

June 2006

A message from Sir John Ritblat, Chairman of The British Land Company PLC

In our 2006 Annual Report and Accounts we illustrate portraits selected from the National Portrait Gallery's collection.

We are delighted to focus on the Gallery in this way as both British Land and the National Portrait Gallery are celebrating their 150th anniversary in 2006.

To mark the occasion I have commissioned a publication entitled "British Life in the 1850's" and am pleased to enclose a copy for you. I hope that you will find much enjoyment in reading and discovering such delights as when the first ice cream cone came into being, the advent of the very 'British' deckchair and the introduction of the stethoscope in 1855.

The future continues to be promising with the prospective advent of the new REIT regime where subject to details British Land expects to apply for this change of status at the earliest opportunity.

In other respects some things do not change as I see from the cricket archives for 1856 that on the date of our AGM the Gentlemen of England were playing the Gentlemen of Kent and Sussex at Lord's.

Of course the Gentlemen were amateurs and we would like to feel that we would have been in the Professionals' camp, even though relegated to the tradesmans' entrance!



Sir John Ritblat