



PORTLAND PLACE TO PORTLAND OREGON APRIL - JUNE 2013



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Peter Murray



True commitment
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True commitment

The most important work that the ABS does is to provide practical help in the form of money or advice to architects, assistants, technologists and landscape architects and their dependants. Since the beginning of the recession, and despite our income decreasing every year, the money we give away to those in need, including those suddenly out of work because of redundancy, has increased by more than 10%.

In order to sustain this we have to get more money coming in and have a reliable stream of income. A number of good people support the ABS by giving a modest amount each month. Others promote the work of the Society and boost our income in quite a different way.

One of those people is Peter Murray who first raised money for the Society by riding across Cuba in 2004. As a keen cyclist he and various groups ride to MIPIM each year and he has come up with a great new idea. He says,

“My plan is to cycle from Portland Place, England to Portland, Oregon in May/June 2013 - a distance of over 4000 miles. I hope to attract a dozen or so riders to share the journey and many hundreds more to join us for shorter stretches (including ABS Trustees). The ride will take around two months.”

The route for this epic adventure

They will set out from Portland Place and cycle to Holyhead, take the ferry to Dublin, ride from Dublin to Shannon and then fly to New York. The route from there will take them through Chicago, Racine and Talliesin as they ride on an architectural odyssey.

Peter says, **“We chose Portland Place as it is the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects and Portland Oregon as our destination because it is a cycling city.”**

So you want to be famous



He goes on to say, **“I will raise money by presenting to as many practices as I can between now and 2013. My strategy is to give a free CPD lecture to practices on the skills of communication for architects under the title “So you want to be famous?” (I am a Visiting Professor at the IE University in Madrid where I lecture on communications to the Masters’ Degree in architectural business). At the end of the lecture I will then tell them about the cycle ride and that they should all contribute to their profession’s charities with direct debits at whatever level they can afford – just £2 a week would make a huge difference if every architect were to do it.”**

Peter’s fundraising plan is centred on the idea that all income will be shared 50/50 with Article 25. Peter concludes, “I believe in this present austere climate that “charity begins at home” and that architects need to support their own charities, because it is very hard to convince others to if they don’t!”



Meet Hugh Woodeson

For thirty-seven years Hugh Woodeson was a practising solicitor with the law firm Hunters in Lincoln’s Inn, London WC2 where, for fourteen years, he was senior partner. He specialised in charity law, family law, banking law and private client work. He was also a family mediator and, for some years, a part time Crown Court judge.

For some thirty years up to his retirement Hugh was the partner at Hunters advising the Architects Benevolent Society. On his retirement in 2006 the Society asked him to become a trustee and he was pleased to accept. He now serves on the Society’s Finance and Property Advisory Committee.

In fact his relationship with architecture is a happy one. His grandfather was the chief government architect during the 1920s and 30s in the Colonial Service in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). His father was a Chartered Surveyor and his daughter is an architect with Wilkinson Eyre. So as a lawyer he was the black sheep of the family.

Hugh is a keen oil painter and has participated in several exhibitions. Much of his work is concerned with the built environment and shows strong architectural influences. His daughter thinks he is a frustrated architect.

The season of good will

It is a sad fact that 1 in 6 of the people we help is under the age of 35 and many of these are children. We have architects with young families who are seriously ill, sometimes with terminal diseases. Others have no work, perhaps for the first time in their lives. At Christmas we give a modest amount towards a Christmas gift for each child.

Please help us by giving **£20** for a child’s present this Christmas.

Or perhaps your practice could donate **£100 to provide 5 gifts.**

Mighty oaks...

The practice of Bradshaw Gass and Hope was founded in 1862 on the patronage of the cotton mill owning classes. It dominated the industrial scene in the Wigan, Leigh and Bolton districts of Lancashire. Commissions included Schools, Churches, Mills, Town Halls, Civic Centres, Libraries, Hospitals and Museums. By the late 19th Century the practice achieved a position of national pre-eminence and was probably the first



'modern', truly multidisciplinary practice with separate departments of Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Structural and Services Engineers.

On the third of July 1939 John Bradshaw Gass JP FRIBA died aged 84 leaving in trust one twenty sixth of the income from the residue of his £122,000 estate to the Architects Benevolent Society.

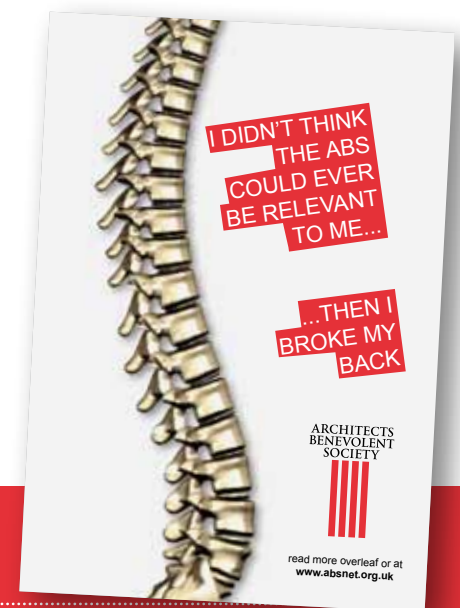
By 1950 the income was such that the Society received £89. By 1960 this had grown to £156 per annum. In 1990 it was £1,200 and in 2010 we received £2,750 – enough to provide financial help and advice to two or three needy architects every year.

