

THE THOMAS BRASSEY SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1195546

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-08-18

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 12A Fornalls Green Lane
Meols
Wirral
Merseyside
CH47 9RJ

Phone 0151 632 2871

Email tbsoc@hotmail.com

Website <http://www.thomasbrasseysociety.org>

Activities

Objects: 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.

Activities: Our aim is to raise awareness and educate the public about the life and works of Thomas Brassey - the World's most prolific builder of railways in the 19th Century, but still relatively unknown. We do this by giving talks and lectures, distributing literature, attending public exhibitions, maintaining a publicly available web-site, and erecting information panels and plaques at key locations.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£22,378	£38,003	-	-
2024-04-05	£15,702	£6,346	-	-
2023-04-05	£29,306	£2,220	-	-
2022-04-05	£4,017	£561	-	-

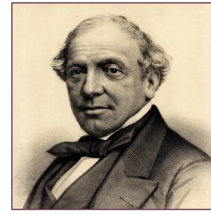
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
John Stephen Scott Langtree MBE	Chair	2019-11-18
David John Hooley		2019-11-18
Ian Frederick Walker		2022-10-11
Jean Fortune		2021-11-04
John Parton Whittingham		2019-11-18
John Violet		2024-02-15
Keith James Stoops		2024-01-22
PETER WILLIAM COCKER		2019-11-18
Peter Charles Bolt		2019-11-18
Richard James Coackley CBE		2019-11-18

THE THOMAS BRASSEY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1195546

Accounts



The
THOMAS
BRASSEY
Society

The Thomas Brassey Society

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25



Chairman's Report



This report and financial statement covers a 12 month period from April 2024 to the end of March 2025. The format and content follow the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission for a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation).

This last year has been an exceptionally busy period for the Society. There has been significant progress with the statue construction by Castle Fine Arts at their works near Oswestry. Committee members have maintained regular contact with both the company and Andy Edwards, the sculptor. I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Llangollen Railway Trust for donating some railway track items, which have duly been reproduced in bronze to form the plinth for the statue. Good progress has been maintained beyond March 2025 with the statue being unveiled in May, which will be covered in detail in next year's Annual Report.

A new initiative this year has been the appointment of a small group of members to develop an inventory of material related to Thomas Brassey. The inventory will be accessible via the society website and include information on books, articles, portraits, artefacts, communications and online references.

We have maintained regular talks and lectures to interested parties throughout the year in accordance with an objective of the society to advance the education of the public. We are currently preparing suitable press releases for when the statue is erected.

In May 2024 we organised a trip to Cruet in France primarily to give support to the community wishing to preserve Thomas Brassey's 'Pont des Anglais' wrought iron bridge. A large number of Society members travelled to France and were very well received. The Society presented a blue plaque commemorating the connection with Thomas Brassey. The trip was extremely well organised by our Vice Chairman, Richard Coackley and a memorable time was had by all.

We organised a well-attended trip on the Llangollen Railway to Corwen where we were able to view the new Thomas Brassey information panels at both termini.

My report would not be complete without recognising the work of Society member, Gillian Bolt, in not only producing this report in such a professional format for the Charity Commission but also our regular newsletters. I should also acknowledge the regular work of members who maintain our website and social media platforms. If you have any queries about this report or the activities of the Society, please contact us by email:

tbsoc@hotmail.com

Stephen Langtree

Stephen Langtree MBE
Chairman

Trustees Annual Report for the period

Start date: 6 April 2024 End date: 31 March 2025

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	until 19 June 2025
Keith James Stoops	Treasurer	
David John Hooley	Membership Secretary	
Peter William Cocker	Minutes Secretary	
John Parton Whittingham	Committee member	
Jean Fortune	Researcher	
Ian Walker	Excursions Co-ordinator	
John Violet	Committee Member	Secretary from 20 June 2025

Description of the charity's Trusts

Type of governing document: CIO — Association (Registered 18 August 2021)

Section B Structure, governance and management

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.

Membership of the Society has peaked at 127 during the reporting period. This includes three honorary members: our patron, Pete Waterman OBE, Doug Haynes and Jo Decker.

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 well-attended AGM at the Queen Hotel, Chester on July 13th, 2024. After the formal meeting we had a talk by sculptor, Andy Edwards, entitled "Creation of the Thomas Brassey Statue" which was well received.

Progress on the Statue project

During the last year there has been significant progress with a good working relationship between the three main players, sculptor, factory and the Society Trustees. Whilst the sculptor and factory progressed with the casting of the statue in bronze metal the Trustees concentrated on obtaining Planning Permission, insurance and Highway Licence. A contractor was appointed towards the end of the year for constructing the concrete base and relaying the paving. The Trustees have also been busy arranging for the erection and unveiling of the statue which will be described in more detail in the following Annual Report.

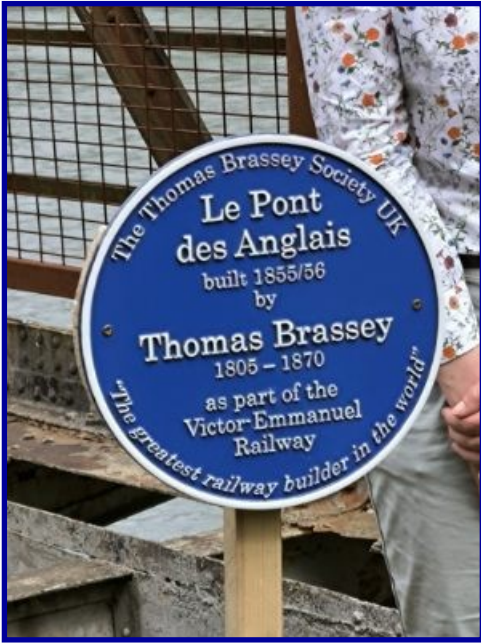
At the time of the last Annual Report there was still a shortfall in funds for the statue but during the year Trustees secured the funding needed from several different sources.

