



news from the torrs

March 2015

1,000,000 kWh of total power generated...

...is almost here! But when will Archie reach this next milestone? At the time of writing, we are just over 990,000, and Archie is not running, but it's rained a bit so the river is no longer dropping and it's intermittently sunny today and the weather forecast says it may rain next week and... In other words, your guess is as good as ours so why not have a go. Send your estimate of the time and date you think we will get there to me (secretary@torrshydro.org), along with a nickname to enter it under. There are no prizes, but think of the bragging rights if you win!



AGM: 11 am, Saturday April 25th

The Revival Church in New Mills has again generously allowed us to use their hall for our AGM. The paperwork will be coming your way shortly and we hope as many as possible of our shareholders will be able to attend. There will be several items to be voted on and this will be your chance to question the Directors and find out what has been going on and our long-term plans. We have lined up an interesting speaker, who will tell us about a local sustainable transportation project, and there will be the usual Open Day down at the site afterwards.

Food drive at the AGM

As we have done for the last two years, we will also be taking donations for the local Helping Hands Food Bank, which is (unfortunately) needing even more of our support to meet the needs of local people, not all of whom are coping well with the recession. Please do bring a donation of tinned or packet food (no fresh food), which will be much appreciated.

Volunteers needed



Not everything we do involves standing waist-deep in muddy water being laughed at by ducks, though if that looks attractive we can certainly fix you up! We also need help with tour groups, planning and site maintenance, as well as the ever-present paperwork. If you feel up to a bit of occasional weeding, or are willing to spend half an hour one morning or evening a week to do a site check, or are reasonably computer literate, or like working with children, or want to get involved in the planning to ensure the long-term viability of the project, please do get in touch (secretary@torrshydro.org) and help spread the load. More hands make light work!

Generating season

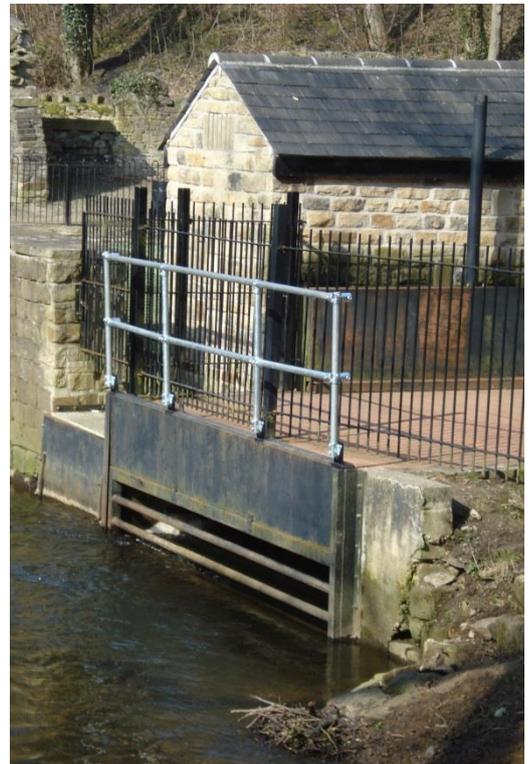
In spite of the “beach” deposited at the intake during a rainy December (sand and rubble tend to accumulate due to its location on the inside of the bend), Archie surpassed the 900,000 kWh mark for total power generation just before Christmas. The steady accumulation of silt and debris continued in January and had to be cleared by our stalwart band of volunteers at regular intervals throughout the month. January is generally a good month for generation, however, and this year has proved no exception with January 2015 jumping into Archie’s all-time Top Ten generating months at #3, with 35,708 kWh. February also made the Top Ten, at #8 with 30,686. The total for the financial year (October 2014 to September 2015) so far is a bit over 120,000 kWh, which is about average at this point.

Down at the site

Regular visits to check how Archie is doing gives our volunteers the opportunity to wildlife watch at the quiet times of day when there are few people (and dogs) about. The mallards, dippers and herons are almost always seen. Recently, we have reports of two dippers flying out from under the decking at the top of the screw. They must have found a cosy hole in the stone work under there. There is also a good perching point for them in the middle of the river at the meeting point of the Goyt and Sett rivers. Why do we never have a camera ready when we need one?

Other news

As regular visitors to the site may have noticed, one piece of maintenance that has been undertaken recently has been the long-planned improvements in the railings above the intake. The tall black “stop the public falling in the river” railings have been moved back a bit and an additional lower railing installed above the intake to allow our operations crew to clear the intake without them needing to don the ever-popular waders (that’s sarcasm, in case you were wondering) and jump into the river. Of course, there will still be occasions when something has got good and stuck and someone will have to get in to get it out, so to speak, but the new arrangement should make it possible to do more routine clearance (traffic cones and whatnot) while standing safely on the (relatively) warm, dry bank.



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.