Leaving something to the Society in your Will is a way in which you can help the less fortunate members of the profession. Legacies are invested to produce an income and can grow over the years so that even relatively modest sums can assist many people over the course of time. If you feel able to help in this way and join our Roll of Benefactors, please contact us. Telephone, email and postal address details are at the bottom of the last page of this edition of **ABS:NEWS**.

Would the ABS ever be relevant to me?

Several years ago one of our young beneficiaries who broke his back in an accident said, "I used to wonder if the ABS could ever be relevant to me. What I found most reassuring was their practical advice and the fact that they were willing to invest in my future. A future that I could not see when I was lying flat on my back in a specialist spinal unit miles away from home. The ABS helped me get back on my feet and back to work."

If you are fit, healthy and working please help the ABS by making a regular donation. There's a form at the end of this newsletter.



Fuel Poverty

Many people are feeling the squeeze of reduced income and higher prices, especially food and energy. We thought it would be helpful to include some frequently asked questions.

Q. I'm having trouble paying my gas and electricity bills, is there anyone who can help?

A. Try calling the Home Heat Helpline on 0800 33 66 99 or visit their website: www.homeheathelpline.org

Q. I'm having problems with my gas or electricity provider what can I do?

A. Consumer Direct can advise on 08454 04 05 06

Q. I have a question about energy efficiency who should I contact?

A. The Energy Saving Trust can provide free and impartial advice on everything from loft insulation to light bulbs and appliances. You can call 0800 512 012 or visit their website: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Q. Does my local Council provide grants for energy efficiency measures?

A. Some local authorities provide grants so it is worthwhile contacting them to ask if they do.

Q. I rent a property that has problems with damp and mould and I think it may be inadequately heated - what can I do?

A. Contact the Housing Standards Team at your local Council.

Q. I have been contacted by an insulation company who say they are "approved"?

A. We suggest you contact the National Insulation Association on 08451 636 363 or you can search on their website for approved installers. It is advisable to get three quotes and to check lead times as these can be quite long for some companies especially in winter. It is worth checking with your energy provider as they may offer a discounted rate for their own customers.

Q. Can I get a grant to improve the energy efficiency of my home?

A. If you are on a means tested benefit you may qualify for a Warm Front Grant. You can contact them on 0800 316 6011 to find out more. Alternatively you can visit the Energy Saving Trust website or call 0800 512 012 to find information on any energy providers or companies who are offering discounts on energy saving.

Q. I'm over 70 why do I have to pay for my insulation?

A. Free loft and cavity wall insulation is available to those over 70 and in receipt of certain benefits. Free loft insulation is only available if you have less than 60mm of existing insulation. This is due to the funding which requires a carbon saving that can only be made by installing significant additional insulation. For more information on CERT funding visit the Department of Energy and Climate Change website.



Senior Wright indemnity

HOW ELSE CAN YOU HELP?

We would like to remind you about our exclusive, competitive PII Scheme for Architectural Practices based in the UK:

A policy designed to help

The scheme also helps the Architects Benevolent Society in its charitable works. A donation will be made to the ABS for every new policy taken out with us in 2011, at no extra cost to you.

The policy is underwritten by an "A" rated insurer on a full Civil Liability wording. We can also broker other elements of cover.

Put our indemnity team to the test at your policy renewal.

Contact Bethany Thomas on **020 7680 5995** who will be delighted to help, or email **architects@seniorwright.co.uk**

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People like you can make a difference

The ABS has been helping architects and their dependants for over 160 years and we plan to be doing this essential work for at least the next 160! During our long history there have been many ups and downs in the UK economy and times when we have spent much more than we have received. These deficits during two or three years of recession have been made up in the good times when the construction industry was booming. This time it is more worrying. The last decade has been a volatile one and the road out of recession looks like a long haul.

Like many other charities we have reduced our outgoings, contracted into smaller offices and cut back on staff. But we have increased the money we give away to architects in need.

We aim to be around to help people like you if you suffer accident, illness, bereavement or some other personal misfortune such as redundancy. Given the reductions in state benefits and the current employment and pension fund difficulties there are likely to be considerable numbers of architects in need of assistance in their old age and we are planning for this.

But your help is vital. Just £5 a month from you is all the help we need; it would make a real difference and pledged on a regular basis we would be able to budget our resources more easily.

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**

Your bank details

To the manager of _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Sort code _____
Account number _____
Account name _____

Your name and address

Full name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Phone _____
Email _____

I wish to make a monthly donation of:

£5 £8 £10 £15 £25
 Other £ _____

I would like the payments made on (day)
of each month starting in (month)
 (year)

Please tick as appropriate:

This order is in addition to cancels any previous order in favour of the ABS.

Please pay the above sum to the Architects Benevolent Society account 02254600 at C Hoare & Co, sort code 15-99-00, 37 Fleet St., London, EC4P 4DQ on the above date until I cancel this order.

Signature _____

Date _____

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Please tick this box to treat this, any future and all payments you have made in the last six years as Gift Aid donations. You must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the amount we claim on your donations in that financial year (currently 20p for every pound that you give). Please remember to inform us of any change in your tax status.

To get in touch with us
call **020 7580 2823**
or email **help@absnet.org.uk**

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