Members' Outings

There was a trip to the Llangollen Railway in the Autumn for Society members. The trip was made shortly after the Thomas Brassey information boards had been erected at both Llangollen and Corwen.

In addition, a number of Trustees had a visit to Cruet in the Savoie Department of south eastern France to support the





Trustee, Ian Walker, talking to one of the Fair's many visitors

/continued

community who want to retain the 'Pont des Anglais' wrought iron bridge. This bridge was built by Thomas Brassey and was the first wrought iron bridge built in France. Despite its historical significance the bridge is threatened with demolition which would be a great loss to the community. Our Society has raised the profile of the bridge by communicating with authorities in France and have presented a blue plaque, describing its importance, for erection at the bridge.

Talks

Members of the Society continued to give talks to meetings of other societies and interest groups, helping to inform the general public about the life and works of Thomas Brassey and to spread the word of his achievements. A considerable amount of voluntary donations have been raised during the process.

Wirral History & Heritage Fair, Port Sunlight

TTBS Committee members again took the display stand to the annual Wirral History & Heritage Fair in Port Sunlight in March. The event was very well attended with organisers again estimating over 1000 members of the public coming through the doors. Since Covid the numbers attending has risen year on year which has been very beneficial for the Society.

A great deal of interest was shown with donations being made and new members again signing up. Wirral's Mayor also visited the stand and showed great interest.

/Section D continued

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

- held monthly and minuted meetings throughout the year in person including regular reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary
- produced a bi-monthly newsletter for Society members
- maintained our membership over the year
- 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 continued to post on our Facebook account - all accessible to the general public.

		Society Name		No (if any)		
		The Thomas Brassey Society		1195646		
Receipts and payments accounts						
Note	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date		
		6 April 2024		5 April 2025		
Section A Receipts and payments						
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
		to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
		1,210	-	-	1,210	1,056
			-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-
	Private	1	6,064	-	6,064	7,384
	Other	2	9,915	-	9,915	6,924
	Fundraising	3	74	-	74	159
	Events	4	649	-	649	178
	Cruet Visit Prepayments	6	-	600	600	4,960
	Gift aid/ GASDS Payments	7	4,467	-	4,467	
	Sub total (Gross income for AR)		22,378	600	22,978	20,662
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total		-	-	-	-
	Total receipts		22,378	600	22,978	20,662
A3 Payments						
	Administration	6	1,977	-	1,977	122
	Fundraising	7	50	-	50	50
	Promotion costs	8	498	-	498	174
	Events	9	968	-	968	-
	Statue Interim Payments to 05/04/25	10	34,510	-	34,510	6,000
	Cruet Deposit repayments	11	-	5,560	5,560	-
	Sub total		38,003	5,560	43,563	6,346
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total		-	-	-	-
	Total payments		38,003	5,560	43,563	6,346
	Net of receipts/(payments)		- 15,624	- 4,960	- 20,584	14,316
	A5 Transfers between funds					
	A6 Cash funds last year end		52,151	-		37,835
	Cash funds this year end		36,526	- 4,960	31,566	52,151

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 Cruet Plaque/ Certificates and Llangollen info boards
4. Events includes receipts for the AGM and other functions.
5. Deposits paid by members attending the Cruet visit.
6. Administration includes the annual cost for maintaining the Society website and printing costs.
7. Fundraising includes the annual payment to the Fundraising Regulator.
8. Promotion costs include book publishing.
9. Events include payments for the AGM and other functions. Cruet Visit funded by members attending.
10. Interim payments to the Sculptuer and Foundary up to 05/04/25
11. Repayments of Cruet visit deposits back to RC

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	36,526	4,960	-
			-	-
				-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	36,526	4,960	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Adjustment Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Cash held for Cruet Visit (paid in by members attending)	Restricted Funds	4,960	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	<i>Keith J Stoops</i>	Keith Stoops		04/08/25

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	John Violet
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Secretary
Date	6 August 2025	

		Society Name The Thomas Brassey Society			No (if any) 1195646
		Receipts and payments accounts			
	Note	For the period from	Period start date 6 April 2024	To	Period end date 5 April 2025

Section A Receipts and payments

		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Membership Subscriptions		1,210	-	-	1,210	1,056
Donations			-	-	-	-
	Private 1	6,064	-	-	6,064	7,384
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		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
	Total payments	38,003	5,560	-	43,563	6,346
	Net of receipts/(payments)	- 15,624	-	-	- 15,624	14,316
A5 Transfers between funds			-	-		
A6 Cash funds last year end		52,151	-	-		37,835
Cash funds this year end		36,526	-	-	36,526	52,151

Notes

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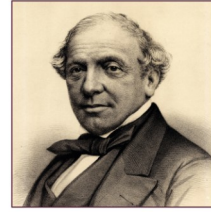
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			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	36,526	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
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	Cash held for Cruet Visit (paid in by members attending)	Restricted Funds	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<i>Keith J Stoops</i>	Keith Stoops	09/11/25	

