



ABS NEWS

www.absnet.org.uk

Summer 2008



**LONDON FESTIVAL OF
ARCHITECTURE**
20 JUNE - 20 JULY
In association with Design for London

ABS / HOK SPORT FUN RUN

London Festival of Architecture is themed "FRESH" - focusing on fresh thinking, fresh talent, fresh approach, fresh air and fresh food. There can be no better way to engage with London's urban landscape than run through it by participating in the ABS / HOK Sport Fun Run on a fresh Sunday morning in June.

"We had a great time in the fun run and are looking forward to next year" – Julie

This third annual fun run starts in Myddelton Square, Islington and through some of London's oldest areas to end on the lawns outside Tate Modern. You will pass through leafy residential squares, Smithfield Market and across the Millennium Bridge. It is a gentle run of just less than 6km and accommodates most abilities.

Chris Burton, from Eric Parry Architects, is returning to defend his previous two wins. Is there anyone out there able to steal his crown?

**It is not too late to enter at:
www.absnet.org.uk/funrun**

All money raised will go towards financing the work of the ABS thanks to the generous support of HOK Sport which has covered all the costs of arranging the event. Louis Hellman has drawn a series of cartoons to publicise the run. Visit our website to see the whole set which features sites along the route; Smithfield, St Paul's, Millennium Bridge, The Globe Theatre and Tate Modern.

"We are entering a team from the office, and we hope to defend our titles from last year"- Karen

All proceeds from the Fun Run will go towards helping ABS beneficiaries like Maureen.



She was widowed at a young age and left with two small children. She went to work six weeks after her husband died and the ABS helped her with a modest monthly grant towards her childcare costs.

In her retirement the ABS has helped to make her home more energy efficient by replacing an old boiler and fitting double glazing. This has reduced her gas bill allowing her to use her hard earned pension more effectively.

She volunteers at the Geffrye Museum where visitors are taken through a series of beautifully restored period rooms depicting a changing English domestic life from 1600 to the present day. She helps on the museum's quiz desk for children during school holidays.

Nothing will stop me working

“Like most small practitioners, work comes in peaks and troughs and it was my misfortune to develop MS in my early 40s, at the worst of times. Unable to walk and in a parlous financial state, the ABS came to my assistance. After a speedy assessment, they provided immediate help, which enabled my family to plan for the future.

Our children were in their mid teens and my wife had not worked for many years but we were fortunate. A School of Architecture had recently moved nearby and we decided to take in student lodgers whilst my wife acted as carer and studied ‘A’ levels part time. She worked hard and at the age of 48 gained a place at university.

Her hard won degree has made all the difference; she is now our main breadwinner and I work part time.

My MS has cycled between relapse and remission for 20 years, instead of regressing headlong into a spiral of disability, although progressively deteriorating. Walking is now very difficult and lack of exercise exacerbates my condition. However the ABS again came to my rescue by providing a movement therapy machine for neuromuscular illness that builds muscle strength and reduces reliance on a wheelchair.

I am very vulnerable without my wife’s help and when she became ill earlier this year the ABS immediately arranged convalescent care for us. She received appropriate nursing care and I my normal physiotherapy.

With assistance from the ABS, I am still working and look forward to the future.”

Ray, August 2007

Poor health got the upper hand

“Gordon worked for a local authority for many years and then around 1985 was made redundant following sweeping changes. He set up a small practice in London with a little team of architects and assistants.

Gradually his health deteriorated to the point where he had to employ a practice manager. The practice struggled and his health worsened.

The ABS was wonderfully helpful and acted with sympathy. In addition when our boiler broke down, they arranged an interest-free loan to pay for a replacement. Sadly Gordon died but the ABS remained in touch until I was able to cope in my own right. Happily the loans have been repaid and I am remarried.”

Pam, February 2008

Forthcoming ABS Events

ABS Golf Day

Thursday 18 September, Coombe Wood, Surrey

Book today to ensure your place for this four-ball stableford competition at Coombe Wood Golf Club in Kingston, Surrey. Further details from organisers Bob and Irene Crapnell at robertcrapnell@btinternet.com

Dragon Boat Racing

Sunday 14 September at Bewl Water, near Tunbridge Wells.



