

# ABS:NEWS

ARCHITECTS  
BENEVOLENT  
SOCIETY



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

Summer 2010



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5th Annual ABS:Populous Fun Run P2

# 5th Annual ABS: Populous Fun Run

**This very sociable but important fundraising event is on Sunday 11 July starting from St Mark's Church in Myddelton Square at 10am and finishing on the terrace beside Tate Modern. It is a gentle run of about 6kms so no serious marathon training is required, although some degree of fitness is advisable.**

We need you to join in and support your professional benevolent society with all the sponsorship you can raise because:

- In the past year we have helped approximately 600 people including an above average number who lost their jobs through redundancy
- Money given away in grants, gifts and loans increased by more than 19% during the year
- Our income from all sources, especially investments, decreased just as calls for help were increasing

As well as financial assistance, we are able to refer people to free legal advice and to debt counselling where appropriate. Our welfare team provides guidance to claim all available state benefits. We need your help to continue this work.

If you and your colleagues want to be involved please visit [www.absnet.org.uk/funrun10](http://www.absnet.org.uk/funrun10) to enrol. If you don't want to run but could spare a few hours to marshal along the route then please email [help@absnet.org.uk](mailto:help@absnet.org.uk) If you can help for just a few hours on the day that would be great.

Apart from many individual runners who have supported the run in previous years we have had teams from a good number of practices too. It's good fun so please try to enter a team from your firm, if you can.



## Populous and ABS – Drawing people together

Populous, long term supporters of the Architects Benevolent Society are the worthy winners of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects Award for 2010. The award was given in recognition of their sponsorship of the ABS: Populous Fun Run on an annual basis. Stephen Arthurell, ABS Events Chairman and trustee said, "Without their sponsorship of £2,500 this event would be almost impossible to arrange and run at a profit. Staff members from the firm have also shown their commitment to the event by giving up their time to take part."

Additional help for the Society came from Populous when they gave their support to David Rock's ABS President's Appeal in 2004. Their response to the President's Appeal was both immediate and generous and has continued to be given every year.

Current ABS President, Ken Shuttleworth says, "Populous have set a fine example which our practice has set out to match. If more firms committed to support the work of the ABS it would go a long way to helping the Society meet the needs of all those who have suffered in the recession or experienced accident, illness, bereavement, old age and other personal misfortune. The next fun run takes place on 11 July 2010 and this is an excellent opportunity for younger members of the profession to get out and do something to help their less fortunate colleagues; it is a little known fact that one in six of people helped by the Society are under 35, but we all need to support our benevolent society no matter our age."

A platter designed and hand painted by Russell Brown of Hawkins Brown will be presented to Populous at the Worshipful Company's Election Court Dinner on 5 July.

# What we do

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**The ABS helps anyone who has worked in the design disciplines in architecture in the UK be they architects, assistants, technologists or landscape architects or their dependants.**

We help with:

- Monthly and one off grants for those in financial difficulty
- Transport costs in cases of special need
- Disability aids and help towards care fees
- Gifts of goods or money
- Essential building repairs
- Insurance costs in certain circumstances
- Redundancy advice



# What we did in 2009

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We helped approximately 600 people including an above average number who had lost their jobs through redundancy.

One in six of those helped was under 35 and more than half were under 65.

13 people, fewer than usual, were able to return to self sufficiency during the year.

Sadly, 25 of our beneficiaries died during the year but where necessary, we continue to support their dependants as long as they need us.

Early in the year we produced a Redundancy Information Pack in both printed and downloadable formats and the download page was visited by more than 1,300 people. In the first half of the year the number of architects claiming Job Seekers Allowance rose to just under 2,000, almost 8% of the profession. Applications for ABS help more than doubled and, as well as direct financial assistance, we were able to refer people to free legal advice and to debt counselling where this was appropriate. Our welfare team provided help to claim all available state benefits.

Money given in grants, gifts and interest free loans during the year rose by over 19% at a time when our income from almost all sources, especially investments and donations was falling.



# What of the future?

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Conscious that the economic downturn might continue for some time, the trustees began the process of examining all aspects of income and expenditure. Changes to investment strategy, property income and staffing levels were begun.

There is a staff of eight in London. A team of three deals with welfare, two with marketing and fundraising and two with finance and property. A manager and gardener/handyman run our sheltered housing in Chester. The recession has reduced income significantly and the trustees have taken the decision to reduce the London staff to five over two years.