THE THOMAS BRASSEY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1195546

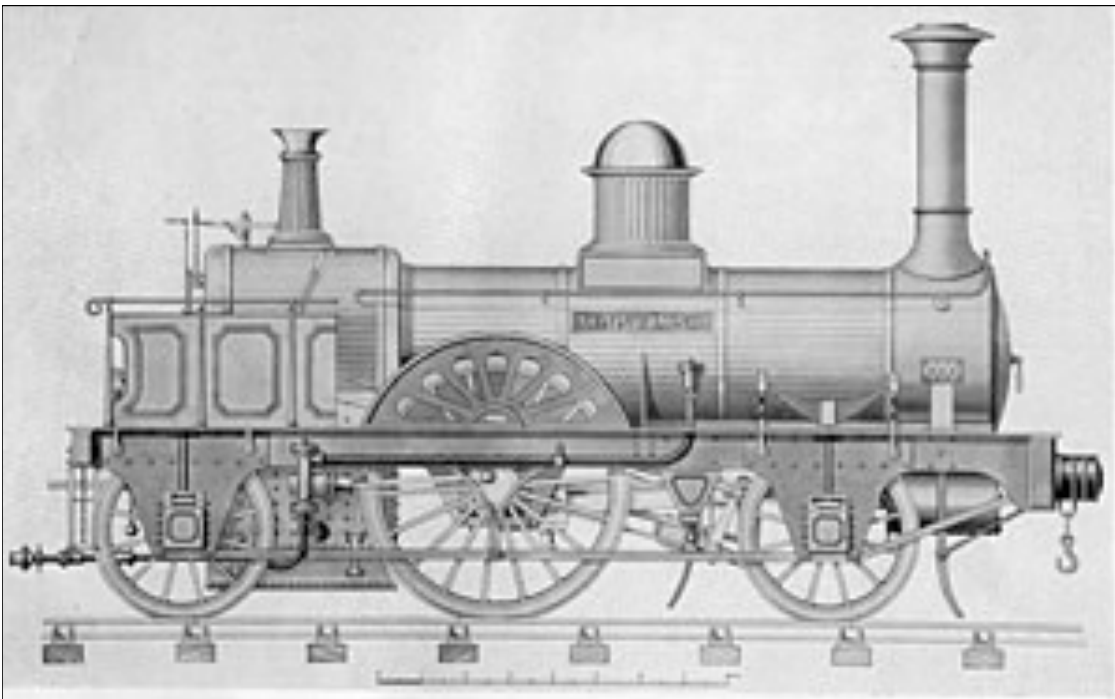
Accounts



The
**THOMAS
BRASSEY**
Society

The Thomas Brassey Society

ANNUAL
REPORT



The 'Jenny Lind' locomotive, used by Brassey on the Crimea railway

2023/24

Registered Charity No 1195546

Chairman's Report



This report and financial statement covers a 12 month period from April 2023 to the end of March 2024. The format and content follow the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission for a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation). While thinking along these lines (*pardon the pun!*) it might be worth reminding ourselves of the objects of our society as stated in clause 3 of our Constitution:

“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.”

By the time you finish reading this Annual Report I hope you will agree with me that the committee has worked hard to fulfil these objects over the past 12 months. Before describing the progress we have made, I must pay tribute to the committee members and thank them for shouldering a considerable workload. Many thanks also to those, behind the scenes, who maintain our website, social media platforms and do a fabulous job to produce a bi-monthly newsletter. Much of the aforementioned workload has, of course, been in pursuit of the proposed statue of Thomas Brassey outside Chester railway station.

The design competition was conducted in two stages; the first being an open invitation to a wide range of sculptors. Nine tenders were received and after careful scrutiny, these were reduced to a shortlist of two. Both in their different ways were extremely promising bids and following much deliberation amongst ourselves and with our sponsors we decided to appoint Andrew Edwards. His attention to detail and collaborative approach to the design will, we trust, result in a statue that we can be very proud of.

In July and August 2023 we had our stall at Making Tracks 3 in Chester Cathedral. Once again this was an invaluable opportunity to acquaint people with Thomas Brassey and his phenomenal achievements. Thank you once again to all those members who helped out by manning the stall so willingly.

On 1st August we also helped to celebrate The 175th anniversary of the official opening of Chester station in 1848. We were pleased to work in partnership with Transport for Wales and several community rail user groups. The event was very well attended and attracted some welcome television coverage!

Requests for lectures and talks continue to come thick and fast. Peter Bolt has had to cut back on such things so other committee members have stepped forward to share the workload and my thanks go to them and to Gillian Bolt, for ensuring that this important aspect of our charitable objects is maintained.

We have also tried to organise a number of outings for our members, such as to the Churnet Valley Railway and the Llangollen Railway. More such trips will be in the pipeline as soon as possible. Finally, ‘work in progress’ includes information panels about Thomas Brassey at stations on the Llangollen Railway and a display in Chester Town Hall where Brassey has been chosen to be one of a small number of great Cestrians. Looking beyond our shores, our Vice-Chairman, Richard Coackley is actively supporting those in south-east France who are trying to save one of Thomas Brassey’s historic railway bridges and plans were made for a visit there in Spring 2024.

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

Trustees Annual Report for the period

Start date: 6 April 2023 End date: 5 April 2024

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

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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 Bebb (dec'd 17 May 2024)	Treasurer	Up to 21 January 2024
Keith James Stoops	Treasurer	From 22 January 2024
David John Hooley	Membership Secretary	
Peter William Cocker	Minutes Secretary	
John Parton Whittingham	Committee member	
Jean Fortune	Researcher	
Ian Walker	Excursions Co-ordinator	
John Violet	Committee Member	From 15 February 2024

Description of the charity's Trusts

Section B Structure, governance and management

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

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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.

