

The THOMAS BRASSEY Society

The Thomas Brassey Society

ANNUAL REPORT



2022/23

Registered Charity No 1195546

A message from our Patron



Dear Society Members,

The Dean of Chester Cathedral has commissioned us to do yet another "Making Tracks" which will run throughout August 2023. This gives me the opportunity to bring in new model railway technology not unlike Formula 1 and motorcar development. I am delighted that the Society will once again have a stand there giving them the opportunity to talk to visitors about Thomas Brassey, his remarkable achievements and the proposed statue.

I know the society is currently engaging with sculptors and the Design Panel will shortly be reaching a point when an order can be placed. A statue of Thomas outside Chester Railway Station is becoming not just a dream but a reality and I urge all of you to support the cause.

With best wishes

Pete Waterman



Chairman's Report

It is customary on these occasions for the Chairman to round off his or her report with a general "thank you" to the committee. This year, I'm breaking that tradition by saying a "very big thank you" right at the start. We could not have achieved so much in 2022 without the commitment, enthusiasm and capabilities of all the committee members. Each of them plays a vital role in running the Society and in making it a 'happy ship' (or should that be 'train'!).

A year ago there were eight of us on the committee, seven men and one lady. During the course of 2022 we have been joined by Ian Walker whose job it is to organise events and outings for the membership. Apart from the nine of us, I would like to record how grateful we are to those non-committee members who deal with our website, social media and desktop publishing. I hope you feel that the content and quality of such things is a credit to the Society. This Annual Report covers the whole of 2022 as well as the first three months of 2023. The Accounts are complete to 31st March in line with our financial year end.

Given that our aims and objectives are to raise awareness and educate the public about the life and work of Thomas Brassey, there is a lot to say! We have taken our stall to various heritage and transport fairs around the North West, we have manned our stall at Chester Cathedral throughout the second '*Making Tracks'* model railway exhibition and, as ever, Peter Bolt is in great demand to present lectures and talks. Literally hundreds more people have now heard about Thomas Brassey.

In addition, we have encouraged and sponsored a children's book featuring Thomas and his magnificent feats of railway building. Throughout it all we have made considerable progress with all the funding, technical and administrative issues for our statue at Chester Station. Sculptors from around the country are currently responding to our Design Brief and we will soon be in a position to announce the shortlist.

So, I can confidently say that this has been another very busy year and, if you read the whole of this report, I hope you will agree that it has been successful too. As last year, the structure of this Annual Report follows the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. Subsequent Sections (A to G) are in accordance with that format.

If you have any queries about this report or the activities of the Society please contact us by email : tbsoc@ hotmail.com.

Stephen Langtree MBE

The cover picture shows Chester Station, built in 1848 by Thomas Brassey, which will celebrate its 175th birthday on 1 August 2023.

Trustees Annual Report for the period

Start date: 1 January 2022 End date: 31 March 2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name:	The Thomas Brassey Society
Registered Charity No:	1195546
Charity's principal address:	12a Fornalls Green Lane, Meols, Wirral CH47 9RJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
John Stephen Scott Langtree MBE	Chairman	
Richard James Coackley CBE	Vice Chairman	
Peter Charles Bolt	Secretary	
David William Bebb	Treasurer	
David John Hooley	Membership Secretary	
Peter William Cocker	Minutes Secretary	
John Parton Whittingham	Committee member	
Jean Fortune	Researcher	
Ian Walker	Excursions Co-ordinator	From 11 October 2022

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's Trusts

Type of governing document:	CIO—Association (Registered 18 August 2021)
How the charity is constituted:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods:	After registration, by co-option and then subsequently at Annual General Meetings of the Society's members.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the education of the public in the historic significance of the life and works of Thomas Brassey in particular but not exclusively by providing and assisting in the provision of educational materials, activities and events open to the general public on the topic of Thomas Brassey and the field of railway engineering more generally.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit).

Giving talks and lectures to conferences, other societies and organisations on all aspects of the life and works of Thomas Brassey.

Raising awareness of Thomas Brassey by installing interpretation panels and information plaques at key locations.

Educating the public about Thomas Brassey at public exhibitions by face-to-face contact and by the distribution of literature.

