The Member’s Benevolent Trust (MBT) of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) was formed in 2003 by the merger of several pre-existing longstanding funds. Since then, as other professional bodies have joined the IOM3, their members and dependants have become eligible for help from the MBT, whether their original Institute had a benevolent fund or not. Although we operate as a Charity independently of the IOM3, we are very much an integral part of the Institute and form one of the benefits it offers to its members. The MBT is proud to be part of the “Big Society” and has helped more cases this year than in 2010. The assistance we provide ranges from regular long term grants to member’s spouses surviving on limited pensions, through one off grants for respite care, to Christmas grants and food hampers and in addition we help long standing members with their membership fees whilst they are unemployed or incapacitated.

In 2011, we helped a similar number of members or their dependants as in 2010, but five new cases replaced five that either died or no longer needed support. A total of about £40,000 was given in grants, whilst support and admin (including bank and stockbrokers fees, auditors fees IOM3 collection charges and visitor expenses) were about £11,000.

The MBT has three main sources of income:

- **Investment Income**, which has been built up on return on capital originally from historic legacies, is about £60,000 per year. This fluctuates in line with the economy but fell slightly in 2011. Do think of giving a legacy, however small, when reviewing your will.

- **Total donations** mainly from the 16,000 members of the IOM3: in 2011 was about £11,000, boosted by Gift aid recovery where possible, so if you qualify please let the MBT know.

- **One off donations** by the local societies who raise funds for the MBT at their events. This came to almost £1000 in 2011. We are encouraged by this support from the regions and we hope to build on it, both for the income it brings and for the publicity it gives the MBT, which can lead to new cases of hardship being identified.

The MBT does basic due diligence on claims for support and the significant cases are reviewed every two years. In some cases this shows up the need for more support, and in a few cases the original need has reduced (eg children have left home) so the grant is gradually reduced, thus freeing up more funds to help more deserving cases. We need additional “Visitors” from the recently merged Institutes and Local Societies to identify and support new cases of hardship in their region. Further pastoral care is available from our group of voluntary Visitors. The importance of our support is reflected in the positive feedback we get from grateful recipients, and the letters of thanks from the many pensioners we help in a modest way at Christmas.

New Website [http://www.iom3.org/mbt](http://www.iom3.org/mbt)

With the help of Nuna Staniszek at the IOM3 we have enhanced our web pages on the IOM3 website and we are developing a new micro website for the MBT. The pages are open access via the above url, so that any friend of a member in difficulty can access them without a password and make contact so that if appropriate we can help the member or their dependant.

Concluding remarks

2011 has been another successful year for the MBT and I would like to pay tribute to Dr David Elliott our Hon Treasurer for the last five years who retired at the AGM, but still worked hard to handover to Steve Dawe, who took over from him as the Hon Treasurer. Also, Gavin Bowyer, who became the Hon Secretary in 2010 at short notice, has now had his first full year in office.

David Oxley
Chairman