

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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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.

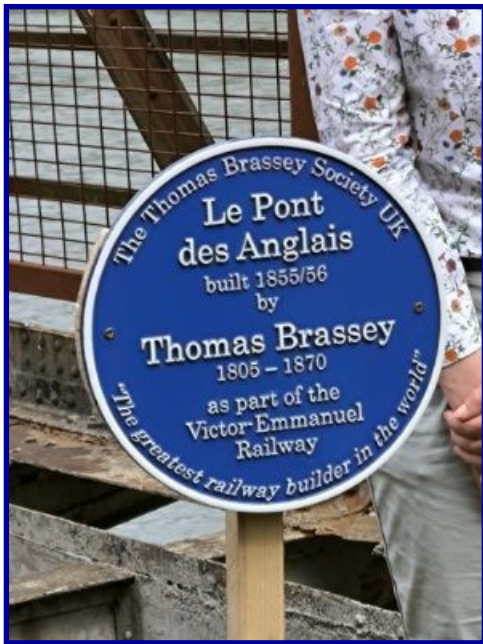
At the time of the last Annual Report there was still a shortfall in funds for the statue but during the year Trustees secured the funding needed from several different sources.

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





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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.



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

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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				
		For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
Note			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						
Membership Subscriptions		1,210	-	-	1,210	1,056
Donations			-	-	-	-
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 repyments 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	Agreed with Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	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	
	Keith J Stoops	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	

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	Note	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date		
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			-	-	-
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		(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
			Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		Details			
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	
		Keith J Stoops	Keith Stoops	09/11/25	