Race a Dragon Boat on the largest lake in south east England. Put together a team of 16 rowers and a drummer to get you into the rhythm. A fun-filled teambuilding day is guaranteed and you will be helping your less fortunate colleagues by raising sponsorship money for the ABS. To take part, email us at help@absnet.org.uk

Housebuilding in India

The ABS is continuing its successful partnership with international home building charity Habitat for Humanity in 2009. This programme enables architectural professionals to provide homes for some of the world’s desperately poor whilst helping our own colleagues who are in need of a helping hand.

Dates are available for groups to visit India during March 2009 and beyond. Now is the time to start fundraising for this once in a lifetime one week experience in which you can change the course of an entire family’s life. For further details email help@absnet.org.uk or visit www.absnet.org.uk



ABS Council to meet in Cardiff

I'm so pleased that ABS chose Cardiff for their June AGM venue this year.

It is wonderful to welcome all Council to the Land of Song - Cardiff Singer of the World Competition is world famous. Cardiff of course is also home to Welsh Rugby - witness the recent victories at the Millennium Stadium in the Six Nations Cup - an old stamping ground for my husband who refereed for the Welsh Rugby Union for over 23 years.

Cardiff grew up on the business of coal delivery to industry from the deep seams in the valley hinterlands - altogether a rich heritage indeed.

And I'm blessed to be part of the rich heritage that is the Architects Benevolent Society. I've been a Council member and Regional representative (along with Brian Lingard, past President, who serves North Wales) for over 20 years and throughout that time have hugely admired the personalities and hard work that goes to make up the ABS and its tireless committees who give of their time voluntarily. As a Regional Representative I take calls or letters/e-mails in confidence from potential beneficiaries or their concerned relatives and friends and pass them on to our trained Welfare Officers for an immediate call and as early a visit as possible.



I've lost count of the numbers of times that people in difficult circumstances have told of their great relief when the astute and potent ABS walks through their door and shoulders the pain and the worry of their situation. Suddenly they are not alone. They are under the wing of the heritage that is the ABS as it continues to strive for excellence in service to its beneficiaries, in its own business set up and in its public face.

Croeso i Cymru!

Stella Saunders – June 2008



Unable to manage in a large house Peggy moved to the Society's sheltered accommodation, after her husband died in 1983. He had been a partner in the Guildford firm Lewis and Hickey where he had worked for 48 years.

When her memory began to fail the ABS moved Peggy to a Nursing Home in 2002. She has lived there happily ever since and enjoyed the company of many friends and neighbours to help her celebrate her 100th birthday.

Peggy was also joined by ABS Welfare Officer, Peta Whiston (pictured above).

We can help...

Who qualifies for help?

The criteria used to assess whether or not you qualify for help through the ABS are simply:

You or someone on whom you are directly dependent needs to be working or to have worked in the past in the architectural design process, in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man.

Each application for help is individually assessed and awards are made based on the personal circumstances of each applicant.

What types of help are available?

The help we provide includes:

- Monthly grants for people in financial difficulty
- Transport costs in cases of special need
- Disability aids and care fees for vulnerable people
- Gifts of goods or money in times of hardship
- Essential building repairs and insurance costs
- Respite care holidays



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

Post code

Sort code

Account number

Account name

Your name and address

Full name

Address

Post Code

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 _____



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 28p for every pound that you give) Please remember to inform us of any change in your tax status.

President's Appeal

We would like to thank everyone who continues to contribute to the President's Appeal by annual standing order. This provides a vital source of income every year for the Society.

Since it's inception in 2004, and including recent help from local appeals in Scotland and the South West, the appeal has raised over £200,000, and continues to bring in almost £60,000 a year in standing orders.

We are also grateful to the following firms, who made contributions to the appeal last year, but have not yet been acknowledged in this newsletter:

- Page \ Park
- Reich and Hall Architects
- Mackie Ramsay Taylor Architects
- Aitken Turnbull
- Elder & Cannon
- Dallman Johnstone Architects
- Brunton Design Studio

It is never too late to contribute to the appeal - if you would like to make a donation, please contact us at help@absnet.org.uk and we'll send you an annual standing order form.

www.absnet.org.uk

The Society's website, www.absnet.org.uk has recently been upgraded. Please visit for the latest news on the Society, or to make a donation.

The site contains a selection of case histories of recent ABS beneficiaries, including videos taken from our Changing Lives DVD.

