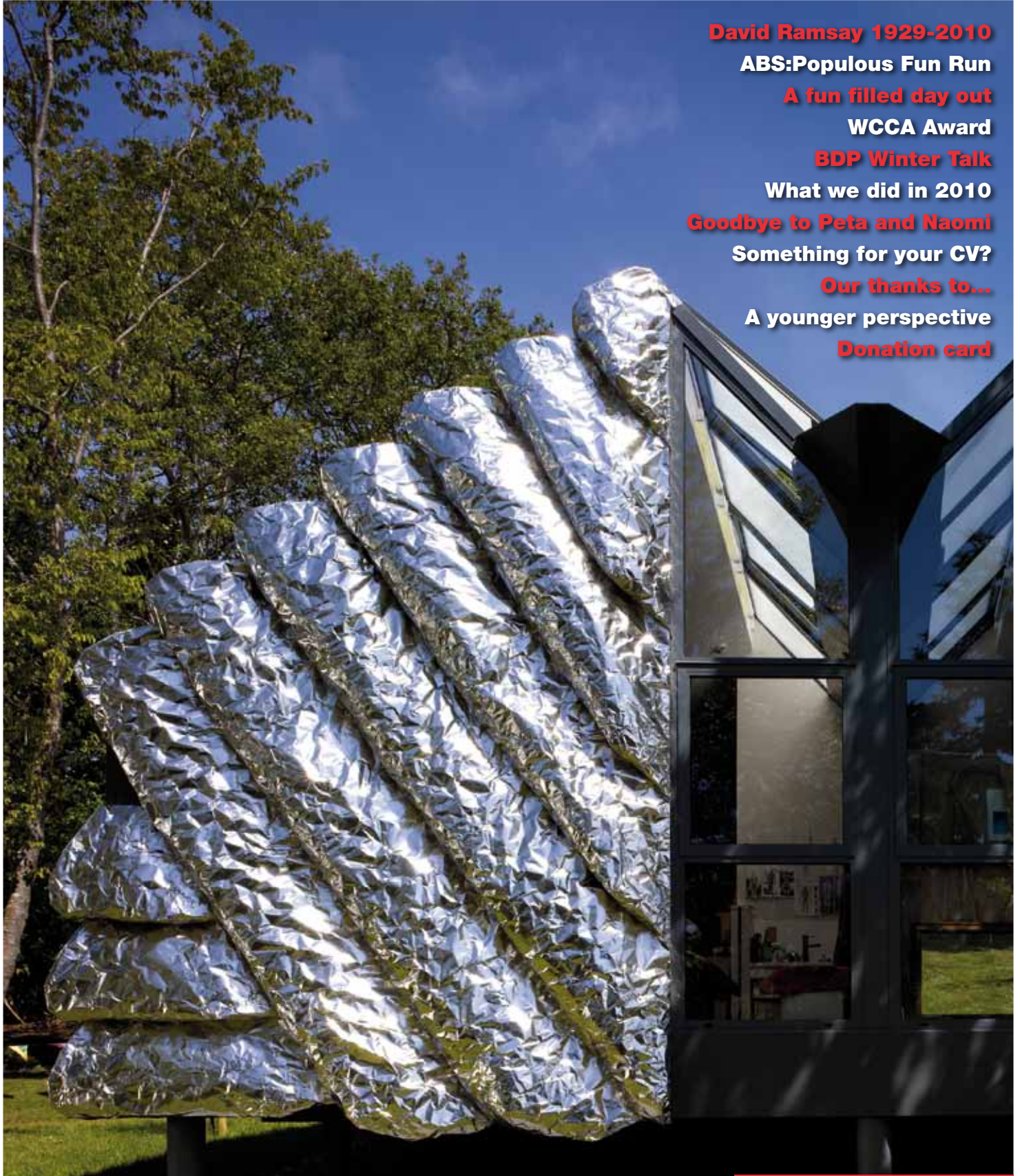


ABS:NEWS

www.absnet.org.uk

Spring 2011

ARCHITECTS
BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY



David Ramsay 1929-2010

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David Ramsay 1929-2010

David Rock writes:

David was an unusually 'good' person (in the full sense of that word) and in capital letters. He was a deeply religious man, but, like much else, kept that to himself. He did good things, quietly, all his life.

