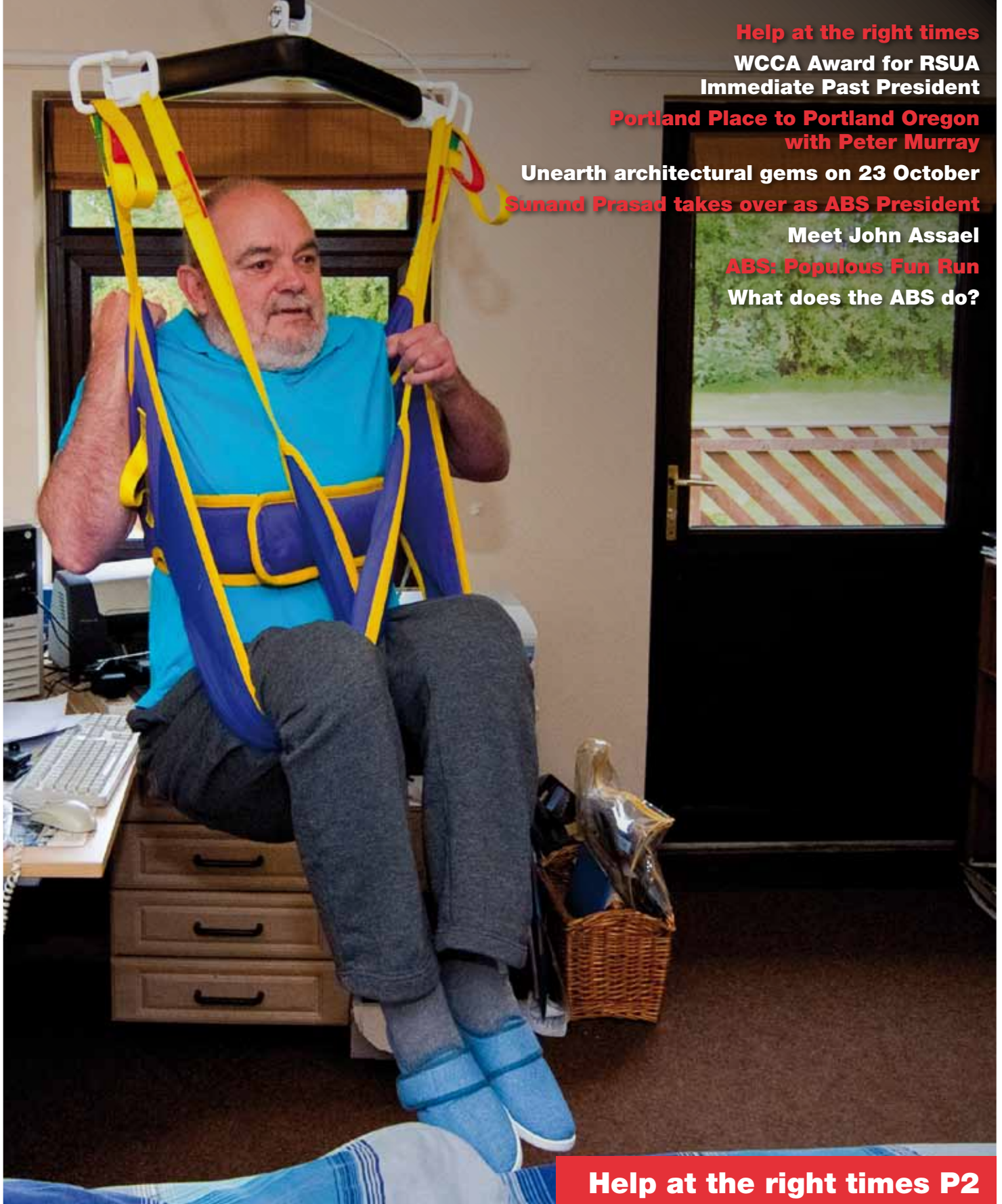


# ABS:NEWS

[www.absnet.org.uk](http://www.absnet.org.uk)