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Membership of the Society has peaked at 127 during the reporting period. This includes three honorary members: our patron, Pete Waterman OBE, Doug Haynes and Jo Decker.

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 very successful second AGM under its new Constitution as a registered charity on 15 April 2023.

After dealing with business and the election of officers, members were treated to a talk entitled

“When I met Thomas Brassey”

by Mac Steels who had worked on the M6 road construction project next to the Shap railway during his early career and been introduced to Thomas Brassey as the railway builder by his employer!

Making Tracks 3

During August 2023, the Society's Patron Pete Waterman brought the third version of his 'Making Tracks' model railway exhibition to Chester Cathedral.

Based on the Milton Keynes section of the West Coast main line, the exhibition attracted a considerable audience during the month. The Society again provided a stand to promote public understanding of Thomas Brassey's life and works which was staffed continuously by committee and other members of the Society, on every exhibition day.

Maquettes of possible ideas for the statue were on display and visitors' preferences were recorded.





Members on the chain link bridge in Llangollen

At the Churnet Valley Railway



Members at the Williamson Art Gallery



Peter Bolt explaining TTBS' aims to Wirral's Mayor

Members' Outings

Visits to the Churnet Valley Railway and the Llangollen Railway were enjoyed by members during the year thus supporting heritage railway societies and lines that had been built by Thomas Brassey.

Another outing was to the Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead which holds a full length portrait of Thomas, presented to Birkenhead Council in the late 1800's by Lord Brassey, the eldest son. This proved very interesting as the picture showed Thomas Brassey in his forties although it had been painted after his death. Sadly the painting is kept in the store rooms as the frame needs attention.

Our sculptor, Andy Edwards, joined us on the visit and also brought his first proposed designs for us to look at.

Progress on the Statue project

Since his appointment as sculptor, we have had regular meetings with Andy to firm up on design ideas.

We have also held additional meetings on site at Chester Station, with staff from Cheshire West & Chester's Planning Department and also staff from Highways to resolve issues around the siting of the statue and plinth outside the Station.



First design idea?

Talks

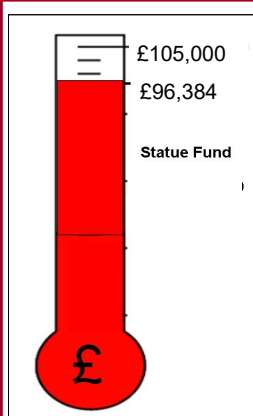
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Wirral History & Heritage Fair, Port Sunlight

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A great deal of interest was shown with donations being made and new members signing up. Wirral's Mayor also visited the stand and showed great interest.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE STATUE



Fundraising for the statue continued throughout the year with a target of £105,000. Having paid an initial payment for the maquettes from the two sculptors, the sum was still some way short of what was needed to complete the statue and its installation so further fund raising will be needed to ensure completion.



Celebrating 175 years of Chester Station with a cake and our new TTBS polo shirts. Richard Coackley gave a talk about Thomas Brassey and members of the public were invited to join us. Committee Member John Whittingham also attended the 175th Events, dressed as Thomas Brassey, greatly adding to the historic feel of the event.

Treasurer's Statue Fund Summary

Summary of Account Funds and Other Income Streams

Statue Funds (funds available for the statue project)

Society bank account	£47,191
Less cash held in general a/c	- £6,807
Funds available for statue	£40,384
Outstanding Pledges:	
Tyrer Charitable Trust	£40,000
Couch Charitable Trust	<u>£10,000</u>
Total funds available for statue	£90,384
Already spent on 2 maquettes	<u>£ 6,000</u>
Total funds achieved	<u>£96,384</u>



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

- held monthly and minuted meetings throughout the year in person including regular reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary
- produced a bi-monthly newsletter for Society members
- maintained our membership over the year
- 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 continued to post on our Facebook account - all accessible to the general public.

		Society Name		No (if any)		
		The Thomas Brassey Society		1195546		
Receipts and payments accounts						
Note	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date		
		6 April 2023		5 April 2024		
Section A Receipts and payments						
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
		to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
		1,056	-	-	1,056	1,220
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
	Private 1	7,384	-	-	7,384	12,509
	Other 2	6,924	-	-	6,924	14,223
	Fundraising 3	159	-	-	159	279
	Events 4	178	-	-	178	1,075
	Cruet Visits Pre payment 5		4,960	-	4,960	-
	Sub total (Gross income for AR)	15,702	4,960	-	20,662	29,306
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
	Total receipts	15,702	4,960	-	20,662	29,306
A3 Payments						
	Administration 6	122	-	-	122	51
	Fundraising 7	50	-	-	50	50
	Promotion costs 8	174	-	-	174	1,001
	Events 9	511	-	-	511	1,118
	Maquettes x 2 10	6,000	-	-	6,000	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total	6,856	-	-	6,856	2,220
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
	Total payments	6,856	-	-	6,856	2,220
	Net of receipts/(payments)	8,845	4,960	-	13,805	27,086
	A5 Transfers between funds					
	A6 Cash funds last year end	38,346	-	-		-
	Cash funds this year end	47,191	4,960	-	52,151	27,086
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. Deposits paid by members attending the Cruet visit.						
6. Administration includes the annual cost for maintaining the Society website and printing costs.						
7. Fundraising includes the annual payment to the Fundraising Regulator.						
8. Promotion costs include book publishing.						
9. Events include payments for the AGM and other functions. Cruet Visit funded by members attending.						
10. Two one off payments of £3000 each to the shortlisted sculptors to produce a maquette.						
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	47,191	4,960	-
			-	-
				-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds		47,191	4,960
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Cash held for Cruet Visit (paid in by memebtrs attending)		4,960	-
			-	-
			-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Keith J Stoops	Keith Stoops	30/06/24	