We were friends since we were 11, joining grammar school in Sunderland in 1940. We were best friends, living only a few streets apart. David could draw like a dream, even then.

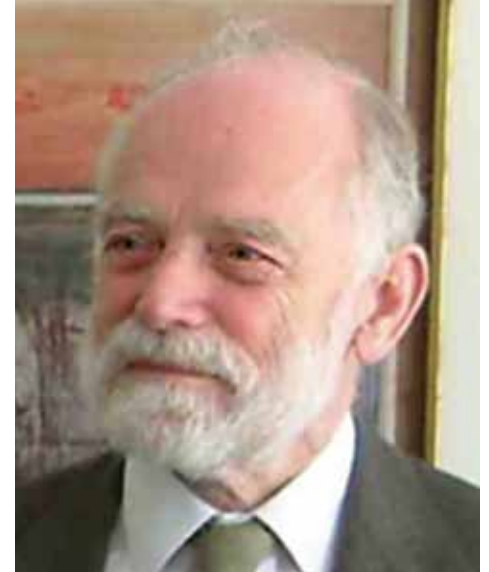
We spent five years together at the School of Architecture, Kings College, Newcastle and in 1952 we came to London, sharing a flat in Pimlico, he at Freddie Gibberd and me at Basil Spence. His first job was the lavatories at the first building at Heathrow – an RIBA award-winning building now lost amidst the Heathrow mess. His mentor there was Gibberd's number two – Bob Double, later an ABS stalwart, Secretary and President.

David returned to Gibberds after two years National Service, then spent a few

years at two firms before joining Casson Conder later becoming a partner, and always working with Sir Hugh Casson rather more than Hugh's amanuensis.

It was typical of David that he didn't like the rough and tumble of partnership and proposed early retirement in 1985, even though he was running the largest job in the office with 20 staff out of the 35 in the firm. A mark of his staff's love and loyalty was that many of them said they were leaving too. The result was Ramsay Tugwell (Tony Tugwell was his Associate on the project), the firm starting with that huge job and another, the Royal College of Music next to the Albert Hall. And 20 staff.

I introduced David to the ABS in 1961, soon after I was persuaded onto the Publications Committee. That committee was so good; Monica Pidgeon, then editor of the best architectural magazine Architectural Design, Theo Crosby often came too, Michael Manser, Edmund Ward then working on the classic BBC series Z-cars. The ABS was much bigger at that time with the ABS Insurance Agency and great names filled Council – Robert Matthew, Lord Esher, Eric Lyons, Alex Gordon, and Basil Spence.



I joined the ABS Council in about 1967 then resigned my commitments in 1971 when I resigned my partnership at BDP to set up Rock Townsend. David stayed on joining ABS Council in 1972 to 1980. He joined again, becoming Hon Secretary in 1998 when I was ABS President, which came with being RIBA President. So we were working together again with David an excellent, hard-working Hon Secretary for 10 years. The ABS has lost a great servant.

ABS:Populous Fun Run

This year the ABS:Populous Fun Run takes place on 12 June. It promises to be bigger and better than ever so put together a team from your practice and join in this 6km Sunday morning run from Myddelton Square to Tate Modern. Thousands of pounds have been raised in sponsorship over the years and it really has helped those of our profession who have suffered redundancy, accident, illness and other personal misfortune.

Visit www.absnet.org.uk to register.



A fun filled day out

On Sunday 21 August we are holding a unique networking day for you, your friends and your family. Not only will you meet new contacts within architecture but you will also discover what makes London the tourist capital of the world! If you don't live in London this will be a perfect excuse to visit.

