

A record year for Archie!

As a result of the wettest spring and summer in living memory, this generating year has been outstanding and we are now in far better financial shape than we were at the end of

1	Jan 2012	37.3 MWh
2	Dec 2011	35.9 MWh
3	July 2012	35.0 MWh
4	Feb 2012	33.0 MWh
5	Dec 2009	32.7 MWh
6	Dec 2008	29.4 MWh
7	Nov 2009	29.2 MWh
8	April 2012	28.3 MWh
9	June 2012	26.4 MWh
10	Jan 2011	25.4 MWh

Note: figures are taken from the ROC report

last year. Most surprising month? July, which provided an astonishing 35 MWh, but both April and June also made the Top Ten and no fewer than 6 of our Top Ten generating months are now in Financial Year 2011/12 which started 1st October 2011. Our output for the year was a staggering 252.4 MWh, which compares very favourably to 154 MWh in 2008/9, 146.1 MWh in 2009/10, and a measly 73.5 MWh in 2010/11.

Others have noticed this unexpected “silver lining”: THNM Director Maggie Cole was interviewed by High Peak Radio about how Archie has enjoyed this year’s wet weather!

Spotlight on Archie

Archie is now the star of a YouTube video! Check out local group Write Van Men’s “Archie”, from their *Goodbye Watford Bridge Road* album

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyksmDdqrCI&feature=youtube_gdata_player.

A photo of Archie (well, of the Torrs really, taken *from* Archie) was awarded 9th place in Friends of the Earth’s photo competition this summer. The theme of the competition was Clean British Energy. You can view all the winning entries at

www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/cbe_photo_competition_36884.html. This was followed by a photographer from Friends of the Earth visiting the site in early September to take pictures for inclusion as 1 of the 4 community renewable energy projects featured in the CBE exhibition they are taking to parliament this autumn.

In addition to featuring as a case study in the Centre for Alternative Technology’s *Home Energy Handbook*, Archie has provided material for several more postgraduate dissertations this year, with students from Cardiff, Aberdeen, Sheffield, Bath and Manchester universities conducting interviews with various members of the THNM Board to gather data for in-depth examinations of both the financial and technical aspects of constructing and running a community micro-hydro project. We have also provided “nuts and bolts”-type practical information to several potential hydro start-ups, including groups in Sheffield, Ham (south London), Hexham, Oxford and Belgium.

Wildlife down at the site

The dippers have been busy and produced a brood this spring. An adult was spotted feeding young on consecutive days by the banks of the Sett just before it joins the Goyt. In

the tree tops, as you walk down the steep path from Hyde Bank Road, there has been a young jay flitting around. A large dragonfly swooped past on one of the rare sunny days.

The duties of THNM directors are many and varied: at the end of August we had to rescue six young ducks who had decided to settle down on debris washed down by recent heavy rain. Unfortunately that debris was under our engine shed at the top end of the screw! We don't quite know how they got there and they probably could have made their way out unaided, but Mother Duck was getting frantic so we ended up removing a side panel from the screw's housing, climbing in and enticing them with bread and a fishing net. All were rescued but looked very much like they wanted to go back to their cosy spot. We left them to it!

“Message in a Bottle”

Archie became one of the stops on the New Mills Festival Art Trail when the 'Junkstop' artwork 'Message In a Bottle', created by 216 pupils from New Mills school, was installed at the THNM site in September. The project was partly inspired by all the plastic bottles that wash down the river whenever there is a flood (see the May 2012 Newsletter!) and was organized by local artist Amanda Whewell, who explained it as follows:



'I have worked with students and teachers from New Mills Secondary School Art Department to create a piece of work focusing on the abundant wildlife around this site.

Torrs Hydro volunteers told us that they see a variety of birds and fish during their early morning checks here but these creatures stay hidden from most of us.

Hundreds of eyes may be watching you right now!

The students have recreated some of these eyes and re-used plastic drinks bottles to display and protect them.

We want to call attention to the local environment and help to look after it.'



Visitors to Archie

In May, local MP Andrew Bingham's first "Volunteer Week" included a stint clearing weeds and the rubbish that had accumulated around the site over the winter, helping get Archie ready for the summer visiting season. We have had open days in May, June and September, with our participation in the Co-op's *Passport to Co-operation* scheme drawing in visitors from as far away as Wigan and Liverpool. As part of the International Year of Co-operatives, the Co-op was encouraging members to look at the wide range of community co-operatives by having them collect stamps on a "passport" and then submit their completed passports at the end of the summer towards a prize draw. One famous face we saw at a recent open day was Mrs Edwina Currie who was having a stroll through the Torrs to Whaley Bridge with her family and dogs. We chatted for a while and gave her a newsletter and leaflet, and she subsequently bought some shares!

We still have a few shares available if anyone is interested. Please contact the THNM secretary (Jan). Comments, queries, etc. can be sent to either THNM Director Mary Cohen at mary@torrshydro.org or Company Secretary Jan Szechi at secretary@torrshydro.org or send a letter to Jan Szechi, 25 Albion Mews, New Mills, High Peak SK22 3EG.