised from the full glazing of the Gala balcony in reality is obscured. There is also a 'play' with materials unrelated to function and features which appear to carry neither meaning nor significance.



Impeded View from Gala Lower Balcony (D.Jones)

Banks Developments Ltd, which began as an opencast operator on the Durham coalfield, has entered our City in the last few years with large-scale plans for change. It has recently been responsible for converting Neville's Cross College into Sheraton Park. Last September it lodged an audacious application for the grounds of Mount Oswald. Among the quarters to be developed was a "world class business site" to employ 4,000. (For comparison, this figure is more than twice the number employed at County Hall.) When the outline application was refused by the Authority, the company surprisingly appealed against the decision. - Surprising, since however sympathetic the appointed Inspector proves to be, there is surely no way around the Mt Oswald Design Brief and swathe of Local Plan policies and the Regional Spatial Strategy, all of which the proposal seriously contravenes.



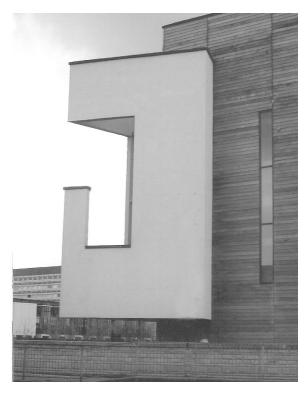
Walkergate - incoherent use of materials (G. Pocock)

Before submission of the Mount Oswald application, Banks Ltd had been chosen to develop Elvet Waterside on a riverside site owned jointly by the City and University. Opposition to the project was sparked by incorporation of the former bowling green, made possible by the University acceding to the City's request to rescind its long-standing covenant on the site. While much of the general area, which includes the Baths, is suitable for appropriate redevelopment, opposition to the present proposal relates to far more than the bowling green component. The Trust submitted four pages of detailed argument and asked the Government Office to issue an Article 14 with a view to a call-in. (Others have since followed suit.) All but one of the statutory consultees have objected, the County Highway Authority being the exception. The public has responded in record numbers: "to call it vandalism is to do the Vandals a grave injustice," wrote one objector. (We are, after all, passionate people who are passionate about places, according to the regional agency.) In the face of such widespread opposition, it is impossible to see how the City Authority, which is an interested party, can recommend approval without risking a call-in.

The proposed vacating by the **University** of car park and premises for the Elvet Waterside project is the first move in a phased long-term shift in that institution's

centre of gravity. It marks the beginning of a major new cycle in the evolution of this quarter of the city centre. The previous one, in the 1960s, saw the University move into Old Shire Hall and a series of Old Elvet properties vacated by the County authority when it moved outwards to Aykley Heads. Now the University in turn proposes moving outwards. In January, One NorthEast approved funding to acquire Old Shire Hall and Nos 14, 15 Old Elvet, with the buildings leased back until new premises are built at Stockton Road, South Road and Mount Joy. The academic departments currently occupying the buildings on the north side of Old Elvet will also depart the area, creating the opportunity for the elegant Georgian structures to revert to residences or appropriate services.

The **Northern Relief Road** has been largely 'out of the news' for much of the year, although it is understood that the County Council's traffic modelling was completed several months ago. Its results, and the promised public consultation on the Authority's proposed measures, are now promised for later in the year. None of the Authority's previous traffic modelling thus far has remotely begun to justify a relief road, yet it persists in referring to new infrastructure. Should this be its decision, rather than traffic management measures, then the Trust's counter-argument will be headed by Steer, Davies, Gleave of London, a firm of specialist consultants



Walkergate - Curious corner- piece (G. Pocock)

engaged by Trustees to undertake an independent critique of the Business Plan.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL GAINS**

The **Calman Learning Centre**, winner of the Trust's architectural award for 2007, is a prominent and striking focal point of the University's Science Site. The first post-war building on the Science Site, the West Building, merited inclusion in Pevsner; it would be no surprise if this latest structure were included in a subsequent revision of this publication.



