

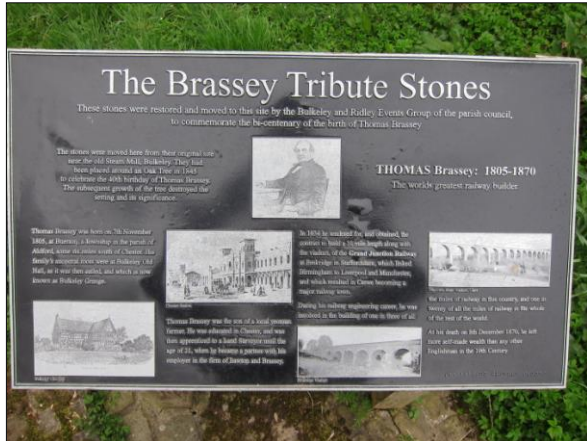
## BRASSEY OAK TREE STORY

Following an email from Society member, Brian Crossley, I was prompted to recall just one of the celebrations in 2007 by the Bulkeley and Ridley Village Events Group and newer members of the TBS may be interested in just one of the important events which took place after Brassey's bicentenary in 2005.

In the early 1840's Brassey inherited the family estate in Bulkeley, Cheshire from his uncle and in 1845, to commemorate his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, the family planted an oak tree on estate land and positioned four inscribed stone pillars around it, secured by metal bars.

Over the years due to the growth of the tree and frost action the tops of the stones had broken and they had toppled over and were lying at the foot of the tree. The Brassey family had left the area many years ago and the present generation probably know little or nothing about the stones.

The Event Group, led by lifelong Brassey historian, Doug Haynes BEM, secured funding from the Local Heritage Initiative to rescue the stones. They were then placed on a wild life site known locally as the Marl Pit in Bulkeley next to the lay-by on the A534 where they can be seen by members of the public and protected from accidental damage and farm machinery.



The location is opposite Bulkeley Grange, Brassey's ancestral home and visitors can see the four stones, now re-laid, with an interpretation panel giving a potted history of Brassey. The site is well worth a visit when the restrictions are lifted.