



See Chris's story in a
video about our work at
www.absnet.org.uk



Life doesn't always go to plan

There are several stories in this newsletter, told by people helped by the ABS. They show that life doesn't always go to plan. It is alarming how quickly illness, disability, the loss of a partner or a freak accident can cause financial problems, even when people are prepared for the worst.

Recently over 60 people whose lives have been touched by the work of the Society offered to tell their stories to encourage others to ask for help or advice and to support the Society financially.

Take a few minutes to read them and watch the video on our website, and be inspired by their courage.

Mrs Bottle writes "I have had help from the ABS for many years. Without their support my life would have been so much harder.

My husband became ill with Parkinson's disease then he had several strokes which left him unable to walk. I live a mile from the shops in a small village and pushing him up the hill became very difficult.

The ABS helped me purchase a scooter for him. As you can imagine it changed both of our lives.

We had regular visits from both welfare officers who discovered that I also had a problem getting my husband in and out of the bath. Within a short time an electric bath seat arrived that lifted him into and out of the bath.

My husband died four years ago and now they visit me. It is a wonderful charity whose kindness I will always appreciate."



Changing Lives

If you would like to hear more of the stories told by our beneficiaries please ask for a copy of our Changing Lives DVD at www.absnet.org.uk or see a short example of how your financial support could really change someone's life today.

The Society is grateful to all those who have offered to share quite personal details of low points in their lives and how they have been able to triumph. We will be sharing more of these success stories in future editions.

If you know someone who needs a helping hand contact us on 020 7580 2823 or email help@absnet.org.uk

Rob's accessible new car

The ABS helped Rob to purchase a new wheelchair, and the heavily adapted Fiat Multipla pictured below to allow him to get around and visit his clients.

“I want to continue to work as long as I can and the new wheelchair is invaluable around the office.”



Architects are used to the challenge of designing and adapting buildings to be accessible for all, but transport infrastructure remains a barrier for disabled people. This was the challenge faced by architect Rob Burton who with our help, continues to practice.

“When I was diagnosed with a degenerative muscle disease I did not look too far into the future. Things got worse but my wife and I dealt with each issue as it arose: stairlift; wheelchair; adapting the house and so on.

We came across the ABS News in BD and decided to contact the Society. A welfare officer visited and we discussed our problems. It became clear we needed to look at transportation of my wheelchair as my wife's back would no longer take the strain of getting it into the car.”

Architect of the Year Award

We are delighted that we are to receive a share of the proceeds from the raffle at the Architect of the Year Awards.

The prizes given by the ABS included a weekend for two in Paris, a drawing donated by Ken Shuttleworth and a pair of Timothy Richards bookends donated by the John Soane museum.

Thank you to the generosity of those attending this year's ceremony, and congratulations to all the award winners.

Sat-navs for blind people

Guide dogs lead blind people along known routes but when it comes to going to new places they are not much help. The Society purchased a pedestrian sat-nav “trekker” system for former architect David Wright so that he can get around more easily.

As David walks along with his guide dog the sat-nav gives him information such as the name of the town, street, direction to the next road junction, and essential details like house numbers and landmarks that we would take for granted.

The system picks up a signal from the satellites with the receiver and, via a blue-tooth connection, the audio output can be heard with a speaker or an earpiece.

While walking along the user is informed of the next junction on the left or right - “Three way intersection: High Street crossing Gordon Road on the left”.



The ABS also provided a bar code reader to enable him to label his possessions and identify them when he is alone. He says, “It stops me feeding butter beans to the cat.”

Sight-loss is an increasing problem - the RNIB report that every day 100 people start to lose their sight. If you know anyone from the profession who could benefit from similar help, please put them in touch with the ABS.



David explains how the ABS has helped him in more detail in the video on our website.

Rise to the Challenge

Henny swaps her heels for steelcaps



A group from Make Architects were joined by teams from Arup and Cityscape in a house building expedition to India. They raised their sponsorship money in record time and set off with high expectations for their week.

Frances Gannon says “raising the money was not too difficult - I approached all of the companies I work with and everybody was really supportive and generous. The hard part came when the team got to India - whatever grunt work was required we usually ended up doing.”

“It was a really hopeful experience - the people we were building a house for were carrying bricks alongside us.”

For Henny Reed, (above) the trip was “a really bitter-sweet experience - I just can’t believe that most of the world lives that way - I have lived in a bubble!” Henny proved that she could swap high-heels for steel toecaps - and in doing so she helped to make a real difference to the lives of people in the UK and abroad.



The ABS has teamed up with international home building charity Habitat for Humanity and specialist expedition company Charity Challenge, to enable architectural professionals to make a real difference to the world’s poorest people.

If you choose to join this very special challenge you will raise money and work side by side with a family to build their home. In doing this you will also raise £1,000 to further the work of the ABS amongst those of the profession who need help in the UK.

The house designs and materials vary with climate and locality. They range in size from 240 to 360 sq. ft. with a living room, veranda, kitchen and toilet. You will help to build one of these homes and on rest days you will be able to spend time with the local community.

To find out more about how you can take part visit www.absnet.org.uk

Sending several people from your practice is a great way to build team-spirit and promote a vibrant, happy work-place. If you decide to take part you are guaranteed the experience of a lifetime.

Help is available here

If you are concerned about your finances and need help planning for the future a good place to start is the Financial Services Authority site:

www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk/tools.html

If you have worked in architecture in the UK or are the dependant of an architect, technologist, assistant or landscape architect, you may be eligible for help from the ABS. Contact the Society at help@absnet.org.uk or call **020 7580 2823** to talk with a welfare officer.

You will be asked about your expenditure, income and other resources. You will be advised about State benefits to which you may be entitled and a report will be presented to the Case Committee for a decision if further help is needed.

Thank you to everyone who travelled to India to take part in the Community Challenge in October. Especially to the magnificent efforts of the Make team - pictured above during their trip.



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

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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 _____



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

Sponsor our Great Runners

Congratulations to everyone who completed the gruelling Great North Run for the ABS. Our runners managed to finish the course in very respectable times.

Name:	Time
Ben Ingle	02:14:34
Chris James	01:43:05
Nicholas Szczepaniak	01:49:17
Antony Vaccarino	01:59:05
Christopher Wilkinson	01:46:20

Sponsorship is still coming in, but so far they have raised over £1,000.

You can add to the total by sponsoring the participants online at:

http://www.justgiving.com/szczepaniak_wilkinson
<http://www.justgiving.com/architects>

We need your donations...

We help beneficiaries from all over the UK. Last year our charitable expenditure was

£1,028,630

Key
Donations by region



In the same year, **£201,569** was received in donations from members of the profession.

Other sources of income – legacies; commercial property; and the income on our investments go a long way to meeting this deficit. However we need your donations to ensure we can meet the needs of our beneficiaries now and in the future.