Put this date in your diary now and join our Facebook page to keep in touch with all our events over the coming year. We have some very exciting activities planned. Visit www.absnet.org.uk to sign up.

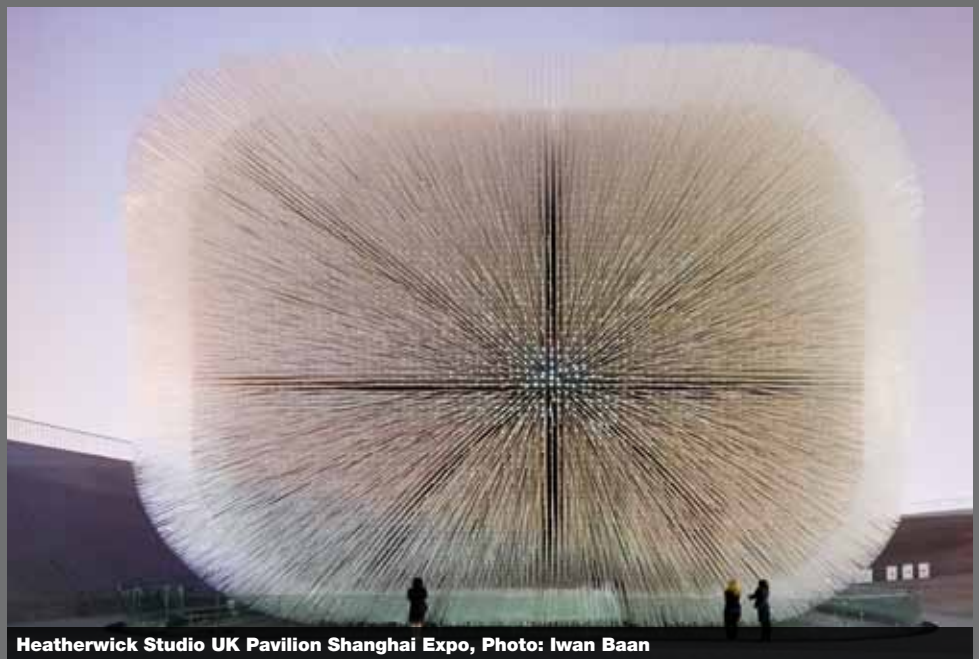
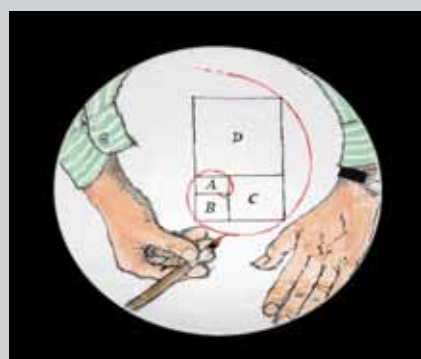


WCCA Award

Ken Shuttleworth, ABS President, is to design the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects Award platter which is presented to the individual, group or organisation considered to have made a significant effort to support the ABS during the past year. This can either be by raising money (not necessarily the largest sum) or by some other means.

Do you know anyone who has gone that extra mile to help the Society? Visit www.absnet.org.uk to download a nomination form.

The winner will be announced at the WCCA Election Court Dinner in the summer.



Heatherwick Studio UK Pavilion Shanghai Expo, Photo: Iwan Baan

BDP Winter Talk

Our series of talks which started in the depths of winter with an excellent gathering at Theis and Khan, followed by equally interesting and entertaining events at Grimshaw, Heatherwick Studio and Make, will end on a high note at BDP on 14 April.

