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Welcome to our September 2020 Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

If my calculations are correct, Thomas Brassey built the whole of Chester General station in less time than it is taking us to install an information panel! Perhaps there was a lot less 'red tape' in 1847/48 than there is these days?

We always knew that the consultation process, planning consent and panel design would take several months but we could not have foreseen the delays and difficulties arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone is working from home or, in some cases, the people we need to liaise with are on furlough. We had hoped to show you the artwork as part of this Newsletter but it is still not quite ready. That said, we have now signed it off and remain hopeful that the panel will be in place before the 150th anniversary of Brassey's death on 8th December.



Meanwhile, we have been kept busy in a variety of ways. The website homepage is being refreshed and updated thanks to Peter and Gillian Bolt and Phil Pearn, our webmaster. We have also continued to investigate the prospect of becoming a registered charity, recognising both the advantages and the additional work this would entail.

Our attention has also returned to the aspiration of a statue of Thomas outside Chester station. We are attempting to follow the 'best practice guidelines' recommended by Cheshire West and Chester Council and we hope to enlist their support in the appointment of an Art Curator. More importantly, we have held an initial interview with a fundraising consultant. His input and expertise would be extremely useful, but it comes at a price. Ideally, we would still like to find a member of TBS with the experience and ability to take charge of this role, if only to reduce the amount of professional support we consider being necessary. Please think about it and get in touch with either Peter or me for a chat about what it would entail

Please continue to stay safe.

Stephen Langtree

Membership

Our membership continues to grow and is now pushing 60. With your help we can reach out to even more potential members. Pick up an application form from the link on our Homepage.

www.thomasbrasseysociety.org

Can I give a special mention to some new members who have joined since our last Newsletter.

Clare Bruce	Herefordshire
David Carr	Chester
Rob Flitter	Upton-by-Chester
Anne Large	Chester
Christine Robinson	Chester

AGM

Due to Covid restrictions we will, unfortunately, be unable to hold a full Annual General Meeting this year and the Committee have decided to issue an Annual Report on this occasion. The present Committee will continue in their roles.

Website

We have been playing around with the new Homepage for our website. Our webmaster tells us the new design looks OK on Windows machines, iphone and Ipad but he would like feedback from anyone out there who has an Android devices i.e. Blackberry. So to view it please click on the link to the "alternative design" option on the TB Home page and send your comments back.

NEWSLETTER

BRASSEY HERITAGE LINE RESEARCH



Thomas Brassey's links to Heritage Railways – No 2

Dave Bebb has researched the second in his series and reveals a brief history of the Severn Valley Railway which is a preserved line operating between Kidderminster in Worcestershire and Bridgnorth in Shropshire, a distance of 16 miles. To read the full article, go to our website:

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



Focus on Birkenhead

The TBS is pleased to see the press release put out by Peel Land and Property re the development of the West Float section of the Wirral Waters project. Of interest to us is the tramway which will extend from Woodside to the

proposed Brassey visitor centre which is located adjacent to the existing Blue Plaque and the old Canada Works.



Those of you who attended the Brassey Blue Plaque unveiling last year will remember Richard Mawdesley (Development Director, Peel Land and Property) referring to this project in his address to everyone who was there.

In the press release he refers to:

"The creation of a strategic east-west greenway across Wirral Waters, improving the environment and linking the development to the surrounding areas, will play a key part to help delivery of MEA Park, building on historic associations and expertise within the local area."

And finally

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

Peter Bolt
Secretary TBS

www.thomasbrasseysociety.org