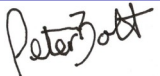
Section F**Other optional information**

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	13 July 2024	

		Society Name The Thomas Brassey Society		No (if any)	
		Receipts and payments accounts			
	Note	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
			6 April 2023		5 April 2024

Section A Receipts and payments

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
		to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Membership Subscriptions		1,220	-	-	1,220	1,220
Donations			-	-	-	
	Private	12,509	-	-	12,509	12,509
	Other	14,223	-	-	14,223	14,223
Fundraising	3	279	-	-	279	279
Events	4	1,075	-	-	1,075	1,075
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)		29,306	-	-	29,306	29,306
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
	Total receipts	29,306	-	-	29,306	29,306
A3 Payments						
Administration	5	51	-	-	51	51
Fundraising	6	50	-	-	50	50
Promotion costs	7	1,001	-	-	1,001	1,001
Events	8	1,118	-	-	1,118	1,118
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total	2,220	-	-	2,220	2,220
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
	Total payments	2,220	-	-	2,220	2,220
	Net of receipts/(payments)	27,086	-	-	27,086	27,086
A5 Transfers between funds	9	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		9,259	-	-	9,259	-
Cash funds this year end		38,345	-	-	38,345	27,086

- 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.

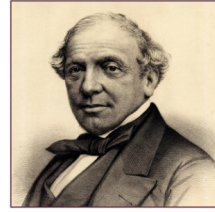
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash held in bank current account	38,345		-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	38,345	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	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 Interpretation Panel	Unrestricted	3,380	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Keith Stoops		05/04/24

THE THOMAS BRASSEY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1195546

Accounts



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 few 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	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.

/continued over

/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.

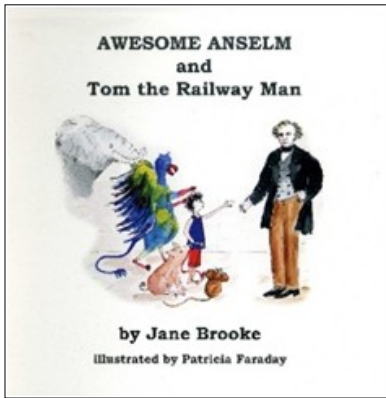
After dealing with 'normal' business and the election of officers, members enjoyed a talk by Trish Jones on 'The voyages of The Sunbeam' - the last of a series of yachts owned by Lord Brassey, the eldest son of Thomas Brassey, and the successor to an earlier yacht, 'Albatross' (by the same designer), 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!



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 £6120

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.


		Society Name		No (if any)		
		The Thomas Brassey Society				
		Receipts and Payments Account				
Note		For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
			1 January 2022		5 April 2023	
Section A Receipts and Payments						
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last period
		to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
		1,940	-	-	1,940	1,780
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
	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	1,001	-	-	1,001	822
	Events 8	1,418	-	-	1,418	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Sub total	2,544	-	-	2,544	992
A4 Asset and investment purchases						
		-	-	-	-	
	Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
	Total payments	2,544	- 0	- 0	2,544	992
	Net of receipts/(payments)	28,946	-	-	28,946	9,429
	A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
	A6 Cash funds last year end 9	9,429	-	-	9,429	-
	Cash funds this year end	38,375	-	-	38,375	9,429

Notes

- "Donations - Private" includes all donations from private individuals.
- "Donations - Other" includes all donations from other organisations, societies or trusts.
- Fundraising includes sales of books.
- Events includes receipts for the AGM and other functions.
- Administration includes the annual cost for maintaining the Society website and printing costs.
- Fundraising includes the annual payment to the Fundraising Regulator.
- Promotion costs include book publishing.
- Events include payments for the AGM and other functions.
- 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
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		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
		David Bebb		05/04/23


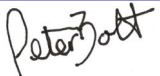
Section F**Other optional information**

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	

Society Name The Thomas Brassey Society	No (if any) 1195546
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Receipts and payments accounts

Note	For the period from	Period start date 6 April 2022	To	Period end date 5 April 2023

Section A Receipts and payments

		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Membership Subscriptions		1,220	-	-	1,220	2,500
		-	-	-	-	-
Donations		-	-	-	-	-
	Private 1	12,509	-	-	12,509	3,754
	Other 2	14,223	-	-	14,223	5,851
Fundraising	3	279	-	-	279	-
Events	4	1,075	-	-	1,075	500
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)		29,306	-	-	29,306	12,605
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts		29,306	-	-	29,306	12,605
A3 Payments						
Administration	5	51	-	-	51	69
Fundraising	6	50	-	-	50	125
Promotion costs	7	1,001	-	-	1,001	822
Events	8	1,118	-	-	1,118	330
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		2,220	-	-	2,220	1,346
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		2,220	-	-	2,220	1,346
Net of receipts/(payments)		27,086	-	-	27,086	11,259
A5 Transfers between funds	9	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		9,259	-	-	9,259	-
Cash funds this year end		38,345	-	-	38,345	11,259

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.