Tickets are still available to hear Tony McGuirk, BDP Chairman talk about the firm as it celebrates its 50th year as an integrated practice of architects, engineers and designers. From its early beginnings in Preston to its current locations across the UK, Europe, Middle

East, North Africa, China and India BDP proudly continue their tradition of creating award winning buildings and sustainable places for people across every sector of human activity. An exhibition, film and book are just some of the initiatives that will mark the anniversary as BDP looks forward to the next successful 50 years.

The ABS is grateful to all the firms who gave their time and energy to share their successes with our supporters. If you would like to attend this final event of the series please book at www.absnet.org.uk



BDP Liverpool One, Photo: David Barbour

What we did in 2010

Like many other charities, our income fell significantly during 2010 dropping by almost £160,000. This was not unexpected given the general state of the economy and the construction industry in particular. During the year we worked on various methods of reducing spending and, where possible, increasing income. In particular we have adjusted our investment strategy to produce more money and have changed one of our investment managers. We also began a new legacy programme which, in the long run, will convince more people to leave us a bequest in their will. We reduced the head office staff from 8 to 6½ and this will reduce further to 5½ by the beginning of 2013.

Despite the financial gloom, we made no reduction or cutback in the help we give to needy people in the architectural profession. In 2010 we helped just over 650 people including an above average number who had lost their jobs through redundancy – though fewer people were in that position than in 2009. Almost a fifth of those we helped were under 35 and just over half were under 65.

During the year there were 60 new applications for assistance and financial help was given to 55 of these. It is good to report that the situation for 30 people had improved to the point at which they no longer needed our help and could manage on their own.

Where does the money come from?

Almost all of the money we spend helping people in need comes from the architectural profession, some of it directly through donations, legacies and supporting ABS events and some

of it from the invested gifts of past generations.

In 2010 our total income was £853,600, the first time it has fallen below £1 million for many years.

The Society owns the head office building at 43 Portland Place and 90% of it is let to commercial tenants. This brought in £355,000 in 2010 or almost 42% of our total income.

The next biggest source of income was our investments where the total was £222,700 or 26%. Investments also produce capital growth and, whilst some of that has to be set aside so that the value of the capital fund is not eroded by inflation, we were able to utilise some money from capital in 2010.

Despite the fact that architecture is one of the professions worst affected by the current economic situation, we received £148,100 in donations, gifts and money raised at ABS events. Although this is less than in previous years we remain very grateful to the individuals and firms of architects who continue generously to

support their needy colleagues in these difficult times.

What of the future?

The economic downturn continues to affect the Society both by reducing our income and increasing what we spend in helping the larger than normal number of people in the profession who are in difficulties.

Money donated by firms of architects and by individuals has dropped substantially and is down by more than a third compared with three years ago. We do not think it is prudent to expect any improvement in this position during the next few years and so our plans are to concentrate on improving what we get from other sources, particularly from our investments and from property. At the same time we are continually looking at what we do and how we do it with a view to reducing our outgoings.

We are very aware that the difficult times are far from over, particularly for the architectural profession.

How we help in your area

Region	Donation Income	Welfare Spending	Number of Beneficiaries
Scotland	£14,531	£63,747	36
North West	£7,665	£42,285	35
Northern	£2,697	£23,565	14
Yorkshire	£4,094	£16,833	18
Wales	£2,200	£38,515	22
West Midlands	£2,294	£29,114	25
East Midlands	£3,188	£40,636	26
South West	£1,159	£48,769	19
Wessex	£5,367	£51,668	39
South	£6,871	£28,465	18
East	£7,279	£89,240	43
London	£58,864	£88,151	82
South East	£7,245	£103,302	62
Ulster	£1,491	£15,564	9
Eire	£50	£130	1
Overseas	£210	£18,714	8
Unknown	£7,472		

Income

Investments	£222,700
Commercial rents	£355,000
Donations, gifts and events	£148,100
Legacies	£23,700
Sheltered housing rents	£104,100

Expenditure

Relief of poverty	£698,700
Providing sheltered housing	£274,900
Marketing & fundraising costs	£166,100
Management of investments	£75,700
Running commercial property	£157,900
Interest on bank loan	£123,100
Governance	£31,600

Goodbye to Peta and Naomi

When people apply to us for help, one of the first things to happen is a call from one of our two Welfare Officers – Peta Whiston and Naomi Lopez. And the second thing which happens is that Peta or Naomi makes a home visit. It doesn't matter if you're in Lands End or John O'Groats, Peta or Naomi will come to see you, not only when you first apply but at least once a year thereafter.

