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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

### **YOUNGSTERS HEAD FOR THE HILLS THANKS TO GRANT**

7 youngsters with special needs will be able to trek closer to achieving their gold Duke of Edinburgh award after receiving a Grassroots Grant for nearly £5,000 from the Isle of Wight Community Fund.

The grant, one of 7 awarded at the latest Grassroots Grant panel, will help fund two hikes in Exmoor and the Peak District. “Many of the youngsters are unable to fund the hikes themselves and due to their special needs, a larger group of volunteer leaders is needed. But it’s a fantastic experience for them and we are very grateful for the support of the IWCF to allow them to have this opportunity,” says Rosie Pearce of the IW Duke of Edinburgh Forum – Newport Open Award Centre, “And the equipment we can now buy for this trip will be available for even more young people to use in the future.”

Some of the other groups who took a share of the £19,000 being given away included the Friend’s of the Classic Boat Museum in Newport. They received nearly £2,000 towards a new oral history project which will record and preserve maritime stories from local people. “Much of the Islands maritime history is not written down or has been destroyed over time” says Alan Chick, Chairman of the Friend’s. “Archiving the material will ensure it will be preserved for future generations on the Island to learn about and enjoy.”

A scheme providing a creative outlet for sufferers of mental illness secured funding for two more years. Originally a successful project run through Healing Arts, the Hide Tide Poets meet every week at the Quay Arts Centre. Many members could



barely speak in public or write but have gone to national publication and performed at poetry Open Mics. Their £5,000 grant will also allow them to offer outreach courses at two mental health day centres on the Island.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Isle of Wight Sea Scouts received £3,500 for special kayaks for use by disabled scouts, while £1,400 will ensure the Isle of Wight Asthma Swim group can continue offering swimming at the Medina Centre for sufferers and their families for another year.

Whether it's helping local clubs get hold of new kit, coaching new volunteers or simply giving the village hall a fresh lick of paint, Grassroots Grants aim to make a real and immediate difference. Grants are available from between £250 to £5,000.

So if you run a small, local community group on the Island including, parent and toddler or after school groups, youth clubs, physical and mental health issue groups, social, arts, sport and recreation, cultural groups, ethnic and other minority groups and training and learning groups, take a look at the Isle of Wight Community Fund website to see if you might qualify for a Grassroots grant [www.hantscf.org.uk/iwcf](http://www.hantscf.org.uk/iwcf) and click on the 'IOW Grassroots Challenge' button or email IWCF at [infograssroots@hantscf.org.uk](mailto:infograssroots@hantscf.org.uk).

**ENDS**

**Image:** Interior of Classic Boat Museum

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## **Notes to Editor**

### **IWCF Info**

The Isle of Wight Community Fund has been established by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation and the Isle of Wight Charitable Trust. IWCF raise funds and distribute grants across the Island for the benefit of local communities and works to encourage local giving for local needs.

### **HIWCF Info**

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) is an independent charitable trust that manages charitable giving on behalf of individuals, businesses and other trusts; distributes small grants to voluntary and community groups and organisations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and promotes the benefits of “Investing in our local Community”.

HIWCF is the Local Funder for the Grassroots Grants programme which is funded by the office of the Third Sector and delivered by the Community Development Foundation. The maximum grant available to enable small, local community groups to continue or expand their work for local people is £5,000.