**Autumn 2011**

ARCHITECTS  
BENEVOLENT  
SOCIETY



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# Help at the right times

**Chris is a qualified architect who first approached the Society for assistance in 1992. He had been diagnosed with MS three years previously but remained independent and working as an architect with the local authority until a severe episode left him in a wheelchair.**

Adaptations were needed to his house. Whilst social services had agreed to provide some help towards the cost of level access to toilet and sleeping facilities, this was on the basis of Chris contributing £9,000 which he was unable to afford. The Society stepped in to help, with half being given as a gift and the rest as a loan, which Chris has repaid. These adaptations once completed enabled Chris to continue working and remain fully independent in his own home, together with his wife and three children. Although Chris was made redundant from his post in 1994 when the local council privatised the architects department, he continued to work at home using CAD on his computer and completing a specialist centre for the MS Society.

In 1999 he was divorced from his wife and in the context of paying maintenance for the children and having vacated the adapted family home, Chris moved to

the north of England to begin his life again in a small bungalow. The Society again helped with the adaptations as the new local authority, under increasing financial pressure, was able to provide only partial assistance to render the property fully accessible. ABS help was again on the basis of 50% being given as a loan, the rest as a gift. Chris then made repayments to the Society whilst using his experience to advise on applying for Disabled Facilities Grants on a voluntary basis for the MS Society, and a community access group.

The Society has continued to assist Chris intermittently over the years as his health and mobility have deteriorated. Although he continued to do voluntary work with the MS Society, in 2008 he decided to move into a specially adapted flat in a complex providing care. There was a more positive motive for the decision, however, as Chris had met and married Joan, who also has MS. He moved to his



present accommodation to be closer to her. The Society has provided financial support with a hoist and tracking to enable Chris to remain as independent as possible and as a consequence he has only minimal assistance with care thanks to the Society.

Despite Chris's deteriorating health he assists others where he lives, including his wife Joan whom he helps to communicate with her carers because MS has affected her speech. Thanks to the Society Chris is as independent as possible and continues to be able to see his family, whilst receiving the care that he needs, but in his own home.

## WCCA Award for RSUA Immediate Past President

Dawson Stelfox, Immediate Past President of the Royal Society of Ulster Architects, has been recognised by the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects for his fundraising support of the ABS over several years. He was the first Irishman to climb Mount Everest for which he was honoured with an MBE.

A group of climbers, led by Dawson, conquered 6 peaks in Northern Ireland to raise money for the ABS during 2009.

In another fundraising venture for the Society he chose to use his love of mountain climbing to lead a sponsored team up 7 peaks in the 9 counties of Ulster in just 24 hours - two of these Irish peaks straddle two counties!

There are 12 mountains in Ireland over 3000ft - what is classified as a 'Munro' in Scotland, and this year's challenge walk was to climb all 12 "Irish Munros" over a weekend, with sponsorship raised from architects going to the ABS.

Outgoing ABS President and leader of Make Architects, Ken Shuttleworth designed and painted the award



platter presented to Dawson at the WCCA's Election Court Dinner which was held at the Worshipful Company of Salter's Hall.

## Unearth architectural gems on 23 October

Discover some of London's architectural gems by joining this unique Treasure Hunt on Sunday 23 October. There is something for everyone from the youngest family member

to highflying architects from the profession. Enter a family team of 2 adults and children or teams of 4 from your practice. Details from [laura@absnet.org.uk](mailto:laura@absnet.org.uk) or visit [www.absnet.org.uk](http://www.absnet.org.uk)





Photo: Morley von Sternberg

## Sunand Prasad takes over as ABS President

We are delighted that Sunand Prasad has agreed to be President of the Architects Benevolent Society. During his two year term Sunand aims to raise the profile of the Society amongst working architects and to encourage an even greater degree of cooperation between

the ABS and the institutions whose members we help.