We believe that visiting people in their own homes is an essential part of the assistance we give to people in need. So much so that visiting is written into our constitution as one of the basic ways in which help is provided.

But by the time you read this, Peta and Naomi will have made their last visit because they are both retiring from the staff of the ABS.

Peta trained as a nurse and then as a Health Visitor before coming to work for the Society in 1986. Naomi was a hospital administrator and an Education Welfare Officer before she joined us in 1989. So you can see that they have both worked for the Society for quite a long time by modern standards – 47 years between the two of them, in fact. During this time they have made just under 17,000 home visits and driven 720,000 miles.

We are extremely grateful to them both for the way in which they have advised, looked after and in many cases become friends with the people the ABS helps. We will all, trustees, staff and beneficiaries, miss them. We wish them every happiness in their retirement.



Peta Whiston and Naomi Lopez

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Senior Wright indemnity

A policy designed to help

LAUNCH OF NEW PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE SCHEME

We are delighted to announce a new bespoke and exclusive insurance scheme for the Architectural Profession which will also help the Architects Benevolent Society.

We will be writing to Firms in the coming months to explain the wide range of benefits of the scheme.

Architectural Practices will be able to purchase highly comprehensive and competitively priced cover.

And with each policy arranged by us we will make a donation to the **ABS**.

For more details please contact:
Nick Bender or Bethany Thomas on **020 7680 5995**

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Something for your CV?

We have a loyal group of Branch Representatives who perform an important task for the Society in that they act as local links for people who might need to get in touch with us because they need help. They also co-ordinate a fundraising event once a year.

We have a number of gaps in our network and need your help. If you would like to be involved in this important work we will gladly send you information.

Please contact norman@absnet.org.uk for further details.

Our thanks to...

CIAT and the Landscape Institute for supporting the ABS by distributing the ABS:NEWS in their publications. We are also grateful to them and the RIBA, RSAW, RIAS, RSUA and New London Architecture for their support in promoting our services and fundraising events.

Many branches held fund raising events last year and we are deeply grateful for their financial help as we face increasing calls for help and advice, especially about redundancy.

A younger perspective

My involvement with the ABS began when I was invited to attend an ABS Young Architects' Think Tank in late 2008. At the time my knowledge of the ABS was limited to newsletters like this one, however I found it refreshing that young architects were being invited to take an interest in the future development of a charity for architects and it seemed like a great way to learn more.

David Rock encouraged me to take an active role in the charity and in June 2010 I became a new trustee for the ABS and a local contact for the Eastern Region.

I trained as an architect at the University of Strathclyde and London Southbank University. My professional experience spans practices throughout the UK and Germany. I am currently project architect for Hudson Architects in Norwich, working on a number of schemes including a contemporary house in the Channel Islands.

Janet Dunsmore



Yes - I want to help by making a regular donation

Post this form to: **Architects Benevolent Society, 43 Portland Place, London W1B 1QH** or give online at **www.absnet.org.uk**

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I wish to make a monthly donation of:

£5 £10 £15 £25

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I would like the payments made on ____ (day)
of each month starting in ____ (month)
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Please pay the above sum to the Architects Benevolent Society account 02254600 at C Hoare and Co, Sort code 15-99-00, 37 Fleet Street, London EC4P 4DQ on the above date until I cancel this order which cancels any previous order in favour of the Architects Benevolent Society.

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Date _____

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To get in touch with us
call **020 7580 2823**
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