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	38,345	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	38,345	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK


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

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

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	P W Cocker	31/01/2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Thomas Brassey Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



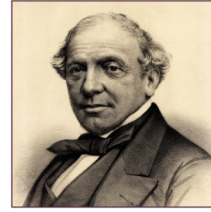
Name: Susan Harris ACA (ICAEW)

Date: 31 January 2024

THE THOMAS BRASSEY SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1195546

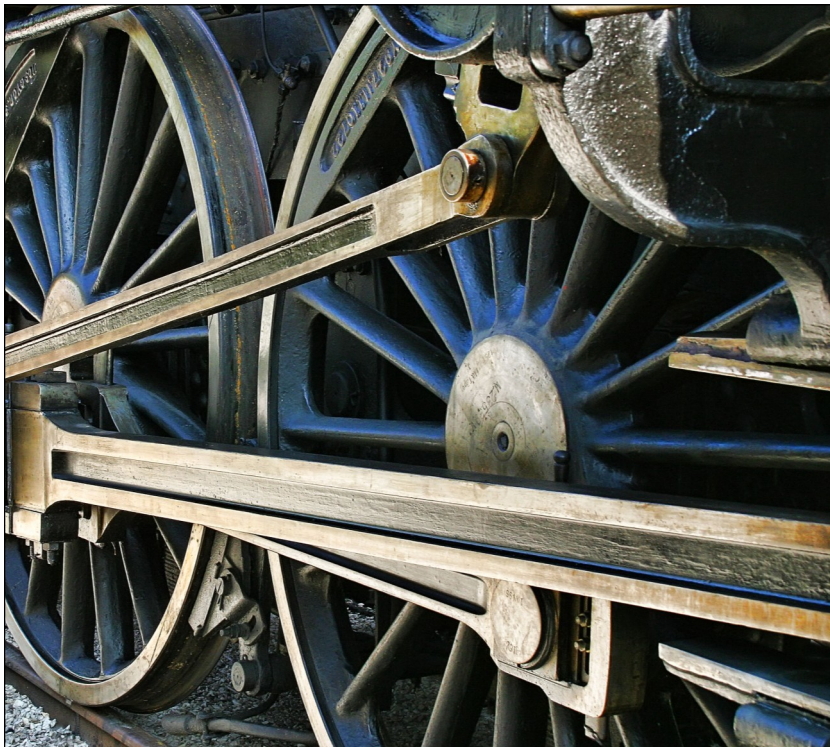
Accounts



The
**THOMAS
BRASSEY**
Society

The Thomas Brassey Society

ANNUAL
REPORT



2021

Registered Charity No 1195546

A message from our Patron



Dear Society Members,

Although Covid is still with us it has been another good year for both the Society and myself. 'The model railway exhibition, Making Tracks' at the Chester Cathedral eventually happened and attracted an astonishing 45,000 visitors. This was so popular that I have been invited to create a new layout and return to the Cathedral in Summer 2022, I have chosen to mimic the Kilsby to Rugby Hillmorton Junction and will probably be ready to show a week earlier than last year.

Looking through the Society's Annual Report I am delighted that they have been able to obtain charity status which is a must to attract the sums of money needed to fund a statue of Thomas Brassey. He has not been recognised as one of the greatest railway engineers in this country and it is right and fitting that a statue located at Chester station in his birthplace will go a long way to remedy that.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year,

Pete Waterman

Chairman's Report

This Annual Report for 2021 covers a 14-month period from November 2020 to the end of December 2021. It is only our second year as a fully constituted voluntary organisation and it has been a period of unprecedented activity despite the constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic. Membership has almost doubled, to 110, and we are now a registered charity. In that capacity, the rest of this Annual Report follows the format recommended by the Charity Commission. Sections C and D provide a complete list of our activities and achievements, some of which are highlighted below.

First, our new information panel outside Chester railway station was installed in November 2020 and formally unveiled on 8th December 2020 – precisely 150 years after Brassey's death on 8th December 1870. An illustration of the panel was included in our last Annual Report and, once again, our thanks go to everyone involved in its design, installation and 'socially distanced' unveiling! We are very proud of this lectern-style panel and pleased to record that it has attracted a great deal of interest over the past 12 months.

By complete contrast, in spring 2021 the Society was contacted and asked for help by a community group at Cruet in SE France. They are trying to save an iron truss railway bridge, built by Brassey in 1859. It is important for its historical significance and valuable to the local people as part of a footpath and cycleway. We were happy to lend our support and practise our French translation *n'est pas!*

The Society's next big event was to support our Patron, Pete Waterman, during 'Making Tracks', the mammoth model railway exhibition at Chester Cathedral. Our stall, alongside the model railway, gave us a wonderful opportunity to promote Thomas Brassey to the thousands of visitors. It was also an effective recruitment exercise, with over 40 new members signing up during that 7-week period. On 28th August, as the model railway exhibition entered its final week, we held a Members' Luncheon in the splendid surroundings of the cathedral refectory. The gathering was attended by 50 members and guests, including a growing contingent of Brassey family descendants.

Throughout all of the above we have continued to pursue plans for a statue of Thomas Brassey at Chester station. We have taken professional advice regarding funding opportunities and have developed a good relationship with the Public Statues and Sculpture Association (PSSA). We have collated information on many similar statues and have produced our own 'Case Statement & Funding Prospectus'. Site meetings with various stakeholders have taken place at the station and we are now preparing to submit an application for outline planning permission.

