

FY 2017/18 AGM

The THNM AGM for the Financial Year 2017/2018 will be on Saturday 6th 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.

As usual, several directors will be standing down at the AGM. This time we are losing two very experienced and dedicated members of the board. Maggie Cole and Sean Whewell will be sorely missed, as they have been involved with Torrs Hydro from the very beginning. The average age of directors and volunteers at Torrs Hydro is now 60+, so this is an opportunity for members with fresh ideas to step forward. For example, we would welcome anyone interested in green issues; Archie's popularity with visiting school children and the concerns they voice on the topic of climate change demonstrates the importance of this for the next generation. We also need to broaden our talent pool: does anyone know of any graduates in engineering or community studies who are willing to give some spare time? The project needs younger people to take it through the next few decades.



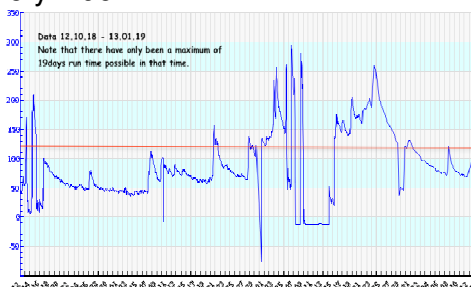
FUTURE THNM DIRECTORS?

Keeping Archie running

Visitors to the Torrs may have noticed that Archie has not been generating despite some rain over the autumn/winter. This is because we discovered an electrical fault that poses a health and safety risk. We have now identified the problem and are currently getting quotes to have some repairs done. However, despite the lost opportunities for generation, which all at Torrs Hydro hate, the actual generation we could have obtained was not actually very much.

The river has actually been quite low all autumn. Archie operates primarily on water coming down the Sett from the Kinder Reservoir above Hayfield. All the reservoirs in the area dropped to dangerously low levels over the summer and it has taken quite some time to refill them; keeping water flowing through people's taps is always going to take priority over feeding Archie. Our records show that from October 2018 to January 2019 there were only a maximum of 19 days when we could have been operating, and some of those were quite marginal.

Another thing to take into account is that over the long hot "barbeque" summer a fair bit of debris accumulated along the riverbank upstream of the intake, and as always after a torrential downpour this all washed downstream. We have learned from bitter experience that it is pointless to dash down to turn Archie on at the first hint of rain, as we will have to spend the first few hours continually fishing rubbish of all descriptions out of the intake.



Water flow at the THNM site. Archie can only generate when flow levels rise above the red line

Vandalism at the Site

The engine house roof suffers periodically from vandalism and is currently in a bad way again.

We are restricted regarding the type of roof covering we are permitted to use, but given these restrictions, Nobby, one of our volunteers has been looking at ways in which we can make the roof more vandal proof. One idea is to glue the whole slate down, whilst another is to replace the (expensive) slates with wooden shingles.

In the meantime the roof has been made watertight and we are making enquiries as to possible alternatives that would be approved. It's always a shame to see a small, anti-social minority damage or destroy a much-loved local community asset.



Visiting Wildlife

We've had the usual wildlife visitors down at the project site, with mallards, herons and small nesting birds flying through at frequent intervals. On several occasions a pair of goosanders have been seen either bobbing around above the weir or further up the Sett. The dippers have made a nest underneath the decking, flying out as footsteps are felt overhead. The lone cormorant, featured in the last newsletter has also been sighted.

GDPR

Torr's Hydro do not pass your personal identifiable data to any third party. You are receiving this newsletter because you have asked us to keep you informed, or you are a member of the society and this is part of your membership benefits.

If you have any comments/queries/suggestions for improvements, you can email the newsletter editors THNM Director Mary Cohen at mary@torrshydro.org, or 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.