Trevor Armour, University Project Manager (D.Jones)

The on-going restoration of **Durham Railway Station** continues to engender excitement and pride.
Begun in 1996 and originally funded by GNER, work has progressed from the north platform to the south, to Prosser's main station building of 1857 and attached prefabricated structures. The former has now resumed its original role, while the latter are being removed. Crucial to the effective functioning of the station will be a measured layout for the circulation and parking of vehicles, not least provision of drop-off spaces. This complementary aspect could be compromised by an 'architectural jewel' promised in the 20/20 Vision Masterplan – a restaurant on part of the present car-parking area. Situated at the edge, and with a thinning of trees, it will have an incomparable view over the City, while at night it will be an

"illuminated beacon." It is not a little surprising, and ominous, that an official document should contain a proposal which is so blatantly contrary to long-established environmental planning policies regarding the City's inner bowl skyline.

Nearby, **Flass Vale**, 'saved' by a campaign spear-headed by the Trust in the 1970s and now overseen by an active Friends' organisation, was created a Local Nature Reserve in February by the City Council in line with its Local Plan policy E20. In December Trustees welcomed the opening of **Kingfisher Bridge**, a County Council project over Old Durham Beck, a valuable new link for both walkers and cyclists.

In the heart of the City access to the **Town Hall** for the disabled has been achieved by an ingenious piece of internal reconstruction. Entry is at the lower end of the Market Place, through the premises that formerly housed the tourist information bureau – or 'Sweaty Betty's' fish and chip shop to those with longer memories – but more than installation of a lift has been achieved. A coherent series of spaces, each with an appropriate architectural finish, has been created in a refurbishment of this part of the Town Hall. The whole was master-minded by the City's Cultural and Heritage Section.

Trustees welcomed news, in quick succession, that the fund-raising appeal for a bronze cast of Fenwick Lawson's 'The Journey' had attained its target, and also that planning permission had been achieved for its siting in Millennium Place. Achievement of the former followed a very generous donation from the widow of our former patron, Norman Richardson. Selection of the site, interestingly, has come full circle since your Secretary first recommended it as the obvious location at a presentation of the Millennium project to the Royal Fine Art Commission in London in 1998. (It is to be hoped, however, that the precise chosen spot in the Millennium Place does not convey the impression that the pall-bearing monks have carried St Cuthbert all the way to Durham in order to visit the Library.)

A replacement sculpture which Trustees are still pursuing is that of a portrait head of **Sir Ove Arup**. The sculptor, Diana Brandenburger, kindly agreed for another cast to be made, this time in resin-bronze, with a stone finish, in order not to attract interest from metal thieves a second time. Unfortunately, the sculptor died recently after a long illness, but her husband contacted Trustees to confirm he would continue to act according to his wife's wishes.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUERIES**

Alongside the environmental gains there have again been several proposals which have caused

puzzlement, if not concern. Not least, there was the proposal that the **Market Place** should be subject to an international competition for a "total redesign." The project originates in the 20/20 Vision Masterplan. alongside the previously-mentioned station restaurant. Other highly questionable 'jewels' are in the document. (Gone, apparently, are the days when the City Planning Officer had the skill and initiative to create an award-winning floorscaping scheme.) A two-day consultation exercise presumably received results similar to the outcry and disbelief voiced in the local press. Trustees hope that more attention will be paid to the comments received than was taken of the consultation exercise on the Vision Masterplan document as a whole (See Bulletin 64).

One component of the *Vision Masterplan* which Trustees welcomed was a comprehensive 'Lighting and Darkness Strategy'. Trustees were surprised, therefore, when the County Council replaced its early subtle **illumination scheme of the two medieval bridges** with full frontal lighting, which even spilt over into bridge-users' eyes. Puzzled, Trustees made repeated inquiries to the Vision leader as to whether the County Authority, a partner in the Masterplan team, had acted unilaterally. There was no response.

Nos 43-44 Saddler Street, the distinctive double frontage of an 18th century theatre, remained an eye-sore for a third year. Once again, a request was made to the Authority to make use of its enforcement powers to effect repairs, but a boarding-up of the façade was the sole response. Strangely, an application in August for a change of use to a drinking establishment claimed that the frontage had already been refurbished. Inability to attract a tenant presumably explains the subsequent inactivity. A surfeit of drinking places could finally have arrived.