Providing a 60 minute film for the public about Thomas Brassey by a Society member.

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/Section C continued

Preparing and distributing literature about Thomas Brassey and his achievements through various outlets and events.

Producing and circulating bi-monthly digital newsletters to members and other interested parties.

Keeping an up to date Society web-site and Facebook account, accessible to the general public.

Note:
In undertaking the work of the Society the Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

Section D Achievements and Performance



Annual General Meeting

The Society held a successful first AGM under its new Constitution as a registered charity on 23 April 2022, attended by 27 members.

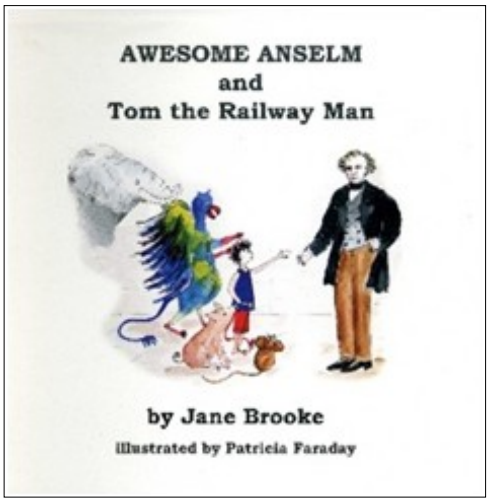
After dealing with 'normal' business and the election of officers, members enjoyed a talk by Trish Jones on 'The voyages of The Sunbeam' - the last of a series of yachts owned by Lord Brassey, the eldest son of Thomas Brassey, and the successor to an earlier yacht, 'Albatross' (by the same designer), built for him at his father's Canada Works, Birkenhead in 1859



Making Tracks 2

During July and August 2022, the Society's Patron Pete Waterman brought the second version of his 'Making Tracks' model railway exhibition to Chester Cathedral.

Based on another section of the West Coast main line, the exhibition attracted an audience of more than 40,000 people over the seven weeks. Alongside the exhibition, the Society provided a stand to promote public understanding of the life and works of Thomas Brassey. This was staffed continuously by committee and other members of the Society, on every exhibition day, culminating in an annual Members' Lunch at a nearby French restaurant on the last day, attended by 30 members and representatives of the Brassey family.





Awesome Anselm

The Society funded the production of a children's book, the fourth in the Awesome Anselm series of stories featuring the antics of the strange figures and carvings that are present in the Cathedral and come to life during the night. In the fourth Book, Thomas Brassey's bust in the Erasmus chapel springs to life to build a water-carrying railway that saves the Cathedral from a ruinous fire. The author, Canon Jane Brooke and Illustrator Patricia Faraday launched the book at the Thomas Brassey stand during the Making Tracks 2 exhibition in Chester Cathedral in July 2022.

Talks

Members of the Society gave dozens of talks to meetings of other societies and interest groups, to help inform the general public about the life and works of Thomas Brassey and to spread the word of his achievements. Over £1100 in voluntary donations was raised during the process.

The Castle Fine Arts Foundry

Following an invitation from Chris Western (Commercial Director) of the Castle Fine Arts Foundry, three of us visited the factory in Llanrhaeadr, Nr Oswestry.

We wanted to understand the process of casting a bronze and get an idea of costs from both the Foundry and the Sculptor and how they worked together. Over the years the Foundry has produced a number of famous pieces of art including the 'fab' four in Liverpool and the iconic 35 ft high horse's head, 'Argus', installed in the South Downs.

Contrary to popular belief the castings are not solid but go through a 'lost wax' process producing a bronze casting only 5 mm thick. They are not cast as one but from a number of castings and then welded & chased, fettled and finally Wax Sealed and Fixed. When discussing costs, something close to our hearts, we learnt that an average 1.25 life size statue would use 250 kg of bronze and at the moment the price of bronze and gas used in the furnace is going up rapidly. Therefore it is impossible to obtain a fixed price at the present time. Also Sculptors' costs vary considerably depending upon who you choose for the job.

Talking of Sculptors, we received a response from one Sculptor who told us he was the great, great, great, grandson of Thomas Brassey and knew a lot about him!