# Where does the money come from?

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Most of our income comes from the architectural profession – some in donations and legacies, some from fundraising events and some from the invested gifts of past generations.

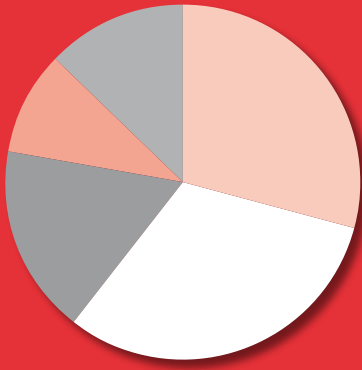
In 2009 our total income was £1.01 millions (see chart).

The Society owns the head office building at 43 Portland Place occupying just under 11% of the space, the balance of 89% being let to produce about a third of our total income. Another third, in round

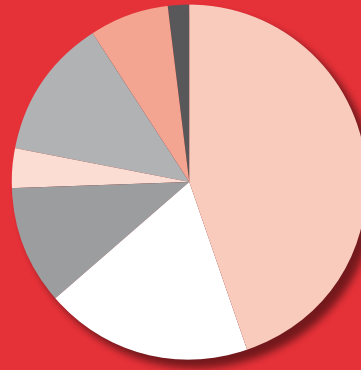
terms, comes from our stockmarket investments and the balance from donations, events, legacies and rent from our sheltered flats in Chester.

The recession continued to affect some income streams, especially our investment income which fell by £65,000 and money from donations and events which fell by £30,000. Fortunately, income from both our commercial properties and the sheltered accommodation remained steady and legacies did slightly better than average.

# Finances



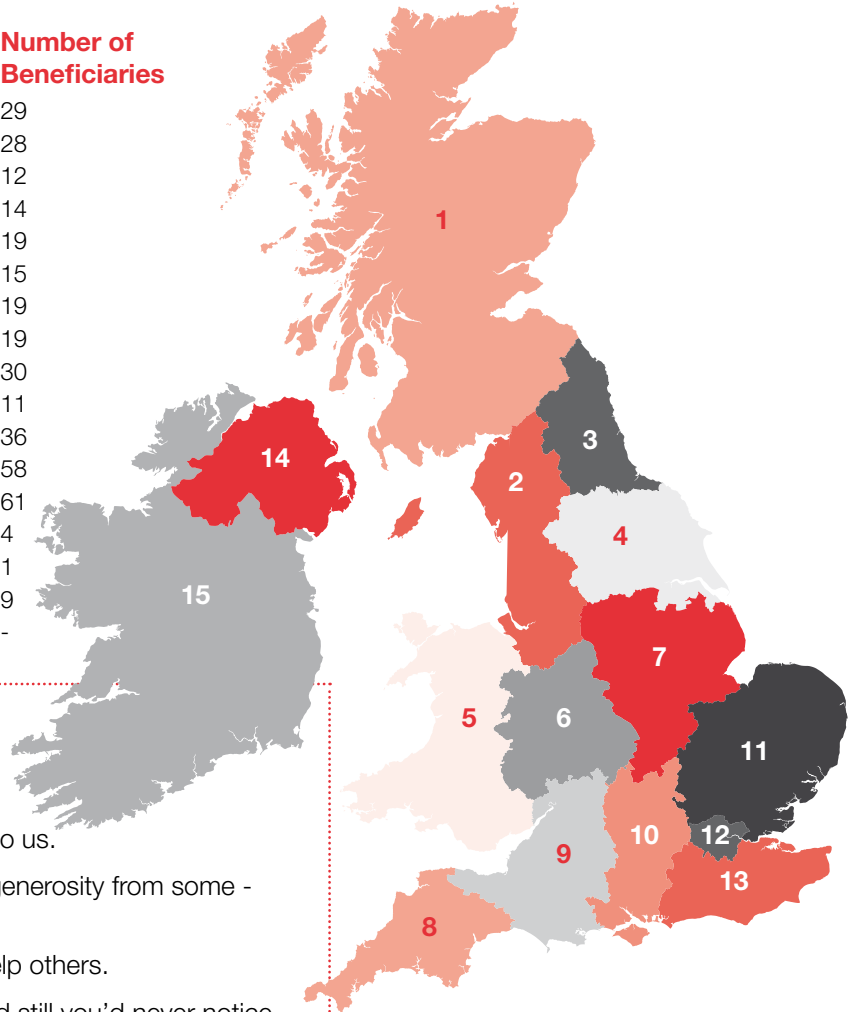
|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Investments                 | £295,300 |
| Commercial rents            | £317,900 |
| Donations, gifts and events | £173,300 |
| Legacies                    | £96,800  |
| Sheltered housing rents     | £127,200 |



|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Relief of poverty                    | £728,300 |
| Provision of sheltered accommodation | £304,000 |
| Marketing and fundraising costs      | £174,100 |
| Management of investments            | £59,700  |
| Running commercial property          | £207,700 |
| Interest on bank loan                | £117,900 |
| Governance                           | £28,800  |

