

A better generating year

After last year's dismal generating total, with only December 2012 making an appearance in the Top Twenty, it's nice to see a bit more water in the river so Archie can strut his stuff. So far this year, and we are now edging into the summer with (hopefully) more sunshine than rain, both January and February are in the Top Ten and November 2013 is at number 14. At the time of writing, the total for 2013/14 is just under 140 MWh, which is about on track for an average year. (The annual average for the first 5 full years of operation, Oct 1 to Sept 30, is 142 MWh). As time goes on, it will be harder and harder to get into the Top Ten, but it will be a while before July 2012 gets knocked out!

1	Jan 2012	37.3 MWh
2	Dec 2011	35.9 MWh
3	Jan 2014	35.1 MWh
4	July 2012	35.0 MWh
5	Feb 2012	33.0 MWh
6	Dec 2009	32.7 MWh
7	Dec 2008	29.4 MWh
8	Feb 2014	29.3 MWh
9	Nov 2009	29.2 MWh
10	Dec 2012	28.4 MWh

Note: figures are taken from the ROC monthly totals

Decided at the AGM

Two substantive issues were up for a vote at the AGM held at the end of March: the protocol for distributing profits in the future and a possible new share issue designed to retire our loan and secure the project's future, both of which were described in the January newsletter. After an extensive discussion, with the pros and cons of each examined in detail, both passed with a large majority.

2014 Open Days
Sat July 5th, 1-3pm
Sat Sept 27th, 1-3pm

New share Issue

The Directors agreed the final wording for the new share prospectus at the May Board meeting and once the last few niggling details (such as the photo on the front) are sorted out it will be sent out to existing shareholders. There will also be a public launch, probably in June. The prospectus will be valid from May 19th, and we will start selling shares at that point. Existing shareholders will have priority until July 1st, and 50,000 shares will be available. The share issue will close on 30th Sept, by which time we hope to have sufficient funds to start the new financial year debt-free.



If anyone is interested in increasing their shareholding or knows of anyone who would like to join us, please get in touch with the THNM secretary (Jan) at secretary@torrshydro.org or

the address at the end. A full set of documents (the prospectus and our most recent Annual Report and Financial Report, as well as a copy of the Rules of Torrs Hydro) will be posted on the website shortly. Copies of the AR and FR from previous years are, of course, also available on the website.

Down at the site

The volunteers doing site checks in the mornings and evenings have been amused to observe a family of 8 grey wagtails who have been using the weir and Archie's wall as a playground. The dry April was followed by heavy rains in May that washed all sorts of things down the river. Rubbish cleared from the intake by our volunteers has included a shopping trolley (which will be returned to the store), a tea trolley (with wheels), 2 worn-out car tyres, a dead hen and a *lot* of wood.

Tourist season is here again

Torr's Hydro will be featured as an example of a 'hero' on the Gearshift Theatre website after professional storyteller Tim Padmore visited in April as part of his "Giants" tour. Tim was pedalling from Liverpool to Hull to raise awareness of climate change. Although primarily aimed at children (Tim is an ex-teacher), many in his audiences were well past school age. Read his blog from the tour, as well as synopses of the Giants stories featured, at <http://gearshift-theatre.org.uk>.



Year 6 from Chinley Primary School visited Archie at the end of March, arriving by train and then walking home along the canal. They had a great time and asked some excellent questions as they gathered information for their environmental project.

The Open Days in the middle of May, when we took part in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Open Homes Week, were also well-attended. The weather was beautiful, and there was just enough water in the river to keep Archie turning. On the Sunday, a group of Scouts from the 2nd Cheadle Explorers who happened to pass by while working on their Duke of Edinburgh Award kindly helped Richard and Jan to time how long it took for an orange ping-pong ball to bobble its way down the fish-pass: we were all guessing a few seconds but the actual result was a rather



surprising 2 minutes. the fish might find it useful after all!

Alternative donation strategies

We were not able to replenish the THNM Community Fund this year due to the poor generation figures in FY2012/13, so to eke out the funds we have been making a few "donations in kind" to local organizations. At this year's AGM we again collected food for the New Mills Helping Hands food bank. The 21 kg of assorted food and £10.60 in cash donations was gratefully received and will go to provide immediate assistance to local people who have fallen on hard times.

We also provided home-baked cakes and biscuits for the official launch of the New Mills Walkers Are Welcome group, who are seeking to encourage hikers visiting the National Park to spend some time in New Mills on their way to or from the surrounding hills, hopefully bringing in some much-needed income for local shops, cafes and pubs.

If you should, by any chance, happen to have some spare cash you would like to donate to help get a "green" project off the ground, please remember you can buy a tile on New Mills School's "solar roof" for just £5. Visit <http://www.solarschools.org.uk/newmills/> 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 or Company Secretary Jan Szechi at secretary@torrshydro.org You can also send a letter to Jan at her home address: 25 Albion Mews, New Mills, High Peak SK22 3EG.