



May 2020



CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

(Stephen Langtree)

Our fourth Newsletter in less than six months will, hopefully, demonstrate that we are continuing to make good progress. This is a membership organisation, so it is very gratifying to continue to welcome new members, especially several more from the Brassey family. We now have over 50 members and our ambition is to double that figure as quickly as possible with your help.

Meanwhile, this being the 150th anniversary of Thomas's death, we are pressing ahead with the commissioning of an information panel outside Chester railway station. Planning consent was given in March and we will soon have a draft layout of the proposed text and images for the lectern-style panel.

We are taking advantage of modern technology and held our May TBS Committee meeting by 'Zoom' which was a new experience for some of us. It may be quite a while before we are able to organise membership meetings or outings, but please rest assured that we will do everything we can in the circumstances to promote the Society and move ahead with our plans for a statue of Thomas Brassey at Chester Station.

NEW MEMBERS

A special welcome to new members:

Rowena Feilden (*ne Brassey*), Harry Brassey, Diana Short *in Australia (ne Brassey)*
Jeremy Larken, Mike Chubb, Chloe Brassey

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (ICE)

The TBS work closely with the ICE and are happy to promote their new quarterly newsletter 'Digging deeper'. This highlights how the ICE archive helps deepen the understanding of our heritage for the Engineers and Researchers of today.

<https://www.ice.org.uk/knowledge-and-resources/ice-library/ice-archive>

A CHESTER TOWN HOUSE FOR JOHN AND ELIZABETH, THOMAS BRASSEY'S PARENTS

We were excited to hear from new member, Jeremy Larken, that the house he bought in Boughton, Chester was once owned by Thomas Brassey's parents in 1803. Cath Mechan, our Researcher, is finding out more about this revelation and we will publish a more detailed article in the future.

THOMAS BRASSEY'S FIRST RAILWAY.

No, not the one at Penkrige but a horse drawn track feeding several Rock Salt mines in Marston, Cheshire together with a similar track from the Storeton Quarries in Bebington to the dock at Port Sunlight. Thanks to some excellent work by Colin Edmondson from Northwich, member David Casement will reveal this fascinating story in a future article

With best wishes and stay safe

Peter Bolt

(Secretary)