/Section D continued

FUNDRAISING FOR THE STATUE

Over the last two months we have had a number of donations and pledges for the statue fund boosting the up to date figure to more than £87,255 (see analysis below).

Amongst these is a significant pledge from Heap and Partners Ltd from the Canada Works in Birkenhead. Several of the Brassey Family Charitable Trusts have now donated and our own society members are responding positively including a very significant donation from one of them. If you haven't made a pledge or sent a donation please do so now. This is the right time, every little helps.

The sculptors are now visiting Chester Station, meeting up with the society trustees and generally getting to know what we are looking for.

Some of you may have seen the Artist's impression in the local newspapers of the proposed revamped Chester Station forecourt and a bronze piece of art, a statue of Thomas, would do it proud, commemorating one of Cheshire's greatest sons.

TOUR OF CHESTER STATION



10 November saw Committee member, John Whittingham lead members on an evening tour of Chester Station, starting with a brief introduction beforehand.

The group were able to view the plaque to Thomas on the inside wall of the station as well as hearing about the fact that the platform was, at one time, the longest in the country.

Treasurer's Statue Fund Summary

Receipts and Payments Account
Summary of Account Funds and Other Income Streams

1 General Funds (funds allocated for general administrative purposes and future management costs)
Society bank account £6090.

2 Statue Funds (funds available for the statue project)

Society bank account	£32,255
Pledges: Tyrer Charitable Trust	£40,000
Couch Charitable Trust	£10,000
Heap and Partners Ltd	£5,000

Total funds available for the statue £87,255

David Bebb
Treasurer

In respect of the general operation and administration of the Society, the Trustees have:

- held monthly and minuted meetings throughout the year in person and via Zoom, including regular reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary
- produced a bi-monthly newsletter for Society members
- increased our membership by 100% over the year to a current 120 members
- maintained a Society web-site, providing information about Thomas Brassey and his achievements, about the Society and its operation, about its Privacy Policy and links to other relevant information and created a Facebook account - all accessible to the general public.

Section E Financial review

Society Name: **The Thomas Brassey Society** — No (if any):

Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from: 1 January 2022 To: 5 April 2023

Section A Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last period to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Membership Subscriptions		1,940	-	-	1,940	1,780
		-	-	-	-	
Donations		-	-	-	-	
Private	1	13,373	-	-	13,373	3,587
Other	2	14,323	-	-	14,323	5,054
Fundraising	3	279	-	-	279	-
Events	4	1,575	-	-	1,575	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income)*		31,490	-	-	31,490	10,421
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
		-	- 0	- 0	-	
		-	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Sub total		- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Total receipts		31,490	- 0	- 0	31,490	10,421
A3 Payments						
Administration	5	75	-	-	75	45
Fundraising	6	50	-	-	50	125
Promotion costs	7	1,031	-	-	1,031	822
Events	8	1,418	-	-	1,418	-
					-	
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		2,574	-	-	2,574	992
A4 Asset and investment purchases						
			-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
Sub total		- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Total payments		2,574	- 0	- 0	2,574	992
Net of receipts/(payments)		28,916	-	-	28,916	9,429
A5 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	9	9,429	-	-	9,429	-
Cash funds this year end		38,345	-	-	38,345	9,429

Notes

1. "Donations - Private" includes all donations from private individuals.
2. "Donations - Other" includes all donations from other organisations, societies or trusts.
3. Fundraising includes sales of books.
4. Events includes receipts for the AGM and other functions.
5. Administration includes the annual cost for maintaining the Society website and printing costs.
6. Fundraising includes the annual payment to the Fundraising Regulator.
7. Promotion costs include book publishing.
8. Events include payments for the AGM and other functions.
9. Restricted fund of £2,000 transferred to "unrestricted" with the agreement of the donor.

NOTE: Accounts subject to independent examination.

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash held in bank current account	38,375		
	Total cash funds	38,375	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Supply and Installation of the Interpretation Panel	Unrestricted	3,380	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DW Bebb.	David Bebb	05/04/23

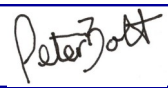
Section F Other optional information

None

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John Stephen Scott Langtree	Peter Charles Bolt
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Secretary
Date	5 April 2023	