The Authority's attitude to a planning inquiry relating to proposed housing at **Dryburn Park House** was also curious. The Development Control Committee had refused the application by Wimpey-Taylor, but at the appeal inquiry the Council put up a perfunctory justification for its action. In the words of the Inspector's Report, "the Council's case was bereft of any evidence to support the reason for refusal." Then, presumably with an eye on the Trust's vain effort to justify an objection to key aspects of the proposals, the Inspector added, "the Council cannot rely on any third party evidence against the proposal to justify its position." The appeal, therefore, was upheld, and costs awarded against the Authority for "unreasonable behaviour."

A recent application by Durham Villages Regeneration Company on behalf of the City Council was to demolish the planning office at **Byland Lodge** in order to build residences and convert the Lodge into flats. Although a perfectly acceptable piece of urban design, Trustees' objection questioned why the Authority was not following its own policy of including any affordable housing. It is hardly realistic for D.V.R.C. to claim that,

to encourage families, it "will actively discourage purchase by investors."

The new swimming pool, nearing completion, is to be called **Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre**. This is the third recent structure, following the flats at Freeman's Quay and Clements Wharf, to evoke a past riverside activity that never was. Immediately down-river, The Sands begins to take on a double entendre. – And how long before the appearance of a waterside pub, 'The Light House'?

#### LICENSING MATTERS

The number of licensing applications dropped this year as the new Licensing Act bedded in. The Trust was involved in two particular applications. The first was to oppose the conversion of The Loft night club into a pole dancing/laptop venue. This type of activity was considered inappropriate for this locality, while the applicants had not addressed the extra risks that would arise. The Council's Licensing Committee controversially granted the licence, but with restricted hours. Both sides appealed. The Trust maintained its objection, and, as members will know, happily, the magistrates this time came down on the side of 'the public.' As this goes to press the club is seeking a judicial review of the magistrates' decision.

The second objection was to an unusual application for a converted bus to serve drinks while parked at various lay-bys and bus stops around the district. The Trust queried whether the operation could be well regulated or policed as a conventional pub or club. All but one of the applications (for each stop) were withdrawn, and the one remaining foundered because it was not properly advertised. The applicants are now considering their position.

As a result of our experience through the years and correspondence with Roberta Blackman-Woods, MP, Roger Cornwell was invited to a meeting with the Home Officer minister, Vernon Coker, to put the Trust's point of view. These experiences also informed the adjournment debate our MP secured on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

(R.C.)

#### **DURHAM IN MUSIC**

A musical event of note was the world premier of John Lord's 'Durham Concerto' in the cathedral in October by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Described as consisting of six 'pictures' of Durham during an imaginary day, it is the first piece of classical music to have been inspired by the City. Painters have responded aplenty, but not musicians. Even Felix Mendelssohn felt moved to record in water colour rather than musical composition on his visit. Durham's J Bacchus Dykes was a prolific hymn tune composer in the

mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, but although several of his compositions were named after local scenes, there was no intention of evoking local colour.

The 'Durham Concerto', commissioned by the University as part of its 175th anniversary celebrations, was, according to the composer, "garnered from two or three short visits and reading of a short history." The scenes, described in some detail in the programme, induced your Secretary to compare the contents alluded to with those in his audio-cassette, 'A Sound Portrait of a Cathedral City' produced by the Trust two decades ago. More generally, it caused one to reflect on the whole relationship between sound and vision. – And whether, in terms of evocation, John Lord's concerto was as successful as the 'St Cuthbert Oratorio' by local composer, Will Todd.

#### **EVENTS**

Our autumn meeting was addressed by Michael Hurlow, Durham's Heritage and Design Manager, on the City's 'Lighting and Darkness Strategy.' This spring, with the University's permission, the meeting was in the award-winning Calman Learning Centre. Appropriately, Trevor Armour, the University's project manager for the scheme, led a tour through the building. The lecture after last year's AGM was given by Terry Deary. His 'Deadly Durham' was characteristically provocative. (As was his TV film on the City, in which your Secretary was invited to be his sparring partner.)

