

At the opening are, from left, Jenny Rayner, project leader Gary Meek, chairman of trustees Jeannie Walker, deputy project leader Phil Wells, volunteer Becky Swan and IW High Sheriff Susie Sheldon. 0412-p51663

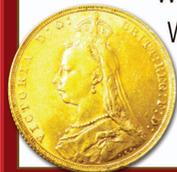


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A home in the forest for charity

AN ISLAND charity which works with young disadvantaged children has a new headquarters.

Challenge and Adventure, which also works with challenging youngsters, has moved to a new location in Parkhurst Forest.

The Island's High Sheriff, Susie Sheldon, opened the new centre, which will benefit the charity and its users. She also handed over a cheque for £1,000 to the group.

Challenge and Adventure project manager Gary Meek said: "We're delighted to have finally moved to a new, far more suitable location. We have wanted to move from Shorwell for the past few years and have looked at several sites.

"We use outdoor, adventurous and challenging activities as a tool to help raise the confidence, self esteem and aspirations of the young people."

Scouts dip into Olympic spirit



Participants in the synchronised swimming event. From back, Ethan Kear-Davies, Charley Stevens, Josh Wright, Emily Brown and Adam Wilkes. 0412-p52154

By Matt White

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AN OLYMPIC-themed scouting event attracted hundreds of young people to the IW at the weekend.

Around 300 scouts from across the UK, aged between 14 and 25, attended the 18th Revolution IW — a weekend of activities and events themed on the Olympics.

The scouts set up camp at Smallbrook Stadium, near Ryde, and the start of the annual event was marked with an opening ceremony, themed on different countries.

A programme of activities, which included riding hovercraft and quad bikes, synchronised swimming, lawn bowls, watersports, indoor hockey and pancake racing, was provided for the scouts throughout the weekend.

They also attempted to set a new world record for the number of people to stand cross-legged during the closing ceremony on Culver Down.

However, their failure to set new record did not spoil the weekend.

Scout leader Carol Harvey said: "It was a brilliant weekend.

"The scouts were exhausted when they left but they all made new friends and many have told us they were already looking forward to next year."



The scouts' Revolution IW record attempt to stand cross legged. 0412-p52169

Ship saved from breaker's yard

A PROUD example of the Island's maritime heritage has been rescued from the brink of being broken-up.

HMS Elfin was built for the Royal Navy in 1933 as a torpedo recovery vessel (TRV) by J. Samuel White but, after ending her working life in Amsterdam, fell into decay and appeared ready for the scrapheap.

She was rescued from the brink by a preservation trust, restored and then identified by Mike North, of the IW Royal Naval Association, after the vessel was seen by his son.

Mr North said: "She saw service as TRV and tender to the 3rd, 5th, and 7th submarine flotilla and was based at Portland.

"During the Second World War, Elfin was relocated to a new submarine base at Blyth, giving her name to the base at that port.

"Elfin became HMS Nettle and continued active service under that name until



The restored Elfin. CONTRIBUTED

1957. In that year, she was laid up in Portsmouth and she served as a decor piece during the shooting of the film *The Key*, with Sophia Loren, Trevor Howard and William Holden in the main roles."

He said the ship was sold in 1958 to

the Amsterdam Drydock Company, where she was converted to a tank-cleaning vessel under the name Droogdok 18. She remained active until 1985 in the Port of Amsterdam.

Ten years later she became the property of the preservation society Stichting tot Behoud van het Stoomschip, with the intention of restoring her to her original condition as an example of industrial maritime heritage.

The ship is now again known under the name Elfin, fully restored, and steams in Dutch waters.

Mike said: "I was made aware of Elfin by my son, who was in Holland on business. She was at a festival in Dordrecht.

"It was lovely to see photographs of her in such good condition. It brought back memories of when I saw her while I was stationed at HMS Vernon, in Portsmouth, in the fifties.

"And it also made me determined to go to Holland and visit her."



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