Not to mention the first-rate newsletters, talks and lectures presented by our Secretary, Peter Bolt and our website, managed by Phil Pearn. Oh yes, it's been a very busy year and an excellent team effort by everyone on the committee - thank you all.

Stephen Langtree MBE

Trustees Annual Report for the period

Start date: 1 November 2020 End date: 31 December 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name: The Thomas Brassey Society
Registered Charity No: 1195546
Charity's principal address: 4 Poplar Farm Close
Saughall Massie, Wirral, CH46 5NZ

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	4 Nov 2021 — 31 Dec 2021

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.

/continued over

/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



1 The Society designed, funded, manufactured and erected a public Information Panel at Chester Railway Station, explaining the significance of Thomas Brassey in the construction of railways in the 19th century and providing educational material about some of his significant achievements, including the construction of the Victoria Bridge, Montreal, the Cefn Mawr Railway Viaduct and Chester Station. The Panel was unveiled by the local member of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Councillor Samantha Dixon, on 8 December 2020.

2 At the Model Railway Exhibition ("Making Tracks") in the nave of Chester Cathedral, organised and run by our Patron, Dr Pete Waterman OBE DL, the Society installed a public information/ education stand. This was staffed by volunteer members of the Society for six days a week from 16 July to 3 September 2021, involving over 600 person hours. Trustees and other Society members engaged, face to face, with the general public (over 45,000 people visited the exhibition) explaining the achievements of Thomas Brassey, handing out more than 1800 educational "flyers" and with the aid of a wooden model, teaching scores of children (and some adults) the art of bridge building. The Erasmus Chapel at Chester Cathedral is dedicated to Thomas Brassey and his wife Maria and contains a bust of Thomas Brassey as well as an Italian wall mosaic, funded by their three sons.

3 Between them, four members of the Thomas Brassey Society gave 7 talks about Thomas Brassey and his achievements (as volunteers) to the general public, engaging with various social and historical societies—either face to face or via Zoom.

4 A 60 minute film about Thomas Brassey was prepared by one of our members and included cameo performances by professional actors who represented important characters in the Brassey history. This was broadcast on line, due to Covid restrictions, during Summer 2021 and is still available to view.

5 An educational flyer about Thomas Brassey has been produced, with nearly 2000 distributed throughout the year to the general public at exhibitions, talk and lectures. /continued over



Section D continued/

6 Trustees have explored the possibility of erecting a statue of Thomas Brassey outside Chester Railway Station (built by Thomas Brassey in his home city) which, coupled with the information panel already installed at the site in 2020 (see Item 1), would help educate the public about his significance in the construction of the British and international railway system in the 19th century. To this end, Trustees have had discussions with members and officers of Cheshire West and Chester Council, representatives of Network Rail and Transport for Wales and the joint Chair of the Public Statues and Sculptors Association. They have also investigated how such a statue could be designed and funded, including a discussion with a funding consultant.

7 Seven members of the Society attended the Cheshire Local History Association annual conference on 30 October, 2021, staffed an education/information stand and handed out flyers on the life and works of Thomas Brassey. Our Secretary was one of the speakers at the conference. Two members also attended the Toy and Train Fair at Crewe Heritage Centre on 2 October 2021 and handed out flyers.

8 We held an annual luncheon in Chester Cathedral attended by 50 members.

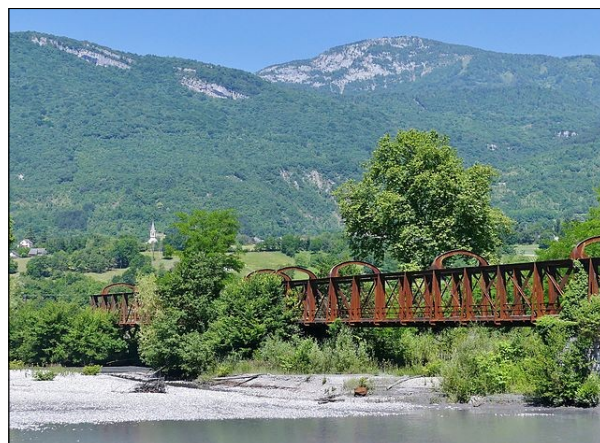


9 We were asked for support by the community of Cruet in the Department de la Savoie, South East France, about saving one of the oldest metal truss frame bridges in France (built by Thomas Brassey). We wrote in strong support, direct to the Department de la Savoie (local authority) and have since heard that the planned demolition has been put on hold. The Secretary of Cruet Nature et Patrimoines, Joan Decker, has accepted honorary membership of The Thomas Brassey Society.

10 With the stated aim of the society being to “advance the education of the public in the historic significance of the life and works of Thomas Brassey”, tentative approaches have been made to the University of Chester.

Contact has been made with Professor Helen O’Sullivan, Provost & Deputy Vice Chancellor and we hope to take our ideas forward with the School of Humanities. Clearly we are at an early stage, but we hope to explore ideas such as an annual “Thomas Brassey Lecture”. These lectures could be related to Thomas Brassey himself or on themes inspired by his life.


/General operation & administration continued overleaf



/Section D continued

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

- held monthly and minuted meetings throughout the year via Zoom, including regular reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary
- produced a bi-monthly newsletter for Society members
- successfully registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission (18 August 2021)
- successfully registered for Gift Aid with HMRC (11 October 2021 but effective from 18 August 2021)
- increased our membership by 100% over the year to a current 110 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.