## Regional breakdown of finances

| Region                  | Donation Income | Welfare Expenditure | Number of Beneficiaries |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Scotland             | £15,690         | £39,770             | 29                      |
| 2. North West           | £10,020         | £37,070             | 28                      |
| 3. North                | £2,050          | £13,250             | 12                      |
| 4. Yorkshire            | £3,350          | £19,680             | 14                      |
| 5. Wales                | £2,100          | £59,330             | 19                      |
| 6. West Midlands        | £2,710          | £16,830             | 15                      |
| 7. East Midlands        | £3,040          | £23,400             | 19                      |
| 8. South West           | £1,180          | £29,850             | 19                      |
| 9. Wessex               | £6,700          | £58,020             | 30                      |
| 10. South               | £5,270          | £24,990             | 11                      |
| 11. East                | £6,930          | £85,400             | 36                      |
| 12. London              | £74,050         | £93,980             | 58                      |
| 13. South East          | £8,840          | £75,790             | 61                      |
| 14. Ulster              | £1,970          | £3,450              | 4                       |
| 15. Republic of Ireland | -               | £100                | 1                       |
| 16. Overseas            | £2,400          | £14,700             | 9                       |
| 17. Unknown             | £24,390         | -                   | -                       |



### So, put simply, here's the problem

- Like all charities we depend on investments, property, legacies and active fundraising but they simply don't meet the plight of those who come to us.
- Then there's donations. We are helped by great generosity from some - but most do nothing and we're still far short.
- Only 1/5000 of the average salary is offered to help others.
- That could be doubled to 1/2500, £10 a year, and still you'd never notice the impact on your daily life.
- So what about it?
- The risk of having to call on the ABS at some time is roughly 1 in 20 and £10 might be thought of as a pretty modest insurance premium.

# Has your life hit a brick wall?



“I was working for architects in Nottingham on a lot of listed buildings and private housing – the kind of stuff you dream about doing in architecture really. I was cycling to work on my push bike and I was crossing a road near the centre of town when I got hit by a car. The police said it was about 30 miles an hour. It hit the front wheel of my bike and pushed me up onto the windscreen. I hit my face on the windscreen and was thrown up into the air. I don’t remember much about it to be honest. I broke my eye socket and my cheekbone, fractured my skull and my eye was pushed out. I’m blind in my other eye anyway and could have lost my sight that day.

The trouble didn’t stop there really because I was made redundant on the day of my operation.

I was looking on the CIAT website where there’s a section about help for people made redundant and they put me in touch with the ABS. I got some financial help and it meant that I could just concentrate on getting better. I didn’t have to think about how I was going to pay the bills which is the sort of stuff you shouldn’t have to worry about when you’re in a state like I was. They’ve been fantastic, I can’t thank them enough really.

I feel a bit more mortal about it all now. I used to feel a bit invincible. I’m confident I’ll be able to get my life back on track and have a very bright future.”

You can see a video of Scott’s story on our website [www.absnet.org.uk](http://www.absnet.org.uk)

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## Thrifty Homes for Thrifty People

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This second book of a trilogy by Brian Lingard covers his work as an architect in private practice from 1950 until the 1990’s in Wales and London. His first book, *Special Houses for Special People*, dealt with more than 100 one-off houses whilst his second book looks at his work in public housing.

Over 30 social sector housing projects are described and illustrated. Several themes run through the book; one concerns the role which architects played in the creation of ‘sink’ estates.

All royalties are being donated to the ABS so please be generous in your support. The book is available from [www.thememoirclub.co.uk](http://www.thememoirclub.co.uk)



## Legacies

A gift of a legacy to the Society can be a wonderful way to help others through unexpected difficulties such as redundancy, illness, accident, bereavement or other personal misfortune. To find out how you could make a lasting gift please contact the Secretary at the ABS, 43 Portland Place, London, W1B 1QH.



## 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](http://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](mailto:help@absnet.org.uk)

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