

175 years

Chester Station

A GRAND DAY OF CELEBRATIONS

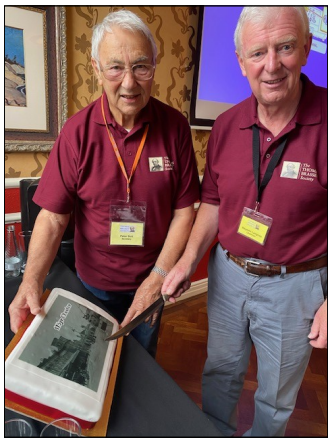
On 1 August, 2023 The Thomas Brassey Society celebrated the 175 anniversary of the opening of Chester Station. This was a 'full on' day with lots of things happening in and around the Station and the Queen Hotel. The day began with The TBS Secretary, Peter Bolt, being interviewed on Radio Merseyside on the Morning Show about Brassey and the celebrations.



Later in the morning this broadcast was followed by a re-enactment of cutting the ribbon by TTBS Trustee John Whittingham, dressed as Thomas Brassey, accompanied by the Town Crier with others in Victorian dress making a grand spectacle.



Meanwhile, inside the Queen Hotel, Transport for Wales hosted a morning of talks by the Mid and North Cheshire Community Rail Partnership, including a great presentation by Pete Waterman, Patron of the Thomas Brassey Society, which was well received by the large audience.



Following a brief interlude, more presentations followed in the early evening. There was a ceremonial cutting of a cake, kindly provided by Transport for Wales, after which John Whittingham gave a short history of the Chester Station. Then the audience was given a fascinating look into the history of the Queen Hotel by Elizabeth Allen, followed by an insight into the huge resource of railway papers held by Cheshire Archives. The evening finished with our own Vice Chairman, Richard Coackley, talking about the history of Thomas Brassey's life and work and his relationship with other engineers of the time.



All in all, an excellent day!

(The Society would like to thank Transport for Wales for their overall organisation and support of the event)