THOMAS BRASSEY SOCIETY

Welcome to our December 2020 Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES


I first became aware of Thomas Brassey in 2005 when Chester hosted several events to celebrate the bicentenary of his birth. Little did I know then, that 15 years later I would be helping to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his death.

2005 certainly raised awareness of Brassey, not just mine, but in many local organisations and among many local people. It is to be hoped that our efforts in 2020 will have a similar result.



The installation of our interpretation panel outside Chester station at the beginning of this month raised interest from passers-by even before the concrete around its legs had time to set. That's what it's all about!

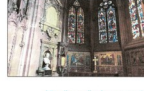
This Newsletter includes a link to the Press Release about the panel and the socially distanced unveiling ceremony on 8th December. I would simply like to record my personal thanks to everyone who has helped us to achieve this in any way. Starting with those who donated to the initial seedcorn fund organised by Chester Civic Trust, to the generous sum given by the Tyler Charitable Trust. Thanks also to Network Rail, Transport for Wales and Chester West and Chester Council with whom we agreed the location of the panel. Finally, many thanks to Catherine Mochan and Peter Bull (TBS), Jane Hebbelwhite (CIVACT) and imagmakers for the design and production of the panel, and to Ringway, the Council's contractor, who carefully installed the panel at its own cost to ourselves.



It's been a team effort which has taken a lot longer than expected, but the end result is a credit to the Society as we continue to raise awareness of 'the world's greatest railway Jubilee of all ages'. The Press Release can be seen in our News page on our website.
<http://www.thomasbrassey.org/panelunveil.pdf>

Please continue to stay safe.
Stephen Langton

**Chester Cathedral Erasmus Chapel Restoration
By Cliveden Restoration**



The wall mosaic on the east wall of the St Erasmus Chapel, designed by R Clayton and executed by A Salviati, was installed as a memorial to Thomas Brassey and his wife in 1879. Donald Inzell Associates (Chester) appointed Cliveden Conservation to repair and clean the damaged mosaic. Cliveden Conservation engaged with visitors, enabling them to witness 'conservation in action' and instructed volunteers with light cleaning of the wall mosaics in the north aisle of the Cathedral. A number of people have asked about the restoration and the link below will explain all.

<https://www.clivedenconservation.com/project/chester-cathedral-wall-mosaic/>

Membership

Membership continues to grow and this month we are pleased to welcome Gary Laido from Saughall Mastic on the Wirral.

Don't forget — you can always offer a 'Christmas gift' of Society membership to your friends and family if they share your interest in Victorian railway engineering.

Section E

Financial review

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The Society has no reserves and no reserve policy.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Not applicable.

	Society Name		No (if any)	
	The Thomas Brassev Society			
	Receipts and Payments Account			
Note	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
		1 November 2020		31 December 2021


Part A Receipts and Payments

		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		1,190	-	-	1,190	590
		-	-	-	-	-
Donations		-	-	-	-	-
	Private 1	847	-	-	847	2,740
	Other 2	355	-	-	355	4,699
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income)		2,392	-	-	2,392	8,029
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts		2,392	-	-	2,392	8,029
A3 Payments						
Administration	3	20	-	-	20	25
Fund raising	4	125	-	-	125	-
Promotion costs	5	331	-	-	331	202
Other costs	6	55	-	-	55	234
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		531	-	-	531	461
A4 Asset and investment purchases						
		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		531	-	-	531	461
Net of receipts/(payments)		1,861	-	-	1,861	7,568
A5 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		5,568	2,000	-	7,568	-
Cash funds this year end		7,429	2,000	-	9,429	7,568

Notes

- "Donations - Private" includes all donations from private individuals.
- "Donations - Other" includes all donations from other organisations or societies.
- Administration includes the annual cost for maintaining the Society website.
- Fund raising includes the cost for the preparation of a Fund Raising Report by specialist consultants.
- Promotion costs include the purchase of "pop up" banners, marketing flyers and leaflets.
- Other costs include the purchase of sundry items such as face shields and donation boxes.

Part 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	7,429	2,000	
	Total cash funds	7,429	2,000	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	JustGiving Fund Raising Page	402	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	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	
	JustGiving Fees	Unrestricted	15	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		David Bebb	19/01/22	


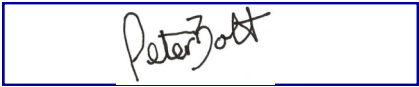
Section F**Other optional information**

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	3 February 2022	

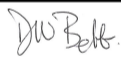
Society Name		No (if any)	
The Thomas Brassey Society			
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	6 April 2021		5 April 2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	2,027	-	-	2,027	2,320
Members' subscriptions	1,490	-	-	1,490	540
	- 0	-	-	-	-
AGM / lunch - attendee deposits	500	-	-	500	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,017	-	-	4,017	2,860
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Total receipts	4,017	- 0	- 0	4,017	2,860
A3 Payments					
Funding Report	- 0	-	-	-	125
Website maintenance	24	-	-	24	20
Promotional	182	-	-	182	-
AGM and lunch deposit	300	-	-	300	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Administration	55	-	-	55	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
Sub total	561	-	-	561	145
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	180
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	180
Total payments	561	- 0	- 0	561	325
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,456	-	-	3,456	2,535
A5 Transfers between funds	- 0	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,803	2,000	-	7,803	5,268
Cash funds this year end	9,259	2,000	-	11,259	7,803
Notes					

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash held in bank current account	9,259	2,000	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	9,259	2,000	-

	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	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 Interpretation Panel	Unrestricted	3,380	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		David Bebb	05/04/22	