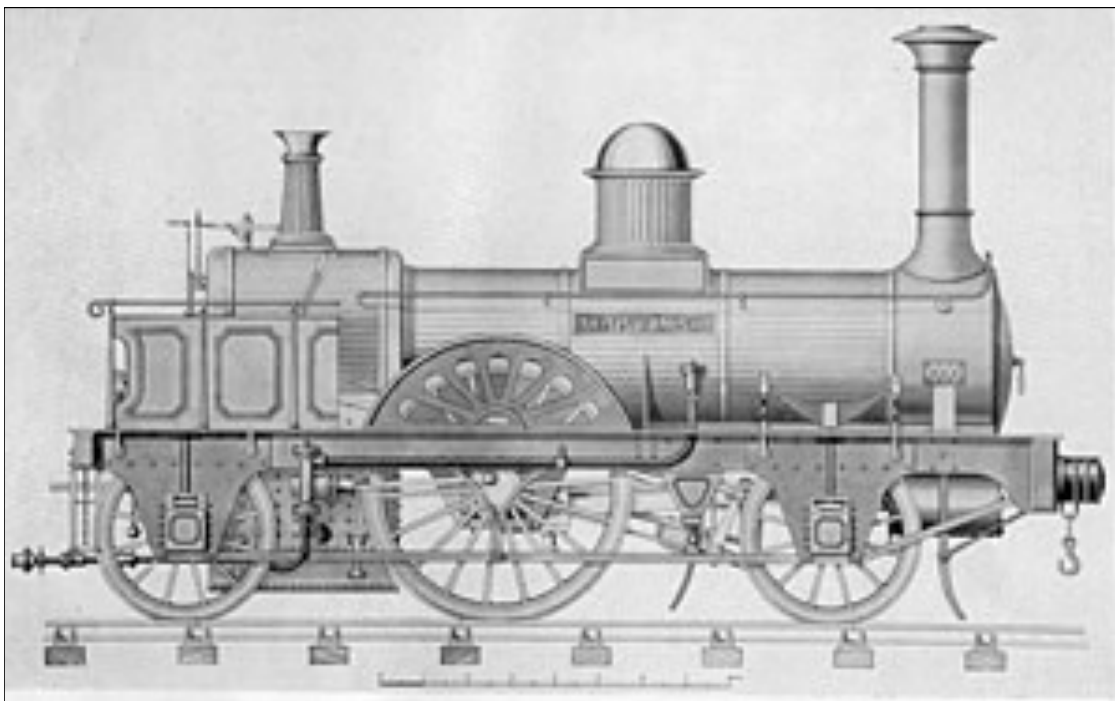


*The*  
**THOMAS  
BRASSEY**  
*Society*

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

## 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 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)  
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.

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.

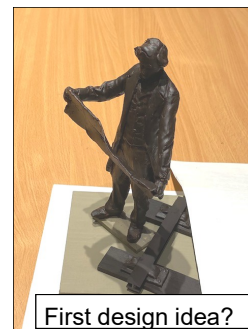
Another outing was to the Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead which holds a full length portrait of Thomas, presented to Birkenhead Council in the late 1800's by Lord Brassey, the eldest son. This proved very interesting as the picture showed Thomas Brassey in his forties although it had been painted 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?

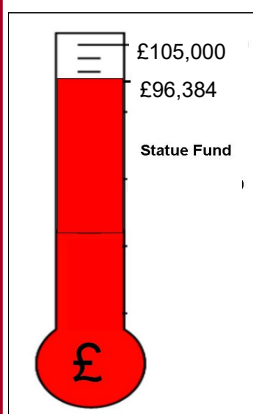
## Talks

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 took the display stand to the Wirral History & Heritage Fair in Port Sunlight in March. The event was very well attended with organisers estimating over 1000 members of the public coming through the doors.

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 <b>The Thomas Brassey Society</b>		No (if any) <b>1195546</b>	
		<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>			
Note		For the period from	Period start date 6 April 2023	To	Period end date 5 April 2024

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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Membership Subscriptions		1,056	-	-	1,056	1,220
Donations			-	-	-	
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 Vists Pre payment	5		4,960	-	4,960	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>		<b>15,702</b>	<b>4,960</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,662</b>	<b>29,306</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>15,702</b>	<b>4,960</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,662</b>	<b>29,306</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
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	-
		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>6,856</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,856</b>	<b>2,220</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>6,856</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,856</b>	<b>2,220</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>		<b>8,845</b>	<b>4,960</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,805</b>	<b>27,086</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>			-	-		-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>		<b>38,346</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>		<b>47,191</b>	<b>4,960</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,151</b>	<b>27,086</b>

**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.
- Deposits paid by members attending the Cruet visit.
- 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. Cruet Visit funded by members attending.
- 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash held in bank current account	47,191	4,960	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>		47,191	4,960
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Cash held for Cruet Visit (paid in by members 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	




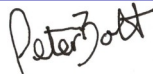
## Section F Other optional information

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	



## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		Cash held in bank current account	38,345		-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
		<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>38,345</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
		(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
			Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
		Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
		Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
		Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>		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