



news from the torrs

November 2014

A long dry summer

There wasn't much water in the river this summer as New Mills, like much of the rest of the country, basked in the sunshine. This summer's generation totals were pretty dismal, with only 683 kWh generated in August and nothing at all in either July or September. According to the BBC, 2014 had the driest September since records began in 1910!

Things began to pick up a bit towards the end of October, however, with just over 1000 kWh generated in the final week. Looking at the historical generation data, this is not actually that unusual: October can be either boom or bust. For the 6 years we have been running so far, output has ranged from 24,694 kWh for October 2008 all the way down to 212 kWh for October 2009. The beginning of November was also quiet, but once the reservoir had filled up a bit the Sett began to fill up

October 2008	24,694 kWh
October 2009	212 kWh
October 2010	15,935 kWh
October 2011	14,012 kWh
October 2012	5,654 kWh
October 2013	3,674 kWh
October 2014	1,004 kWh

and at the time of writing (mid-month) Archie had generated just over 8000 kWh.

Our generating/financial year runs from 1 October to 30 Sept, so the warm, wet winter we had last year made up for the quiet summer and we ended up slightly above average for the year (147,224 kWh compared to the average for the previous 5 years of 142,057 kWh).

Some good financial news

The five-year fix we originally agreed with the Co-op came to an end last winter and Director Sean Whewell succeeded in negotiating a higher price for the power Archie generates, backdated to January 1st. The backdated increase, which will come to over £3,700, did not arrive in time to be included in the FY13/14 accounts, but we expect it to put a smile on Finance Director Richard Body's face in time for Christmas!

New share issue

The response to the new share issue approved at the AGM has been disappointing, to say the least. So far we are well short of the £30,000 we would need to retire our loan. At the



September Board meeting the Directors agreed to keep the share offer open indefinitely. They are also exploring other options, for example paying off part of the loan or refinancing to take advantage of the current low interest rates.

If anyone is interested in increasing their shareholding or would like to buy someone an interesting and unusual Christmas present, please do



get in touch with the THNM secretary (Jan) at secretary@torrshydro.org or the address at the end. A full set of documents (the prospectus and our most recent Annual Report and Financial Report, as well as a copy of the Rules of Torrs Hydro) are posted on the website. Copies of the AR and FR from previous years are, of course, also available on the website.

Address check

We are mailing the newsletter out to everybody this time as we have become a bit concerned that the addresses we have on record for some of our shareholders may be out of date and this is a good way to check. As always, a full colour version will be available on the website, and normal e-delivery will be resumed in January.

Down at the site

Daily checks down at Archie have been a treat over the last few weeks as project volunteers are often accompanied by one of our local herons. A heron has taken to standing at the top of the weir up to its knees/ankles in the water. We know there are fish here, as we quite often see them when checking the inlet. Recently, the heron flew over Archie and landed on the Sett side wall watching us coming and going. It doesn't seem to be bothered by humans at all. There have also been a couple of sightings of fish jumping up at the bottom of the weir on the far side. Unfortunately they don't appear to have noticed the convenient ladder we built especially for them, and are trying to do it the hard way!

Art attack!

Archie may not have been generating much over the wonderful summer that we have had, but he has still been at the centre of things! For the New Mills Festival in September, we had an open day with plenty of visitors, with some from a community energy scheme coming especially to see Archie. The railings were all decked out with an interesting and thought-provoking art installation from New Mills school students in Years 7, 8 and 9 entitled "Fragmented" that was inspired by a collection of 216 objects rescued from the Rivers Goyt and Sett in the Torrs Riverside Park. The installation consisted of 300 fabric strips, each one a unique piece of art.

The weir was also lit up for the lantern parade courtesy of the engine house. September also saw a youth festival based around the hydro site with live music, stalls, a climbing wall and a focus on community and environmental issues.



Other news

Check out the new blog posting on the Phone Co-op website featuring Director Maggie Cole talking about Archie. It is available at:

<http://www.thephone.coop/about-us/blog/2014/october/torrs-hydro-coming-together-to-fight-climate-change/>

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.