The Christmas card this year reproduced the distinctive LNER 1932 poster by Doris Zinkeisen, depicting the Translation of St Cuthbert's remains, with clear background reference to the foundation of the earlier cathedral and to its contemporary silhouette. Complimentary comments abounded, and sales exhausted stocks. In September members of the Trust again provided volunteer stewards for properties during the Heritage Open Day scheme. Trustees met on the customary twelve occasions; members still remain reluctant to attend what are open meetings.

The winner of the Trust's award in Durham in Bloom, given for 'long-term contribution to the local or civic amenity', was won this year by Mr R Phillips of Pittington. The City itself earned the silver award in the small city/large town category. In this year's Northumbria in Bloom, Durham again won the small city category.

Finally, one event which merits mention is the advent of the *Durham Times*. After a gap of many years, its appearance is a most welcomed successor to the former *Durham Advertiser* in its broadsheet era.

#### **PERSONALIA**

Trustees were delighted to hear the news that **Fenwick Lawson** is to receive an honorary degree from

the University in the summer. Fenwick, a former Trustee, wrote a chapter giving his own vision of Durham in our publication of that name, but, of course, he expresses himself primarily through sculpture. (He kindly allowed the Trust to use his work, 'The Journey', on our Christmas card in 1999.) It is gratifying, and appropriate, that his home cathedral city should honour this country's leading Christian sculptor.

Two long-standing Trustees have indicated their wish to retire at this year's AGM. **June Crosby** was elected a Trustee in 1971, and was chairman for many years in succession to George Bull. The most tangible legacy of her chairmanship is the restoration and replacement of Neptune in the Market Place. She was the leading motivator of this project, from conception, through fundraising to its completion. She was also secretary for the North East Federation of Civic and Amenity Societies. After moving house to Stanhope, she found the energy to establish the Weardale Society.

Margaret Dobson has been a Trustee since 1980. We have benefited from her alert eye within Brancepeth and beyond, from her business acumen and from her organising of the Trust's part in Heritage Open Days – one building opened up, of course, being her own castle! In fact, such is her generosity, that she regularly shares her home with the community and a series of charities.

The past year, sadly, has seen the deaths of **Wally Whitfield** in August, **Enid Hart** in October and **Kenneth Ashby** most recently in January. Obituaries appeared in *Bulletins* 63 and 64.



Dr Kenneth Ashby, Trustee 1957-2004

#### **ANNUAL MEETING LECTURE**

Immediately following this year's business part of the AGM, there will be a lecture by **Ed Pomfret**, Head of Campaigns for The Woodland Trust. The Trust has recently acquired an extensive tract of land at Low Burn Hall, including the ancient woodland, and is alert to the possibility of Houghall College vacating its grounds. It therefore promises to be a lecture with local interest.

D.C.D.P.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The sixty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the City of Durham Trust will be held in Room 141, Elvet Riverside 1, New Elvet at 7.15 pm on Wednesday 14 May 2008

Members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for absence.
- 2. Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting (Wednesday 9 May 2007).
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
- 4. Minutes of an Extra-ordinary Meeting (20 October 2007)
- 5. Report of the Trustees and the Presentation of Audited Accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2007.
- 6.. Appointment of the honorary officers of the Trust.
- 7. Appointment of Trustees.

The following Trustees retire by rotation:

Dr J W Charters, Mr R Cornwell, Mrs J H Crosby, Mrs F M Dobson, & Miss M E Sales

All are eligible for re-election.

Names of other possible new Trustees, together with proposer and seconder, and up to 100 words of recommendation, should reach the Secretary before the meeting.

- 8. Chairman's remarks.
- 9. Any other business which may be brought forward by members.

  It would be helpful if notice of this could be given to the Secretary.

