

And we have a new No. 1!

We thought that Archie's exceptional performance in December would be hard to beat, but in January he did it. February was also fantastic. After a lull in March (that sunny week!), April just made it to #7. There may be a drought in other parts of the country, but our local Peak District reservoirs are full to the brim. All the rain we have had this winter and spring has meant that Archie has generated over 160 MWh so far this financial year (Oct – Sept) and we still have 5 months to go. In addition to 4 months in our unofficial Top Ten, including all of the top 3, October came in at #18 (14.0 MWh) and March at #20 (11.8 MWh), with only November letting the side down at #29, with a mere 3.9 MWh.

1	Jan 2012	37.3 MWh
2	Dec 2011	35.9 MWh
3	Feb 2012	33.0 MWh
4	Dec 2009	32.7 MWh
5	Dec 2008	29.4 MWh
6	Nov 2009	29.2 MWh
7	Apr 2012	28.3 MWh
8	Jan 2011	25.4 MWh
9	Nov 2008	24.8 MWh
10	Oct 2008	24.7 MWh

Note: figures are taken from the ROC report

pond. Most would just flush out once Archie restarted, but a few larger logs had washed in that had to be removed in case they got sucked back in to the screw and damaged it when it started turning again, which made an interesting challenge for our intrepid volunteers!

We are now entering the "dry season" when we can expect the river to drop to below the level at which we can operate. We need to maintain the flow over the weir, as allowing this 200-year-old structure to dry out could cause problems, and the fish pass must also be kept open. However, any downtime will give us the opportunity to take care of some routine maintenance.

Share Offer

About a thousand shares have become available from some shareholders wishing to cash in their holdings for various reasons. If anyone is interested in increasing their shareholding or knows of anyone who would like to join us, please could you get in touch with the THNM secretary (Jan) at secretary@torrshydro.org or the address at the end.

Sometimes we have even had too much water in the river. A few days ago Archie suddenly went from running at 50 kW to stopped cold. I assumed that the inlet had become blocked but when I looked over the bridge the next morning I could see immediately what the problem was: the river below the weir was so high that the top of the outlet was barely visible and Archie was simply unable to push out any water into the torrent.

A substantial amount of rubbish (footballs, shoes, miscellaneous bits of wood and *lots* of empty plastic drink bottles) was accumulating in the bottom



Wildlife Down at Archie

One of the nice things about doing daily checks, early in the morning before work, is the interesting wildlife sightings. During January and February three Goosanders were seen going about their business above the weir and they have also been spotted further along the Goyt and one Sunday morning a Sparrow Hawk was perched on the rocks across from Archie tucking into its breakfast. A Kingfisher has been seen down at the site and Mallards, Wood Pigeons, Grey Wagtails and Dippers appear on a regular basis. In spite of the awful weather, our April 22nd Open Day was made memorable by one of the Grey Herons landing on a rock at the other end of the weir and staying for about half an hour, so still apart from the wind ruffling the feathers on its wingtips that a visitor was convinced it was plastic. There are definitely fish in the river! We really need to have cameras and binoculars on hand when we are down there.

Tourist season is here again

Archie attracts lots of visitors and we hold regular open days throughout the year, some of which tie in with other local events such as our AGM. Several shareholders attending the AGM had come quite a distance, so we are planning to provide information about other things to see and do in the area with next year's AGM invitations. The Open Day after the AGM was well attended and a party of students from Altrincham Grammar school also came that day to gather information for a project. They plan to present their results to a panel at Manchester University.

On a cold day in early February a group of architecture students from Sheffield University came out to New Mills on a field trip as part of their final project on designing around sustainability and the community. They were very enthusiastic, asking a great many questions and spending several hours measuring, photographing and taking notes. It will be interesting to see what they will come up with! Later the same day we showed round a group of farmers from North Wales looking for new ways to diversify their farm operations.

Primary school groups are always excited when they visit. Walking down the fish pass with its open grille can be quite an adventure. Year 5 and 6 pupils from Kettleshulme Primary School visited Archie as part of a day long "outside education" walk along the Goyt, during which they also looked at the canal, llamas at Goytside farm and the Heritage Centre. Young children often ask really sensible questions and it's very rewarding to see the next generation getting fired up about new and greener ways to generate electricity.



2012 Open Days

Sat May 26th, 1-3pm
Sun June 17th, 1-3pm
Sat Sept 29th, 1-3pm

If you have any comments/queries/issues you want to raise/suggestions for improvements about the newsletter, you can email 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.