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Welcome to our July 2020 Newsletter.

Things have been moving along and your committee has met on three occasions courtesy of Zoom, it's not bad once you get used to it. Our Chairman Steve has brought you up to date in his notes and I particularly pick up on the interpretation panel destined for Chester Station. I have seen the first draft which is looking quite smart and the position we have chosen will surely attract a lot of attention.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

As this strange year wears on, I never realised how much I would miss the sight, sounds AND smells of steam locomotives, the clunk of the carriage doors and the shrill whistle when a train is ready to depart. It is, however, some consolation to be deeply involved in the Thomas Brassey Society.



Our committee has been strengthened by the co-option of John Whittingham, a long-standing Brassey enthusiast who is well known for his guided walks and talksoften dressed as the great man himself.

Since our last Newsletter (May 2020), we have made good progress in a number of areas. The draft artwork for the information panel at Chester railway station has been received and comments have been fed back to the designer. Hopefully, we will be able to share the final version with you in our next Newsletter, and give some information about the date of installation.

Our next challenge is to write a brief for the proposed statue of Brassey at Chester station. Acting on advice from our local council, we hope to appoint a curator who will guide us through the procurement process. To that end we are continuing to welcome donations from members and outside bodies to pay for these services.

Meanwhile, we have updated our membership application form, privacy policy etc, and are now investigating the merits of becoming a registered charity. Never a dull moment, even without steam trains!

Stephen Langtree

THE COMMITTEE

Your Committee was formed at the first meeting after the inaugural meeting so I thought it would be nice to meet up in the flesh, *well not quite!* <http://www.thomasbrasseysociety.org/committee.pdf>

SUMMER OUTING

We were hoping to arrange an outing for the society this summer but events have knocked that on the head. So the next best thing, picking up on Steve wiping the tears of sadness from his eyes, or was it a coal smut, I thought I would let you see a short video taken 'Steaming Along' at one of Brasseys lines, the Llangollen Railway – I hope you like it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hTBo-9QCDY>

CHESTER CATHEDRAL TALK

As far as I know the Talk I am giving at the Cathedral is still going ahead but a lot can happen in between time. The 'Making Tracks' model railway event incorporating a special model railway constructed by our patron Pete Waterman and team is still scheduled for July 2021. <https://chestercathedral.com/events/category/featured/list/>

STATUES, BRASSEY and NAVVIES

With our aim to install a statue of Thomas Brassey at Chester Station, it seems that, at this present time, the subject of statues has become newsworthy. I have been approached twice now about Brassey's possible use of black (slave) labour. To reassure our members and the wider public I have written a short piece about the type of labour Brassey employed and how he treated them. This can be found under Research on the website. <http://www.thomasbrasseysociety.org/resstatues.pdf>

NEWSLETTER

BRASSEY HERITAGE LINE RESEARCH



Dave Bebb, our Treasurer, is undertaking further research about the 10 lines built by Brassey which were subsequently closed by British Railways. These closures took place largely in the 1960's but the lines have since been restored (in whole or in part) into Heritage railways.

The aim is to provide a brief account of each of these lines which will appear as a series of articles under the Research tab of the website. The first of these (the Llangollen Railway) is now available on our website.

<http://www.thomasbrasseysociety.org/reshrllan1.pdf>

In closing, I would love to hear from you with your comments for future Newsletters, including any tit bits and anecdotes of past outings and the odd memory (while they are still there!).

All for now and Stay Safe – or is it Alert?

Peter Bolt
Secretary TBS

www.thomasbrasseysociety.org