#### **LECTURE**

At 8 pm, after the AGM,

Ed Pomfret of the Woodland Trust

will give a lecture on

ANCIENT WOODLAND - VALUE AND CHALLENGE

#### **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007**

	<u>2007</u> €	2006 £
Current Assets	~	<b>4</b>
CAF Account Cash at Bank – Current Account	21,772.41 	18,216.47 <u>933.49</u>
Less Current Liabilities	22,914.54	19,149.96
Trade Creditors Other Creditors	- 628. 387.50 534.	
Total Assets	22,527.04	17,987.22
Represented By		
Fund		
Unrestricted Restricted – Tree Planting	22,222.88 304.16	17,683.06 304.16
	22,527.04	17,987.22

For the year ended 31 December 2007 the charity was entitled to exemption under section 249A(1) of the Companies Act 1985. No members have required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 249B(2). The trustee's acknowledge their responsibility for: (i) Ensuring the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 221; and (ii) Preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of its financial year, and of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the charity.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 18 March 2008 and signed on its behalf by

 	 Trustee

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds	Total Funds <u>2007</u> £	Total Funds 2006 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		*	*	<b>4-</b>	
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds	Typ.				
Voluntary Income	2	4,026.06	-	4,026.06	1,864.34
Activities for Generating Funds	3	1,890.13	-	1,890.13	1,387.16
Investment Income		943.77		943.77	711.63
Total Incoming Resources		6,859.96	<del></del>	6,859.96	3,963.13
Cost of Generating Funds					
Fundraising Trading Costs		637.91	-	637.91	1,167.49
Charitable Activities	4	1,576.48	-	1,576.48	1,841.05
Governance Costs		105.75	<u>-</u>	105.75	88.12
Total Resources Expended		2,320.14		2,320.14	_3,096.66
NET INCOMING RESOUR	CES FOR YEAR	4,539.82	-	4,539.82	866.47
Total Funds at 1 January 2007		17,683.06	304.16	17,987.22	17,120.75
Total Funds at 31 December 20	007	22,222.88	304.16	22,527.04	17,987.22

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

### Accounting Policies

- a. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of fixed assets, investments at market value and in accordance with the financial reporting standard for Smaller Entities (effective March 2000) the Companies Act 1985 and follow the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2000, and revised 2005.
- b.Incoming resources from the sale of publications and investments is included when receivable.
- c. Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.
- d.Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the object of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- e. Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.
- f. Legacies are accounted for in the year in which they are received.

#### 2. Voluntary Income

	2007 £	2006 £
Legacy	1,777.39	
Subscriptions	1,784.00	1,494.20
Donations	83.50	63.55
Gifts and Refunds	381.17	306.59
	4,026.06	_1,864.34

#### 3. Activities for Generating Funds

#### Publication Sales

	2007 £	2006 £
'St Cuthbert'	296.40	369.20
'Essays'	76.00	148.00
'Bonomi'	-	10.00
'Visions'	2.00	2.00
'Futures of Durham'	62.50	40.50
Walks Leaflet'	8.00	103.25
'Xmas Cards'	1,445.23	714.21

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007 (Cont'd)

# 4. Charitable Activities

haritable Activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds  2007 £	Total Funds 2006 £
Trees	-	-	-	20.00
Subscriptions				
Bow Trust	50.00	-	50.00	50.00
Civic Trust (North East)	10.00	-	10.00	10.00
Friends of Durham Cathedral	20.00	-	20.00	20.00
CPRE	30.00	-	30.00	30.00
Civic Trust (National)	150.00	-	150.00	150.00
Alington House	10.50	-	10.50	20.00
Beautiful Durham			<u></u>	40.00
	270.50	-	270.50	340.00
Public Enquiry Costs	-	-	-	186.00
Postage, Stationery & Secretarial	306.07	-	306.07	450.21
Filing Fee	30.00	-	30.00	-
Meeting Expenses	414.25	-	414.25	360.04
Development Committee Agendas Bulletins etc	365.66	-	365.66	314.80
Insurance	190.00		190.00	_190.00
	1,576.48		1,576.48	1,841.05