

### AGM: 11am 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2013 at the Revival Church, High St, New Mills

The THNM Board of Directors is busy putting the finishing touches to the AGM paperwork, which will be with our members very shortly. We would particularly like to recruit some new Directors to broaden our expertise as we mature as an organisation. This is a good way to get more involved in THNM, so please consider volunteering in this capacity; we need people with a wide range of skills to become involved in the running of the company and oversee operations. In particular, we shall be working on improving the plant and a way of distributing our profits fairly.

We are trying something new this year by having a food drive at the AGM. If you can, please bring a tin or packet of food with you (no fresh or frozen food please, as we don't have the facilities to handle it) and we will collect them to take to a local food bank.

### Still pumping out the kWh

The run of amazing generating figures couldn't last (well, it had to stop raining sometime!) and the three months since the last newsletter, October to December, saw only one new entrant into the top ten, December. Archie generated a total of 37,578 kWh in this period,

#### Top 10 generating months (kWh):

1	Jan-12	37,293
2	Dec-11	35,866
3	Jul-12	34,985
4	Feb-12	32,985
5	Dec-09	32,673
6	Dec-08	29,397
7	Nov-09	29,195
8	Dec-12	28,353
9	Apr-12	28,285
10	Jun-12	26,379

most of which was in December. However, the low river levels meant that it was possible to get into the river to do something about the debris that was accumulating at the intake (see below) and also gave our volunteers a bit of a breather after a very busy summer.

Speaking of which, a special thanks to those stalwart souls who left their family celebrations to perform the morning and evening site checks on Christmas Day (Maggie and Sean) and New Year's Day (Will and Sean).

### Unblocking the intake.... again!

Largely because of the very erratic flow in the Sett in August and September, a large amount of silt and rubble had once again accumulated in front of the intake so we had to call on mechanical assistance to shift it. In early November, on a day when the river was relatively low and it wasn't raining, a local contractor spent the day removing an estimated 100 tons of gravel, sand, rocks and assorted rubbish, including the inevitable traffic cones and a child's scooter.



### A major tourist attraction?

Well, Archie's not up there with the Tower of London and the Taj Mahal yet, but he is becoming a notable tourist attraction in this part of Derbyshire. Close to a thousand people came to New Mills last year to see Archie on Open Days and as part of organised groups, and Torrs Hydro is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> of 6 attractions in New Mills on [www.tripadvisor.co.uk](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk). Please do go to the site and add a comment (hopefully nice!) and upload any photos.

## Visitors to Archie

Eighty students from a primary school in Birmingham, spread over 2 days, came for a day out in the country to see Archie and learn about eco-issues and the local wildlife. Most had very little experience of the countryside, and some even had to be warned to be careful not to brush against nettles! Lessons in “puddle jumping” were also supplied free of charge by the expert THNM tour guides. New Mills Heritage Society kindly provided bathroom facilities and a place to eat lunch and the children enjoyed the chance to see the displays and check out the gift shop.



In December, we were proud to be asked to host a delegation of 21 managerial staff from China Hubei Hanjiang Electricity and Hydropower Group who came to see Archie as part of their fact finding tour of the UK's electricity and hydropower management systems. Fortunately they brought their own interpreters, but there was a lot of goodwill expressed in the gaps between and Jan's explanation (in “fluent” sign language!) of the fish pass gave rise to a great deal of amusement. At the end of their visit, the delegates presented the 3 THNM tour guides with beautiful books on Chinese art, which were much appreciated by us.

## Christmas/New Year Open Day

Noticing that a lot of people walk through the Torrs on the weekend between Christmas and New Year, several of the Directors decided to hold an impromptu Open Day down at the site on the Sunday afternoon. Hot drinks, Christmas cake and mince pies were provided, which were much appreciated by the many passers-by who stopped to chat. Two young boys who were among the first visitors carried away the prize of a football that had been extracted earlier in the day from the intake, under the strict understanding that it would not end up back in the river again anytime soon.

## Recent wildlife sightings

While escorting a tour group from the Birmingham primary school in November, Director Will Griffin spotted a kingfisher just upstream from the hydro. Sadly, the children were making so much noise that it was flying in the opposite direction very fast and only one of them actually saw it!

### For your diary: Dates of the 2013 Open Days

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, after the AGM that morning

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, during the New Mills One World Festival

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept, the afternoon before the Lantern Parade

All 1-3pm

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](mailto:mary@torrshydro.org) or Company Secretary Jan Szechi at [secretary@torrshydro.org](mailto:secretary@torrshydro.org), or send a letter to Jan Szechi, 25 Albion Mews, New Mills, High Peak SK22 3EG.