Sunand is Senior Partner of architectural practice Penoyre & Prasad LLP, a multi sectoral practice with an internationally recognised profile in health, education and civic buildings.

As President of the RIBA from 2007 to 2009, he was responsible, amongst many other initiatives, for a number of projects designed to focus the energies of the profession upon the need to urgently address climate change, and was voted 26th in the Independent's top 100 environmentalists list for his work in 'greening the RIBA'.

He is a trustee of the think tank Centre for Cities and of Article 25, a charity set up to provide design and construction expertise to NGOs active in disaster relief and development. RIBA Immediate Past President Sunand Prasad has succeeded Make's Ken Shuttleworth as President of the Society.



## Meet John Assael

John Assael has been involved with the ABS for many years, mostly through attending fundraising events. He became a Trustee in 2004 and joined the Executive Committee in 2010. He was involved with past RIBA and ABS

President David Rock in arranging a successful auction of architect's drawings which raised almost £60,000 for the society in 2007.

His practice ran a pilot programme helping ABS beneficiaries – many of whom are old, sick and alone.

John said, "We did simple things like redecorating, tidying, sharing periodicals and we even took one to look at Westfield shopping centre! My vision is to get every practice to support fellow members in other ways as well as making a financial contribution to the ABS.

Giving time is vital too - especially during these tough times. It is our privilege to be kind during all the stages of an architect's life – from caring for the newly qualified to supporting those in need when they fall on hard times and need the ABS."



## ABS:Populous Fun Run

This event, otherwise known as The Chicken Run, took place on a rather damp Sunday morning in June. A team of 52 Runners took part in an energetic morning run from Myddelton Square to Tate Modern at the end of which the Foresters Arms pub took us in from the rain and we were able to enjoy their fare before each departing with a rubber bouncing egg, presented by Peter Murray, as a memento of the day.

The ABS staff were thrilled to see more than 50 runners supporting this annual ABS:Populous event which raises valuable funds to support the work of the Society. Every year the ABS supplies and installs bath lifts in the homes of several of our beneficiaries - the money we received from the MAKE team paid for one of these in full. A bath lift helps people with mobility problems who really appreciate the benefits of a good old soak in the bubbles!

The money raised by Western Design Ltd was enough to cover the costs of a washing machine for a beneficiary who had been forced to wash clothes for herself and her disabled child in the bath due to her financial circumstances.

Money raised by individual runners has provided support such as vital wheelchair repairs, which increase the potential for ABS beneficiaries to remain self-sufficient even in financially difficult times.

We would like to thank Populous for sponsoring all the costs of arranging this event so that all the money raised by supporters can be used to care for those who need a helping hand.

## What does the ABS do?

Since the recession began the ABS has provided advice to more than 2,000 redundant architects on issues including redundancy laws, benefits, job searching and interview skills. This is in addition to 600 people who are assisted each year with grants, loans and gifts of money when facing illness, accident,

bereavement and other unexpected personal difficulties. Perhaps we have supported you in the past, or someone you know. Either way all the help we give is provided in confidence. If you can support the work of the ABS in any way please contact us via: [www.absnet.org.uk](http://www.absnet.org.uk)



## Senior Wright indemnity

### HOW ELSE CAN YOU HELP?

We would like to remind you about our exclusive, competitive Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme for Architectural Practices based in the United Kingdom:

#### *A policy designed to help*

The scheme has also been designed to financially help the Architects Benevolent Society in its charitable works. A donation will be made to the Benevolent Society 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.

We are delighted to have the endorsement of the **ABS** to use their logo for this scheme.

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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## Portland Place to Portland Oregon with Peter Murray

In May 2013 Peter Murray will be setting out with a dozen fellow cyclists to ride the 4,500 miles from Portland Place to Portland Oregon to raise money for two architects' charities - the Architects Benevolent Society and Article 25.

They will cycle from London 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 Taliesin as they ride on an architectural odyssey.

Peter said, "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."

## 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  £10  £15  £25

Other £ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*giftaid it*

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 25p 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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