

January 2018

FY 2016/17 AGM

The THNM AGM for the Financial Year 2016/2017 will be on Saturday 28th April, at the Revival Church, High St, New Mills. Doors will open at 10.30 for an 11 am start. Afterwards, an Open Day will be held down at the site from 1-3pm to give everyone an opportunity to chat to the directors and other volunteers and get up close and personal with Archie.

Keeping Archie running

Even though it wasn't a great spring/summer last year, there was not actually that much water in the river; unfortunately for us, keeping the reservoirs full so Manchester's taps don't run dry has a higher priority! This gave Archie very little to work with for most of the year. By the end of our financial year (September 30), just under 61MWh had been generated, considerably below what we would normally expect. We are now looking at ways of generating at lower river levels and are exploring ways to improve the hydro's performance and reliability. Fortunately this year is looking a bit better, with over 20MWh being produced in both December and January.

The dry period did enable volunteers to access the tail race and give it a long overdue clear out. Removing the massive amount of mixed silt containing vegetable matter, sand, gravel, boulders and even stone blocks that had accumulated over the years should help boost Archie's performance. Mechanical problems with the control system are also hampering operations, but our volunteers are hoping to sort this out very soon, with the assistance of their counterparts at Derwent Hydro. The roof on the generating house had to be repaired in November and many broken or missing slates replaced after it suffered some extensive but superficial damage.



Archie as captured by local artist Paul Gent

Artistic Archie!

Archie always provides a dramatic backdrop for art displays and this year has been no exception. "Pebbleart" participants hid decorated pebbles in a number of different locations around New Mills' locations and naturally Torrs Hydro was included among them. Archie was also lit up for the annual Lantern Parade in September, providing the perfect setting for an amazing floating lantern in the form of an old sailing ship perched atop the weir.



Visits and Visitors

In August New Mills School and Sixth Form Concert Choir were selected to sing in a promotional film called 'The Best that You Can Be'. They rehearsed for 5 weeks to perfect the 3 part harmony, accompanied by members of the school orchestra. The singers and 3 instrumental players went down to the Torrs near Archie to perform the song. The film crew were filming across Derbyshire to capture iconic backdrops in the local area. The River Goyt and its surroundings, with all the history that is still so visible in the Torrs and the future represented by Archie, made the perfect backdrop for the students' performance.

Volunteers were on hand for the usual open days for last year's THNM AGM, New Mills Festival, and Co-operative Energy Fortnight. Although not mentioned by name, there was also a sighting of Archie on the Channel 4 programme *Rivers* presented by Jeremy Paxman.

We did have one slightly more unusual visitor: a cormorant! The photographer who took this picture saw it catch a fish down at the confluence of the rivers next to Archie, but it was quickly surrounded by the local ducks who were after a share.



In October, the Directors and volunteers had an "away day" to a newly opened hydro further down the River Goyt at Stringer's Weir in Stockport. Their state of the art equipment made us green with envy, but then Archie is now 10 years old and technology has moved on a bit since we pioneered the concept!!



THNM Community Fund

We now have some funding available for local groups.

Anyone interested in applying should contact the secretary (secretary@torrshydro.org) for details.

If you have any comments/queries/suggestions for improvements, you can email the newsletter editors THNM Director Mary Cohen at mary@torrshydro.org, Company Secretary Richard Body at secretary@torrshydro.org, and volunteer Jan Szechi at jan@torrshydro.org. You can also send a letter to us at 90 Market St., New Mills, High Peak SK22 4AA.