The THOMAS BRASSEY Society



PRESS RELEASE

4 May 2025

Announcing the Unveiling of the Thomas Brassey Statue outside Chester Railway Station

The Thomas Brassey Society is delighted to announce that a large statue is to be erected outside Chester Station to commemorate Thomas Brassey, a prominent engineer of the nineteenth century. The bronze statue has been sculpted by Andy Edwards, renowned for the Beatles statues at Liverpool's Pier Head.

Thomas Brassey was born in Aldford near Chester in 1805 and was educated in Chester. He then became an assistant to Thomas Telford, surveying the alignment of the A5 in North Wales. Afterwards he went on to manage Storeton Quarry, on the Wirral, where stone was provided to George Stephenson's Sankey Viaduct on the Liverpool-Manchester Railway.

He became a prominent railway builder and during his lifetime he built one third of Britain's railways, three quarters of those in France and one in twenty miles of the world's railways during the 1800's.

It is fitting that the statue is located at Chester Station which he built in 1848, but he also built parts of the Chester - Crewe line, Chester - Holyhead line, Chester - Birkenhead and all of the Chester - Shrewsbury line.

He not only built railways across the world but also major civil engineering works such as the Thames Embankment and Birkenhead Docks. He even built a railway at breakneck speed in Crimea to provide the British and French armies with food and ammunition to assist with the fall of Sebastopol in 1855. At his busiest times he was employing as many as 80,000 men, requiring significant managerial skills.

He died in 1870 having accomplished a phenomenal amount of construction across Britain and the world.

The statue has been funded by the Thomas Brassey Society who have raised donations, both large and small, from many benefactors including Avanti West Coast, 3 Counties Connected Rail, Mid and North Cheshire Community Rail Partnerships as well as the Brassey family and Society members.

The statue will be formally unveiled by Prince Richard, the Duke of Gloucester, on Wednesday, 28th May 2025 at 1.30 pm outside Chester Station.

For further information about this event please contact the Secretary, Peter Bolt, on petergillianbolt1@btinternet.com